



Intramural Sports Participants Handbook

**University of Akron
Recreation and Wellness Services
2009-2010**

Purpose and Goals

Thank you for your interest in Intramural Sports and the Recreation and Wellness Services programs. The Intramural Sports program is designed to provide opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to participate in sports experiences which will help develop leadership and team building among many other skills. The Intramural Sports program also allows the University community to participate in recreational activities in an organized competitive atmosphere. By participating in one of our many activities, we aim to provide you with the following opportunities:

- Develop social relationships
- Encourage good sportsmanship
- Maintain health and fitness
- Promote The University of Akron through organized recreational activities
- And most of all, HAVE FUN!!!

Registration

Team Sports:

- Entry forms available online at www.zipsrec.uakron.edu or at O.A.S.I.S. Desk.
- Ensure eligibility for each team member.
- List each team member's name, ID number, telephone number and signature on the form.
- Pay the associated fee at the Pro Shop in the SRWC (entry will not be accepted without proof of payment).
- Register team at the O.A.S.I.S. Desk in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.
- Attend one of the mandatory manager's meetings to ensure a spot in the league.
- Download a copy of the finalized league schedule at www.zipsrec.akron.edu or check postings in the SRWC.
- All rules and information pertaining to the sport are posted on the website...www.zipsrec.akron.edu.

Individual/Dual Sports:

- Entry forms available online at www.zipsrec.uakron.edu.
- List name, ID number, telephone number and signature on the form, for dual sports; also include partner's name, ID number, telephone number and signature.
- Pay the associated fee at the Pro Shop in the SRWC (entry will not be accepted without proof of payment).
- Register team at the O.A.S.I.S. Desk in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center.
- Download a copy of the finalized league/tournament schedule at www.zipsrec.akron.edu. or check postings in the SRWC
- All rules and information pertaining to the sport are posted on the website...www.zipsrec.akron.edu.

Free Agents:

Individuals who are interested in playing, but don't have a team can use this resource to help locate a team. Come by the O.A.S.I.S. Desk and submit your contact information and sport preference. While the Intramural Sports staff cannot place participants on a team, this information will be made available to teams in need of extra players or teams may be formed if there is enough interest.

Identification Cards

All participants in Intramural Sports programs must show their valid University of Akron ID card prior to the start of each contest, regardless of location. Any participant attempting to check-in without the U of A ID card will not be permitted to participate.

Manager's Meetings

A representative from each team is responsible to attend a mandatory manager's meeting for certain sports. The purpose of this meeting is to review policies and procedures, specific sports rules and answer any questions teams may have. All teams are responsible for material covered and agreements reached or changes made at the manager's meeting. Any team not represented at the sports mandatory manager's meeting will be dropped from league and tournament play.

Leagues of Participation

- I. Leagues of participation are utilized to provide a more enjoyable and competitive atmosphere. Divisions for men, women, and co-rec teams are offered in virtually all team and in individual/dual activities.
- II. Team Conferences:
 - Men's and Women's Greek (Fraternity/Sorority)
 - Men's and Women's Independent
 - Men's and Women's Residence Hall
 - Co-rec
- III. Individual/Dual Conferences:
 - Men's and Women's Greek (Fraternity/Sorority)
 - Men's and Women's Independent
 - Men's and Women's Residence Hall
 - Co-rec
- IV. Definitions:
 - Co-rec leagues: both men and women compete on the same time (numbers vary with each sport and can be found within the sports rules).
 - Men's leagues: any male student, faculty, or staff
 - Women's league: any female student, faculty, or staff
 - Greek league: all team members must be active members of the same fraternity/sorority as recognized by the Greek Life office.

Residence Hall: all team members must currently reside in the same residence hall. All participants who wish to play in a residence hall league can play on another hall team when one does not exist in their respective hall.

League Play: League play usually consists of a 3 or 4 week regular season set schedule followed by a single elimination tournament. All players on the roster must have played in a minimum of one (1) regular season game in order to be eligible for post season play.

Tournament Play: Tournament play consists of a single elimination format in which participants must be available to play on any day of the week at a time designated by The University of Akron Intramural Program.

Eligibility

I. The Intramural Staff cannot assume responsibility for player eligibility but will assist team managers and individuals with eligibility interpretation prior to competition. Each person is responsible for meeting eligibility requirements.

II. General Guidelines

All active undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff members are eligible to participate in any activity sponsored by The University of Akron Intramural Sports Program.

Current Students

All students are eligible, provided the student is registered for class in the semester in which they wish to participate and have paid the Service Fee assessed with tuition at The University of Akron.

Faculty/Staff

Any full- or part-time faculty or staff member of The University of Akron is eligible for participation in Intramural Sports.

Part-time faculty or staff must verify that they are currently employed at least 20 hours per week by The University of Akron.

For intramural events and activities occurring inside the SRWC, faculty and staff participants must have a current SRWC membership.

III. Restricted Participants

The following groups of participants are restricted in their eligibility for select intramural sports and events: current student-athletes, former student-athletes, current and former professional athletes, and sport club athletes.

Current Student-Athletes

Any student who is a member of a varsity or junior varsity athletic team during or after the first regular season game is ineligible for that relating intramural sport or counterpart.

Current student-athletes are eligible to participate in other intramural sports or events with a limit of 2 student-athletes per team and that each athlete has permission from their coaching staff.

All stipulations include red shirts, walk-ons, and students who are admitted to the University of Akron under special NCAA guidelines.

Former Student-Athletes

Former student-athletes are eligible for participation in the sport or counterpart sport one calendar year from that sport's national championship in the student-athlete's last year of competition.

Each team is also limited to two former student-athletes in that sport or counterpart sport.

Graduate or transfer students and faculty and staff are subject to the restricted participant guidelines.

Professional Athletes

Anyone who is or has been a professional athlete in a particular sport is ineligible to participate in that sport or counterpart.

A professional athlete is defined (from the NCAA) as one who receives any kind of payment, directly or indirectly, for athletics participation.

Sport Club Members

Members of The University of Akron sports clubs are allowed to participate in intramural sports and events in their related sports. However, teams will be limited to a maximum of two club members for that sport.

Add-on's:

Leagues

Participants can be added to the team roster until the first Friday after play begins. Add-ons must be made in person at the O.A.S.I.S. Desk at least 24 hours in advance of game.

Tournaments

Participants can be added to the team roster until 5:00pm on the day before the tournament is scheduled to begin. Add-ons must be made in person at the O.A.S.I.S. desk.

Protests

In regular season play, eligibility protests may be made prior to the next scheduled game. Any and all activities in which an ineligible player participates will be considered a forfeit.

In playoffs or tournament-style activities, eligibility protests must be made by Noon (12pm) the day of their next scheduled playoff game. If the eligibility protest is found valid, the protesting team advances, but the previous rounds remain the same.

Sportsmanship/Disciplinary Policy

A part of the philosophy of the intramural sports program is that good sportsmanship is vital in every contest. In order to encourage proper conduct during games, game officials, supervisors, and administrative personnel shall make decisions on whether to warn, penalize, or eject players or teams for poor sportsmanship. These decisions are final.

Unsportsmanlike Behavior:

No participant, spectator, or team follower shall at any time:

- Use foul or derogatory language, threaten or verbally abuse any other participant or SRWS employee before, during, or after an activity. This includes trash talk and taunting.
- Participate in a game for which he or she is ineligible.
- Argue or talk back to a game official or supervisor. Only a team captain may address the official in a courteous manner concerning the interpretation of a rule. Judgment calls are not allowed to be questioned.
- Intentionally strike, push, trip or otherwise physically assault another player or employee nor instigate or be involved in any fighting. Defense is not an excuse for fighting.
- Mistreat the facility, equipment, or supplies of The University of Akron. Any person or team willfully causing damage to equipment or the facility shall assume responsibility for the full cost of repairs or replacement.
- Bring in alcohol or illegal drugs or attend any intramural event under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or in use of tobacco products.

Warning and Ejection System:

Warning and ejection system can be used to enforce sportsmanship policies. Individuals or teams will be issued a warning (i.e.: technical foul, yellow card, verbal warning, etc.) and second warning will result in an ejection or forfeiture of the game. Ejections can be issued without warning. Warnings are a courtesy to the participant and are not mandatory.

Examples:

Basketball

Warning: 1st Technical Foul
Ejection: 2nd Technical Foul
Forfeiture: 3rd Technical Foul on one team

Flag Football

Warning: 1st Unsportsmanlike Penalty
Ejection: 2nd Unsportsmanlike Penalty
Forfeiture: 3rd Unsportsmanlike Penalty on one team

Soccer and Volleyball

Warning: Yellow Card
Ejection: Red Card
Forfeiture: Two Ejections

Softball:

Warning: Verbal
Ejection: Second Verbal Warning
Forfeiture: Two Ejections

All cases are subject to additional suspension of Student Recreation and Wellness Services membership privileges, as well as referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Specific Disciplinary Actions:

Illegal ID Usage (Use of an assumed name)

Violation of Student Code of Conduct as “furnishing false or misleading information to university officials”

ID’s will be confiscated and incident report will be sent to Judicial Affairs. Both offending participants will be suspended from SRWS programs and facilities until a decision is made by Judicial Affairs. Judicial Affairs decision may extend or suspend use of SRWS programs and facilities.

If the ID is determined stolen or used without permission from the owner, the owner will not be disciplined by Intramural Sports.

Player Strikes another Player

Any participant involved in a fight will be immediately ejected and suspended from participation in all SRWS programs and facilities for a minimum of the

balance of the semester and be referred to Judicial Affairs. Appropriate charges could be filed with The University of Akron Police Department.

Physical Contact with University Employee in Threatening Manner

Any participant making physical contact in a threatening manner with SRWS program staff will be immediately ejected and suspended for a minimum of one academic year from all SRWS programs and facilities. Appropriate charges could be filed with The University of Akron Police Department.

Team members/Spectators in Field of Play

Any team member, spectator, coach, or team-follower that leaves the bench/viewing area to participate in any altercation will be immediately ejected from the facility. Leaving the bench will also cause the game to forfeit. Further disciplinary actions may be taken, and SRWS privileges can be revoked, based on the severity of the altercation.

Threatening behavior (verbal or physical)

Any participant who verbally or physically threatens any participant, spectator, or SRWS employee will be immediately ejected and suspended for a minimum of two games up to permanent suspension from any and all Intramural Sports Activities along with the possibility of SRWS privileges being revoked. The Student Recreation and Wellness Center will refer all cases to the Judicial Affairs.

Eligibility Violations

Persons participating on more than one team in any intramural activity and/or in violation of established eligibility rules will be immediately ejected and suspended for a minimum of one game. The team(s) that use the ineligible player will forfeit all games in which that player participated.

Ejections

All ejected players are suspended from all intramural sports games, events, and facilities immediately upon their ejection. The suspension is indefinite in length- carrying over from year to year- until the following procedures are complete:

1. The ejected player must make an appointment to meet with the Manager of Intramurals to discuss the incident.
2. The ejected player must attend the scheduled meeting, where an appropriate ruling, including the length of suspension will be discussed.
3. The ejected player must complete the assigned disciplinary action. Penalties for ejections may include suspension and/or probation for a period of one game up to an entire academic year or life. Every ejection will be viewed on a case-by-case basis.
4. If a participant has a history of confrontational behavior or ejections they can be banned from any and all Intramural and Recreation events and facilities when deemed appropriate.

Any person who is ejected from an intramural event has **3 minutes** to leave the facility. Any person not vacating the facility within that amount of time will forfeit their team's game. Any forfeit (ejected, or no-show) can result in removal from the playoffs.

Teams with outstanding ejected players will not be allowed into play-offs until that person has met with the Manager of Intramurals and served the proper suspension or the team captain has met with the Manager of Intramurals to officially drop the offending player from the roster.

If UAPD officers are required to escort a person from an intramural event, the person will be suspended from any Intramural activities and any SRWS facility for minimum of the balance of the sport provided they complete the proper reinstatement procedures.

Self-officiated Leagues

Individual and team sportsmanship is of paramount importance in all self-officiated activities. The responsibility to ensure fairness in all contests is shared by the teams involved. Minimum sanctions will likely remove the player involved for the remainder of the sport season and include loss of SRWS facility privileges. Although no formal officiating takes place, teams will be held to a very high code of conduct. Absolutely no inappropriate conduct of any kind will be tolerated.

Equipment Requirements

Uniforms

Teams are required to wear like-colored, number shirts/jerseys for each event. Numbers are not allowed to be taped or pinned on the shirt. Colored jerseys are available for check-out only in cases where both teams are wearing the same color. Teams without the proper uniform are subject to forfeiture. Uniforms with unethical appearance or sayings will not be allowed.

Footwear

Regulation tennis shoes or basketball non-marking shoes are required to be worn in the gymnasiums. Rubber cleated shoes may be worn during outdoor activities. No screw-in cleat, metal cleats, spikes, sandals or bare feet allowed.

Jewelry

Jewelry or hard hair control devices are not allowed. This includes, but is not limited to necklaces, earrings, newly pierced earrings, facial piercing, rings, bracelets, & watches. Individuals will not be allowed to tape over any jewelry items. If you cannot remove it you cannot play.

Personal Equipment

Personal athletic equipment may be used provided the equipment meets the approval of the officials or supervisor on duty. The judgment of the Manager of Intramurals, Sport Supervisor, and/or Officials regarding equipment will be final.

Headwear

No hats (except for during softball), bandanas, or anything with a knot will be allowed to be worn on the head during competition. Players may wear a one-piece elastic headband made of a soft, pliable material (i.e. sleeve, sweatband). Knit stocking caps will be allowed in cold weather. Rubber or cloth bands may be used to control hair. No other headwear will be allowed.

Other

'Casts' are not permitted and braces without proper protective covers are not permitted.

Play-offs

Post-season tournaments will be held in most team sport seasons. Those teams with a winning percentage of .500 or better will be entered into the single-elimination tournament. Any team which forfeits a game, regardless of record, will not be included in the play-offs.

The post-season tournament will determine champions in each of the conferences and conference winners will go on to compete in the All-University Championship.

Post-season tournament schedules do not reflect the requested times from the regular season. Game change requests cannot be honored for any reason other than academics.

Reschedules

Academic Conflicts

Individual requests for rescheduling will occur for academic cases only. The Intramural Office must receive such requests in writing, stating the specific reasons why at least 48 hours in advance. Fraternity, Sorority, and/or Residence Hall functions do not meet the emergency cases criteria.

Reschedule requests, if granted, will be discussed with both team captains and both team captains will be notified of the decision with 24 hours notice prior to reschedule game time. Once schedule is set, reschedule requests are not guaranteed.

Inclement Weather

Regular season games cancelled due to inclement weather will not be rescheduled; both teams will receive a tie.

Play-off game cancelled due to inclement weather will be rescheduled on the next business day; teams will be notified of rescheduled information via the website, unless otherwise specified at the play-off manager meeting.

Games may also be suspended for a period of time; the site supervisor will make a decision as to the status of each scheduled game for that time period.

Forfeits/Defaults

Defaults

A team will be given a loss by default when they notify the Manager of Intramural Sports at least 24 hours in advance that they are unable to play a scheduled game. A team that defaults twice will be dropped from further league play and be ineligible for any post-season and all-campus tournaments.

Forfeits

Game time is forfeit time. Teams are strongly encouraged to arrive early to check-in and prepare for the game.

- While game time is forfeit time, one of the goals of the program is to avoid forfeits.
 - If one team is ready at game time and the other is not:
 - The team ready to play can choose to win by forfeit; or
 - Allow the other team a 5-minute grace period to field at team. If a team is fielded within those 5-minutes, the game will be played with the first period being shortened by the lateness to start. The final result will stand.
 - A team will receive a forfeit for failure to field a team within the 5-minute grace period of the scheduled game time. This includes all individuals being ready to play with his/her current University of Akron ID card.
- A double forfeit may be assessed if neither team is ready for play at game time.
- Game officials will not officiate once a forfeit is declared.
- Forfeit losses may also be assessed for the following: use of “ineligible players”, non-appearance for event, use of inappropriate or illegal equipment, unsportsmanlike behavior, and/or the apparent use of drugs/alcohol.
- Supervisors reserve the right to forfeit an event at their discretion.

Health and Safety

University of Akron or Recreation and Wellness Services is NOT responsible for injuries incurred by participants or spectators while competing in intramural sports. It is strongly recommended that each student carry health and accident insurance. Participants should

understand that the possibility of injury is inherent in sport activities. Also, participants should be careful to follow any doctor's instructions concerning physical handicaps, injuries, illness, and the involvement in any activity.

Team managers are responsible for giving medical release to allow University of Akron and Student Recreation and Wellness Service staff to perform necessary immediate first aid, CPR, and other lifesaving measures as according to the SRWC and University of Akron emergency procedures.

Liability and Injuries

Participation in any and all activities within this facility and/or sponsored by The University of Akron is voluntary. All participants understand and agree that use of this facility and/or participation in an activity sponsored by the university is at their own risk and that the university is not responsible for any incidents, injuries or loss of property that may occur.

All injuries should be reported to a Recreation and Wellness Services employee immediately. The staff member will fill out an Accident Report and assist in seeking further care. If a participant is injured and does not have transportation, security or ambulance will be called to assist. Any emergencies occurring within the Student Recreation and Wellness Center should be immediately reported to a supervisor.

In an effort to maintain a safe playing area, all participants are to adhere to the following **BLOOD RULE**: Any player who is bleeding must be substituted for until the bleeding stops. An intramural staff member or game official has the authority to remove the player. If by removing the player who is bleeding, the team falls below the minimum number necessary to play (sport specific), the following will apply: The game clock will stop and a maximum of five (5) minutes will be allowed for the player to stop the bleeding. Either an intramural staff member or game official must approve the player to re-enter. If the bleeding is not stopped within the allotted five (5) minutes the team will forfeit the game. The time allowance is only for players who are bleeding when the team cannot continue to play without them. In all supervised activities an Intramural Staff member will be available to assist a bleeding player and determine whether the individual may resume play. If blood is saturating a participants clothing, the clothing must be changed prior to reentry to the game.

Awards

All Campus Champion

An All-Campus Champion will be determined at the end of each post-season tournament by a play-off of the Greek, Independent, and Residence Hall league champions.

T-Shirts

All league and tournament champions will receive a champion t-shirt for each member of the team. Special awards may be presented in some programs. Recreation and Wellness Services reserves the right to modify its policy concerning awards.

Manager's Responsibility

Team managers serve as a vital link between Recreation and Wellness Services and their team(s). Matters affecting the team are communicated to each team manager in most cases, and in turn they are responsible for conveying the information to the team(s) members.

Responsibilities are divided into team manager general duties that ensure proper steps are taken to enter a specific activity and to provide the information needed to enjoy participation, as well as the game captain's on site responsibilities. Teams are required to designate one individual playing in their contest to serve as the liaison between members of your team/spectators and the Intramural official(s)/staff member(s). The designated game captain does not need to serve as the team manager and can be a different person each contest.

Team Manager responsibilities include:

- Inform members of your team or organization about activities available, foster and promote participation.
- Select team name, division, day, and time the team wants to play (always have alternate choices).
- Submit completed team roster (first and last names, ID numbers, email and phone numbers) and entry fee
- Attend the mandatory captains meeting for each activity entered, or ensure that a designated team representative is present.
- Be sure that your team has a full roster at each contest. Teams are permitted to add eligible players until the end of the first week of league play or 24 hours prior to the start of tournament play. Once a player has played for one team he or she may not switch to another team. Additions must be made in person at the O.A.S.I.S. Desk 24 hours prior to game during regular season play or by 5:00pm of Friday prior to the tournament.
- Be sure that all players on your team have knowledge of, and meet the eligibility regulations. If in doubt about a player's eligibility, please check with the O.A.S.I.S. (972-6956) or the Intramural Manager (972-6620).
- Read and comprehend the Intramural Sports Handbook and activity rules and regulations, and ensure that all team members understand and abide by them, especially player conduct and eligibility.
- Notify all team members of the date, place, time and color of jersey of each contest the individual and/or team plays. (Teams are responsible for checking the playoff tournament schedules in person).

- Appoint a responsible member of your team to serve as the designated team captain if electing not to yourself.
- Accommodate players without teams by inviting "Free Agents" to play on your team

Designated Game Captain responsibilities include:

- Check in with the official(s) on site before your scheduled game and fill out your score sheet legibly with members of your team who will participate. Verify that all are eligible to participate.
- Cooperate fully with officials/student & administrative staff regarding enforcement of policies and procedures.
- Maintain control of your team and spectator behavior in terms of conduct, safety and sportsmanship before, during and after your intramural game..
- In the event a player and/or spectator are ejected from the game assume immediate responsibility for ensuring the player(s)/spectator(s) cooperate and leave the vicinity within the allotted three (3) minutes. The game will not resume until the player has left. Failure to comply completely with removal of the individual(s) from the vicinity within three (3) minutes will result in forfeiting your contest.
- At the conclusion of your game, sign the score sheet to verify the result and score.