

Unified Basketball Timeline

2026-27 Season



NOVEMBER 2026 (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
- 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 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 21st – 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- registration link: <https://specialolympicsarizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/V-gysz9RPGfht8Wc--8aw>

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 Acknowledgment (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 2026 (2 Months Prior to Unified Sectionals)

Practice

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ☐ Practice 1 | ☐ Practice 2 | ☐ Practice 3 | ☐ Practice 4 |
| ☐ Practice 5 | ☐ Practice 6 | ☐ Practice 7 | ☐ 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 2027 (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 2027

Unified Basketball Sectionals

- ☐ Compete at a qualifying Unified Basketball Sectionals
 - Teams must compete in Unified Sectionals to qualify for the state tournament.*
- ☐ Friday, Jan 29th

State Championship Registration / Planning

- ☐ Qualification Results will be posted on AZPreps365 by February 16th, 2027.
 - 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 16th, 2027** (exact dates/times will be confirmed by mid-December)
- **Mesa High School – 1630 East Southern Avenue, Mesa, AZ 85204**