



Unified Basketball 2017/18 Rules and Information

Special Olympics



Unified Basketball Tournament

2016/17 Info Package

Tournament Dates: TBA

Similar to previous years, there will be one Unified Basketball tournament in Edmonton and one in Calgary in mid-late May. Unified events run during the school day, typically 10:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Tournament information and registration forms will be posted on the Unified Basketball page of the ASAA website and e-mailed out to all Athletic Directors in the ASAA SRS as this information is finalized. If you are not an Athletic Director but would like to be included on the Unified Basketball e-mail list, please contact shanna@asaa.ca.

General Information

- All Unified Sports teams are made up of **athletes** and **partners**. Athletes are students with intellectual disabilities and partners are students without intellectual disabilities. Each Unified Basketball team will have exactly two athletes and one partner on the court at all times.
 - Players with physical disabilities will be classified as either an athlete or a partner depending on whether or not they have an intellectual disability.

Team and Players

- There is no maximum number of players per team or maximum number of teams per school.
 - Due to short game time (likely 10-15 minute games depending on the number of teams registered), we suggest having 2-3 lines max per team in order for all students to have time to play.
- Teams are co-ed.
- Schools may combine to make a joint team.
- Teams must be composed of high school students and onsite grade 9s only.

The Game

The following rule modifications will be in play:

- Running clock game time of 10-15 minutes
 - Game length will be announced after the registration deadline and will be based on the number of teams registered.
- The game may start with rock-paper-scissors for first possession (best of 1 gets the first ball)
- One 30-second time out will be allowed per team per game; the clock will not stop during this timeout (rationale: there will be up to 6 half-court games)

taking place at the same time and all courts will be running off the same clock in order to remain on schedule).

- An offensive player, including the shooter, may remain in the free throw area for no longer than three seconds. The penalty for this infraction is loss of possession.
- A player may take two steps beyond what is allowable. However, if the player scores or escapes the defense as a result of these extra steps, an advantage has been gained and a violation is called as per the official's discretion.
- If there is a turnover or rebound by the defensive team, the ball must come out past the three point line before they switch to offence. If there is no three point line, the top of the circle on the key will be used.
- After a team scores, the defensive team gets possession at the top of the key (three point line).
- If a foul is called, possession will be given to the other team.
- The ref has the authority to force a line change if they notice a partner is dominating gameplay and/or keeping the ball out of the hands of the athletes on his or her team.
- Unlimited substitutions.

The purpose of the partners is to support the athletes and keep the game in the hands of the athletes as much as possible. The partner should offer visual and verbal cues to the athletes to keep them involved in gameplay. Partners cannot attempt to distract or confuse players on the other team. The amount of support each athlete needs from a partner will vary from athlete to athlete, so it is important that the athletes and the partners practice together to build this relationship beforehand.

Partners are allowed to score points.

- Tie breakers to be determined in succession:
 - Highest game points
 - Lowest points against average
 - Highest points for average

Basketball Skills Assessment Test (BSAT)

For ASAA hosted events, all teams are required to submit BSAT scores for all players (athletes and partners) with registration. Registration will be considered incomplete if BSAT scores are not included for each player.

Rationale: BSAT scores are used to separate teams into divisions based on skill level. Divisioning is essential to accommodate the growth of Unified Basketball while providing all students with the opportunity to participate at a skill level suitable to each individual. The BSAT score average will be calculated for team, and then the teams will be divisioned so that they are only playing against other teams with similar BSAT scores. If you have more than one team, please try to create your teams based on skill level in order for your students to play a level most suitable to them during competition.

The BSAT can be found at <http://www.asaa.ca/sports/unified-sports/unified-basketball>

Uniforms/Apparel

- The team must wear matching shirts with numbers. Uniforms should not be used to separate athletes from partners. In the event that two teams are wearing the same coloured jerseys, pinnies will be available.
- No jewelry (e.g. necklaces, earrings, etc.) that may hazardous to players is allowed.
- Clean, indoor, athletic shoes must be worn.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers will be needed for both the Edmonton and Calgary events! Volunteer duties may include scorekeeping, refereeing, and other general duties. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact shanna@asaa.ca.

Photography/Videography

There will be photographers at both events and social media use is encouraged. Although reasonable effort will be made to not use the images of students who do not have photo/media consent, it is the responsibility of the coach and/or teacher supervisor to have these students step out of group photos, etc. that will clearly be used to promote the program.

Principle of Meaningful Involvement

The purpose of Unified Sports is to promote meaningful involvement, inclusion, and sporting opportunities to students of all levels and abilities. Partners are encouraged to fully take part in the game, however, their main focus should be on guiding the athletes to contribute to the team's success using both visual and verbal cues.

#PlayUnified

For more information, contact Shanna at shanna@asaa.ca or (780) 427-8182.