

Pre-game / Halftime Checklist:

- Share rosters**
- Communicate extenuating circumstances**
- Review rules / modifications (see reverse)**
- Review Principle of Meaningful Involvement**

Principle of Meaningful Involvement:

Meaningful Involvement is achieved when:

- Teammates compete without causing undue risk of injury to themselves or others.
- Teammates participate according to the rules of competition.
- Teammates have the ability and opportunity to contribute to the performance of the team.

Meaningful involvement is not achieved when certain team members:

- Display superior sports skills without involving their teammates.
- Serve predominantly as on-field coaches rather than teammates or mentors.
- Control most aspects of the game, especially during the most critical periods.
- Do not train or practice regularly and only show up on the day of competition.
- Lower their level of ability dramatically so that they do not hurt others or control the entire game.

Game Rules/Adaptations Summary:

Please note, the modifications outlined in the Interscholastic Adapted Rules document represent the full extent of modifications made to the NFHS rules.

- Coaches will identify their athletes and partners to officials, scorekeepers, and the opposing team's head coach prior to each game to ensure everyone is on the same page regarding teammates' roles. Athletes and partners should not be publically ID'd
- Coaches are required to strive for roughly equal playing minutes for all teammates on the roster.
- Teams will adhere to an on-court ratio of 3 athletes to 2 Unified partners at all times
 - In the event a team does not have 2 Unified partners available due to injury, illness, etc, the team may designate one athlete to play in the role of a Unified partner for the duration of the game. In this circumstance, it is critical the athlete understands the shift in their role in order to maintain the ratio of 3 athletes to 2 Unified partners. This change must be communicated to officials, scorekeepers, and opposing coaches.
 - A Unified partner may not assume the role of athlete at any time.
- Special Olympics Unified partners are expected to help facilitate game play by bringing the ball up the court, creating scoring opportunities for athletes, rebounding, and assisting athletes in setting plays as directed by the Head Coach. If a violation is called on an athlete, partners are encouraged to educate their teammates on the court, helping them improve their skills and understanding of the game.
- Unified partners may not shoot, score, steal the ball, or block shots from athletes or other Unified partners. When rebounding, partners may move to catch missed shots, but may not jump to the basket to rebound and are not expected to block a rebound headed for an athlete. Partners may encourage athletes to rebound.
- Teams may apply defensive pressure to the offensive team only after the ball has crossed half-court (half-court press). Defensive pressure may be applied man-to-man or via zone defense.
- An athlete may take two steps beyond what is permitted by NGB rules without being called for travelling. However, if the player takes additional steps, a travel violation has occurred.
- An athlete may double dribble on occasion. However, in the event of excessive and repeated double dribbling in which an unfair advantage has been gained, a double dribble violation has occurred.
- The referee is the authority on the court; decisions of officials are final.