Intramural Sports – Policies, Rules and Regulations

Individuals and teams participating in the intramural program of Texas Tech University imply their acceptance of the rules, regulations and interpretations governing intramural play. **All participants must present photo-identification prior to participation.**

Risk Statement

The Texas Tech University Recreational Sports Department strives to conduct all activities in the most prudent manner possible. However, due to the inherent risk of accident or injury in any activity, it is the responsibility of each participant to be aware that there are assumed risks involved in participation.

Injuries

Participants are reminded that their participation is entirely voluntary. The intramural staff assumes no responsibility for injuries received during intramural activities. Any participant receiving injuries during intramural activities will receive first aid treatment as available.

Insurance

Texas Tech offers various insurance programs for the protection of students. It is advised that all intramural participants have insurance coverage. Information on student insurance packages may be obtained by contacting the Texas Tech Student Government Association or by contacting the Office of the Ombudsman.

Conduct

All participants are expected to play according to the rules of the Division of Recreational Sports, the intramural rules, and University Regulations. The staff of the Division of Recreational Sports reserves the right to penalize individuals or teams for violation of these rules. Participants who choose to follow unsportsmanlike practices, whether directed toward an opponent or staff member may be ejected from that contest. The ejection may be administered by a contest official, a contest supervisor or a member of the Recreational Sports staff. Examples of unsportsmanlike conduct which may result in ejection include presenting false identification, verbal abuse, excessive technical fouls, flagrant actions toward an opponent, flagrant actions toward an official or staff member, and fighting or inciting a fight. Alcohol use and possession is a direct violation of Rec Sports policies and Code of Student Conduct (part. IX. Sec. b). Rec Sports also reserves the right to refuse participation to any player that is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Further, any participant who physically abuses an official or staff member shall have their case reviewed by professional staff of the Division of Recreational Sports to determine penalties assessed and may then have their case referred to the Judicial Officer of the Office of Campus Life for possible action. The minimum suspension for such an infraction shall normally be one calendar year from the incident and the participant must make written appeal for reinstatement after this time period.
Team Sportsmanship Rating System

In order to promote good sportsmanship the Intramural Program has adopted a sportsmanship policy. It is the responsibility of the team and players to make sure the game atmosphere is friendly and fun to both staff and fellow participants. The sportsmanship rating will be determined by game officials and will include behavior before, during and after each contest. Each team will receive a letter grade after each game. A yellow/red card will be displayed during contests to warn and/or eject individuals, teams or spectators. Ejections occur when an individual receives 2 yellow cards or 1 red card. Please see “Reinstatement Procedures” for ejected individuals.

YELLOW card infractions include, but are not limited to:
- Verbal and non-verbal dissent towards officials
- Taunting opponents or staff
- Actions detrimental to the spirit of the game
- Unnecessary contact with opponent

RED card infractions include, but are not limited to:
- Excessive verbal and non-verbal dissent towards officials
- Threats towards staff or opponents
- Fighting
- Second yellow offense on same player

Sportsmanship ratings will be based on the following criteria:

A = Excellent conduct and sportsmanship. Players cooperate with officials and team members. The captain calmly converses with officials and has full control of his/her team. (4 points)

B = Acceptable conduct and sportsmanship. Team members show minor dissent that may or may not merit a warning. Team captain exhibits some control over his/her team. Teams that earn 1 yellow card will receive no higher than a B rating. (3 points)

C = Below average conduct and sportsmanship. Team shows verbal dissent towards officials or opposing team that may or may not merit a warning. Team captain exhibits minor control over his/her team. Teams that earn 2 yellow or 1 red card will receive no higher than a C rating. (2 points)

D = Poor conduct and sportsmanship. Team constantly shows dissent. Multiple instances of poor sportsmanship toward officials and/or opposing team or actions that inflame or provoke. Team captain has little control over his/her team. (1 point) Teams or team members using false identification will receive no higher than a D Rating. A team that attempts to check in a player using false identification will be considered to have 2 card infractions to begin the contest.

F = Unacceptable conduct and sportsmanship. Team completely uncooperative. Team captain has no control over team. Any team earning 3 card infractions or 2 red cards will receive an F rating. Any team with players, or spectators, in possession or under the influence of alcohol will receive an F rating. (0 points)

Any team and all players on that team receiving an F rating will be suspended from further play until meeting with and being reinstated by the Sports Director.
Special Circumstances

Captain’s Meeting: Teams that attend a sport’s Captain’s meeting will receive 1 point toward their overall sportsmanship rating goal for playoff eligibility.

Playoff Eligibility:

In order for a team to be eligible for post-season play they must earn an average of 3 points per game scheduled in the regular season. (eg. For a 3 game season a team must earn 9 points to advance to the playoffs)

Once in the playoffs teams must receive at least a C rating for each game played in order to advance. **Teams may only receive 1 C rating in the playoffs.** **Additional Ratings C or below will not be allowed to advance in the playoffs.** Teams that receive either a D or F rating during the playoffs will not be permitted to continue play.

Teams that win by a “not ready to play “Forfeit will receive an A rating or 4 points. Teams losing by a “not ready to play” Forfeit will receive a C rating or 2 points. Teams losing by Default will receive a B rating or 3 points.

Appeals -- The sportsmanship rating a team receives may not be appealed.

General Responsibility

The intramural staff of the Division of Recreational Sports shall have the general responsibility to administer the intramural sports program. The intramural staff shall have the power make decisions on any point not specifically covered within these policies and regulations, or in the rules of a sport. All decisions made by intramural staff shall be final.

Eligibility

All eligibility will refer to Texas Tech University, Lubbock campus.

General Eligibility

**Undergraduate Students.** Undergraduate students who are enrolled in the University for one (1) or more hours, classes held at the Lubbock campus, are eligible to compete in the intramural sports program. Note – **Individuals who purchase an Adjunct Membership are not eligible for intramural sports, nor are individuals who are enrolled solely in Distance Learning. Recent graduates (not enrolled) who purchase a Rec Pass are not eligible.**

**Graduate Students.** Graduate students who are enrolled in the University for one (1) or more hours, classes held at the Lubbock campus, and have paid the Rec Sports fee are eligible to compete in the intramural sports program. Graduate students who have waived fees may become eligible by purchasing a Semester or Annual Use Permit. (Rec Center Pass)

**Faculty and Staff Members.** Faculty and staff members who purchase a Semester or Annual Use Permit (Rec Sports Pass) are eligible to compete in the intramural sports program. Note – **Individuals who purchase an Adjunct Membership are not eligible for intramural sports. Staff members = Benefits eligible employees.**
Spouses. Student, faculty and staff spouses who purchase a Semester or Annual Use Permit (Rec Sports Pass) are eligible to compete in Co-Rec offerings of the intramural sports program.

**Eligibility Restrictions and Exceptions**

**Team Limitations.** A player may represent only one team in any sport in a given season. A person may also represent one Co-Rec team in any sport in any season. A player in violation of this restriction becomes an ineligible player.

**Assumed Names.** No player may compete in an intramural event under any name other than his or her own. Presenting false identification can be considered as competing. Players in violation will immediately become ineligible players in any intramural activity until reinstated by the Division of Recreational Sports.

**Persons Ejected/Removed from Intramural Contests.** Players, coaches or spectators removed from an intramural contest are ineligible to compete in any intramural activity until reinstated by the Division of Recreational Sports.

**Intercollegiate Athletes and Former Intercollegiate Athletes.** An individual is considered an intercollegiate athlete if they appear on the roster of an NCAA Division 1 (or Bowl Eligible, or FBS) institution. This may be on the Varsity, Junior Varsity, or Reserve team, or in any way listed by the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics at a Division 1 institution (for football an “FBS” institution.) Any player whose name appears on the athletic roster after the first intercollegiate game in that sport shall be considered as being on the roster for that academic year. These individuals shall be ineligible to compete in that particular sport (or an intramural related sport) for a period equal to the number of years they are considered intercollegiate athletes or a maximum of two years after their final year as an intercollegiate athlete. Intercollegiate athletes are considered to be part of an athletic program for the entire academic year that they are listed on an intercollegiate roster. Individuals who play at institutions below the Division 1 level are not considered to be intercollegiate athletes for intramural sports.

An example: A former D1 soccer player plays for their team (1 Year) in the academic '11 Fall / '12 Spring year. They would have to sit the remainder of the '12 Spring year, and the '12 Fall / '13 Spring academic year and would be then eligible in the '13 Fall / '14 Spring academic year. If they had played for 2+ years they would have to sit 2 academic years and would be eligible in '14 Fall / '15 Spring.

**Intercollegiate Athletics and Related Intramural Sports.** An athlete who is an intercollegiate athlete may not participate in the following “related sports” of the intramural sports program. All variations of men, women, and co-rec sports are included.

1. Intercollegiate football players may not participate in intramural sports in the sports of flag football or 4on4 football.
2. Intercollegiate baseball players may not participate in the intramural sports of softball or baseball.
3. Intercollegiate softball players may not participate in the intramural sports of softball or baseball.
4. Intercollegiate soccer players may not participate in the intramural sports of soccer or indoor soccer.
5. Intercollegiate swimmers may not participate in intramural swimming.
6. Intercollegiate basketball players may not participate in the intramural sports of basketball or 3on3 basketball.
7. Intercollegiate Track and Field or Cross Country athletes may not participate in the intramural Track or Cross Country events.
8. Intercollegiate Volleyball players may not participate in the intramural sports of volleyball or sand volleyball.
9. Intercollegiate athletes in individual sports may not participate in the corresponding intramural derivative sport (e.g. Golf scramble, tennis doubles, team bowling, etc.)

Any intercollegiate athlete should check with the professional staff of the Division of Recreational Sports for a ruling concerning any sport not outlined or for additional sports added to the intramural calendar.

Club Sports. In accordance with the Sport Club Officers Handbook: No Intramural team, in their related sport, shall have more than two (2) club sport members on its roster. A member is a player who has appeared on any away trip roster, home roster or regional/national championship roster throughout the given school year. All restrictions include Men’s, Women’s and Co-Rec divisions. Any sport club athlete should check with the professional staff of the Division of Recreational Sports for a ruling concerning any eligibility or membership concerns if needed.

Professional Athletes. Any athlete who would be ineligible for varsity or extramural competition because of professionalism is prohibited from competing in that sport (or related sport) for a period of 5 calendar years from their last professional competition.

Division Eligibility

If all other eligibility requirements are met, eligibility for divisions shall be:

Greek. Undergraduates in Greek social organizations registered by the Center for Campus Life and recognized by the Inter-Fraternity Council and Panhellenic Council may compete in the Greek Division. A representative’s name must appear on the official membership list in the Center for Campus Life.

Residence Hall. Persons who are residents of University operated Residence Halls may compete in the Residence Hall Division.

Open. All students, faculty and staff may compete in the Open Division. For Open Division sports, if entries are sufficient, there will be a separate subdivision for women that will be open to women only.

Co-Rec. All students, faculty, staff and spouses may compete in the Co-Rec Division.

Ineligible Players

Teams may not play ineligible players even by mutual agreement of both team captains and other players in the contest. Such players shall be ineligible for all competition until reinstated.

The intramural staff may forfeit any contest immediately upon discovery of ineligible participant(s). Further, a team that has been notified of an ineligible player by the intramural staff and continues to use such player may immediately be dropped from further competition for the remainder of that sport.
During league play and playoffs, all contests in which an ineligible player participated shall be recorded as a forfeit win for the opposing team. Teams using illegal players are subject to being dropped from league competition upon discovery of such act.

**Reinstatement Procedures for Ineligible Players**

Participants who choose to follow unsportsmanlike practices and are ejected from a contest are ineligible to participate in any intramural activity pending official reinstatement. The guidelines, which apply to reinstatement, are as follows:

No individual will be reinstated prior to a personal meeting with an intramural staff member to discuss the eligibility question or situation.

It is the responsibility of the player(s) to contact the intramural staff and to resolve the situation.

Intramural office hours are normally 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday through Friday. For best results, appointments should be made with the intramural staff. (742-2945)

The period of suspension shall be determined from the result of the meeting with the player(s) and the intramural staff member. The *minimum* suspension for an unsportsmanlike ejection shall be one intramural contest.

**Protests**

There are two ways that protests may arise. Protests may be filed on the use of an ineligible player or when interpretation of the rules is incorrect. Under no circumstances will the judgment of an official be grounds for protest. Further, since there are various intramural venues and leagues, no protest involving fields, courts or play space will be accepted. In any instance relative to protest, if the contest officials and the supervisory staff can resolve incidents relative to the protest, this shall be done.

**Protests involving player eligibility**

Protests on eligibility must be written and turned in to the intramural office. The protest must contain complete information including the name of the individual being protested and the reason the protest is being lodged. The protest should contain complete information including the date and time of the contest, the names of the opposing teams and any information that is relevant to the protest. Protests must be specific to an individual(s).

**Regular Season League Play.** All eligibility protests should be filed within 24 hours of the contest in question and must be filed within 24 hours of the final regular season contest for the team in question. Protests filed after this time will be accepted for playoff consideration but will not affect any regular season league contest.

**Playoffs.** During playoffs, opposing teams have until the next game played to file a protest. If it is the final program contest, no protest shall be accepted after one business day from the conclusion of the contest.
**Protests involving interpretation of the rules**

No protest will be considered unless it is first registered with the official(s) in charge of the contest at the time the prompting incident occurs. The intramural staff will not consider any protest involving rule interpretation or application that is not lodged with the contest officials at the time of the incident. All protests must be submitted to the intramural sports office, in writing, by the close of the next business day following the contest in question. All information relevant to the contest must be contained including information about the game, timing, teams involved and so forth. The protest should specify the rule under which the protest is being made, the official's decision and all other pertinent facts.

A copy of the protest will be available to the captain of the opposing team.

During the course of lodging the protest, it is the responsibility of the team protesting to insure that scorekeepers and game officials record all relevant information on the score sheet at the time of the protest.

Contests in which a protest is sustained will be replayed from the exact point of the protest providing that all information is available. If not, the game will be replayed from the nearest preceding division of the contest.

**Postponements, Forfeits and Defaults**

**Postponements**

If time and space are available the intramural staff may agree to the postponement of an intramural contest. For a contest to be officially postponed both teams must agree and sign a request for postponement. This form must be completed and signed by both teams at least one day prior to the originally scheduled contest. For a contest on Sunday or Monday, the form will be accepted no later than noon on the Friday before the contest. A request for postponement form may be secured from the intramural office.

It is the responsibility of the postponing team to contact the opponent and arrange a mutually convenient time. During the regular season league play, no game may be postponed beyond the date of the final program game. During playoffs, all postponed games must be played prior to the following scheduled contest.

**Forfeit – Not Ready to Play**

Ready to Play: Game time is forfeit time. "Ready to play" means that a team must be on the playing area, ready to play, with the minimum number of players as listed in the sport rules. The line-up must be recorded on the official scorecard. The team must be able to respond immediately to the begin play order of the official.

Claiming a Win by Forfeit: In all sports, the team present and "ready to play" at the time the game is scheduled to start, may claim a win by forfeit by recording their lineup, and stating "forfeit" on the official scorecard. The intramural sports staff will assist the captains with this process. Forfeited contests will not be rescheduled.
A team that forfeits, by not being ready to play or a rule violation, may be dropped from further play, if a waitlist team is available. A team that forfeits twice will automatically be dropped from further play.

**Forfeit – Rule Violation**

A team that forfeits a contest due to rule violation or player eligibility will receive a loss for that contest and may be dropped from league competition after review of the incident.

**Forfeit Fees**

For some team sports there is a standard forfeit fee that must be paid at the time of entry. No entry will be accepted unless payment accompanies the official entry form. All entry forms and forfeit fees must be submitted to the intramural office on or before the stated deadlines.

The standard forfeit fee is $50.00 per team entered into most team sports. A $50.00 fee will be charged for each forfeit. **Teams that do not show up with the minimum number of players or teams that participate with players not legal for intramurals are subject to the $50 fee loss.** After Two (2) forfeits, the team shall be dropped from further play.

For those teams who complete the season with forfeit fees remaining, the fee will be refunded at the conclusion of the semester or year through Student Business Services. The fee may be applied to other intramural sport entries.

**General Information**

**General Duties of the Team Captain**

Each organization should have an intramural team captain. The method by which this captain is selected is entirely up to the organization. This individual should serve as a liaison between the organization and the intramural sports staff. The captain is a vital link to the success of an organization. Some duties of the captain include:

- Representing the organization at all captain's meetings.
- Insuring that all players are eligible to compete. This includes coming in to the intramural sports office and verifying playoff rosters.
- Making sure that all entries are submitted and that all information on the entry form is complete and accurate.
- Keeping the team members informed of the time and location of scheduled activities.
- Insuring that those individuals representing the organization conduct themselves in an appropriate and acceptable manner.
- Providing extra personnel such as scorers and timers when necessary.
- Being familiar with the rules of the sport and the regulations of intramural sports.
**Playoffs**

For men’s and women’s team sports, if time and space allow, a playoff following the regular season will be held. In the co-rec divisions, if time and space allow a playoff will be held in the co-rec competitive division. All teams who complete the regular season, and have achieved an appropriate overall sportsmanship rating, will be placed in a playoff based on their regular season record.

In large divisions, the playoffs are normally split into Divisions based on record. Teams with the better won/loss record in league play would advance to one bracket and teams with the poorer won/loss record would advance to another bracket. Teams wishing to be placed in a particular bracket, if applicable, should contact the program administrator for that sport immediately upon conclusion of their regular season. Requests may not be able to be honored. Once play has begun in a playoff bracket, no teams will be allowed to change from their bracket.

**Playoff Rosters.** To participate in the playoffs for any team an individual must meet all intramural eligibility rules and must be included on the game sheet. It is the duty of the team captain to check their roster and bring forth any questions/concerns/additions to the intramural staff. Captains may come to the intramural office between 8am-5pm Monday through Friday to check their rosters and resolve any player questions. Players may be “added” to a roster at a playoff contest. All questions concerning playoff rosters should be cleared during business hours prior to the contest being held. Official rulings are made by the professional staff of the intramural sports department.

**Team Names**

Team names are subject to the approval of the intramural staff. Any names deemed inappropriate will not be permitted.