

# Unified Basketball

19-20 NJSIAA Rules and Regulations



***Special Olympics***  
New Jersey



# Unified Basketball Topics

**Special  
Olympics**  
New Jersey



- ✓ Participation
- ✓ Team composition & eligibility
- ✓ Competition format
- ✓ Competition options & season dates



# Participation



- All NJSIAA member schools are eligible to participate in Unified basketball
  - Schools must [declare/register](#) their Unified Sports team\*
- Unified basketball team records will not impact varsity nor sub-varsity team records/standings
- Students may not participate in Unified basketball if they are participating in another strenuous sport during the same season
- Athletic Directors/Coaches should arrange matches against other teams participating in NJSIAA Unified basketball
  - A two-game minimum is required to compete in the post-season
  - [2020 Unified Basketball Contacts](#)

# Team Composition



Special Olympics Unified Sports® were created to give individuals with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to train and compete in sports activities alongside their non-disabled peers.

- Teams should consist of about 12 players, approximately half Unified athletes and half Unified partners
- Teams must maintain a ratio of 3 athletes and 2 partners on the court at all times during competition; ***must start games with 3:2***
- Teams should be co-ed

# Principle of Meaningful Involvement



- **Meaningful Involvement**
  - Compete without causing undue risk of injury to themselves or others
  - Participate according to rules of competition
  - **Every player** has the ability and opportunity to contribute to the performance of the team
- **Things to Avoid**
  - Display superior sports skills without involving other teammates
  - Dominate most aspects of the game, especially during critical periods
  - Lower your level of ability and effort dramatically
- **Player dominance applies to both partners AND athletes.**

# Eligibility



**ALL students participating must have a valid school physical form on file**

Athletes (students with [intellectual/developmental disabilities](#))

- Students must be enrolled in high school, but may compete up to 21-years-old

Unified partners (students without intellectual disabilities)

- Students must meet all NJSIAA eligibility requirements
- Varsity level basketball players are NOT permitted to be Unified partners

Coaches

- Unified Sports coaches will follow the certification standards as outlined by the [NJSIAA](#)
- In addition, first year coaches are required to complete the free [NFHS Coaching Unified Sports course](#)

# Competition Rules

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- The ball used for game play will be a 29.5 inch basketball. (NFHS Rule)
- All games will consist of four, 8-minute quarters, running time with the exceptions listed below:
  - ▶ The clock stops ONLY on foul shots and timeouts.
  - ▶ During the last two minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, the clock stops on every whistle.
- **If overtime is necessary, the period is 5 minutes, running time.**
  - ▶ During the first 4 minutes of overtime, the clock stops ONLY on foul shots and timeouts.
  - ▶ During the last minute of overtime, the clock stops on every whistle.
  - ▶ Each team receives one additional full time out during the overtime.
  - ▶ Timing rules listed above are in effect for multiple overtime period if needed.
  - ▶ Time outs earned in previous overtime periods do not carry over into additional overtime periods.

# Competition Format

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- Teams are allotted five (5) timeouts per game.
  - ▶ Two (2) thirty second timeouts
  - ▶ Three (3) full (one minute) timeouts
- The bonus occurs in each half when a team picks up its 7<sup>th</sup> team foul.
  - ▶ The bonus will always result in 2 free throws.
  - ▶ Team fouls will be reset to zero at the beginning of the second half.
- During a free throw all players must wait until the ball hits the rim before they can step in.
- In a free throw situation; there are no substitutions permitted until after the first free throw.
- IAABO officials are used; therefore IAABO rules are used to govern basketball games.



# Post Season - Sectionals



- All registered teams will automatically be entered into the post-season tournament. If your team **does not** want to participate in the post-season, **you must opt-out**.
  - Deadline: February 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Contact Al Stumpf: [astumpf@njsiaa.org](mailto:astumpf@njsiaa.org)
- **February 22 – SOUTH SECTIONAL @ Moorestown HS**
- **February 29 – NORTH SECTIONAL @ TBD**
  - Teams not opting out of the tournament by the deadline will be divided into 2 sites based on geography; only have to attend one Sectional
- **Coach to submit an information form and team roster prior to the event.**
  - Teams should have a scorekeeper and keep a scorebook for every game played during the season and tournament

# Post Season - Sectionals



- At each Sectional site there will be a Coaches Seeding Meeting the morning of the event.
- The teams present will be DIVISIONED into 2 groups- Group A and Group B. This will be based on regular season records, level of competition and the coaches' recommendations based on the skill levels of their top Unified lineup.
- A round robin tournament will be played in each division.
  - Games will be 16 minute games (2 eight minute halves) – there will be 2 to 3 games played per team based on the number of teams in the division.
- The number of games and the times may be adjusted.

\*\*Locations are subject to change

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ROSTERS IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8. Email Al @ [astumpf@njsiaa.org](mailto:astumpf@njsiaa.org)

**-No modifications or changes to roster will be allowed after 2/8/20**

# Post Season – Groups/TOC

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- **March 7 – GROUP WEEKEND:** Will be at Hunterdon Central
- **March 14 – Snow Date:** Hunterdon Central
- Based on the results of the Feb 22 & 29 games, the top two finishers from each Sectional will be seeded and will play a single elimination tournament in both the Group A and Group B Divisions.
- The Group B teams will play down to a Group B Champion – the winner of this bracket will receive a State Championship Group B Award and first place medals, the second place team will receive second place medals.
- The Group A teams will play a single elimination bracket – the top 2 teams in this bracket will play for the State Group A Championship at the **Tournament of Champions Game at Rutgers University on March 22**. The first place team will receive a State Championship Group A Award and first place medals, the second place team will receive second place medals.
- The number of games and the times may be adjusted.



# Unified Cup (formerly Shriver Cup)

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- [The Unified Cup](#) is now an invitational tournament for **intramural** basketball teams only.
- Schools may have both an intramural and interscholastic team, but the same team cannot compete in both.
- Students on your post-season roster are not eligible for the Unified Cup
- April 5<sup>th</sup> at Princeton University



# Important Online Links

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- [19-20 Interscholastic Unified Registration](#) – Make sure to register!
- [Interscholastic Unified Sports Schedule](#) – SONJ Website
- [Unified Basketball Contact List](#) – Google Sheets
- [NFHS Coaching Unified Sports Course](#)
- [NJSIAA Coach Accreditation](#) – NJSIAA Coach Requirements

# Contact Information



## NJSIAA Unified Basketball Competitions

- Al Stumpf
  - [astumpf@njsiaa.org](mailto:astumpf@njsiaa.org)
  - 609-259-2776

## Unified Cup Competition & general Unified Sports questions

- Jess Stevenson
  - [jns@sonj.org](mailto:jns@sonj.org)
  - 609-896-8000 x286



**Questions?**