



**Special
Olympics**
Rhode Island

UNIFIED BASKETBALL RULES

The spirit of Unified Sports is one of inclusion and encouragement; therefore, good sportsmanship will be paramount by both the coaches and players. Although partners benefit inherently from their participation, their role is one of a player, role model and a friend. Overall, the goal of Unified Sports is to help change the culture of the participating schools and to have fun together.

Section 1. RULES

All Unified Basketball matches of the RI Interscholastic League shall be played according to National Federation of State High School Association Volleyball Rules, except for any special rules adopted by the Committee.

A. SCORING:

1. Follows traditions scoring of basketball 2pts inside the arch, 3pts outside the arch and 1 pt per free throw.
2. No games shall end in a tie. If the game is tied at the end of regulation teams will continue to play a 4-minute overtime.
3. Score Sheets –scorer to be provided from each scheduled team for each game of the match:
 - a. All scores must be reported to Special Olympics within 24hrs of completion.

B. SCHEDULE/MATCHES

1. Standings are recorded by games won, not by point scored.
2. If the prior game ends late and/or teams arrive late, a 10-minute warm-up will be allowed. The referee will set the clock at 10 minutes for this warm-up.
3. Host School must notify Special Olympics Rhode Island if any postponements or cancellations occur.

C. CONDUCT OF MATCHES

1. Commencement of Play – Tip Off
 - a. Direction of scoring switches after half time
2. Score Sheets –scorer to be provided from each scheduled team for each game of the match:
 - a. All scores must be reported to Special Olympics Rhode Island within 24hrs of completion.
3. Games will be (4) 8-minute quarters, **stop time**
 - a. Over time is 4 minutes
 - b. Rotations can be made every 4 minutes with a clock stoppage only to change player on the court. Not a time to game plan with team.
 - c. Shot clock is not to be used during a Unified game

D. ROSTERS:

1. Roster sheets are to be carried by the coaches to each scheduled game and should be available for the referee, upon request.

2. The roster shall not include any varsity, junior-varsity or freshmen volleyball players, either male or female, who are listed or have been listed on the RIIIL website in this sport or in the previous year.
 - a. Appeals can be made through Special Olympics
3. Each school must submit a roster of all partners and athletes
 - a. Rosters should include Name, DOB, Gender, Jersey Number and Player/Athlete status.
4. All athletes must have a valid Assumption of Risk form, on file with their school.

E. PLAY

1. There is an **ALL PLAY RULE** whereby each player present is substituted in the rotation in each game
 - a. Note: substitutes must be a partner for a partner and an athlete for an athlete.
2. All Players must be in matching uniforms following guidelines from Special Olympics.
 - a. Shadows may wear a pinnie over jersey to indicate to teams they are only there for support.
3. There must be 3 athletes and 2 partners on the court at a time
 - a. One shadow can be on the court to support an athlete
4. If a player arrives late to a game, he/she may not be added to the rotation until the end of the quarter.
5. Partners may not steal, dunk or block the shots of any athlete.
6. Partners cannot score more than 50% of the team's overall points.
7. Teams shall not press during a game.
8. Only the captain and the coach may discuss the game with the referee.

F. DECORUM:

1. Players may not distract the opposing team by trash talking, clapping, vocalizations or noise making.
2. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated; the referee may give a player/coach an immediate Yellow or Red Card Warning