



# Unified Basketball Bulletin 2025-26



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# **2025-26 MPA CO-ED UNIFIED BASKETBALL BULLETIN**

(updated 12/3/25)

## **UNIFIED BASKETBALL SEASON**

December 1, 2025	Notice of Intent to Participate ( <a href="#">Click here for notification form</a> )
2025-26 Season	Funding Application Due ( <a href="#">Click here for funding application</a> )
December 19, 2025	Schedules Due in rSchoolToday and Interest in hosting festival and participating in a festival
January 5, 2026	<b>4:30pm</b> – Unified Coaches Meeting (the coach or athletic director must attend for schools with a new coach) through Zoom. Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86073527873?pwd=QS3mJ12I2KpEYrfD2RAYZ3qnDkgqGg.1">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86073527873?pwd=QS3mJ12I2KpEYrfD2RAYZ3qnDkgqGg.1</a>
January 6, 2026	First Practice
January 22, 2026	First Scheduled Game
Mar. 2 - Mar. 6, 2026	Sportsmanship Voting and Declaration of Festival Participation
March 13, 2026	Last Scheduled Game
March 16-21, 2026	End-of-Year Festivals (Sites to be determined)

**Schedule Requirements:** Schools are asked to submit their own schedules on rSchoolToday. Teams should play a minimum of a six-game schedule. Teams are asked to assure that schools located in their geographic region can fill a schedule. \*Schools are encouraged to form cooperative teams with schools near.

**Festival Sign-up:** Any team wishing to participate in a festival should email Mike Bisson ([mbisson@mpa.cc](mailto:mbisson@mpa.cc)). If a school is willing to host a festival, please submit the Request to Host an MPA Championship Event form with how many teams could be hosted at that site.

**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.

**Uniforms:** 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.

- **SONA Unified Sports Uniform Branding:** With the goal of increasing brand recognition of Special Olympics Unified Sports®, a set of [Uniform Guidelines](#) and [supporting resources](#) have been finalized by SONA. These guidelines apply to all Unified Sports teams in the SONA region. These guidelines are also in compliance with the NFHS sport rules as a “commemorative patch”. Uniforms, or a visible area of an under layer, should include the Special Olympics Unified Sports® logo. Logo options can be found on the [Resources page for Marketing and Communications – Special Olympics Brand](#) under Special Olympics Unified Sports® and Play Unified.
  - Order of preference (red as primary, all other colors as alternates; 4-line versions not recommended):
    1. Special Olympics Unified Sports circle logo or
    2. 2-Line logo or
    3. 2-Line logo lozenge or
    4. Special Olympics Unified Sports® in text
    5. Special Olympics Play Unified logo (white lettered logo is included in blank space)

**Official Lineup:** A team must have three (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.

**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. Varsity basketball players are discouraged from playing but are encouraged to be involved in some manner (coaching or official). Varsity players may be used as unified partners in an emergency situation to support the unified athletes. Schools that have many participants may request to sponsor more than one team.

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

- Teammates of high 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

**Meaningful Involvement:** 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)

**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 five (5) 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 Athletes must score more than 75% 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:** Medals will be provided by Special Olympics Maine at the festival sites for all participants.

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

- ***The Unified Sports Committee encourages the outcome of every game to be determined by the Unified Athletes and not the Unified Partners.*** 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
  - Play a zone defense, it is acceptable for Unified athletes to play zone.
  - Steal the ball from an opposing Unified athlete
  - Set screens against an opposing Unified athlete
  - Rebound against an opposing Unified athlete
- Each game will begin with a jump ball between two athletes.
- Full court pressing is not allowed.

**Unified Basketball - Recommendations:**

- It is very important that emergency contact information is collected from each team member.
- If possible, athletic trainer coverage is recommended.
- Each team should be aware of the sportsmanship criteria in place for the awarding of the sportsmanship banner at the end of the season. Banners will be presented at the festival sites where the winning teams are participating.
- Schools must provide facilities for both male and female athletes.
- Teams should have adequate supervision in both locker rooms.
- Coaches and officials should meet prior to the start of the game to exchange line-ups and player development and individual needs of athletes.

### **CO-ED UNIFIED BASKETBALL CLASSIFICATION**

<b><u>SOUTH</u></b>	<b><u>NORTH</u></b>
1. Biddeford	1. Belfast
2. Bonny Eagle	2. Brewer
3. Boothbay	3. Bucksport
4. Brunswick	4. Camden Hills
5. Cape Elizabeth	5. Caribou
6. Deering/Portland	6. Cony
7. Dirigo	7. Dexter
8. Edward Little	8. Ellsworth
9. Falmouth	9. Foxcroft
10. Freeport	10. Gardiner*
11. Fryeburg	11. Hall-Dale
12. Gorham	12. Hampden
13. Gray-New Gloucester	13. Hermon
14. Greely	14. Houlton
15. Kennebunk	15. Lawrence
16. Lake Region	16. Lincoln
17. Leavitt	17. Madawaska
18. Lisbon	18. Maranacook
19. Lewiston	19. Medomak Valley
20. Marshwood/Noble	20. Messalonskee
21. Massabesic	21. Mount Desert Island
22. Morse	22. Mt. Blue
23. Mountain Valley	23. Mt. View
24. Mt. Ararat	24. Nokomis
25. Oak Hill	25. Oceanside
26. Old Orchard Beach	26. Old Town
27. Oxford Hills	27. Orono
28. Poland	28. Presque Isle
29. Sanford	29. Searsport
30. Sacopee Valley	30. Skowhegan
31. Scarborough	31. Waterville
32. South Portland	32. Winslow
33. Thornton	33. Winthrop
34. Wells	
35. Westbrook	
36. Windham	
37. Yarmouth	
38. York	

**\*New Program**