

# **2016-17 MPA CO-ED UNIFIED BASKETBALL BULLETIN**

(updated 12/1/16)

## **UNIFIED BASKETBALL SEASON**

October 28, 2016	Notice of Intent to Participate (Click here for notification form)
November 4, 2016	Funding Application Due (Click here for funding application)
December 16, 2016	Schedules Due
January 4, 2017	6:00pm – Unified Coaches Meeting (Existing programs are encouraged to attend but attendance for those programs is not mandatory) - (Meeting will utilize Tandberg Equipment)
January 9, 2017	First Practice
January 27, 2017	First Countable Game
March 1, 2017	Declaration for Playoffs (Must be in top 67% in Heal Points)
March 8, 2017	Last Countable Game
March 10, 2017	Preliminary Game (higher seeded team)
March 10-17, 2017	Sportsmanship Voting
March 14, 2017	Quarterfinal Games (higher seeded team)
March 15, 2017	<b>End-of-Year Festival (Yarmouth High School) – A second site may be added if necessary</b>
March 16, 2017	Semifinal Games (higher seeded team)
March 21, 2017	Regional Final Games (higher seeded team)
March 23, 2017	State Championship (TBD)

**Schedule Requirements:** Schools are responsible to submit their own schedules. Teams may play a minimum of a six game schedule and a maximum of an eight game schedule. Teams are asked to assure that schools located in their geographic region are able to fill a schedule. \*Schools are encouraged to form cooperative teams with schools in close proximity.

**Tournament Selection:** The top 67% of teams in each region (North and South) are eligible for the post-season tournament. All other teams, along with those teams that decline their invitation to the tournament, will be invited to participate in an end-of-year festival.

**Authorization:** The MPA Unified Sports Committee shall administer Unified Basketball and the rules of the National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) will govern the sport.

**Official Lineup:** A team must have three (3) Unified Student Athletes and two (2) Unified Student Partners on the floor at all times.

**Team Rosters:** Each school will be allowed up to twenty-two (22) individuals on their bench and should include an equal number of athletes and partners if possible. This number does include coaches and student assistants. Schools that have a large number of participants may request to sponsor more than one team.

**Player Development Model:** MPA Co-Ed Unified Basketball follows the Unified Sports Player Development Model.

- Teammates of higher ability serve as mentors to assist players of lower ability
- Lower ability teammates may not have the necessary sports skills and understanding of the rules
- Rules modifications are made to define player's roles and prevent higher ability players from dominating the game

**Game Ball:** A women's regulation basketball (28.5) will be used.

**Game Length:** A regulation game will consist of two (2) twenty (20) minute halves running time. The clock will be stopped for all foul shots, substitutions, and the last minute of each half. In the event of a tie at the end of regulation, a four (4) minute running time overtime, with the time stopped for foul shots, substitutions and the last minute of the overtime. This format will be followed until a winner is decided.

**Timeouts:** Each team will be given six (6) timeouts for the game. In the case of overtime play, each team will be granted one (1) additional timeout per overtime.

**75% rule:** Unified Student Partners are not allowed to score more than 25% of a team's total points. A forfeit will be given to a team that does not adhere to the 75% rule.

**Game Officials:** One certified official may be used. They may work with non-certified officials.

**Awards:** Official MPA championship and runner-up award, in addition to twenty two (22) individual medals will be awarded to the respective regional and state champion and runner-up team.

### **Unified Basketball - General Rules of Play:**

- A team may have no more than 22 individuals on their bench. This includes coaches and student assistants. Teams are encouraged to have an equal number of athletes and partners if possible.
- There must be 3 Unified Student Athletes and two (2) Unified Student Partners on the floor at all times. The game will end if a team is not able to have the correct number of athletes and partners.
- Full court pressing is not allowed.
- Unified partners may not play a zone defense, it is acceptable for Unified athletes to play zone.
- Unified athletes must score at least 75% of the points in a given game.
- All players should have meaningful involvement without any type of individual player dominance.
  - Meaningful Involvement is an effort to optimize participation by all team members (athletes and partners) based on the principle that every player should contribute to the success of the team. The composition of any team must include players with necessary sport-specific skills. Teams should not include players who dominate play, exclude other teammates from contributing to the success of the team, or present a health and safety risk on the field of play. By permitting any player to dominate play, other players' roles and opportunities are greatly limited. This violates both the spirit and intent of the Special Olympics Unified Sports rules and philosophy and will be addressed according to the standards set forth by each sport's rules and governing ordinances.
  - If an official determines that a player is dominating play, that official shall sanction the player and/or coach. Consequences for non-compliance are either:
    - Specific Player Sanctions (encourage voluntary substitution, warning, technical foul, ejection)
    - Sanctions will include warning the player and/or coach, citing the player or coach with unsportsmanlike conduct or removing the player or coach from the game.
    - Team Consequences (forfeiture of game, disqualification from tournament)
- Unified partners need to use common sense to restrain themselves from taking the game out of the athletes' hands. In keeping with this spirit, a Unified partner **MAY NOT** do the following:
  - Score more than 25% of team total points
  - Play defense against an opposing Unified athlete
  - Steal the ball from an opposing Unified athlete
  - Set screens against an opposing Unified athlete
- Unified partners should try their best to get the athletes to rebound. However, they are permitted to rebound a ball that falls in their general vicinity.
- Each game will begin with a jump ball between two athletes.

- A game will consist of two 20-minute running time halves. The clock will be stopped for all foul shots, substitutions and during the last minute of each half.
- Overtimes will be 4-minute running time.
- Coaches should meet prior to the start of the game to exchange line-ups.
- A women's basketball (28.5) will be used in all games.
- One certified official may work each game. They may work with non-certified officials.
- Schools must provide facilities for both male and female athletes.
- Teams should have adequate supervision in both locker rooms.
- Each team must have a home and away jersey (may be reversible). It is recommended that numbers be on the front and back of each jersey.
- It is very important that emergency contact information is collected from each team member.
- If possible, athletic trainer coverage is recommended.
- Scores should be reported through the MPA on-line score reporting system.
- Each team should be aware of the sportsmanship criteria in place for the awarding of the sportsmanship banner at the end of the season.

