



***Special Olympics***  
***New Mexico***

**SONM RULE CLARIFICATIONS  
AND MODIFICATIONS**

1. The head coach is not eligible to compete, each team will register a bench coach.
2. Rosters will have a minimum of 12 (6 athletes and 6 Unified Partners) and no more than 16 (8 athletes and 8 Unified Partners).
3. At no time will it be allowed to have more Unified Partners than athletes on the field or in the batting line up.
4. Equipment:
  - a. Catcher: Helmet with mask and chest protector are mandatory. Shin guards are optional but highly recommended.
  - b. Batting: All players, athletes and partners, will wear batting helmets when at bat and when on base.
  - c. To further ensure the safety of all players, a rag ball will be used during regulation play. (Incrediball, 12" Softstitch)
5. All players requiring a "T" need to be indicated as such on the batting lineup with a "C" next to their name.
  - a. At any time, if an official sees a player struggling consistently throughout the game, the official may ask if the player wishes to use the "T". The decision is strictly up to the player.
  - b. An athlete can begin their at bat by taking pitches. Typically, athletes can select to use the "T" after their second strike.
  - c. If athletes choose to BEGIN their at bat with the "T" they will start with a count of 4 balls and 2 strikes. Athletes must hit the ball and not the "T". If the "T" is hit is a

Strike.

- d. "C" level athletes placed on "A" level teams are not eligible for usage of the "T". There will be no "T" usages allowed in "A" level competition.
- 6. If during a pitch, the ball hits the ground prior to crossing the plate, the ball is considered dead and **will be called a ball**. If the batter swings at this type of pitch it will be ruled a strike.
- 7. A full count is 4 balls and 3 strikes. A foul ball that occurs after 2 strikes will count as a strike and the batter will be out.
- 8. In all upper divisions, athletes and partners are allowed to slide if it is considered safer. Sliding is discouraged, but if it becomes necessary due to safety concerns it will be allowed.
  - a. At no time is it acceptable or authorized to run over a player at any base for any situation.
  - b. There will be no sliding in "C Level" competition.
- 9. In the event that a partner is **intentionally** walked, the athlete has the option of taking a base or hitting. This is the athlete's choice not the coaches.
  - a. The coach will have authority to walk the athlete if there are already two outs.
- 10. The ten run rule will apply in the fifth inning. The fifteen run rule will apply in the third inning.
- 11. There will be no ties. All innings will be finished.
- 12. On the Clemente Field, all home runs hit out of the field, will count as a double.
  - a. If the judgment of the umpire or tournament director, home runs become the dominant play, modifications will be implemented. This will hold true to any field of play.