Unified Volleyball Timeline
2026-27 Season

FEBRUARY 2027 (3 Months Before Unified Sectionals)

Coaches Clearance / Training

- Complete all AIA requirements for Coaches' Clearance per Article 17 of the AIA Bylaws & Constitution.
  - For an outline of all training and certification requirements specific to high school Unified Sports coaches, please visit www.aiaonline.org/sports/unified
- Complete all district/school requirements for Coaches Clearance per district policy
- Complete Unified Basketball Coaches' Training (specific to high schools)
  - Contact Thomas Miranda at Thomas@SpecialOlympicsArizona.org to schedule a training

Order Equipment

- Suggested equipment includes:
  - **Volleyball** (suggested: 6-12)
  - **Ball Pump** (suggested: 2)
  - **Ball Bag** (suggested: 1)
  - **Cones** (suggested: 25-50)
  - **Reversible Jerseys/Pennies** (suggested: 12)
  - **Whistles** (suggested: 1 per coach)

Attend/Organize Planning Meetings

- Attend MANDATORY Coaches' Webinar (only need to attend one)
  - Thursday, February 5th – 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- registration link: https://specialolympicsarizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZEuZoGOBR1mlOtqdrtOJ1A

Verify ALL Student Eligibility and Clearance Requirements are completed.

Athletes & Unified Partners must complete:

- AIA Annual Pre-participation Clearance Packet
  - Part One – Annual Preparticipation Physical Evaluation (Form 15.7-A).
  - Part Two – Annual Preparticipation Physical Examination (Form 15.7-B).
  - Part Three – Annual Preparticipation Acknowledgement (Form 15.7-C).
  - Part Four – Annual Preparticipation Consent to Treat Form (Form 15.7-D).
  - Part Five – Unified Sports Participant Release (Form 15.7-E).
- All district/school requirements for Student Eligibility and Clearance per district policy

Complete Season Schedule

PRACTICE

- Schedule practices accordingly to ensure a minimum of eight (8) practices at least sixty (60) minutes are held before the first regular-season scrimmage/game. Practices shall continue to be held at least once a week throughout the sports season.

REGULAR SEASON

- Reach out to schools in your area to schedule at least two regular season games.
  - *Suggestion: attend a Unified Volleyball Invitational Tournament at which two or more schools are competing to fulfill this requirement in one day*

Unified Volleyball Timeline
2026-27 Season

February 2027 (2 Months Before Unified Sectionals)

Practice

- ☐ Practice 1 ☐ Practice 2 ☐ Practice 3 ☐ Practice 4
- ☐ Practice 5 ☐ Practice 6 ☐ Practice 7 ☐ Practice 8

Regular Season Interscholastic Competition

- ☐ Compete in a ***minimum*** of two interscholastic contests (games) against other high school Unified Volleyball teams during the regular season
  - ☐ Regular Season Game #1 Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____
  - ☐ Regular Season Game #2 Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Transportation Requests

- ☐ Submit transportation requests for regular season games (must attend a minimum of two)

March 2027 (1 Month Before Unified Sectionals)

Unified Sectionals (Area Competition) Registration

- ☐ Complete and submit Unified Sectionals Registration Paperwork
  - SOAZ will send out registration paperwork in February.
  - Registration paperwork will be due *3-4 weeks before* Unified Sectionals

Transportation Requests

- ☐ Submit transportation requests for Unified Sectionals

Practices

- ☐ Continue holding regular practice.

March 2027

Unified Volleyball Sectionals

- ☐ Compete at a qualifying Unified Volleyball Sectionals
  - *Teams must compete in Unified Sectionals to qualify for the state tournament.*
- ☐ Friday, March 5th

State Championship Registration / Planning

- ☐ Qualification Results will be posted on AZPreps365.
  - *The top 2 teams statewide will qualify for advancement to the State Championship (qualification will be based on the team's final score at Unified Sectionals)*
- ☐ Submit transportation request for State Championship

AIA State Volleyball Championship

- **April 9th, 2027**