

# Unified Basketball Timeline

## 2025-26 Season



### NOVEMBER 2025 (3 Months Prior to Unified Sectionals)

#### Coach's Clearance / Training

- Complete all AIA requirements for Coaches' Clearance per Article 17 of the AIA Bylaws & Constitution.
  - For an outline of all training and certification requirements specific to high school Unified Sports coaches, please visit [www.aiaonline.org/sports/unified](http://www.aiaonline.org/sports/unified)
- Complete all district/school requirements for Coach's Clearance per district policy
- Complete Unified Basketball Coaches' Training (specific to high schools)
  - Contact Thomas Miranda at [Thomas@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org](mailto:Thomas@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org) to schedule a training

#### Order Equipment

- Suggested equipment includes:
  - **Basketballs** (suggested: 6-12)
  - **Ball Pump** (suggested: 2)
  - **Ball Bag** (suggested: 1)
  - **Cones** (suggested: 25-50)
  - **Reversible Jerseys/Pennies** (suggested: 12)
  - **Whistles** (suggested: 1 per coach)

#### Attend/Organize Planning Meetings

- Attend MANDATORY Coaches' Meeting
  - Wednesday, October 22nd – 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- registration link: <https://specialolympicsarizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/OXTBMxRSQ5qWdNrpyEq5vQ>

#### Verify ALL Student Eligibility and Clearance Requirements are completed.

Athletes & Unified Partners must complete:

- AIA Annual Pre-participation Clearance Packet
  - Part One – Annual Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (Form 15.7-A).
  - Part Two – Annual Preparticipation Physical Examination (Form 15.7-B).
  - Part Three – Annual Preparticipation Acknowledgement (Form 15.7-C).
  - Part Four – Annual Preparticipation Consent to Treat Form (Form 15.7-D).
  - Part Five – Unified Sports Participant Release (Form 15.7-E).
- All district/school requirements for Student Eligibility and Clearance per district policy

#### Complete Season Schedule

##### PRACTICE

- Schedule practices accordingly to ensure a minimum of eight (8) practices, each lasting at least sixty (60) minutes, are held before the first regular-season scrimmage/game. Practices shall continue to be held at least once a week throughout the sports season.

##### REGULAR SEASON

- Reach out to schools in your area to schedule at least two regular-season games.
  - *Suggestion: attend a Unified Basketball Invitational Tournament at which two or more schools are competing to fulfill this requirement in one day*



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### DECEMBER 2025 (2 Months Prior to Unified Sectionals)

#### Practice

- |                                     |                                     |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> Practice 8 |

#### Regular Season Interscholastic Competition

- ☐ Compete in a **minimum** of two interscholastic contests (games) against other high school Unified Basketball teams during the regular season

- ☐ Regular Season Game #1 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Regular Season Game #2 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Transportation Requests

- ☐ Submit transportation requests for regular season games (must attend a minimum of two)

### JANUARY 2026 (1 Month Prior to Unified Sectionals)

#### Unified Sectionals (Area Competition) Registration

- ☐ Complete and submit the Unified Sectionals Registration Paperwork
  - SOAZ will send out registration paperwork in December.
  - Registration paperwork will be due *3-4 weeks before* Unified Sectionals

#### Transportation Requests

- ☐ Submit transportation requests for Unified Sectionals

#### Practices

- ☐ Continue holding regular practice.

### FEBRUARY 2026

#### Unified Basketball Sectionals

- ☐ Compete at a qualifying Unified Basketball Sectionals
  - Teams must compete in Unified Sectionals to qualify for the state tournament.*
- ☐ Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

#### State Championship Registration / Planning

- ☐ Qualification Results will be posted on AZPreps365 by February 17th, 2026.
  - The top 2 teams statewide will qualify for advancement to the State Championship (qualification will be based on the team's final score at Unified Sectionals)*
- ☐ Submit transportation request for State Championship

#### AIA State Basketball Championship

- **February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026** (exact dates/times will be confirmed by mid-December)
- **Mesa High School – 1630 East Southern Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85204**