

# Unified Interscholastic Sports

**Basketball**    **Track & Field**



**Special  
Olympics**  
Texas



Special Olympics  
**Unified Champion  
Schools®**



# Unified Sports® & Activities Rules

Special Olympics Unified Sports & Activities combine approximately equal numbers of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) as teammates on teams for training and competition.

The goal of incorporating Unified Sports & Activities programs in UIL and Unified Champion Schools® (UCS) is a joint effort between UIL and Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) to recognize and offer opportunities for students with and without disabilities to compete in UIL sanctioned competitions and activities. Senate Bill 776 (SB 776) went into effect on September 1, 2021, and requires the University Interscholastic League (UIL) to ensure that students with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) have an opportunity to participate in team athletic activities by maintaining an inclusive sports program. The UIL has entered into a partnership with Special Olympics Texas to fulfill this obligation, and public school campuses are encouraged to participate in Unified competitions, now sanctioned by the UIL.

## **Philosophy:**

The focus of UIL Unified Sports is competition (not simply participation). Sports teach many life lessons: to work as a team, to follow rules, and to be committed. Through sports we can find shared interests that allow friendships to form. Through UIL recognized Unified Sports and Activities, we have an opportunity to make profound changes in the lives of students with and without disabilities.

We must have high expectations for students with intellectual disabilities because if we do not, we are teaching another generation of general education students that people with intellectual disabilities can't follow rules or be held accountable and as a result they will not be viable members of their community or society in general.

- Unified Sports & Activities programs shall be administered by each participating member school and follow the requirements per UIL Bylaws for eligibility, rules and program administration.
- **To participate in Unified Interscholastic Sports & Activities programs, participating UIL schools must be a Unified Champion School (UCS) and have a Partnership for Inclusion form on file with SOTX.**
- SOTX will provide each participating Unified Champion Schools a list of eligible schools for each UIL event.
- Unified Sports will follow the rules of the National Federation and will govern the sport when applicable. Rule modifications have been noted in this document.
- SOTX/UIL has provided a framework in this document to define competition slots available for participation in Local, Area, Regional and State competitions.

# Unified Sports & Activities General Rules

## Vision of Unified Sports

The vision of Special Olympics Texas (SOTX) and UIL Unified Sports project is to allow high school students with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to represent their high school in UIL sanctioned activities by participating on a Unified Sports team providing the students with a quality experience of sports training and competition.

The following are recognized and regulated:

Unified Sports:

Unified Interscholastic Track and Field

Unified Interscholastic Basketball

Unified Activities:

Unified Interscholastic Robotics

## Coaches Eligibility

- a. **Coaches must have successfully completed the NFHS course on *Unified Sports* or the *Special Olympics Unified Sports Coaching Course* at [learn.specialolympics.org](http://learn.specialolympics.org)**

## Definition of Participants

- a. Unified Student Athlete: a student who is receiving special education and related services pursuant to an individual education program based on a cognitive, developmental and/or intellectual delay or disability (ID/IDD).
- b. Unified Student Partner: a student who is NOT identified by the school as a Unified Student Athlete.

## Unified Student Athlete

- a. Age Requirement: may participate in Unified Sports as long as the Unified Student Athlete is enrolled in the school.
- b. A Unified Student Athlete who (i) is receiving special education and related services pursuant to an individual education program and (ii) based on the Unified Student Athlete's individual education plan (IEP) the Unified Student Athlete is required to remain in school up to the school year in which the Unified Student Athlete turns 21 and may continue to participate as long as the Unified Student Athlete is enrolled in the school.
- c. Academic Requirement: must be making satisfactory progress toward the goals, objectives and benchmarks contained in any progress report and/or any case conference committee, and such facts must be certified by the building principal.

## Unified Student Partner

- a. Must comply with [Section 400: Student's Eligibility for all UIL Contest](#), UIL Constitution and Contest Rules.
- b. Must be academically eligible - <https://www.uil texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side/academic-requirements>
- c. A student who participates in a varsity or sub-varsity competition or scrimmage, in a non-Unified Sports sport, is prohibited from competing as a Unified Partner or Athlete in a Unified Sports Tournament Series in that same sport for the remainder of the School Year.
- d. Appropriate participation for such a Student Athlete Partner may take place as an assistant coach or manager.

**Completion of Athletic Physical, Consent, Acknowledgement of Risks and Release Form**

- a. All participants in Unified Sports must have appropriate UIL paperwork on file with their campus.

**Participation by Gender**

- a. Unified Sports teams shall be organized as co-ed teams and consist of a 50% ratio combination of students with intellectual disabilities and students without intellectual disabilities.
- b. The team ratio will be reviewed to ensure equity in competition.

**Data for Special Olympics Texas Federal Grant**

- a. Schools participating in UIL/Unified Competitions must, when requested, supply SOTX information including complete rosters, scheduled contests and other non confidential data required in order to qualify for or receive federally funded grants which support UIL Unified Sports & Activities.

**Classification of Schools**

- a. Unified Sports teams shall be aligned in a single class tournament series.

## **Unified Interscholastic Sports & Activities Overview**

Q. Is a student with a physical disability, but no intellectual disability considered a Unified Student Athlete or a Unified Student Partner?

*A. A student with a physical disability, but no intellectual disability, can qualify as a Unified Student Partner.*

Q. Can a student athlete participate in UIL HS Track and Field and also participate on the Unified Interscholastic Track and Field Team?

*A. No. If they are a participant on the UIL HS Track and Field Team then they cannot be a participant on the Unified Interscholastic Track and Field Team.*

Q. Can a student that participates in UIL HS Track and Field act as an assistant coach or manager for Unified Interscholastic Track and Field Team?

*A. Yes*

Q. Can a Unified Sports team be made up of all boys and compete against a team that is made up of all girls?

*A. Yes. Unified Sports teams are completely co-ed and can consist of all boys, all girls or any combination of boys and girls as both Unified Student Athletes and Unified Student Partners.*

Q. Can a Unified Student Athlete compete when they are 21 years old?

*A. Yes, if the student's IEP calls for the student to still be enrolled in a member School.*

Q. Can a Unified Student Athlete compete for a 5th year in Unified Sports?

*A. Yes.*

Q. Do Unified Student Athletes have to complete the UIL Athletic Physical, Consent, Acknowledgement of Risks and Release Form?

*A. Yes.*

Q. If a student is receiving special education services through a school district cooperative, may that student participate as a Unified Student Athlete in a member school other than the member school of enrollment?

*A. Yes. That student may either compete for their member school of enrollment OR home member school.*

Q. Must a coach have successfully completed the Special Olympics Unified Sports Coaching Course NFHS course on Unified Sports prior to the first interscholastic competition?

*A. Yes.*

## ***Unified Sports® & Activities Season***

### **Unified Sports & Activities Practice**

- a. There shall be ten (10) separate days of organized practice in any Unified Sport under the direct supervision of eligible coaching staff in that sport by each player preceding the date of participation in inter school contests. Only one (1) practice may be counted for any one (1) day.
- b. Individual student athletes moving directly (within one (1) week) from one (1) sport season to the next sport season may be eligible to participate in the following season contest after five (5) separate days of organized practice under the direct supervision of eligible coaching staff in that sport.
- c. Student athletes, having successfully completed basic training with a branch of the United States military during a sports practice and contest seasons, may be eligible to participate in a contest after five (5) separate days of organized practice under the direct supervision of eligible coaching staff.

### **Limitations on practice, rehearsal, and student participation in extracurricular activities during the school week shall be as follows:**

- a. For any given extracurricular activity, a student may not participate in more than one activity per school week, excluding holidays, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection.
- b. In addition to the limit specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection of one extracurricular activity permitted per school week, a student may also participate in a tournament or post-district contest, as well as a contest postponed by weather or public disaster that may determine advancement to a post-district level of competition.
- c. For each extracurricular activity, a school district must limit students to a maximum of eight hours of practice and rehearsal outside the school day per school week.
- d. The Commissioner of Education recommends that school districts avoid scheduling extracurricular activities or public performances on the day or evening immediately preceding the day on which the administration of the statewide student assessment program is scheduled for Grades 3-11.

## ***Unified Interscholastic Track & Field***

### **Unified Interscholastic Track and Field Season**

- a. A minimum of 2 authorized regular season contests (local competitions hosted at an eligible campus) must be played prior to the beginning of the UIL Tournament Series (Area, Regionals, and State).
- b. Unified Interscholastic Track and Field SHOULD be added to the regular season High School UIL schedule/meet at participating campuses. (Eligible campuses will be provided by SOTX.)
- c. Students or teams representing a participant school are permitted to participate in an invitational track and field (not to include Area, Regionals, and State) meet only as listed below:
  - After 2:30 on Friday or the last day of the school week, or as early as the end of the academic school day for all participating schools on a day preceding a holiday or break. EXCEPTION: A student representing a participant school may participate in a maximum of three meets on a Thursday or Friday, or the last day of the school

week with no restriction on start time.

- Or on Saturday or school holidays.
- Or on any school day other than the last day of the school week with the following conditions:
  - Events shall not begin until after the end of the academic school day for all schools involved.
  - Schools utilizing this option are limited to a one-day meet.
  - A school or student participating in this type of meet shall not enter another track and field meet during the same school week, Monday through Friday.
  - No event shall start after 10:00 p.m.

### **Administration of Unified Track & Field**

- a. These regulations apply to regular season competitions and all UIL Tournament Series unless stated otherwise.
- b. The official rules as stated in the current Track & Field Rules Book published by the National Federation and so further modified by UIL in these regulations, shall govern.
- c. Officials are expected to enforce all rules which create an unfair advantage including all false starts in running events and scratches in field events.
- d. Discretion is allowed when a violation does not create a competitive advantage (e.g., a Student-Athlete who due to a disability has difficulty staying in the assigned lane and does not interfere with another runner).
- e. Student participants shall NOT be identified as Student-Athletes or Student-Partners other than for the administration of the competition.

### **Team Roster**

- a. A school MAY participate in Unified Track and Field competitions with a minimum of 2 participants (1 Student Athlete and 1 Student Partner) entered 2 events.
- b. If a team enters all 6 events at Area, Regional and State competitions, the minimum roster would be 12 (6 Student Athletes and 6 Student Partners) and the maximum roster will be 24 (12 Student Athletes and 12 Student Partners) not including alternates. Maximum roster including alternates would be 36 (18 Student Athletes and 18 Student Partners).
- c. All students listed on an entry form must be noted as participant or alternate (alternates compete in Local competitions and then can be used in Area if the entered participant cannot compete and noted by coach before 4:00pm the day before the meet; if the alternate competes in Area then will be considered the participant for advancement).
- d. **All awards and other recognitions should be based on team performance (points) and not individual performances.**
- e. A school must enter an equal number of Student-Athletes and Student-Partners to compete in an event (CANNOT have an athlete entered without a partner and vice versa must be entered as a pair).
- f. Teams will be coed with no limitation on the number of Boys or Girls in an event or on a team, except for the Boys and Girls relays which are gender specific.
- g. If a school has a mixed gender relay team, the team shall be entered in the Boys relay event. However, if they already have a Boys relay entered then the points for the mixed gender team will not count towards the team total.



- h. Teams may use assistants for Student-Athletes. Assistants are Student-Partners who meet all eligibility requirements of Student-Partners.
- Assistants are not competitors in the event, serving only as helpers to their Student-Athlete teammate.
  - Assistants may be competitors in other events, but not in the event in which they are serving as an assistant.
  - Serving as an assistant does not count towards an individual's 2 event limit.
  - Assistants are non-scoring participants.
  - Coaches should inform the starter or field event judge when an assistant will be used in the event.
  - Assistants may be used for Student-Athletes in all events, including field events.
  - When requested by a coach, Officials may change a Student Athlete's lane assignment in a running event to help accommodate the Student Athlete's disability, including, but not limited to, moving a Student Athlete to the first lane so their assistant can run alongside them on the inside of the track.
  - Assistants may NOT touch the Student-Athlete that they are assisting.
  - Assistants may NOT create an unfair advantage for the Student-Athlete that they are assisting as determined by the meet official.
  - In the long jump, assistants should be used in the approach only and should not enter the long jump pit.
  - Assistants begin races behind and in the same lane as the Student Athlete that they are assisting or inside of Lane 1 or outside Lane 8.
  - Modifications could be, using every other lane and having Assistant in the open lane beside the runner. Guide ropes will be permitted if deemed necessary and/or approved in advance.
  - An assistant may move beside or in front of the Student Athlete they are assisting if they do not hinder another participant.
  - Violations of this section will cause the Student Athlete being assisted to be disqualified in that event.

### **Officials**

- a. Unified Student Athletes and Partners are expected to follow rules and meet expectations. However, officials will have flexibility in accommodating individual disabilities.
- b. Officials are expected to enforce violations when a competitive advantage is gained or creates a competitive disadvantage for another competitor (For example false starts, scratches in long jump, and relay exchanges outside the exchange zone).
- c. If a runner has an obvious false start, the race should not be recalled in the traditional format. The meet official should wait until the race is over and DQ the individual.
- d. During your pre-meet instruction to timers, field judges, official score, etc., **please emphasize the importance of recording every time and/or distance, for every competitor, in every event.**

## **Unified Interscholastic Track and Field Events**

- a. Unified Tournament Series Events (**Area, Regional and State Competitions**)
- Each school may enter the following maximum number of participants in the events below, but there must be an equal number of Student-Athletes and Student-Partner entered in each event:
    - **100m Dash** (4 participants/2 Student-Athletes and 2 Student-Partners)
    - **400m Dash** (4 participants/2 Student-Athletes and 2 Student-Partners)
    - **4x100m Relay Boys**(1 relay team/4 participants/2 Student-Athletes and 2 Student-Partners)
    - **4x100m Relay Girls** (1 relay team/4 participants/2 Student-Athletes and 2 Student-Partners)
    - **Shot Put** (4 participants/2 Student-Athletes and 2 Student-Partners)
    - **Long-Jump** (4 participants/2 Student-Athletes and 2 Student-Partners)
- b. Tournament Series Administration (**Area, Regional, and State Competitions**)
- Schools from the accepted pool (must be UCS and UIL member school) will participate in the area, regionals, and state level of competition.
  - **The teams with the top 3 team totals from each of the 19 Area Meets will advance to the Regional Meet.**
  - **The teams with the top 4 team totals from each of the 4 Regional Meets will advance to the State Championship.**
  - All scoring will occur during heats and flights which are determined by the best certified times or distances.
- c. Regular Season Events (**ONLY Local Competitions**)
- During the regular season there is no maximum number of events or flights in which a team may participate. However, the maximum number for an individual during the regular season is 4 events.
  - Regular season events may include the events below, but must include an equal number of Student-Athletes and Student-Partners entered in each event:
    - **The events in all regular season meets must include all Tournament Series Events as listed above** (100m,400m,SP,LJ, 4x100 relay boys and girls).
    - Track – 3200-meter relay, 1600-meter run, 800-meter run, 200-meter dash, 3200-meter run, 1600-meter relay
    - Field – high jump and discus.
    - Other events as approved by the Commissioner
    - The javelin and hammer throw events are prohibited in ALL meets.

### **Long Jump Rules and Regulation**

- a. During the tournament series, a 20" or 24" takeoff board will be used where feasible.
- b. A second takeoff line or board may be moved closer to the long jump pit, if needed, for contestant safety.
- c. For safety reasons, competitors having jumped 13' or more at any time during the season should use the board furthest from the pit.
- d. Contestants may use a "standing" long jump approach during competition.
- e. Prior to competition, competitors should identify with the judge which board they will use and if a standing long jump is used over a running approach.

### **Shot Put Rules and Regulations**

- a. The shot-put sector shall measure 34.92° for shot put throughout the regular season and UIL tournament series events.
- b. The shot must weigh at least 8 lbs. 13 oz., or 4 kg.
- c. All competitors, regardless of gender, will use the 8 lbs.13 oz, or 4 kg., shot.

### **Relays Rules and Regulations**

- a. Dropping a baton is not automatically a DQ.
- b. The new National Federation Track and Field rules concerning exchange zones in effect for 2020 will apply to Unified Track and Field.
- c. On the day of a tournament series meet, the games committee may allow a school to add an otherwise eligible member of the school's team to participate in a relay if the school has fewer than 4 members listed on the entry list as participants or alternates. However, the school shall be considered disqualified and receive no points.

### **Participation Limitations**

- a. Regular Season (Local Competition) – During the regular season an individual may be entered in up to 4 events including relays. No contestant shall participate in more than 4 events.
- b. UIL Tournament Series (Area, Regional and State Competitions) – An individual **may NOT** be entered (as a participant AND/OR as an alternate) in more than 2 events, relays inclusive. No contestant shall participate in more than 2 events.

### **Uniforms** – (See Rule 4-3 of the NFHS Track & Field and Cross-Country Rules Book)

- a. Items such as hats, hoodies, baseball caps, kerchiefs, bandannas, sunglasses, etc. are not considered part of the official school uniform and shall not be worn while participating nor while receiving awards.
- b. Any modification to uniforms that is deemed medically necessary will be acceptable with a note from physicians. For example, sunglasses with light sensitivities or pouches that cover ostomy bags.

### **Management**

- a. **Regular Season (Local Meets)**
  - Total responsibility for the local arrangements has been delegated to the host school.  
The host school shall provide and be responsible for tickets (if

applicable), ticket takers/sellers, ushers, announcers, scorers, timekeepers, all necessary equipment for conducting the meet or contest, necessary facilities for the competing teams and those directly affiliated with the competing teams (such as the principal, athletic director, coaches, student managers, etc.), facilities for spectators/fans and crowd control (hereinafter known as the local arrangements).

- Complete information must be sent to all participating schools and officials.
- Each principal or designee is responsible for checking the eligibility of entrants before permitting them to participate.
- A notification from the host school will acknowledge receipt and correctness of your entry list.
- Principals and coaches are urged to check the entry list for accuracy:
  - All necessary information is provided and;
  - Each contestant is entered in the proper event(s).
- Unless entrant's best performances are entered in the proper column, contestants will not be considered entered in an event.
- Host schools must submit a copy of all Unified Entries prior to competition.

**b. Areas/Regionals**

- Operation and management of the Area and Regional tournament will be in collaboration with SOTX.
- Entries for Area and Regionals will go to SOTX.
- Host shall provide and be responsible for tickets, ticket takers/sellers, ushers, announcers, scorers, timekeepers, all necessary equipment for conducting the meet or contest, necessary facilities for the competing teams and those directly affiliated with the competing teams (such as the principal, athletic director, coaches, student managers, etc.), facilities for spectators/fans and crowd control (hereinafter known as the local arrangements).
- Complete information must be sent from SOTX to all participating schools and officials at Area and Regionals.

**Standards of Performance**

- a. FOR AREA: Each school may list 4 participants which is 2 Unified Pairs (2 Student-Athletes and 2 Student-Partners) and a Unified Pair (1 Student-Athlete and 1 Student-Partner) may be listed as alternates in each individual event but can only be used at Area ONLY if coach notifies SOTX before 4:00pm the day before the meet.
- b. Each entrant including alternates must have a qualifying mark for each event entered.
- c. The entrant's **best** time/distance must be listed on the Official Area Entry form based on a minimum of 2 regular season meets.
- d. Qualifying marks for Area must be from a regular season meet (not practice) and recorded on the score sheet as signed by the official.
- e. FOR REGIONALS: Each school may list ONLY the participants that competed and received a mark/time at the Area Meet. The only participants that

- advance would be the ones that competed in the Area Meet.
- f. The integrity of the scoring of a Unified Track & Field competition is dependent on accurate seeding based on qualifying marks.
  - g. Inaccurate qualifying marks can cause an unfair competitive advantage, so schools will be held to a high standard in reporting accurate qualifying marks.
  - h. A pattern of qualifying marks which are substantially different from performances in the tournament are subject to investigation and disciplinary action if found to be inaccurate for any reason on a school's entry list.

### **Entry Limitations**

- a. No contestant at Area, Regionals or State may participate in more than 2 events. A relay is considered as an event.
- b. A school may enter 1 team in each relay and 6 participants may be named to a relay team, any 4 of whom may be used if eligible (must have qualifying time), 2 of which must be Student-Athletes and 2 of which must be Student-Partners.
- c. When last minute questions arise regarding a student's eligibility status (name, discrepancies, excessive number of events, etc.) and the Commissioner(s) cannot be reached, the host school principal or designee is authorized to permit the athlete in question to participate with the understanding the eligibility status may be changed when all facts are reported to UIL.

### **Seeding - Area, Regional and State**

- a. The Area meet will be seeded based on Area entry list times/distances from Regular season (local competitions) as described above in Standards of Performance.
- b. The Regional meet will be seeded based on the better of the Area entry list times/distances or the Area results whichever is better will be used.
- c. The State meet will be seeded based on the best of the Area entry list, Area results or Regional results.
- d. A student listed in an event on the Area entry list as a participant or alternate must have competed in that event at the Area and Regional in order to compete in the state meet.
- e. All flights are scored events with each flight having a 1<sup>st</sup> place finisher, a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher, etc.
- f. The best times and distances are assigned to the first heat or flight.
- g. When forming flights, the maximum number of participants in any heat or flight is 8.
- h. No heat or flight will be run with less than 4 participants unless there are fewer than 4 participants entered.
- i. Each heat or flight will have the same number of participants, extra participants will be entered into the higher seeded heat(s) or flight(s).

#### **Examples:**

15 participants - 8 in the first heat and 7 in the second heat

17 participants - 6 in the first heat, 6 in the second heat, 5 in the third heat

23 participants - 8 in the first heat, 8 in the second heat, 7 in the third heat

19 participants - 7 in the first heat, 6 in the second heat, 6 in the third heat

Place competitors within each flight in descending order of performance.

## **Procedure - Running Events**

- a. #1=fastest; #40=slowest
- b. Area/Regionals/State (If more heats are needed at the sectional and regional the same format will be followed)

### **100m Dash**

Lane 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**Heat 1** 7 5 3 1 2 4 6 8

**Heat 2** 15 13 11 9 10 12 14 16

**Heat 3** 23 21 19 17 18 20 22 24

**Heat 4** 31 29 27 25 26 28 30 32

**Heat 5** 39 37 35 33 34 36 38 40

**Heat 6** 47 45 43 41 42 44 46 48

### **400m Dash – 2 turn stagger**

Lane 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**Heat 1** 7 5 3 1 2 4 6 8

**Heat 2** 15 13 11 9 10 12 14 16

**Heat 3** 23 21 19 17 18 20 22 24

**Heat 4** 31 29 27 25 26 28 30 32

**Heat 5** 39 37 35 33 34 36 38 40

**Heat 6** 47 45 43 41 42 44 46 48

### **400m Relay – 2 turn stagger**

Lane 1 2 3 4 5 6

**Heat 1** 5 4 1 2 3 6

**Heat 2** 11 10 7 8 9 12

**There will be no preliminaries.**

All heats are determined by the best time/distance taken from entry, whether that be from Area entries, Area results or Regional results.

## **Procedure – Field Events**

- a. Obtain known scratches.
- b. Seed flights/heats/sections.
- c. Ties in times/distances shall be drawn by lot for flight/heat and lane assignment.
- d. Long Jump and Shot Put:
  - Arrange the competitors in descending order of performance.
  - Assign competitors to flights in groups of 4-8.
- e. A contestant will take at least 1 attempt at his/her turn. Contestants may take all their remaining tries during their turn provided the field event judge is notified.

## Scratches – Tournament Series

- a. It is recommended that each host school conduct a coaches' meeting prior to the day of the Area or Regional track meet. If conducted, each participating school should be represented by a coach or a school representative.
- b. Items to be covered at this meeting could include the following:
  - Distribution of seeds and correction of any seeding errors; **changes in times/distances will not be permitted at this meeting.**
  - Explanation of certain administrative details of the meet, i.e., parking, awards, scratch meeting, protests, check-in, etc.

## Area Meet

- a. Coaches have until 4:00 p.m. the day before to scratch participants and replace them with alternates **listed** on the Area entry roster.
- b. At the Area meet, a scratch meeting must be held at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the first field event.
- c. At the scratch meeting, coaches declare any scratches if an athlete scratches then the partner will not be able to participate and vice versa. **Substitutions will NOT be allowed at the scratch meeting.**

For the Girls 400m Relay and the Boys 400m Relay, coaches may scratch and replace the relay rosters up until the time the relay teams report to the clerk of the course, provided relay team members are entered as either a participant or an alternate.
- d. A contestant whose relay team is scratched due to injury or disciplinary action against other relay team members shall not be scratched from other events if documented by a physician in the case of injury or by the principal in disciplinary action.
- e. Heats and flights will NOT be reseeded following the scratch meeting.

## Regional Meet

- a. At the Regional meet, a scratch meeting must be held at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the first field event.
- b. At the scratch meeting, coaches declare any scratches (if a qualified athlete must scratch then so does the partner of that athlete in that event and vice versa). **Substitutions will NOT be allowed at the scratch meeting.**
- c. For the Girls 400m Relay and the Boys 400m Relay, coaches may scratch and replace the relay rosters up until the time the relay teams report to the clerk of the course, provided relay team members are entered as either a participant or an alternate.
- d. A contestant whose relay team is scratched due to injury or disciplinary action against other relay team members shall not be scratched from other events if documented by a physician in the case of injury or by the principal in disciplinary action.
- e. Heats and flights will NOT be reseeded following the scratch meeting.

## State Meet

- a. At the State meet, a scratch meeting must be held at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the first field event.
- b. At the scratch meeting, coaches declare any scratches (if a qualified athlete must scratch then so does the partner of that athlete in that event and vice versa). **Substitutions will NOT be allowed at the scratch meeting.**
- c. For the Girls 400m Relay and the Boys 400m Relay, coaches may scratch

- and replace the relay rosters up until the time the relay teams report to the clerk of the course, provided relay team members are entered as either a participant or an alternate.
- d. A contestant whose relay team is scratched due to injury or disciplinary action against other relay team members shall not be scratched from other events if documented by a physician in the case of injury or by the principal in disciplinary action.
  - e. Heats and flights will NOT be reseeded following the scratch meeting.

## **Order of Events for Area, Regionals and State Meets**

4x100 Girls Relay  
4x100 Boys Relay  
Long Jump  
Shot Put  
100m Dash  
400m Dash

### **Scoring**

- a. Each heat will carry the same weight for scoring (i.e., the winner of the fastest heat scores the same number of team points as the winner of the slowest heat).
- b. All scoring of heats and flights are determined by the best certified times or distances in each event.
- c. All flights and heats will be seeded from fastest/slowest or furthest/shortest.
- d. The best times and distances will be assigned to the first heat or flight.
- e. Participants from the same school may be assigned to the same heat.
- f. Team points awarded for each heat or flight will be the following:  
1<sup>st</sup> = 10 pts. 2<sup>nd</sup> = 8 pts. 3<sup>rd</sup> = 6 pts. 4<sup>th</sup> = 5 pts.  
5<sup>th</sup> = 4 pts. 6<sup>th</sup> = 3 pts. 7<sup>th</sup> = 2 pts. 8<sup>th</sup> = 1 pt.
- g. The maximum number of participants in any heat or flight is 8.

### **Ties - must be broken for the last qualifying team position**

- a. **Area** - In the event of a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place (and qualifying for the Regionals), the tie will be broken by determining the greatest number of 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes in individual heats inclusive of shot put and long jump. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken by determining the greatest number of 2<sup>nd</sup> places finishes. The process will continue until the tie is broken. If a tie still exists, a coin will be flipped to determine the team qualifying for advancement. In the event of a tie for a team championship, both teams will be recognized as winners, and duplicate awards will be provided for both teams.
- b. **Regional** - In the event of a tie for 4<sup>th</sup> place (and qualifying for the State Finals), the tie will be broken by determining the greatest number of 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes in individual heats, inclusive of shot put and long jump. If a tie still exists, the tie will be broken by determining the greatest number of 2<sup>nd</sup> places finishes. The process will continue until the tie is broken. If a tie still exists, a coin will be flipped to determine the team qualifying for advancement to the next level of the tournament. In the event of a tie for a team championship, both teams will be recognized as winners, and duplicate awards will be provided for both teams.
- c. **State Finals** - In the event of a tie for the team championship, both teams will be recognized as winners and duplicate awards will be provided for both teams.



## **Unified Track and Field Regulations & Season Review**

Q. When a rule refers to “tournaments” is this also a reference to the UIL tournament series?

*A. No, when a “tournament” or a “tourney” is referenced, it refers to a season contest (Local competition) where more than two (2) schools participate. Any reference to the UIL Tournament Series in the recognized sports is the Area, Regional and State competitions.*

Q. In counting the number of tournaments, does a school include the UIL Tournament Series in a sport?

*A. No, the maximum contest rule applies to regular season contests and tournaments (local competitions) and does not include the UIL Tournament Series (Area, Regional and State).*

Q. Must a Unified student who has participated in a winter sport during the season have ten (10) days of organized practice in a spring sport before becoming eligible to participate in a contest of the spring sport?

*A. No, only five (5) practice days are required, provided the athlete reports for practice immediately (within one week) of the end of the previous season.*

Q. May a member school participate in the Unified Track and Field Tournament Series without having competed in a season contest (local competition) in Unified Track and Field?

*A. No. In Unified Track and Field each participating student must have a certified time/ distance from a season contest (local competition) in each event for which the student is entered in the Unified Track and Field Tournament Series. A certified time/distance represents the best time/distance during the contest season in that event.*

Q. May a School participate in a season contest (local competition) in a Unified Sport without participating in the Unified Sports Tournament Series (Area, Regional or State competition)?

*A. Yes.*

Q. What is the maximum number of regular season competitions a school must schedule?

*A. There is no maximum on the number of regular season competitions a school must schedule. **HOWEVER**, a student must have a minimum of 2 qualifying marks from regular season competitions in order to be eligible for the tournament. Therefore, each student must **PARTICIPATE** in a minimum of 2 regular season events. Schools would be wise to schedule more than 2 regular season events in case events are cancelled due to inclement weather and/or a student does not participate in all regular season competitions due to illness or any other unanticipated circumstance.*

Q. May a competition be run in which Student Athletes only compete against other Student Athletes and Student Partners only compete against other Student Partners?

*A. **NO!** This not only violates the entire philosophy of Unified Sports, but it could be a violation of Federal law for disclosing that a student has a disability. Identification of Student Athletes or Student Partners is solely to inform those administering the competition. Students involved in Unified*

*Sports should NEVER be identified as Student Athletes or Student Partners in any other way (programs, PA announcements, uniforms, etc.).*

Q. Can a student be entered as both a Student-Athlete and a Student-Partner on the same entry?

*A. No.*

Q. Is a student with a physical disability, but not an intellectual disability considered a Student-Athlete or a Student-Partner?

*A. Student-Partner*

## **Dates for Track and Field Tournament Series (Area, Regional, and State Competition)**

- Area Track Meets should be **on or before April 7** (19 Area Meets)
- Regional Track Meets should be **on or before April 21** (4 Regional Meets)
- State Track Meet- **May 4th in Abilene** (1 State Meet with maximum of 16 teams to compete for Unified Track & Field State Title)

## **Awards for Interscholastic Track and Field**

### **Area Meet (provided by SOTX)**

- Trophy to 1st place Area team (19 areas)
- Unified Medals/Ribbons - 1st - 8th place medals and ribbons to team totals (not individual events/heats)

### **Regionals (provided by SOTX)**

- Trophy to 1st place Regional team (4 regions)
- Unified Medals/Ribbons - 1st - 8th place medals and ribbons to team totals (not individual events/heats)

### **State (provided by UIL and SOTX)**

- Trophy to State championship team and State runner-up team (UIL)
- Medals up to 20 participants
  - State Championship team (Gold Medals both UIL and Unified)
  - State Runner Up (Silver Medals both UIL and Unified)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place team (Bronze Medals both UIL and Unified)
  - 4th-10th (Unified Ribbons)

# ***Unified Interscholastic Basketball***

## **Unified Interscholastic Basketball Season**

- a. A **minimum of 6 practices** are required prior to the beginning of the UIL Tournament Series (Area, Regionals, and State).
- b. Unified Interscholastic Basketball can be added to the regular season High School UIL schedule at participating campuses. (Eligible campuses will be provided by SOTX.)
- c. Teams representing a participant school are **required to participate in basketball games** (not to exceed 14 which does not include Area, Regionals, and State games) only as listed below:
  - After 2:30 on Friday or the last day of the school week, or as early as the end of the academic school day for all the participating schools on a day preceding a holiday or break.
  - Or on Saturdays or school holidays;
  - Or on any school day other than the last day of the school week with the following conditions:
    - Events shall not begin until after the end of the academic school day for all schools involved.
    - Schools utilizing this option are limited to **ONE GAME PER DAY**.
    - Teams must have **TWO NIGHTS BETWEEN GAMES**.
    - Games cannot start after 9:00 pm.
    - State Law & UIL rules must be followed regarding [Limits on Practice and Performances](#)

## **Administration of Unified Interscholastic Basketball**

- a. These regulations apply to regular season competitions and all UIL Tournament Series unless stated otherwise.
- b. The official rules as stated in the current Basketball Rule Book published by the National Federation and so further modified by UIL in these regulations, shall govern. [UIL Basketball Manual](#)
- c. Officials are expected to enforce all rules.
- d. Student participants shall NOT be identified as Student-Athletes or Student-Partners other than for the administration of the competition.
- e. A **28.5 Intermediate basketball** will be used for all games.
- f. Games will be **7-minute quarters**.
- g. If a tie exists after 4 quarters of play, **1 OT** of 4 minutes will be played. If still tied, game is over.

## **Team Roster**

- a. **Roster size shall be no larger than ten (10). Must have 6 athletes (students with ID) and 4 partners (students without ID).**
- b. Minimum roster is seven (7) which shall consist of 4 athletes and 3 partners.
- c. Each Unified Team shall always consist of three (3) athletes and two (2) partners on the court.
- d. Five (5) players are required to start a game. After a game begins and during competition, only the following lineup ratios are allowed: 3 athletes and 2

- partners, 2 athletes and 2 partners, 2 athletes and 1 partner. Failure to adhere to the required ratio results in a win by default.
- e. All students listed on the line-up must be noted as athlete or partner BUT not referred to as athlete or partner when introduced (it is only for correct ratio during play and not to be distinguished on the court).
  - f. **Teams will be coed with no limitation on the number of Boys or Girls on a team.**

### **Classification of Divisions**

- a. Class 1 – 1A, 2A and 3A will be grouped together for the pilot year.
- b. Class 2 – 4A, 5A and 6A will be grouped together for the pilot year.
- c. SOTX is responsible for providing each UCS/UIIL High School with a list of participating teams for each Area.

### **Dates for Basketball Tournament Series:**

#### **Area: (on or before February 10)**

- Tournament will be determined after participating schools have registered.
- Each of the 19 SOTX areas will host an Area tournament unless participation is low in one Area then can combine with another.
- Area Champion will advance for each of the 19 SOTX Areas (see last page for Area names) to prospective Regional Tournaments.

#### **Regional: (on or before February 17)**

- North Region - 5 Areas for Class 1 AND 5 Areas for Class 2.
- South Region - 5 Areas for Class 1 AND 5 Areas for Class 2.
- East Region - 4 Areas for Class 1 AND 4 Areas for Class 2.
- West Region - 5 Areas for Class 1 AND 5 Areas for Class 2.

#### **State: (February 23 location TBD)**

- Class 1 Tournament – Regional Champion North, South, East, & West
  - Class 1 Game 1 – 9:00am
  - Class 1 Game 2 – 1:00pm
  - Class 1 Championship – 5:00pm
- Class 2 Tournament – Regional Champion North, South, East, & West
  - Class 2 Game 1 – 11:00am
  - Class 2 Game 2 – 3:00pm
  - Class 2 Championship – 7:00pm

### **Awards for Interscholastic Basketball**

#### **Area Tournament (provided by SOTX)**

- Trophy to 1st place Area team (19 areas)
- Unified Medals/Ribbons - 1st - 8th place medals and ribbons to team totals (not individual events/heats)

#### **Regional Tournament (provided by SOTX)**

- Trophy to 1st place Regional team (4 regions)
- Unified Medals/Ribbons - 1st - 8th place medals and ribbons to team totals (not individual events/heats)

## **State Tournament (provided by UIL and SOTX)**

- Trophy to State championship team and State runner-up team (UIL)
- Medals up to 20 participants
- State Championship team (Gold Medals both UIL and Unified)
- State Runner Up (Silver Medals both UIL and Unified)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place team (Bronze Medals both UIL and Unified)
- 4th-10th (Unified Ribbons)

# SOTX Areas & Regions

## **SOUTH REGION**

Area 1-Rio Grande Valley  
Area 2-South Texas (Corpus Christi)  
Area 13-Central Texas (Austin)  
Area 20-San Antonio  
Area 21-Laredo

## **EAST REGION**

Area 4-Greater Houston  
Area 5-Beaumont  
Area 6-Heart of East Texas (Conroe)  
Area 22-Gulf Coast (Galveston)

## **NORTH REGION**

Area 7-East Texas (Lufkin)  
Area 9-North Texas (Wichita Falls)  
Area 10-Greater Dallas  
Area 11-Greater Ft. Worth  
Area 12-Heart of Texas (Waco)

## **WEST REGION**

Area 14-Big Country (Abilene)  
Area 16-Panhandle (Amarillo)  
Area 17-South Plains (Lubbock) Area 18-Permian Basin/Big Bend  
Area 19-El Paso



**PLAY UNIFIED**



