

**UNIFIED SOFTBALL**  
**Tournament Format and Rule Modifications**



1. There will be no divisioning games in Unified Softball competition. Area results, coaches assessments, and skill tests are the determining factors in Unified Softball divisioning.
2. The Official Special Olympics Summer Sports Rule Book, the Amateur Softball Association (Coed) rule book and these modifications shall govern all softball competition.
3. A team roster should have a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 16 players, at least 50% of whom shall be Special Olympics athletes.
4. There shall be a minimum of five Special Olympics athletes on the field and in the batting order at all times. Any player may be substituted for, as long as there are at least five Special Olympic athletes on the field and in the batting order.
5. All substitutions will be conducted according to the ASA substitution rules.
6. Coaches shall take appropriate measures to prevent a player from dominating a game.
7. Umpires shall warn any player whose play is deemed dangerous. Subsequent dangerous play by that player will result in disqualification from the game. This is to ensure that a player does not create a health and safety risk to other players.
8. The competition will be governed by the ASA Coed Section with the following modifications:
  - a. Instead of alternating male and female players, alternate athlete and partners.
  - b. The pitcher will always be a partner.
  - c. There must be 2 athletes and 2 partners on the infield (1st base, 2nd base, 3rd base and shortstop).
  - d. Likewise, 2 athletes and 2 partners will must be positioned in the outfield. (right field, left field, center field and rover)
  - e. Since all pitchers must be a partners, by default, the catcher will be an athlete.

NOTE: It will be permissible, with a written appeal in before competition, to have more athletes on the field than partners but never more partners than athletes.

The positioning of athletes and partners within the parameters listed above is at the discretion of the coach. For example, you do not have to set an athlete at 1st, a partner at 2nd, an athlete at shortstop and a partner at 3rd.
9. The Head Coach is not eligible to compete. Each team is encouraged to register a scorekeeper.
10. 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)
11. A "C" level athlete has the option to approach home plate with a full count and take one attempt to hit the ball off a tee, or the athlete can attempt to hit a pitched ball until the he/she receives a second strike, at which time a tee can be used. The athlete has the option to use this rule or refuse the tee. (C level athletes must designated on the registration roster)