SOCCER UNIFIED COMPETITION RULES

Team Composition

- **5 players on the field**: 3 Special Olympics athletes & 2 Unified partners
- **Maximum roster size:** 10 players 6 athletes & 4 partners
- Teams compete in either the **Intermediate** or **High** division.

Game Length

- Two **15-minute halves** & a **5-minute halftime**

Field

- Played on **U6 to U10 youth soccer fields**.

Equipment

- Numbered jerseys are required.
- **Shin guards are mandatory.**
- **Size 5 soccer ball** is used.
- Players may wear: Rubber cleats & Tennis shoes
- Not allowed: Boots & Sandals

Starting Play

- Kickoff begins from the center spot.
- Ball must be kicked or passed forward one full rotation.
- Opponents must stay outside the center circle until the ball is touched.

General Rules

- A goalkeeper is used and must wear a different colored jersey.
- All fouls result in an **indirect free kick**.
- Opponents must remain **5 yards away** on free kicks.
- All restart kicks are indirect (must touch another player before a goal can be scored).
- Sideline out-of-bounds restarts are taken with an **indirect kick-in**.
- A goal **cannot** be scored directly from a kick-in.
- If the attacking team puts the ball over the end line:
    - Restart is a kick-in from the goal line.
- If the defending team puts the ball over the end line:
    - Restart is a corner kick.
- **No offside rule**.
- Penalty kicks are awarded only for **flagrant fouls**.

Ties

- In tournament play, **ties stand as final results**.

Substitutions

- Unlimited substitutions are allowed:
    - When the ball is out of bound, At halftime, After a goal, or During injury stoppages
- Coach must notify the referee or linesman.
- Substitutes may enter only when signaled by the referee.

Key differences from traditional soccer: indirect free kicks only, no offsides, kick-ins instead of throw-ins, and ties remain ties in tournament play.