

SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA

Detail information on Basketball Uniform Guidelines

Uniform/Apparel

1) All players must wear basketball attire with identifying numbers and flat rubber sole athletic shoes.

- Full court team jerseys should have numbers on the front and back.
- Allowable numbers are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in any order. For example, 51, 00, 12, 3. **Do not use numbers 6, 7, 8 or 9!**
- Uniforms can be single numbers (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5) or double digit numbers (10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15). Uniforms **cannot** have three numbers such as 100 or 555.
- It is helpful for half court teams to have numbers so that coaches can match-up defensive assignments. However, since fouls are not tracked in half-court basketball, numbers are not required.
- When ordering new uniforms, please follow these guidelines!

2) Team uniform shirts and shorts must be identical in trim color and style.

- This means that all players on a team should wear the same uniform. The shirt and shorts do not need to be the same color, they just need to be identical for all players. In other words, all players have a yellow shirt and black shorts or all players wear a green shirt and green shorts.

3) Undershirts, if worn, must match the color of the body of the uniform (not the trim) and must be identical in color. Undershirts may be worn by some or all of the players, and may be short sleeve or tank top (no cut or ragged edges are allowed).

- The rules state that the color of the undershirt must match the uniform jersey. However, we will accept all players wearing the same color undershirt even if it does not match the jersey color. For instance, a team with red jerseys could have all players that choose to wear an undershirt wear a white or black undershirt. The options are to wear an undershirt that matches the team's jersey color, the team's jersey trim color, a white undershirt or a black undershirt. All players need to wear the same color undershirt.
- Undershirts should be solid in color without writing showing.

4) Head Coverings – Head coverings for religious reasons must be documented with prior to tournament play and meet the same safety standards as for a medical head covering. Head covering must be of a single, solid color unadorned. This includes, but not limited to, sequins, trimmings, or any other forms of decorations. The only exception is an athlete may wear a head band no wider than two inches and made of nonabrasive, unadorned single colored cloth, elastic, fiber, soft leather or rubber. Rubber/cloth (elastic) bands may be used to control hair. They do not need to match uniform color. Sweatbands are also allowed. In the event an athlete is required by a licensed medical physician to cover his or her head with a covering or wrap, the physician's statement must be on file before it can approve a covering or wrap, which is not abrasive, hard, or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way that is highly unlikely to come off during play.

5) Individuals who do not adhere to uniform regulations will not be allowed to enter a game.

- The game official and tournament director have the authority to not allow an athlete or team to play if the athlete or team is not wearing a regulation uniform.

From SOI General Rules ON UNIFORM RULES

(a) **Commercial Messages on Athlete Uniforms and Competition Numbers.** In order to avoid commercial exploitation of persons with intellectual disabilities, no uniforms, and no bibs or other signs bearing competition numbers, which are worn by Special Olympics athletes during any competition or during any opening or closing ceremonies of any Games may be emblazoned with commercial names or commercial messages. The only commercial markings which may be displayed on athletes' uniforms during Games competitions and opening and closing ceremonies are the normal commercial markings of the manufacturer. For purposes of this Section 4.08(a), "normal commercial markings" are limited to the following:

(1) On larger clothing items, such as shirts, jackets, pants, jerseys, and sweatshirts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible, if that name or logo display does not exceed an area of six square inches or 38.7 square centimeters (such as a display measuring 2" x 3" or 5.08 cm x 7.62 cm);

(2) On small clothing items, such as caps, socks, hats, gloves and belts, one logo or commercial name per clothing item is permissible, if that name or display does not exceed an area of three square inches or 19.35 square centimeters; and

(3) On athletic shoes, no logos or commercial names are permissible except for names or logos which are included by the manufacturer on athletic shoes which are sold to the general public.

(b) **Commercial Markings on Other Athlete Apparel or Accessories.** Special Olympics athletes who are not engaged in competition or in opening/closing ceremonies may wear, carry or use at Games venues other than the sites of competition (such as at training or practice sessions) clothing and/or non-apparel items which are not part of their sports equipment (such as tote bags), which contain small and attractively designed identifications of corporate or organizational sponsors.

(c) **Displays of Commercial Messages by Volunteers.** Volunteers may wear clothing which bears small and attractively designed names or logos identifying corporate or organizational sponsors while attending Games competitions, so long as those displays do not exceed an area of six square inches or its metric equivalent.

(d) **Displays of Commercial Messages by Sports Officials.** Sports officials may not wear, carry or use clothing or other apparel items which contain the names or logos of corporate or organizational sponsors (except for the normal commercial markings permitted under subsection (a) above) during the opening or closing ceremonies of any Games, at the sites of any Games competition or demonstration, or while officiating at any Games competition or demonstration. At other times, or at Games venues other than the sites of opening and closing ceremonies, competitions or demonstrations (such as at the sites of training and practice sessions), officials may wear, carry or use clothing or other items which contain sponsors' names or logos if those displays comply with those permitted to be displayed by volunteers under Section 4.08(c).