

Unified Track & Field Timeline

2025-26 Season



JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026 (2-3 Months Prior to Unified Sectionals)

Coaches 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 Coaches' Clearance per district policy.
- ☐ Complete Unified Track and Field Coaches' Training (specific to high schools)
 - ☐ Contact Thomas Miranda at Thomas@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org to schedule a training.

Order Equipment

- ☐ Suggested equipment includes:
 - ☐ **Tape Measure** (suggested: 2 dual-sided with m/cm and ft/in)
 - ☐ **Relay Batons** (suggested: 4)
 - ☐ **8-pound Shot** (suggested: 2)
 - ☐ **400g Turbo Javelin** (suggested: 2-3)
 - ☐ **Stopwatches** (suggested: 6)
 - ☐ **Cones** (suggested: 25)

Attend/Organize Planning Meetings

- ☐ Attend MANDATORY Coaches' Webinar (only need to attend one)
 - o Wednesday, February 4th – 4:00pm to 5:00pm
- ☐ Registration Link: <https://specialolympicsarizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/8YHLPumPTfW1RNsyh14Lwg>
- ☐ Host Parent Informational Meeting

Verify ALL Student Eligibility and Clearance Requirements are completed.

Athletes & Unified Partners must complete:

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

Complete Practice Schedule

Per Article 34.4 of the AIA Bylaws & Constitution: *"Before participation in an interscholastic contest or tournament, all Unified Sports players must complete a minimum of eight (8) practices at least sixty (60) minutes in duration. Practices shall be held at least once a week throughout the sports season."*

- ☐ Schedule practices accordingly to ensure minimum practice requirements are met before the first regular season (interscholastic) Track & Field meet.

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FEBRUARY 2026 (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 at least two (2) Track and Field Meets during the regular season.
 - ☐ Regular Season Meet #1 Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____
 - ☐ Regular Season Meet #2 Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Transportation Requests

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

MARCH 2026 (1 Month Prior to Unified Sectionals)

Unified Sectionals Registration

- ☐ Complete and submit Unified Sectionals Registration Paperwork
 - o SOAZ will send out registration paperwork in early March.
 - o Registration paperwork will be due *two weeks before* Unified Sectionals

Transportation Requests

- ☐ Submit transportation request for Unified Sectionals Meet

Practices

- ☐ Continue holding regular practice.

APRIL 2026

Unified Track and Field Sectionals

- ☐ Compete at a qualifying Unified Track and Field Sectionals
 - o *Teams must compete in Unified Sectionals to qualify for the state tournament.*

State Championship Registration / Planning

- ☐ Qualification Results will be posted on AZPreps365 by April 20, 2024
 - o *The top 8 top pairs 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

MAY 2026

AIA State Track and Field Championship

- Thursday, April 30th, 2026
- Westwood High School