Intramural Sports
Participant Handbook
2021-2022
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Voluntary Participation & Assumption of Risk/Injuries

Your participation in Intramural Sports activities could result in physical injury, which could be serious or fatal. Participation in Intramural Sports is completely voluntary, and all participants acknowledge their assumption of risk by their voluntary participation. Florida Atlantic University and the FAU Campus Recreation staff are not responsible for injuries sustained while participating in scheduled Intramural Sports contests, in the Recreation & Wellness Center, Henderson Fields, or the general recreation area. Participants are required to sign a release form prior to participation in each new activity. The waiver will be signed online via www.imleagues.com/fau. Participants are strongly encouraged to have approval of their personal physician prior to participating and are encouraged to have personal health insurance. If injuries occur during competition, the FAU Campus Recreation staff may administer basic first aid and CPR, and/or call EMS. Participants are financially responsible for any medical expenses incurred.

- Competitive Sports staff members have the right to prohibit an individual from participating if they show signs of intoxication from use of drugs or alcohol or if an injured participant shows common signs of a concussion.
- All participants are solely responsible for their own well-being and they are strongly encouraged to follow any doctor’s orders and/or medical restrictions and to notify their team captain of any physical/medical restrictions. All participation decisions made by Competitive Sports staff members are final.
- Campus Recreation does not supply medical supplies except basic first aid supplies and in emergency situations.
Eligibility

Eligible Participants

- All current FAU students shall be eligible to compete in Intramural Sports, except as otherwise provided in the Rules and Regulations.
- Any individual with a current FAU Campus Recreation membership is eligible to participate. All participants must be able to present a valid photo ID. The photo on the card must be clear and distinct enough to identify the holder of the ID or a second picture ID will be required.
- Sport Club members are limited to two members per intramural team in any corresponding sport. For corresponding individual or dual events, sport club members are limited to one person per team. Sport Club members are:
  - Any individual on the official competitive roster for that academic year of a registered/recognized FAU Sport Club who competes and/or travels with the FAU Club team
  - Individuals who submit Club paperwork and/or have practiced with the Club team
  - If both a competitive and recreational league is offered for a corresponding sport, Sport Club members should play in the competitive league.
- Individuals are permitted to participate in Intramural Sports in accordance with their gender identity. When setting up your IMLeagues account, you will be asked to select your gender identity.
- An individual can be on the roster for only one single gender team and one Co team in each sport regardless of league division.
  - Example: A participant can play for one Men’s team and one Co team, but not both a Men’s team and a Fraternity team

Note: Individuals must present a valid Owl Card at each Intramural Sports contest to be eligible to participate. If an Owl Card is not present, a participant may present a valid government issued photo identification card. Participants using any form of ID other than their Owl Card will need to be able to provide verification of Campus Recreation membership.

Non-Eligible Intramural Sports Participants
• Any individual who has competed professionally in a corresponding sport or has been on the roster in a corresponding intercollegiate sport at any university within the past three years (see chart below).
• Any individual who is a current varsity athlete or walk-on may not play in the sport that corresponds to the one for which they represent the University (see chart below).
  o Current is defined as being on the roster during the present academic year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Varsity/Club Sport</th>
<th>Related Intramural Sport</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>Softball, Wiffleball</td>
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<td>Basketball</td>
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<td>Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ultimate</td>
<td>Ultimate</td>
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</tbody>
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**Intramural Sport Offerings**

**Sport Leagues**

Sport Leagues are team, individual, or dual sports that are offered in a season long format. These leagues vary in duration and may include playoffs depending on the league structure. Sport Leagues are further classified by skill level and affinity group. The following leagues may be available depending on the sport:

• **Competitive** – Designed for experienced participants who are looking to apply their skills in a competitive environment in pursuit of a championship. *Typically, Competitive leagues consists of a three-week regular season followed by a single-elimination playoff bracket for qualifying teams.*

• **Recreational** – Designed for participants who are seeking out a recreational experience with a sport. Participants in a recreational league will participate in a more leisurely format where social and fitness benefits may outweigh the desire for competition. *Typically, Recreational leagues will consist of a four-week regular season with no playoffs.*

• Sport Leagues include: Flag Football, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Softball, 4v4 Flag Football, Beach Volleyball, Tennis, Kickball, Indoor Soccer, and 3v3 Basketball.
Tournaments

Tournaments are sports that are offered as either a single or double elimination event depending on the number of registered teams and space availability. Some pool play games may take place prior to the elimination rounds based on the number of teams that register. Tournaments may be played over several days based on the format. They are designed to offer a shorter time commitment.

- Tournaments include: Soccer Tennis, Spikeball, and Dodgeball.

Special Events

Special Events are individual contests that are held either online or as a one-day event. Registration is done in advance, but same-day registration may be available on-site depending on the activity.

- Special Events Include: College Pick’em, Fantasy Football, and Men’s/Women’s March Madness.

Affinity Groups

Affinity Groups are subsets of a sport that are classified based on common characteristics of the participants. Specific affinity groups offered will depend upon registration numbers.

- Men’s
- Women’s
  - If a Women’s league does not fill, female participants may play in another single-gender league.
- Co – Specific ratio of male and female participants
- Open – No specific ratio of male and female participants
- Fraternity/Sorority – For participants who are representing a Greek organization
  - Please use your organization’s name or letters when making your team name

Note: Competitive Sports staff may modify the format of a sport based on registration numbers or space availability.

Registration

All Participants

All Participants will need to create an IMLeagues profile to create/join a Sport Leagues team and register for Tournaments/Special Events.

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• This step will only need to be completed when signing up for your first sport at FAU

**Sport Registration**

1. Create a Team
2. Invite teammates to join your team (for sports that require more than one player)
3. Meet the Roster Minimum (varies by sport)
4. Pick the division that plays at the day and time best suited for your team’s needs

*Note:* Selecting division preferences may not automatically move your team into a division if it is already full. Team registration is not complete until your team has left pre-join. Your team captain may have to manually move your team into a division if your preferred divisions are full.

**Team Names**

Any team name that incorporates the following is subject for removal:

- Alcohol/Drug Reference
- Illegal Activity
- Offensive to any group of people (Religion, Race, Gender, Sexuality, etc.)
- Sexual Innuendos

Team names will also be removed if they incorporate a play on words that attempts to elude indecency, obscenity, or profanity that could be deemed as grossly offensive to members of the general public who hear/read it. Context is paramount in determining whether any word or phrase will be considered indecent, obscene, or profane.

**Additional Information**

- It is advantageous to register as soon as possible. Spots are filled on a first come, first served basis.
- Competitive Sports staff reserves the right to make changes/updates to the schedule as situations necessitate.
- Late entries for a sport will only be accepted if space is available and the season has not started.
- A current list of sport offerings can be found on the IMLeagues homepage.
- Make sure the day and time works for your entire team. **There will not be any game reschedules allowed (other than inclement weather) during the regular season.**

**Rosters**

- Rosters are locked at the end of the regular season. No players may be added after the end of the regular season.
• Roster additions should be done in advance of a game. On-site additions are permitted, but new players should have a mobile device with them so that they can complete the online waiver.
• For team and dual sports, rosters are capped at 2.5 times the standard number of players to play. This number will be rounded up to the nearest whole person.
  o Example: Basketball rosters are limited to 13 players (5 x 2.5, rounded up to 13)
  o Example: Volleyball rosters are limited to 15 players (6 x 2.5)
• For individual sports, the captain will be the sole member on the roster.

**Captain’s Role & Responsibilities**

**Role**

Each team on IMLeagues is required to have a captain. Initially, the captain is the person who creates the team, however this can be changed over time. Teams are permitted to have multiple captains, but only one captain will be able to represent the team during games. For assistance with adding or changing captains please contact the Competitive Sports office.

**Responsibilities**

• Passing the Captain’s Quiz on IMLeagues
• Creating an appropriate team name on IMLeagues
• Ensuring all team members are eligible to participate
• Coordinating team colors
• Managing the conduct of their team and fans/spectators
• Communicating essential information and updates to their teammates
  o Game times
  o Scheduling changes
  o Additional information as provided by the Competitive Sports office
• Representing the team during pre-game meetings
• Communicating with officials during games
• Proactively communicating with the Competitive Sports office
  o Discrepancies in scores, sportsmanship ratings, etc.
  o Defaulting games to avoid forfeits

**Free Agents & Nomads**

**Free Agents**

Participants who are seeking a team may register as a Free Agent for any of our Sport Leagues or Tournaments. Individuals can join with others looking for a similar playing experience. Joining as a Free
Agent allows other teams to see your information and availability. You can also try to reach out to existing teams or other Free Agents to join/create a team.

If you are having a hard time finding other participants to play with, here are a few strategies that may help:

- Go to the game site on a day and time you are available and ask teams if they need any extra players
- Contact teams that are registered for days and times that you are available
- Reach out to others within your residence hall or work with your RA to create a team
- Use social media to find others interested in playing
- Check with other people in your classes to see if they want to join your team
- Create a team with people that play pick up with you

**Nomads**

A nomad is a participant who is already on an existing roster but will be temporarily be playing for another team to help them have enough players for the game.

- Participants may play for additional teams beyond the existing limit if they are playing as a nomad
- Participants may **NOT** play as a nomad if they are not already on another team.
  - You can still be added to the roster for the team that you wish to play for!
- Nomads may only be utilized to help meet the full roster size for a game.
  - Example: Nomads may be used to help a basketball team reach 5 players, but if they already have 5 players present, they may not add any nomads
- Nomads will not be permitted during playoffs
- Additional nomads may be used if the team needs multiple players in order to be able to field a full roster (excluding substitutes)
- If additional team members arrive during the game to where the team can field a full lineup, all nomads will no longer be able to participate in the game.

**Sportsmanship**

The Competitive Sports office has developed a four-point rating system used to assess the conduct of teams prior to, during, and after their games. Competitive Sports staff on-site will rate each team using the sportsmanship guidelines below. Teams must average a 3.0 sportsmanship rating in order to be eligible for the playoffs. Teams participating in recreational sport leagues, tournaments, and special events may be removed from the sport for repeated poor sportsmanship.

- **4.0 – Great Conduct and Sportsmanship**
o Participants and/or spectators were helpful, respectful, and met or exceeded expectations across the entire game experience. This includes promptly checking in, being attentive during the pregame meeting, acting fairly, and participating without any incidents such as receiving unsportsmanlike penalties (cards, technicals, etc.), committing hard fouls, or regularly complaining towards officials. Participants were respectful to their opponents as well as members of the Competitive Sports staff.

o Teams that make a noticeable effort to make the game run more smoothly can receive a sportsmanship rating of 4.

o A team winning a game due to a forfeit/default will receive a 4 in sportsmanship.

• **3.0 – Average Conduct and Sportsmanship**

  o Participants and/or spectators showed respect and met expectations across the entire game experience, however there were some minor incidents. A rating of 3 may be awarded if participants or spectators were less attentive during pregame procedures, occasionally argued with the officials, may have committed some hard fouls, or received an unsportsmanlike penalty (card, technical, etc.) during the game. Overall, the game went well and the team captain maintained control of their team and spectators, but a few noteworthy incidents occurred.

  o Teams that default an Intramural Sports contest will receive a 3 in sportsmanship.

  o Teams that receive multiple warnings or have a player penalized for a conduct related unsportsmanlike act may receive no higher than a 3 rating.

• **2.0 – Poor Conduct and Sportsmanship**

  o Participants and spectators were disrespectful and did not meet expectations across the entire game experience. There were a few incidents during the game and multiple conduct related penalties or warnings were given out. Participants or spectators regularly and publicly expressed dissent towards the officials or Competitive Sports staff. The team captain had little control over their team or spectators. Conduct noticeably detracted from the game itself.

  o Teams receiving multiple penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct (conduct yellow card, conduct technical foul, unsportsmanlike conduct penalty) may receive no higher than a 2 rating.

  o A team that has a player ejected from the game for conduct related reasons may receive no higher than a 2 rating.

  o Teams that forfeit an Intramural Sports contest will receive a 2 in Sportsmanship.
1.0 – Unacceptable Conduct and Sportsmanship

- Participants and spectators were extremely disrespectful and openly or intentionally failed to meet expectations across the entire game experience. The game was noticeably impacted by excessive complaints, poor conduct, and many unsportsmanlike conduct penalties or warnings. Participants or spectators were constantly expressing their dissent towards officials or Competitive Sports staff. The team captain had no control over their team or spectators. The game was either unable to be completed or was completely hindered by the conduct of the team.

- A team that has several players ejected from the game for conduct related reasons may only receive a 1 rating.

- The team captain of any team receiving a 1 in sportsmanship must meet with the Competitive Sports professional staff member prior to the team’s next contest.

- The Competitive Sports office may remove any team from further participation if they receive a 1 rating.

*Note*: Playoff teams that earn less than a 3 for sportsmanship will be required to meet with the Competitive Sports office prior to their next game. They may also be removed from the playoff bracket.

**Defaults & Forfeits**

**Defaults**

Teams who are unable to attend their scheduled game can inform the Competitive Sports office at imsports@fau.edu by 4:00PM the day of their scheduled game to default. For weekend games, defaults must be submitted by 4:00PM on the Friday prior to the game. **Choosing to default preserves your team’s sportsmanship rating and avoids having to pay a forfeit fee.**

- Include the sport and team name in the subject line when submitting a default.
- Defaults made after the deadline will be considered forfeits.
- The Competitive Sports office will contact the other team to inform them of the default.
  - If you have not received communication from Competitive Sports, plan on attending your game.
- Notifying the Competitive Sports office after the default deadline will result in a forfeit.
- The opponent of a team that defaults will receive a 4 for sportsmanship.
- If time permits, the Competitive Sports office may contact other teams to have an extra game in your place.
Extra Game Opportunities allow for your opponent to still play their scheduled game. Following a default, an email may be sent out to other captains in the league. The first team to confirm their attendance will receive the extra game.

Extra Games do not count towards either teams’ records, nor will the sportsmanship scores be taken into season totals.

- Conduct related issues will be reviewed by the Competitive Sports office and will be subject to the disciplinary process.

**Forfeit**

Teams who do not attend their scheduled game and do not notify the Competitive Sports office ahead by the default deadline (see above) will have their game recorded as a forfeit. **The captain will be required to pay a forfeit fee of $30.**

- Notifying the Competitive Sports office after the default deadline will result in a forfeit.
- A team that does not have the minimum number of players to participate (varies by sport) and is unable to utilize the nomad rule, will receive a forfeit.
- Until the forfeit fee is paid, the team and its captain will be suspended from play.
- **Teams that forfeit will receive a sportsmanship rating of 2.**
- The opponent of a team that forfeits will receive a 4 for sportsmanship.
- Teams that pay the $30 forfeit fee will be allowed back into the league.
- Recreational league teams the forfeit multiple games may be subject to removal from the league.

**Grace Period**

Teams must have the minimum number of players checked in and ready to participate at game time. If a team has fewer than the required number to participate, it is recommended that they utilize the nomad rule to temporarily add additional players to their team. If one or both teams do not have enough players to begin the game, the grace period will begin.

- Teams have 10 minutes from the scheduled game time to meet the minimum roster requirement in order to play.
- The game clock will begin at game time.
- If one or both teams are unable to field enough players by the end of the grace period, they will receive a forfeit.
- Optionally, the present team may elect to utilize a grace period penalty.
  - The present team will start the game up by a specified score dependent upon the sport.
- **Teams that meet the roster requirement during the grace period will receive no higher than a 3 for Sportsmanship.**
• If both teams do not show up by the end of the grace period, the game will be recorded as a double forfeit.
  o Both teams receive a loss, 2 for sportsmanship, and will be assessed the forfeit fee.

Equipment & Uniforms

Teams are encouraged to bring their own equipment to warm up with. Game equipment will be provided for most Intramural Sports activities. Game balls will be provided by Competitive Sports staff.

Uniform Guidelines

Teams should plan on wearing the same colored shirts for the game. If both teams arrive wearing the same color, mesh pinnies may be available for use.

All team members must wear athletic apparel appropriate for the sport being played. All players must wear athletic shoes. For indoor sports, shoes should be close-toed with non-marking soles. Close-toe shoes or cleats are permitted for outdoor activities. Metal cleats/spikes, hard sole shoes, and sandals will not be permitted.

Jewelry

Jewelry is not permitted in any Intramural Sports activity due to risk of injury. Staff will NOT provide bandages or wraps to cover jewelry. The following list is not comprehensive, but does provide several examples of prohibited jewelry:

• Cloth Bracelets
• Necklaces
• Earrings
• Smart Watches
• Rubber/Elastic Wristbands

Additional Considerations

• Certain sports (e.g., Flag Football) may have additional attire rules in the interest of participant safety. Please refer to the specific rules for the sport you are playing.
• Casts/Splints are not permitted.
• Hard and unyielding items (guards, casts, braces, etc.) on the hand, wrist, forearm, elbow, upper arm or shoulder must be padded with a closed-cell, slow-recovery foam padding no less than ½-inch thick.
• If you are unsure about whether or something may be worn, please contact the Competitive Sports office.
• Equipment/Uniform decisions made by the staff on duty shall be final.
• Participants that need a medical exemption (e.g., medical device, medical alert) should contact the Competitive Sports office.

Protests

No protests will be allowed for judgement calls by game officials. Protests may be filed based on either a misapplied rule or eligibility.

Misapplication of a Rule

If a captain believes a rule was misapplied, they must inform the official of their desire to protest prior to the next live ball or play. If a protest is filed for a misapplied rule:

• The officials will momentarily stop the game.
• The supervisor on-site will document the nature of the protest
  o Current game score
  o Time remaining
  o Possession and location of ball, if applicable
  o Any other pertinent information to the protest
• Both captains will complete the protest form
• The game will continue under protest

In resolving a rules interpretation protest, the Competitive Sports office will first determine if an error was made. Next, the office will decide if the error had an impact on the outcome of the game. Finally, a decision will be made on whether the game needs to be replayed or if another result is necessary.

Note: Even if a protest is successful, the Competitive Sports office may determine that the game does not need to be replayed and the result will stand.

Eligibility of a Player

Protests of player eligibility must be filed no later than the next business day at 5:00PM. A team that participated with an ineligible player will forfeit the game that was protested. To protest player eligibility, a captain must:

• Contact the Competitive Sports office no later than 5:00PM on the business day following their game
• Explain which player or players they believe to have participated in the game while ineligible
• Provide any available evidence in support of their eligibility protest

The Competitive Sports office will review available information including team rosters and may contact staff members, captains, and teammates present for the contest in question.
Note: A team that is assessed a forfeit due to participating with an ineligible player will not be assessed a forfeit fee, however the team captain and any ineligible individuals may be subject to the disciplinary process.

Playoffs (Competitive Leagues)

Individual Eligibility

- To be eligible for playoff games, a player must be listed on the IM Leagues roster during the regular season. **Roster additions are closed at the end of a league's regular season. Players may not be added to a roster once the regular season has concluded.**
- Each person participating in Intramural Sports is responsible for his/her own eligibility. Any question concerning eligibility should be referred to the Competitive Sports office and a ruling obtained prior to participation. Eligibility rulings will be made based on information presented to and obtained by the Competitive Sports office. Any team using a player who does not meet the +eligibility rules will forfeit all contests in which the player participated.

Team Eligibility

- **All teams in competitive sport leagues that finish with an average sportsmanship rating of 3.0 will be eligible for the playoffs.**
- Team captains are responsible for ensuring all their game scores and sportsmanship ratings have been properly recorded on IMLeagues. Captains have until 12:00PM on the business day following the end of the regular season to notify the office about any potential game discrepancies.
- **Teams that have not paid their forfeit fee by the end of the regular season will not be eligible for the playoffs.**
- Teams that earn less than 3 for sportsmanship during a playoff game must meet with the Competitive Sports office and may be removed from further participation in the playoffs.

Format

Playoffs will consist of a single-elimination bracket. The playoff bracket can be found on your specific IMLeagues league homepage. If your league has been combined with another league, the playoff bracket will be posted on the gender-specific league homepage.

Example: If Fraternity Competitive and Men’s Competitive leagues were combined for the playoffs, the bracket would be housed on the Men’s Competitive league homepage.

Seeding & Schedule

Seeding for the playoffs will be decided by:
1. Winning Percentage
   a. Ties count as half of a win
2. Average Sportsmanship Rating
3. Head to Head Results
4. Points/Sets Allowed
5. Random Draw

The playoff bracket will be viewable on IMLeagues prior to the end of the regular season. Teams will be assigned a game slot based on seeding. You may be scheduled to play on a day and time that differs from your original division.

**Reschedules**

A limited number of reschedule opportunities will be allowed in the playoffs. No regular season games will be rescheduled. If a team is unable to play a scheduled playoff game, they are responsible for submitting a reschedule request and working with the other team to find a new time that works for both teams. All reschedules must be submitted through the IMLeagues rescheduling feature and approved by the Competitive Sports office. Reschedule requested must be approved no later than 4:00PM the day of the game. The recommended process for rescheduling can be seen below.

1. Message the other team’s captain and let them know you are trying to reschedule.
2. Work together to finalize a reschedule time (it must be one of the available green timeslots).
3. Select the blue reschedule button from either your team homepage or the game page.
4. Choose one of the available green timeslots for the game. If there are no green slots, then there are no available reschedules.
5. Send reschedule request.
6. Have the other team’s captain accept the reschedule request.
7. The Competitive Sports office will review and review or reject the request.

**Inclement Weather**

FAU Campus Recreation reserves the right to postpone, cancel, or otherwise prohibit the completion of Intramural Sports activities due to inclement or severe weather or other unforeseen circumstances. When making decisions regarding the postponement or cancelation of activities, the Campus Recreation staff will consider a variety of elements including forecasted weather, facility requirements, and the well-being of student staff and participants.

In the event of inclement weather, an official update will be sent to all teams involved via IMLeagues.com. If you have not received a message from the Competitive Sports office regarding your game, your game is still on as scheduled. Depending on the circumstances, a cancelation message will either be sent by 5:00PM the day of the game or immediately once the games have been called.
• Regular season games that were not played due to cancellations/rainouts may be rescheduled depending on space availability.
  o If at least one half of an Intramural Sports game has been completed when a game is called due to weather or other extenuating circumstances, the results will stand.
• The Competitive Sports office will work to ensure any cancelled playoff games will be completed. The playoff bracket may be adjusted for several teams to accommodate any cancelations.

**Disciplinary Action**

Any person who commits, or attempts to commit, incites, or aids others in committing any of the following acts of misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary procedures by Campus Recreation. Team captains are responsible for the conduct of their players, and therefore are subject to the same disciplinary actions as their players. All players should always abide by the FAU student code of conduct.

• ID Violations
• Personal Misconduct
• Verbal Abuse
• Fighting/Physical Abuse
• Harassment/Discrimination

*Note:* The above list of personal conduct situations is not exhaustive. Unsporting conduct not mentioned above will be dealt with in an appropriate manner by the Competitive Sports office.

**Suspensions**

Generally, incidents that occur in Intramural Sports require a meeting between the involved participants and the Competitive Sports office before the player(s) may be reinstated. Intramural Sports suspensions are added to IMLeagues and prevent the individual from participating during the suspension.

• Ejected players are suspended indefinitely from all Intramural Sports competition, pending a meeting with a Competitive Sports professional staff member, or designated member of the office. The suspension period will not begin until after the meeting between the ejected player and staff member takes place.
• Disciplinary actions can also include restrictions on usage of Campus Recreation facilities and other Campus Recreation programs. In some cases, discipline may be forwarded to the Dean of Students Office.
• If an individual is forwarded to the Dean of Students Office, they may subsequently be suspended from ALL Campus Recreation activities. This includes access to the Recreation and Fitness Center.

**Recognition**

**Championship T-shirts**

- Winning teams of all Competitive Sport Leagues, Tournaments, and Special Events will receive Intramural Sports Champion t-shirts.
- Shirt availability varies by sport, but the Competitive Sports office aims to provide enough shirts to accommodate two times the number of players needed for a complete game roster.
  - Example: 10 shirts for a basketball team

**NIRSA Tournaments**

Every year, NIRSA offers both Regional and National tournaments for sports such as flag football and basketball. Championship winning teams that have demonstrated consistently great sportsmanship may be eligible to receive assistance in paying for tournament registration. Please contact the Competitive Sports office for more information.