



# **SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL UNIFIED BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT 2022**

*Special  
Olympics  
Minnesota*



Special Olympics  
**Unified Schools**

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL UNIFIED BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT EVENT DETAILS

## Regional Tournaments:

January 27th - Bemidji, MN

January 28th - Orono, MN

January 28th - Eagan, MN

February 2nd - Crosby, MN

## State Tournament

Mid-February, 2022

## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Regional Tournament schedules will be distributed by region event staff.

ALL WINNERS OF THE REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE STATE TOURNAMENT IN MID-FEBRUARY.

## TEAM SIZE

Teams must have a minimum of seven players and a maximum of 12. Teams must have three Athletes and two Unified Partners on the court at all times. Teams can be co-ed. There must be a minimum of two coaches. One coach must be a school staff representative.

**Athletes** (a high school student with an intellectual disability) – minimum 4, no maximum

**Unified Partners** (a high school student without an intellectual disability) – minimum 3, no maximum

## WHAT ARE UNIFIED SPORTS?

Unified Sports join people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. In Unified Sports, teams are ideally made up of people of similar age and ability. That makes practices more fun and games more challenging and exciting for all.

Meaningful Involvement is a principle that ensures that every player is given an opportunity to contribute to the success of his or her team through their unique skills and qualities. This is the core of Unified Sports and this even is driven by this principle.

These tournaments will offer two different divisions for school to compete in (see below).

\*Each school is allowed to bring up to one team per division to the tournament.\*

## TEAM DIVISIONING

This tournament will offer two different divisions for schools to compete in. You will connect with your Unified School staff contact to determine what division you should be in. When determining divisioning, keep in mind: player ability levels, competitive levels, and meaningful involvement for all.

### **Division A – The Unified Sports Competitive Model**

1. All athletes and partners on a Unified Sports competitive team must have the necessary sport-specific skills and tactics to compete without modification of the current rules.
2. All players possess similar ability levels.
3. Examples:
  - No scoring ratio. Anyone can score at any time; it is encouraged and expected that everyone scores, not just athletes
  - Dunking is allowed, but players cannot hang on rim.
  - All basketball rules in this handbook will be enforced.

### **Division B – The Unified Sports Player Development Model**

1. Teammates are not required to be of similar abilities.
2. Teammates of higher abilities serve as mentors to assist teammates of lower abilities in developing sport-specific skills and tactics and in successfully participating in a cooperative team environment. Because of differences in abilities, rules modifications are necessary, which should ensure the meaningful involvement of all teammates as well as define the role of higher ability players.
3. Examples:
  - Majority of points could be scored by athletes
  - Dunking is not allowed
  - Basketball rules will be enforced if it gives the team/individual an advantage
  - Coaches and officials will be encouraged to meet prior to the game to go over specific needs of each team
  - Less competitive and more about athlete's meaningful participation
  - Athletes will be able to go down the middle of the court holding the ball and could be given multiple attempts to score without a defensive presence

## SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship comes from a commitment from coaches, players and fans to fair play and demonstrate ethical behavior and integrity. In perception and practice, sportsmanship is defined as those qualities which are characterized by generosity and genuine concern for others. Below we highlight a few focus points and ideas on how to teach and coach sportsmanship to your players. Lead by example.

### **Competitive Effort**

- Put forth maximum effort during each event.
- Practice the skills with the same intensity as you would perform them in competition.
- Always finish a match/event: Never quit.

### **Fair Play at All Times**

- Always comply with the rules.
- Demonstrate sportsmanship and fair play at all times.
- Respect the decision of the officials at all times.

## ELIGIBILITY

### **Can a varsity basketball player play on this team?**

According to Bylaw 208.00 entitled 'Non-School Competition and Training from the Minnesota State High School League, "a student who is a member of a high school team may not participate as an individual competitor or as a member of a non-school team in the same sport during the high school season."

Therefore, basketball players on their high school team are not allowed to play on your school's Unified basketball team but can serve in other roles such as coach or manager.

With the conversations we have had with MSHSL, our understanding is that any basketball athlete (C squad, B squad, JV or Varsity) that actively participates on their high school team would be deemed ineligible. This rule does not apply if the athlete does not play high school basketball but participates in a different sport. For example, football or soccer players who don't play basketball for their high school would be eligible to play on the Unified Basketball team.

# UNIFIED BASKETBALL FULL COURT RULES

**Basket Height** – 10 foot hoop

**Basketball** – Regulation size 29.5 (high school)

**Game Length** – Two 20-minute halves, running time, second half final minute stoppage time

**Halftime** – Five minute halftime

**Timeouts** – Three per game, 30 seconds each

**Overtime** – Three-minute, stop time in the last minute. If tied, then first basket sudden death wins.

**Play Time** – There is no minimum time requirement that an athlete is required to play.

**Substitutions** – On dead balls only.

**Stop time** – The clock is stopped whenever the ball goes out of bounds, a foul is called, free throws are being shot, and during time outs. When the ball is inbound, the clock starts once a player touches the ball.

**Jump Ball** – Starts the game and Held ball results in possession awarded to alternating teams.

**Positions** – It does not matter which position an Athlete or Unified Partner plays. Every player must enter the game to play at least once throughout the game.

**Fouls** – All typical fouls are called and recorded. Bonus and double bonus team fouls awarded.

**Free Throws** – Student Athletes may move closer if needed in Division B

**Defense** – All types of defenses are allowed at any time: zone, man-to-man, full and half court presses  
No full court press is allowed after 20-point difference

**Violations** – Violations will be enforced differently depending on which division your team is in.

**Inbound** – Five seconds, crossing half-court – 10 seconds, offensive lane – three seconds

**Travel** – An extra step is given, as long as it doesn't give an advantage (example – towards the basket or out of a double team).

**Double dribble** – Will be called as a violation.

## Additional Rules

- No foul language
- No jewelry, watches, or hats during play. Medical alerts allowed but must be taped down.
- Only if time allows can you do a warm up on the court.
- All coaches must coach from their team bench. Only one standing coach allowed. Only the appropriate number of coaches will be allowed on the bench
- Only registered coaches can approach score table or referees. Spectators will be warned and at the discretion of referees and games committee will be ejected from competition.
- A team needs to start the game with the minimum number of required positions filled to avoid a forfeit. If an injury occurs during a game, they can drop to one short and continue that game.

## UNIFORMS

Jerseys are required to have numbers on the front and/or back. (0-55, no 6's 7's 8's or 9's). All jerseys must be the same. It is recommended to use your school's basketball jerseys. Any player wearing jeans WILL NOT be allowed to play.

Shoes that leave black marks will not be allowed on the court.

If you need assistance with purchasing jerseys, contact your Unified School staff.