

Unified Basketball Rule Interpretations

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**Special
Olympics**
Illinois



SECTION A - GENERAL RULES

- A-1.** Illinois High School Association (IHSA) rules will govern. For a fee, rulebooks can be obtained at <http://www.ihsa.org>.
- A-2.** The Games Rules Committee will make all final decisions.
- A-3.** The following process will be used for all Special Olympics Illinois round robin tournaments:
- The team with the best record at the end of competition will receive first place.
 - If all teams have the same record (one win-one loss), places of finish will be determined by the point differential in the games played.
 - If the point differential is the same, places of finish will be determined by the total points scored by each team during the tournament (highest scoring team receives first place).
 - If the total points are the same, places of finish will be determined by free throw percentages in games played during the tournament.
- A-4.** In tournament play, the game will be forfeited if a team fails to report on the court, ready to play within ten minutes of the scheduled game time.
- A-5.** In the case of a forfeit during the game, the forfeit score for a team not ahead will be 2-0 in its favor. If the team to which the game is forfeited, is ahead, the score at the time of the forfeit will stand.
- A-6.** At all times athletes and partners are expected to compete to the best of their ability to ensure a quality competition at all levels. Coaches are expected to provide accurate/honest scores of their athlete's ability.
- A-7.** If it is found that teams are not competing in a fair manner, the team will be disqualified. The most flagrant example of this would be the Unified Partners dominating game play so as to have an advantage over the other team. It is the coach's responsibility to manage their athletes and partners and coach within the guiding principles of the Unified Sports program. See below for more examples of how meaningful involvement of partners is not achieved which could result in disqualification:
- They have superior sports skills in comparison to their fellow members.
 - They serve predominantly as on-field coaches rather than teammates
 - They control most aspects of the competition during critical periods of the game.
 - They do not train or practice regularly and only show up on the day of competition.
 - They lower their level of ability dramatically so that they do not hurt others or control the entire game.



SECTION B - TOURNAMENT ROSTERS

- B-1.** All team members must be listed on the team roster and the maximum roster allowed is 15 players and the minimum number of players is 5. The team must start a game with 5 players. If an injury occurs and the team drops below 5 players, the game can continue until an official decides it is unsafe to continue. The athlete to partner ratio is 3:2. Special Olympics Inc. has determined that an athlete cannot also be a Unified Partner.
- B-2.** No players may be added to or replaced on the roster after the Team Rating Form (TRF) is submitted.
- B-3.** During unified competition, the lineup shall never exceed three athletes and two partners at any time.
- B-4.** Each team shall have an adult non-playing coach responsible for the lineup and conduct of the team during competition.