



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Campus Recreation
Division of Student Affairs

Intramural Sports Participant Handbook

2025-2026

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Disclaimer

This handbook outlines the general rules, policies and procedures that govern the day-to-day operations of Intramural Sports at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Sport Programs staff review all contents of this Handbook at the end of each academic semester. While it is not the intent to change rules, policies, or procedures during the active semester, the Intramural Sports area reserves the right to implement immediate changes if necessary. Team captains and managers will be properly informed of any such changes.

All Intramural Sports participants are responsible for understanding and adhering to the policies and rules outlined in this handbook. Ignorance of the policy is not an excuse for failure to comply. By registering for Intramural Sports activities, participants agree to abide by the handbook's guidelines. Staff members are available to answer questions or concerns, both on-site during participation and in administrative capacities. You may also choose to email your questions to imsports@fau.edu.

Campus Recreation at Florida Atlantic reserves the right to rule on any case not specifically covered in the game rules or the policies and procedures. All decisions will be made in the spirit of the rule and with the goal of fostering fair, fun, and safe participation.

Mission, Vision, & Values

Our Mission

- To empower and enrich the Florida Atlantic community through diverse and accessible recreational and wellness opportunities that foster physical and social well-being.

Our Vision:

- Campus Recreation at Florida Atlantic strives to be a leader in higher education by building a community where everyone can find health and well-being.

Our Values:

- Engagement / Belonging / Respect / Excellence

Voluntary Participation & Assumption of Risk

Participation in Intramural Sports activities may 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 Campus Recreation at Florida Atlantic staff are not responsible for injuries sustained while participating in scheduled Intramural Sports contests, whether on the university property or other locations. Participants must sign

a release form prior to participating in each new activity, which will be completed online via [IMLeagues](#). Participants are strongly encouraged to seek approval from their personal physician before participating and to have personal health insurance. In case of competition injuries, Campus Recreation staff administer basic first aid and CPR and/or call EMS. Participants are financially responsible for any medical expenses incurred.

- Sport Programs staff members may prohibit an individual from participating if they show signs of intoxication or if an injured participant exhibits common signs of a concussion.
- All participants are responsible for their own well-being and are strongly encouraged to follow any doctor's orders or medical restrictions and to notify their team captain of any physical or medical restrictions. All participation decisions made by Sport Programs staff members are final.
- Campus Recreation supplies only basic first aid supplies and provides emergency assistance in case of severe injuries.

Injuries, Care & Safety

Intramural Sports activities are subject to include moments of contact and given their physical nature, accidents and injuries are a possibility. Therefore, all activities offered by the Intramural Sports programs shall be considered "contact sports." Participants are strongly encouraged to prepare themselves for contests however they see fit and exercise good judgment before, during and after all activities.

First Aid Treatment

All Intramural Sports supervisors who are on-site during events are trained in First Aid, CPR and AED administration and receive certifications under methods instructed by the American Red Cross. In the event of a suspected injury or physical harm (or threat thereof), on-site staff will act as the first on the scene and assist as the situation warrants given their training. Basic first aid items (bandages, wraps, ice, etc.) are available upon request. The intramural program will not provide services to prepare or maintain a player's readiness to participate. Participants need to bring their own tape, etc. to prepare themselves to play.

EMS & Ambulance Calls

In case of an injury that requires medical attention beyond basic first aid, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be contacted. All Campus Recreation staff members have the authority to call EMS if they deem it necessary for the well-being of the individuals involved. However, individuals will not be compelled to accept transportation by EMS, though it may be strongly recommended depending on the severity of the situation. Refusal of care is always an option. If an individual is unable to make a decision, both staff and EMS personnel will act in the individual's best interest for safety and overall health. All injuries require an accident/injury report to be completed by the on-site Intramural Sports supervisor. These can be provided to the participant on request.

Suspected Head Injuries

If Intramural Sports staff observe or suspect a potential head/neck injury during play, they have the authority to remove the participant from the game. In case of a suspected head/neck injury or concussion, EMS will be contacted for evaluation. Following the game, the individual must obtain written clearance from a medical professional (such as an athletic trainer or physician) indicating they are fit to resume participation in Intramural Sports. Until this clearance is provided, the participant will be suspended on [IMLeagues](#). The written permission must be submitted to the Sport Programs Office or presented to an Intramural Sports supervisor before the scheduled contest in which they wish to participate.

Presence of Blood & Bodily Fluids

In the event of the presence of blood or any bodily fluids not typical of basic physical activity (such as sweat), the contest or event will be halted immediately. Individuals responsible for the blood/fluids, and anyone who may have come into contact with them, must clean the affected area thoroughly and ensure containment of the situation before resuming participation. Staff will inspect the playing facility, equipment, and attire of all participants to ensure safety before allowing the contest to continue. If any attire or uniform is saturated with blood or bodily fluids, it cannot be worn. If the necessary actions cannot be taken, staff retain the right to prevent individuals from participating and/or make decisions regarding the contest.

Return to Play

If any participant appears unwell or if continued participation poses a risk to anyone's health, well-being, or safety, Intramural Sports staff have the authority to prohibit their participation. Individuals who insist on participating despite being advised otherwise do so at their own risk.

Intramural Sport Offerings

Sport Leagues

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

- Competitive – Designed for experienced participants who aim to showcase their skills in a competitive setting with the goal of winning a championship. **Typically, Competitive leagues consist of a three-week or four-week regular season followed by a single-elimination playoff bracket for qualifying teams.**
- Recreational – Tailored for participants seeking a recreational experience in the sport. Recreational leagues offer a more relaxed format where socializing and fitness benefits are emphasized over competition. **Typically, Recreational leagues consist of a four-week regular season without playoffs.**
- Sport Leagues offered: Flag Football, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Softball, Pickleball, Beach Volleyball, Indoor Soccer, Kickball, etc.

Tournaments

Tournaments are one-day sports events that allow participants to try out a new sport or play a sport that might not be popular enough for a full season. Tournaments can be offered as:

- Single Elimination – one loss and your team is out.
- Double Elimination – two losses and your team is out.
- Two-Game Guarantee – like a double elimination, only your team is simply guaranteed a minimum of two games.
- Pool Play – round robin, followed by a single elimination tournament.

The format is dependent on the number of registered teams and available space. Like Sport Leagues, Tournaments may also be categorized by skill level and affinity group. They are designed to provide a shorter time commitment compared to season-long leagues.

- Tournaments offered: Spikeball, Billiards, Dodgeball, Cricket, etc.

Virtual Programming / Special Events

Virtual Programs are either individual or team contests held online and will range from Fantasy Sports to Esports to virtual board games. Participants are responsible for having their own equipment (i.e. the gaming console, controllers, and the game). Some games will also be played via PC and phone/tablet (iOS/Android). For most virtual programming, team captains are responsible for submitting their scores and sportsmanship ratings via IMLeagues.com.

- Virtual Programs offered: Fantasy Football, Men's/Women's March Madness Bracket Challenge, Chess, and Sport Trivia, etc.

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

- Special Events offered: RecFest 3-Point Contest, Women in Sports Night, and Sport Specific Showcases, etc.

Preseason Tournaments / Scrimmages

Preseason tournaments and scrimmages are designed to give teams warm up games before the start of the regular season. They are also designed to give student officials game experience for training prior to the season as well. Teams entering the pre-season tournament should understand that the games will be used for training purposes. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Games may be abbreviated on time or rules to accommodate training or schedule constraints

Unified / Adaptive Sports

Unified/Adaptive sports are competitive or recreational sports that bring together individuals with and without physical or intellectual disabilities on the same team. These sports promote inclusion, teamwork, and mutual respect among participants of all abilities. Adaptive sports often run parallel to typical sport activities. However, they allow modifications necessary for people with disabilities to participate.

Affinity Groups

Affinity Groups are subsets of a sport format that are categorized based on common characteristics shared by participants. These groups are tailored to accommodate specific preferences, interests, or identities within the participant community. The availability of specific affinity groups may vary depending on registration numbers.

- Men's
- Women's
- Co – Specific ratio of male and female participants
- Open – No specific ratio of male and female participants, the league is designated as mixed gender
- Fraternity/Sorority – For participants who are active members of campus organizations within the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Association, Multicultural Greek Council or National Pan-Hellenic Council.

- Please use your organization's name or letters when making your team's name.
- Only Greek organizations officially recognized by FAU may participate in leagues with this designation.
- Participants representing Greek organizations in intramural competition must be current members of the organization. Potential new members are not considered current members of those organizations until the conclusion of the official recruitment period for each semester.

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

Eligibility

Eligible Participants

- All current FAU students are eligible to participate in Intramural Sports, except as specified in the Rules and Regulations.
 - Intramural Sports participation is currently covered by student activity and service fees. Fee-paying students are automatically eligible for participation in Intramural Sports-related activities, with exceptions determined by Florida Atlantic University personnel.
 - Students whose enrollment drops below 0.5 credits are no longer eligible for participation. Administrative staff may impose additional membership stipulations at their discretion.
 - Exception: For Intramural Sports occurring in the Summer semester, non-graduating FAU students or faculty may participate without needing to purchase a membership.
- Individuals with a current "Community" FAU Campus Recreation membership are eligible to participate.
 - Individuals with a "Red" FAU Campus Recreation membership are NOT eligible to participate.
- 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 defined as any individual whose has been listed on an official competitive roster for that academic year, of a registered/recognized FAU Sport Club who competes and/or travels with the FAU Club team.
 - No restrictions apply when Sport Club members participate in an IM sport unrelated to their club's sport.
 - Teams exceeding these limits will automatically forfeit games and be disqualified from the playoffs.
- Participants can play on one team within each league for each sport type. For example, you can participate in both a Co-Comp Soccer Team, Fraternity/Sorority Soccer Team, and Competitive Soccer Team.

- The only exception to this rule is that teams cannot participate in both Competitive and Recreational leagues within a particular sport. This is to ensure equal and fair play amongst our teams.

Note: In compliance with Florida Statute 1006.205, all intramural or club athletic teams or sports that are sponsored by a public postsecondary institution shall be expressly designated as one of the following based on biological sex: (1) males, men, or boys; (2) females, women, or girls; or (3) co-ed or mixed. Athletic teams or sports designated for females, women, or girls are not open to students of the male sex, and student participation in intramural and/or club sports is contingent on compliance with these requirements.

Non-Eligible Intramural Sports Participants

- **Collegiate Affiliation:**
 - Any individual listed on a collegiate varsity, junior varsity, or freshman roster as a player, coach, or staff member will be ineligible for participation in that specific intramural sport for one year from their last affiliation date with the team.
 - This includes players "red-shirted" in any sport, individuals who regularly practice with a team but do not participate in intercollegiate competition, as well as coaches, staff, or other persons listed on the team roster.
- **Professional Athletes:**
 - Past or present professional athletes are not permitted to participate in their respective or related intramural sports, activities, or events.
 - A professional athlete is defined as an individual who has received payment for participating in a sport, been under contract with a professional team, included on a professional team roster, practiced with a professional team, and/or received compensation for trying out for a team.
 - Determinations of professional status are made on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of Intramural Sports administrative staff.

Varsity/Club Sport	Related Intramural Sport
Baseball/Softball	Softball
Basketball	Basketball
Football/Flag Football	Flag Football
Soccer	Soccer, Indoor Soccer
Tennis	Tennis
Volleyball	Volleyball, Sand Volleyball
Pickleball	Pickleball

ID Policy

Participants must present a valid Owl Card or government-issued photo ID at each Intramural Sports contest to be eligible for participation. The photo on the ID must be clear and distinct enough to identify the holder. If unclear, a second photo ID will be required. If a participant is listed on the roster, but does not have proper identification, they will not be allowed to participate in that contest.

Note: Photos of identification cards, passports, driver's licenses, or social media pages will not be accepted as valid ID.

Note: The ID feature in the FAU Campus Recreation app cannot currently be used for identification. The app only presents a barcode upon scanning, which does not provide conclusive information, including a photo for identification purposes.

Note: FAU students may pay a \$15 fee for replacing a lost or stolen Owl Card by visiting this link: [HOW TO REPLACE YOUR FAU OWL CARD](#)

Participants may arrive and sign-in throughout the contest. If a participant arrives to play after the contest has begun, it is his or her responsibility to locate an onsite intramural staff and sign-in with a valid ID before participating in the contest. If a late participant cannot present a valid ID, he or she will not be allowed to enter the contest.

Eligibility Violations

Teams found to have participants violating eligibility policies may forfeit each game in which the illegal player participated, regardless of the actual outcome. Captains may be subject to a forfeit fee if a participant is found playing illegally. Participants in violation may face suspension from the specific team or all Intramural activities for a duration determined by the Sport Programs Office.

Participation is defined as the individual's name appearing on the roster and checking in with the Intramural Sports staff (supervisor or official) to be "signed in." Captains suspecting ineligible players on opposing teams are strongly encouraged to file a formal protest. Refer to the Protest Section for further information.

Participant Conduct

Student Code of Conduct

All students are expected to know and abide by the regulations and policies set forth by the Student Code of Conduct (Regulation 4.007) and are subject to disciplinary action by the University for any violation of this code. FAU Campus Recreation reserves the right to refer any incidents involving substandard student conduct to the Student Conduct Board and/or the FAU Dean of Students.

Alcohol/Drugs/Tobacco/Vaping Policy

According to Florida Atlantic University policy, smoking, vaping, and any other tobacco use are strictly prohibited in all university facilities, including outdoor areas. In order to ensure a safe playing environment for all, possession and/or consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited at any Department of Campus Recreation facility or program. Additionally, if Intramural Sports supervisors and/or officials suspect any individual, whether a participant, coach, or spectator, of being under the influence, (even if the scent is on the person's clothing or body) that person will not be allowed to participate and will be asked to leave the facility. Each team is responsible for enforcing this policy with team members and spectators and if individuals create a problem when asked to leave, the contest will be forfeited, and violators may face further disciplinary action from the Dean of Students.

Intramural Sports staff maintain the authority to contact campus police if they suspect or discover a violation of this policy and may prematurely conclude events due to such violations.

Florida Atlantic University is a tobacco free campus, and this applies to all Intramural activities as well. This includes cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, any vaping devices, and any other tobacco products not listed here. The Intramural Supervisor will ask anyone on site to put away any substances not allowed or the person will be asked to leave the facility.

Pets / Service Animal Policy

Pet Policy:

- Personal pets are not allowed at designated Campus Recreation sites, including the Campus Recreation Center, Henderson Field, Oxley Field, Turf Track & Field, and others, except for service animals.

Service Animal Policy:

- Florida Atlantic University adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and Florida Statute regarding service animals. Service animals are defined as animals trained to perform tasks or work for individuals with disabilities, including physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disabilities. The tasks performed by a service animal must directly benefit the individual's disability.
- FAU reserves the right to exclude or remove any animal from the premises, including a service animal, if the animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others. Allergies and fear of animals are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to an individual with a service animal. If an animal is properly excluded we must give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.

Emotional Support Animal Policy:

- Emotional Support Animals (ESA) are not considered service animals based on Title II and Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, therefore are not exempt from this policy and require a Reasonable Accommodation Request for permission to access the designated Campus Recreation locations mentioned above. For further assistance, please contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

Lost and Found / Stolen Items Policy

Any items left behind at game sites will be collected by Intramural Sports staff at the conclusion of nightly programming. These items will be taken to the Campus Recreation Center Front Desk. All lost and found items will be held for one week before being transferred to the University Police Department. It is strongly recommended that sentimental or expensive items be kept in a secure location. Intramural Sports program assumes no responsibility for misplaced or stolen items. Any incidents of theft, vandalism, or unusual situations should be reported promptly to Campus Recreation staff or the FAU police department at (561) 297-3500.

Photo / Media Policy

The Sport Programs Office, Campus Recreation Marketing employees, and other University employees may photograph or videotape participants during scheduled activities for use in various University and departmental marketing campaigns and promotional materials. If you do not wish to be photographed

or recorded during intramural sport participation, please notify the Sport Programs Office at imsports@fau.edu.

Requests for photography or video of Campus Recreation participants or facilities must be submitted at least 5 (five) business days in advance by submitting a completed **MEDIA REQUEST FORM** to campusrec@fau.edu. Each individual appearing in the picture or video must have a signed waiver. A Campus Recreation staff member will review your request and notify you of its approval or denial.

For privacy reasons, photographic devices are prohibited in locker rooms and restrooms. Participants' personal privacy must be respected, and individuals have the right to decline inclusion in photos. In the Recreation and Fitness Center, a Campus Recreation staff member must supervise any recording or photography.

For all other media-related issues or requests, please refer to the policies of the Office of Media Relations.

Fighting & Physical Conduct Policy

Any instance of fighting will result in immediate ejection of the individual or team involved, leading to the termination of the contest, with outcomes recorded as determined by administrative staff. Individuals identified as participants in a fight will face an automatic suspension from Intramural Sports for the remainder of the current semester at minimum, with the possibility of additional suspension pending further review. Moreover, any person involved in a fight will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for further action. Additional consequences may include suspension from other Campus Recreation programs and services, including the potential revocation of membership and facility access.

Fighting is defined as, but not limited to, any attempt to strike, punch, kick or physically harm by using fists, hands, arms, legs or feet irrespective of whether contact is made. This definition extends to any combative or violent actions outside the normal scope of the activity in question.

Note: Intramural Sports activities often meet what governing bodies and agencies define as “contact sports,” no matter how often or physical the contact may be. Fouls are, by definition, violations of activity rules resulting from physical contact outside the basic scope of activity engagement. Some fouls may be harder, or more flagrant, than others. While efforts are made to minimize fouls and excessive physical contact, complete prevention is unfeasible. Therefore, contest officials and on-site staff are present to oversee contests.

Participants are urged to understand that some level of contact is inevitable, and in cases of flagrant contact, they should trust that officials will penalize offending parties appropriately. Should flagrant contact go unpunished, participants are encouraged to contact administrative staff, who will reinforce the importance of staff intervention in an educational manner.

Verbal Abuse, Profane Language, & Discrimination Policy

Verbally abusing or threatening an opponent or staff member will result in immediate ejection of an individual or team for the contest in-question.

The use of profane language and/or obscene gestures directed toward teammates, opponents or staff members will result in immediate ejection of the individual or team for the contest in-question.

Florida Atlantic University prohibits any unlawful discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, military or veteran status, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or other protected status. Discriminatory conduct, including sexual misconduct such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, is strictly prohibited. Allegations of discriminatory acts directed toward teammates, opponents, spectators, or staff members will result in immediate ejection of the individual or team from the contest in question.

Note: Sportsmanship and conduct penalties will be determined by administrative staff, based on the situation at hand. Depending on the severity, cases may be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

Music / Sound Policy

The use of radios/portable stereos or amplified sound is not permitted in any Campus Recreation facility.

Accommodations

The Department of Campus Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. To facilitate opportunities for people with and without disabilities to engage in recreational pursuits together, the Department of Campus Recreation provides support services, including -- but not limited to -- staff support and adaptive equipment.

Additional requests for other accommodations should be made through the Membership Services office, Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., or via email at campusrec@fau.edu

Registration

All Participants

All Participants will need to create a [IMLeagues](#) profile to create/join a Sport Leagues team and register for Tournaments/Special Events.

- This step will only need to be completed when signing up for your first sport at FAU
- Please view this link with tutorials on [How to Register](#).

Note: Please register using your FAU Email, as the system is designed to update your membership automatically. Using an outside email or incorrect information can delay your ability to participate.

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 on 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.

Captain's & Participant Quiz

In order to create a team and/or be eligible to play in any Intramural Sports league or tournament, every participant must complete a quiz. The quiz will be made available on IMleagues.com when a participant signs up to either create or join a team. In order to be eligible to play, the participant must pass the quiz. The quiz will include questions from the Intramural Sports Participant Handbook and the rule packets. It is imperative that every Intramural participant reads through and understands all the Intramural rules, policies, and procedures. If there are questions about the rules or policies and procedures, please contact imsports@fau.edu.

Team Names

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

- Alcohol/Drug Reference
- Illegal Activity
- Offensive to any group of people (including Religion, Race, Gender, Sexuality, etc.)
- Sexual Innuendos
- Play on words attempting to elude indecency, obscenity, or profanity that could be deemed grossly offensive.

Context is paramount in determining whether any word or phrase will be considered indecent, obscene, or profane. If any team name and/or team visual representation is found too offensive or egregious, team members may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and/or the Dean of Students.

Additional Information

- Register Early: It is recommended to register as soon as possible as spots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Schedule Changes: Sport Programs staff reserves the right to make changes or updates to the schedule as situations necessitate.
- Late Entries: Late entries for a sport will only be accepted if space is available and the season has not started.
- Sport Offerings: A current list of sport offerings can be found on the IMLeagues homepage.
- Consider Schedule Compatibility: Ensure the day and time of games work for your entire team. **Game reschedules will not be allowed during the regular season, except for inclement weather.**
- By adhering to these guidelines, participants can maximize their chances of securing a spot in their desired sport and ensure smooth participation throughout the season.

Captain's Role & Responsibilities

Captain / Chair

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 Sport Programs office at imsports@fau.edu.

- Student organizations may designate a "Chair" for their organization who may create teams on behalf of their organization within and across leagues. The Chair must be a registered member

on at least one team for the organization. To register as a Chair, please contact the Sport Programs office.

Role

Captains will serve as the liaison between Intramural Sports and their team.

“Team representatives” are defined as the following but are not limited to a player, non-player, captain, coach, manager, spectator or anyone representing a team. **The captain of each team is responsible for these representatives at all times.** Team Representatives can affect the team’s sportsmanship standing, playoff eligibility and can also be ejected or asked to leave the premises and any other acts the Intramural Sports staff deems eligible. These actions and disciplinary steps can happen at any time, before, during, or after any intramural sports event.

Responsibilities

The captain is a key link between the participants (team members) and the Intramural Sports Staff. The captain is expected to assume the following responsibilities:

- Passing the Captain’s Quiz on IMLeagues
- Creating an appropriate team name on IMLeagues
- Inviting players to your team
- Ensuring that the team roster has met the minimum player requirement for that sport before the deadline
- Checking eligibility of each player before and during the regular season as well as prior to the playoffs
 - This includes club sport and varsity athletics eligibility
- Becoming familiar with and informing team members of respective sport rules, policies and procedures, the Sportsmanship Rating System, and any additional information covered in the Captain’s Quiz.
- Completing the **Captain’s Training** before the second week of the season
- Notifying each team member to present their valid photo ID to the intramural supervisor to check-in for the contest
- Upholding sportsmanship among all team members and spectators before, during, and after each contest. **The team captain will be held responsible for any sportsmanship violations committed by team members and spectators before, during, and after games** (this includes excessive amounts of trash left behind by teams at game sites)
- Communicating essential information and updates to their teammates
 - Game times
 - Inclement weather
 - Scheduling changes
 - Additional information as provided by the Sport Programs office
- Representing the team during pre-game meetings
- Communicating with officials during games
- Proactively communicating with the Sport Programs office
 - Discrepancies in scores, sportsmanship ratings, etc.
 - Defaulting games to avoid forfeits
 - Rendering the official team decision for protests, reschedules, etc.
- Paying any Forfeit Fees if applicable

Captain's Training

The Captain's Training is required training for team captains offered via Canvas. The captain's training provides an overview of season expectations and equips captains with information to help their team succeed. Information regarding the captain's meeting will be sent out once registration for each sport closes. New training is provided and mandated every academic semester.

- If a team has a registered Chair, they may complete the training for their organization's team.

Coaches

Given captains are responsible for most team operations, Intramural Sports does not recognize team coaches for consistency's sake, although individuals are permitted to provide strategy and direction on team sidelines. This is so rules and policies can be enforced on all participating teams as consistently and as fairly as possible. Even with this rule, traditional "coaching boxes" and other playing surface markings may still be recognized in an effort to help establish and maintain designated team bench areas. Team "coaches" must abide by all sportsmanship policies and when a team designates a "coach," the teams are held to stronger bench decorum expectations given sideline and team bench management responsibilities typically bestowed to individuals in coaching capacities.

Rosters

Team captains are responsible for adding players to their roster while team participants are responsible for accepting invitations to the roster. Players may be added to the roster throughout the regular season for team sports.

- Rosters are locked at 3:00pm the Friday following the last game of the regular season. No players may be added after that point.
- 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 3 times the standard number of players to play. This number will be rounded up to the nearest whole person.
 - Example: Basketball rosters are limited to 15 players (5 x 3)
 - Example: Volleyball rosters are limited to 18 players (6 x 3)
- For individual sports, the captain will be the sole member on the roster.
- For tournaments, player additions and substitutions are not permitted after a team has played their first game in the tournament. Players may be added on-site at game time, prior to the first game for that team.
- Roster caps will be strictly enforced, and teams over the roster cap will not be eligible for playoffs until the roster is corrected.

Note: After playing/checking-in for one game with any team, a player may not transfer to another team in that sport or be removed from the roster without permission from the Sport Programs office.

Note: Sport Programs staff reserves the right to make roster determinations according to the policies outlined in this handbook and at the discretion of intramural staff at any time. (i.e. injury replacements, substitutions, etc.)

Free Agents & Nomads

Free Agents

Participants 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. Signing up as a Free Agent does not guarantee placement on 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 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.

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 close at 3:00pm on Friday following the last game of the regular season. No players may be added after that point.**
- Each person participating in Intramural Sports is responsible for his/her own eligibility. Any question concerning eligibility should be referred to the Sport Programs office and a ruling obtained prior to participation. Eligibility rulings will be made based on information presented to and obtained by the Sport Programs office. Any team using a player who does not meet the eligibility rules will forfeit all contests in which the player participated.

Team Eligibility

- 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.
- **All teams in Competitive leagues must finish with an average sportsmanship rating of 3.0 to be eligible for the playoffs.**
- **Teams that have not paid their forfeit fee by the end of the regular season will not be eligible for the playoffs.**
- **During the Intramural Sports season, a survey will be sent out for participants to complete. 80% of team participants must complete the survey in order to qualify for playoffs.** This survey is to provide feedback for the program and to learn how to better serve your needs.
- **Teams must have won a minimum of one (1) regular season contest (this includes contests won via forfeit) to qualify for the playoffs.**
- Teams that earn less than 2.5 for sportsmanship during a playoff game must meet with the Sport Programs office and may be removed from further participation in the playoffs.

Although rare and depending on circumstance, administrative staff reserve the right to overrule qualifying playoff teams and will refer to tie-breaking procedures in the event a team needs to be dropped (i.e. there are too many qualifying teams and not enough bracket positions given facility availability and the FAU academic calendar).

Any team wishing to petition to move up to a Competitive league for the playoffs must contact the Sport Programs office via email (imsports@fau.edu) by the conclusion of the regular season. Teams will be petitioned up based on available space in the playoff brackets and the Sport Programs staff making a decision that will be fair to all teams entered in each particular league. (Exception: If a team is forced to register in a league during the registration period that is not equal to the level of play requested, a petition may be filed during registration to move up for playoffs.)

Format

Playoffs will consist of a single-elimination bracket. The playoff bracket can be found on your specific IMLeagues league homepage, prior to the end of the sport season. 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. Point Differential
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

Due to the nature of playoffs and how brackets work, teams are not guaranteed the same nights and times of their regular season. We will work with captains as best we can, but we have to end the season by pre-determined dates. We also have to work around the times and spaces we have available.

A limited number of rescheduled 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. Reschedule requested must be approved no later than 3:00PM on the day of the game.

In order for a reschedule request to be approved, the following must be met at the discretion of administrative staff:

1. Requests must be made within a reasonable time frame.
2. Reschedule day/time must fit facility availability and adhere to the FAU academic calendar
3. Intramural staff (i.e. applicable supervisors, officials, and scorekeepers) must be available
4. Scheduled opponents must agree to the proposed day/time (see note)
5. Other situations may also apply

Note: It is within the right of opposing teams to decide to keep a scheduled contest at its original day and time.

Championship Game

Championships for larger activities may be played in varsity athletic facilities, if they already are not as part of the activity season's operations.

Participants and/or spectators may also be randomly selected to participate in special promotional events at championship contests. These events are primarily for entertainment purposes and offer small prizes for participation incentives or accomplishments. It's important to note that these promotional events operate independently from championship contests and do not impact the outcome of the championship.

Intramural Sports reserves the right to remove mercy rule applications for any championship contest. However, mercy rules continue to apply for playoff contests as they do for regular season contests.

Right to Assign

Intramural Sports staff have the right to assign teams to whichever bracket they believe is appropriate/more suitable for a team. This also includes the staff and their right to deny a team's playoff qualification for any reason; especially those related to unfavorable sportsmanship/conduct.

A team disagreeing with their bracket assignment or not being available for a first-round contest does not supersede other playoff scheduling policies and philosophies. This is especially true given playoff memo communications/reminders, protest deadlines and roster/eligibility rules that are in-place to

assist teams in the event unfavorable playoff situations arise. **Playoff assignment decisions, once they are published, are final.**

Defaults & Forfeits

Defaults

Teams who are unable to attend their scheduled game can inform the Sport Programs office at imsports@fau.edu by 3:00PM the day of their scheduled game to default. For weekend games, defaults must be submitted by 5:00PM 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.
- The Sport Programs office will contact the other team to inform them of the default.
 - If you have not received communication from Sport Programs, plan on attending your game.
- Notifying the Sport Programs office after the default deadline will result in a forfeit.
- The team that defaults will receive a 3.0 for sportsmanship.
- The opponent of a team that defaults will receive a 4.0 for sportsmanship.
- If time permits, the Sport Programs 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 team's records or will the sportsmanship scores be taken into season totals.
 - Conduct-related issues will be reviewed by the Sport Programs office and subject to the disciplinary process.

Forfeit

Teams who do not attend their scheduled game and do not notify the Sport Programs office ahead of 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. The captain will be suspended from both Intramural Sports and all Campus Recreation facilities until the fee is paid.** The team will be suspended from participating in their respective sport league until the fee is paid. Team members may still play for teams in other leagues and sports.

- Notifying the Sport Programs 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 playing.
- **Teams that forfeit will receive a sportsmanship rating of 2.0.**
- The opponent of a team that forfeits will receive a 4.0 for sportsmanship.
- Teams that pay the \$30 forfeit fee will be allowed back into the league.
- If a team has not paid the forfeit fee by 1:00PM the day of their next scheduled game (1:00PM Friday for Sunday games), they will automatically default the contest.
- **Two forfeits will result in the team being dropped 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, they should use 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 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 depending upon the sport.
- **Teams that meet the roster requirement during the grace period will receive no higher than 3.5 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.
 - Both teams receive a loss, 2.0 for sportsmanship, and 1 will be assessed the forfeit fee.

Protests

No protests will be permitted for judgment calls made by game officials. Judgment calls are subjective decisions made by officials during the course of the game and are not subject to protest.

Protests may only be filed based on either a misapplied rule or eligibility concerns. These are objective matters that can be reviewed and addressed by the appropriate authorities.

Only team captains are authorized to initiate protests on behalf of their team. Captains must adhere to the designated process for filing protests as outlined by the Intramural Sports program.

Misapplication of a Rule

If a captain believes a rule was misapplied, they shall calmly and immediately request a time-out and inform the official they wish to have a ruling on the interpretation or application protested. This protest must be made prior to the next live ball or play. If a protest is filed for a misapplied rule:

- The official should explain his/her ruling.
- If you still think the ruling is wrong, ask the official to refer to the supervisor. The team captain shall refuse to continue play until the supervisor arrives at the court/field and makes a ruling regarding the protest.
- The supervisor will then rule on the situation on the spot. The supervisor may refer to the sport rules to ensure they make the correct decision. The ruling will be final.
- If corrections are necessary, the team/participant shall not be charged with a time-out. However, if the official's interpretation or application of the rule was correct, the team/participant will be charged with a time-out.
- The supervisor on-site will document the nature of the protest.
 - Current game score
 - Time remaining
 - Possession and location of ball, if applicable
 - Outcome of the discussion
 - Any other pertinent information to the protest

- If the offended captain would like to continue the protest afterwards, he/she must complete the protest form.

After the contest, the Sport Programs office will determine if any 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 the result stands.

Note: Even if a protest is successful, the Sport Programs 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:

- Notify the Intramural Sports supervisor of the ineligible player during the contest.
- Complete and submit the protest form no later than 5:00PM on the business day following the 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 Sport Programs 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.

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 Sport Programs staff.

Equipment

It is the responsibility of the participants to return all equipment provided to them at the conclusion of the game. Theft or intentional destruction of Intramural Sports equipment may result in suspension of privileges from all Campus Recreation facilities and/or referral to the Dean of Students office for further discipline. Any items damaged or destroyed can incur a fee for the participant, and participation can be suspended until that fee is paid. If equipment is damaged or destroyed unintentionally, we will not hold participants responsible.

Uniform Guidelines

Teams are advised to wear shirts of the same color for the game. In the event that both teams arrive wearing identical colors, mesh pennies may be provided for differentiation.

Teams are allowed to wear their own uniforms, providing that they are deemed legal based on the guidelines for that activity or sport. Uniforms cannot display any profanity or logos that would be

considered vulgar to the FAU Community. The Sport Programs office will have final right of refusal for any and all team uniforms.

All team members must wear athletic apparel suitable for the sport being played. This includes appropriate tops and bottoms conducive to physical activity.

- Indoor Sports: Participants must wear close-toed shoes with non-marking soles.
- Outdoor Activities: Close-toe shoes or cleats are permitted. However, metal cleats/spikes, hard sole shoes, and sandals are strictly prohibited.

Jewelry

Jewelry is not permitted in any Intramural Sports activity due to the 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

If any jewelry or wearable items are determined to pose a risk of injury to any participant, including the person wearing said item in-question, Intramural Sports staff reserves the right to request the item be removed. Once a request of this nature is made, the individual is expected to comply, or risk being denied access to participation.

Religion or religious beliefs do not constitute acceptable reasons for wearing jewelry during an Intramural Sports contest. Participation in Campus Recreation activities is completely voluntary, and all Intramural Sports guidelines must be followed by anyone who elects to participate.

The ONLY exception to this policy is medical bracelets and necklaces, and these must be taped down so as to be flush with the skin.

Participants that have questions on this policy should contact the Sport Programs office email at imsports@fau.edu.

Sport Specific Rules

Certain sports (e.g., Flag Football) may have additional attire rules in the interest of participant safety.

Please refer to the sport specific rulebook for the sport you are playing.

Example: Shorts or pants with pockets are permitted in all intramural activities except for flag football. In the event staff members believe a pair of shorts or pants pose a risk to any participant because of pockets, the individual wearing the article of clothing with pockets may be asked to change or alter their clothing, and the individual is expected to comply, or risk being denied access to participation.

Additional Considerations

- 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 something may be worn, contact the Sport Programs office.
- Equipment/Uniform decisions made by the staff on duty shall be final.

Sportsmanship

Supervisor Authority

The Intramural Sports Supervisor is the final authority during any Intramural Sports activity. The Supervisor will be responsible for the organization and management of the event so that a safe and enjoyable playing environment can be experienced by everyone involved.

The Supervisor may intervene to stop any activity, at any time, in cases where unsportsmanlike behavior, disorderly conduct, abusive language, and/or fighting has/may occur. The Supervisor may declare a forfeit to the team(s) or eject any participant(s) who engage(s) in such behavior. The Supervisor also has the authority to rule on any situation not specifically covered in the rules, to issue a yellow/red card, and/or stop the game (among other measures) if it is deemed necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the participants and the IM Program.

Ratings and Criteria

The Sportsmanship Rating system is intended to be an objective scale by which teams' attitude and behavior may be assessed throughout the Intramural Sports season and playoffs. Behavior before, during and after an intramural contest is factored in the rating. The team captain is responsible for educating and informing all players and spectators affiliated with the team about the system.

Each team is responsible for the actions of all individual team members and spectators related to it. The team captain's efforts in assisting officials and staff to calm difficult situations are essential to controlling team conduct

After each game, the Intramural Sports staff will rate each team's sportsmanship on a scale from 4.0 to 0.5. These ratings will be averaged over the season to determine playoff eligibility and seeding. Ratings shall be marked on the score sheet following the game. This information is not to be provided to the team immediately following the game but may be viewed online on the following day.

To qualify for the playoffs, teams must maintain a minimum average sportsmanship rating of 3.0. Teams in recreational leagues, tournaments, and special events risk removal from participation for consistently poor sportsmanship.

Note: Any actions by team members or spectators before, during, or after a contest may affect the team's Sportsmanship Rating for that contest.

- **4.0 – Superior Sportsmanship and Conduct – “Win with class, lose with dignity”**
 - Team cooperates with and respects all decisions made by the Intramural Sports staff.
 - All questions to the officials are respectful and reasonable. (Statements are not questions, and will not be recognized)

- All actions by players and spectators are acceptable and appropriate.
 - Team made a noticeable effort to make the game run more smoothly.
 - Players make positive comments of encouragement towards teammates and opponents.
 - Team accepts a loss and congratulates the opponents on their success.
 - Team receives absolutely no warnings, ejections, yellow cards, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties or technical fouls.
 - A team winning a game due to a forfeit/default will receive a 4 in sportsmanship.
- **3.5 – Excellent Sportsmanship and Conduct – “Major Teamwork, Minor Incidents”**
 - Players ask questions and make respectable statements regarding the game.
 - All actions by players and spectators are acceptable and appropriate.
 - Players state positive comments of encouragement towards teammates and opponents.
 - Team accepts a loss and congratulates the opponent on their success.
 - Team receives absolutely no warnings, ejections, yellow cards, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties or technical fouls.
- **3.0 – Good Sportsmanship and Conduct – “Bare Minimum”**
 - Players ask questions and make statements regarding the game.
 - All actions by players and spectators are acceptable and appropriate.
 - Team met expectations across the entire game experience.
 - Players state positive comments of encouragement towards teammates and opponents.
 - Team accepts a loss and congratulates the opponent on their success.
 - Team receives and adheres to verbal warnings, but receives no ejections, yellow cards, unsportsmanlike conduct penalties or technical fouls.
 - The team that defaults a game will receive a 3 for sportsmanship.
- **2.5 – Average Sportsmanship and Conduct – “First-Level Penalty, Verbal Altercations”**
 - Players ask questions and make unreasonable statements regarding the game.
 - A majority of actions by players and spectators are acceptable and appropriate.
 - Players state comments of encouragement towards teammates and opponents.
 - Team accepts a loss and congratulates the opponent on their success.
 - Team receives one technical foul, yellow card, or unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, but receive no ejections.
- **2.0 – Below Average Sportsmanship and Conduct – “Rude Questions, Verbal Aggression, and Little Control”**
 - Players ask disrespectful questions and make inappropriate statements regarding the game.
 - The team captain shows little control over the actions of themselves, their teammates, and spectators.
 - Team accepts a loss and congratulates the opponent on their success.
 - Team receives multiple technical fouls, yellow cards, or unsportsmanlike conducts, but receive no ejections.
 - The team that forfeits a game will receive a 2 for sportsmanship.
- **1.5 – Poor Sportsmanship and Conduct – “No Exception for One Ejection”**
 - Players make negative statements regarding the game.

- The team captain shows little control over the actions of themselves, their teammates, and spectators.
- Team accepts a loss and congratulates the opponent on their success.
- Team receives one ejection.
- **1.0 – Terrible Sportsmanship and Conduct – “Game Negatively Affected by Conduct of Team”**
 - Participants and spectators were disrespectful and did not meet expectations across the entire.
 - Players make negative or dissenting statements regarding the game.
 - The team captain shows little control over the actions of themselves, their teammates, and spectators.
 - Team receives multiple ejections.
 - The team captain of any team receiving a 1 in sportsmanship must meet with the Sport Programs professional staff member prior to the team’s next contest.
- **0.5 – Unacceptable Sportsmanship and Conduct – “Unacceptable”**
 - Players are completely uncooperative and/or disrespectful toward opponents, officials, and administrative staff.
 - Players constantly make negative or dissenting statements regarding the game.
 - The team captain shows no control over the actions of themselves, their teammates, and spectators.
 - Team receives multiple ejections, or the game is declared a forfeit by Intramural Sports staff due to unsportsmanlike behavior.
 - The team captain of any team receiving a 0.5 in sportsmanship must meet with the Sport Programs professional staff member prior to the team’s next contest.
 - The Sport Programs office may remove any team from further participation if they receive a 0.5 rating.

Note: Playoff teams that earn less than a 2.5 for sportsmanship will be required to meet with the Sport Programs office prior to their next game. They may also be removed from the playoff bracket.

Note: For purposes of our sportsmanship ratings, we will not count administrative technical and rule technicalities against a team’s overall sportsmanship.

- Example: a LEGAL slide tackle in indoor soccer is a yellow card offense for the purposes of our league, but it will not be used in the determination of unsportsmanlike behavior during the game.

Review of Sportsmanship Ratings / Appeal Process

The team captain is responsible for reviewing their team's Sportsmanship Rating after each game. If a team captain wants to appeal their team's Sportsmanship Rating, they must contact the Intramural Sports department to discuss the matter within two (2) business days after the game was played.

Continuing Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship Rating Averages will be monitored throughout the season. If a team’s Sportsmanship Rating Average drops below 2.0 at any point during the regular season, the team captain will receive an email from the Sport Programs staff. This email will include a reminder of the Sportsmanship Rating system and recommendations for improving the rating. The Intramural Sports staff may also request a

meeting with the team captain to ensure the rating system is understood and followed for the rest of the season.

Note: The rating information serves as a guide for team captains and participants. The Sport Programs staff reserves the right to modify ratings based upon individual incidents and/or situations that may arise.

Bench Decorum & Spectators

Any team player who is not actively participating in a contest is considered "bench personnel." All bench personnel are expected to adhere to "bench decorum" policies at all times, regardless of the situation during a contest or event.

Spectators & Affiliated Policies

Spectators are welcome and can often play a fun and vital role in the environment of Intramural Sports. When attending Intramural Sports events, spectators are expected to follow certain decorum policies. Spectators do not need to be on a team roster or check in with Intramural Sports staff. However, they must abide by Intramural Sports policies during periods of intramural activity. Spectators **ABSOLUTELY CANNOT**:

- Sit or stand within the immediate confines of a team bench or designated area
- Physically enter a contest playing surface when a contest is considered "live" by activity-specific rules
- Throw, kick, or project any physical object onto a playing surface or at any individual
- Simulate noises or actions related to contest facilitation (blowing whistles or using other noisemakers)
- Taunt or disrespectfully address/treat any participating players or other spectators
- Disrespectfully address any Intramural Sports staff members in any manner, both directly and indirectly
- Bring, consume or distribute any alcohol or prohibited substances
- Disregard any FAU facility or Student Code of Conduct policy
- Engage in any other activity deemed inappropriate or unnecessary by any Intramural Sports staff member

Note: Intramural Sports teams and participants not involved in active contests and watching other contests at the competition site are to be considered spectators. Individuals meeting these classification standards are expected to adhere to all spectator policies.

When spectators are clearly identifiable as being affiliated with a specific team or individual, the team captain is responsible for spectator conduct, whether the captain is actively participating in a contest or not. Because a team captain is responsible for spectators clearly affiliated with their team, spectator misconduct is subject to in-game penalties and team sportsmanship standing within the Intramural Sports program.

In cases where spectators are not known to a team or are not clearly affiliated with a team/individual, any request to cease certain behaviors or actions must be adhered to in a professional manner, regardless of the situation.

Note: Spectators must adhere to facility policies related to persons classified as a minor. Other than minors who have proper, approved participation documents filed with the Department of Campus Recreation, persons under the age of 18 are subject to being asked to vacate the premises.

Infractions & Penalties

Any persons found to be in violation of bench or general decorum are subject to immediate, retroactive and/or future penalty (or penalties) as determined appropriate by Sport Programs administrative staff. When necessary, administrative staff reserves the right to include the FAU Dean of Students Office and its staff on situations involving infractions/violations of decorum that are considered especially egregious and beyond the scope of basic practice/enforcement as outlined by activity-specific rulebooks.

Common infractions/violations related to bench and other decorum that may result in penalties and/or referral to campus authorities/resources include (but are not limited to):

- Engaging in inappropriate on-court behaviors (getting into faces of opponents/officials, interfering with contest action)
- Leaving the site of competition in an unsporting or unapproved manner
- Removing a uniform in an unsporting manner
- Distracting contest staff
- Questioning scorebooks without following activity-specific procedure to make appropriate inquiries
- Inappropriate language and other actions/behaviors directed to any staff member and/or opponent(s)
- Using language or references not socially acceptable/tolerated in public spaces given common public sense
- Simulating noises or actions related to contest facilitation by staff (i.e. blowing whistles, other noisemakers)
- Taunting any individual(s) in any manner
- Throwing equipment/other objects or items/treating items disrespectfully
- Engaging with spectators in unnecessary and/or unsporting manner

When other campus resources, such as the Dean of Student Office or Campus Police, are involved in situations where sportsmanship, decorum or conduct violations occur, Intramural Sports will defer to the decisions rendered and/or outcomes determined necessary by those resources, who are determined to be the subject matter experts in misconduct and whose actions/decisions supersede those made by representatives of the Department of Campus Recreation.

Conduct at Off Campus Locations

On occasion Intramural Sports may host activities/events off-campus. All participants must abide by the policies set by the off-campus venues in addition to expectations outlined by the University Code of Conduct and the Intramural Sports program. Failure to follow those policies may result in penalties assessed by the management of the venue that may include temporary or permanent suspension from those facilities regardless of whether a player remains eligible to play in a sport according to FAU policies. Poor conduct off campus may still be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and/or the Dean of Students.

Statement on Team Camaraderie and Supporting Teammates

It is very common, in athletic settings, for teammates and friends to support one another and “have each other’s backs.” While Intramural Sports administration appreciates the intentions individuals may have to support and advocate for their teammates and friends, all participants MUST understand it is considered a severe violation of decorum for any bench personnel to leave a team bench or designated area for any reason without receiving authorization from an activity official or supervisor.

In the event of any altercations that may take place on the playing surface, bench personnel are expected to remain in their designated team area, trust their on-floor/court teammates and staff to address the situation in a professional, positive, sporting manner, and to refrain from engaging in/instigating additional misconduct with other contest personnel and/or spectators. Leaving designated areas in these situations, when properly documented, will result in disciplinary action being taken by Sport Programs and include automatic referrals to the Dean of Students Office.

Disciplinary Action

The Department of Campus Recreation makes every attempt to respond in an educational nature when dealing with issues that are contrary to positive recreational interaction. This system exists to protect the rights of all individuals who elect to participate in the programs offered by the department. All conduct decisions are based on preponderance of evidence and not upon guilt beyond a shadow of doubt. This process is designed to respond effectively and efficiently to conduct issues in a timely manner.

Individuals, teams and staff are expected to always exhibit positive sportsmanship, regardless of any situations that may arise prior to, during and/or after any intramural activity. Any unfavorable behavior exhibited on and/or off-campus cannot and will not be tolerated and is subject to review by Sport Program administrative staff, and in some cases, other campus administrators/resources. All players should always abide by the FAU Student Code of Conduct.

While this process addresses conduct issues that may occur during participation and will be dealt with through the Department of Campus Recreation conduct system and go no further. However, conduct issues that also violate the University Student Code of Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for University action. Likewise, violations of the law will be referred to FAU PD for action and possible prosecution. This judicial process applies to patrons, participants, and users of all campus recreation programs, facilities, and services. A list of potential violations is as follows:

- ID Violations
- Personal Misconduct or Unsporting Conduct
- Verbal Abuse
- Fighting/Physical Abuse
- Harassment/Discrimination
- Use of Drugs or Alcohol

Note: The above list of personal conduct situations is not exhaustive. Unsporting conduct not mentioned above will be dealt with appropriately by the Sport Programs office.

Disqualifications & Ejections

An individual displaying repeated and/or severe poor sportsmanship is subject to contest ejection. Disqualification may result from an accumulation of too many fouls or penalties, as defined by activity-specific rules.

Anyone ejected for unsporting behavior must vacate the playing surface and facility immediately and meet with administrative staff for any reinstatement process to begin. The ejected individual will be considered ineligible for participation until eligibility is reinstated by administrative staff.

It is important to understand the difference between disqualification and ejection. For the purpose of Intramural Sports participation, these terms are defined as-follows:

- Disqualification – contest participation must immediately end as a result of accumulating too many common fouls and/or penalties. Subsequent intramural participation is not impacted, and participants may stay in a designated team bench area for the remainder of the contest.
- Ejection – contest participation must immediately end as a result of unsporting behavior, which may include an accumulation of too many unsporting fouls and/or penalties. Subsequent intramural participation is impacted, and the participant is to vacate the facility immediately. Remaining in a designated team area is not permitted and team captains are responsible for ensuring the ejected player leaves in a timely manner

Suspensions

Suspension may be a result of receiving an ejection or being disqualified from a contest/event. Intramural Sports administrative staff will determine the length of a suspension, although any contest ejection automatically warrants a one-game suspension. Suspensions are to be served across all intramural activities in which the suspended individual currently participates (i.e. individual conduct is not restricted to the activity in question). Forfeited or canceled contests will not count towards games served during a suspension. Suspensions and their affiliated lengths are subject to appeal. Suspensions may also be rendered in the event a team/individual accumulates too many unsporting penalties/notices in a given timeframe, applied at the discretion of administrative staff. 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.

Team Suspensions

The Sport Programs administrative staff can make individuals, teams, and organizations ineligible. A team being suspended or placed on probation means that each team member on the roster is also suspended or placed on probation. Ineligible organizations include all teams that play under that organization's name. Repeated violations by an organization may lead to organization sanctions

Reinstatements

Individuals ejected or disqualified for violating sportsmanship expectations must schedule a conduct review meeting with Sport Programs administrative staff. Reinstatement will be considered either during or immediately following the conduct review meeting. Any pending suspension that may be assessed will

not begin until this meeting is held, and time/contests missed may not necessarily be retroactively considered.

Appeals Process

Participants may appeal disciplinary decisions implemented by a Sport Programs professional staff member. Appeals must be submitted within 2 business days of the disciplinary decision. The Associate Director of Sport Programs will rule on disciplinary appeals.

Note: An ejected person who does not complete the required steps in the reinstatement procedure outlined above remains ineligible indefinitely for all Intramural Sports activities. Furthermore, failure to complete the reinstatement procedure may result in referral of the incident to the Dean of Students Office for further disciplinary action.

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 Sport Programs 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 Sport Programs office regarding your game, your game is still on as scheduled. Depending on the circumstances, a cancellation message will either be sent by 4:00PM on the day of the game or immediately once the game has been called.

- Regular season games that were not played due to cancellations/rainouts may be rescheduled depending on space availability.
 - 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 Sport Programs office will work to ensure any cancelled playoff games are completed. The playoff bracket may be adjusted for several teams to accommodate any cancellations.

Note: If the cancelled game cannot be rescheduled, the game will be recorded as "cancelled", meaning the game will be removed from team results, and neither team will receive a win nor a loss.

University Closure

If at any time the University is closed due to weather or other related emergencies, all Intramural Sports contests will be cancelled accordingly. Any games that were not played due to university closures may be rescheduled depending on space and time availability.

Lightning Policy

In the event of any potential presence of lightning in outdoor activities, Intramural Sports refers to lightning references provided by the National Weather Service and utilizes lightning detection technology provided by the Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System. When Intramural Sports staff inform participants of dangerous weather situations and instruct players to vacate playing areas, all players are expected to comply, **no exceptions**. No additional contest action is permitted to commence

without on-site supervisor's authorization. Failure to comply with this request may result in suspension from Intramural Sports and FAU PD being informed.

In the event a threat of severe weather causes contest postponement/cancellation, on-site staff will record contest status at the point of interruption. If, after 30 minutes of time has elapsed and the postponed contest can be safely resumed, the contest will resume at the point of interruption, as best as possible. If, after 30 minutes of elapsed time, a contest cannot resume, Sport Programs administrative staff will review situations and determine resumption of play, if deemed appropriate. Please be advised that other contests may remain on a day's schedule of contests. If this is the case, if any of the scheduled contests can commence as scheduled and facilities/playing conditions are safe, all remaining contests will be played. Administrative staff will determine how to address any postponed or cancelled contests.

Heat Policy

Exertional heat illness includes exercise-associated muscle cramps, heat syncope, heat exhaustion, and exertional heat stroke. In the event that an individual sustains heat illness, immediate and proper treatment is needed.

National and state associations, including the Centers for Disease Control, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Florida Department of Health, have published guidelines for the prevention, monitoring, and treatment of exertional heat illness. National authorities such as the National Athletic Trainers' Association and the Korey Stringer Institute have published research to support best practices in this area. The development and maintenance of policies and procedures regarding heat illness at University Campus Recreation will be based on the current best practice documents.

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) – The WBGT is a measurement tool that uses ambient temperature, relative humidity, wind, and solar radiation to get a comprehensive measure that can be used to monitor environmental conditions during exercise. WBGT is different than heat index, as it is a more comprehensive measurement of environmental heat stress on the body.

Environmental Monitoring and Activity Modification/Cancellation

Any time it is warm outside (i.e. over 70°F from a standard thermometer), environmental measurements should occur prior to the beginning of events. Environmental monitoring will occur using a device capable of obtaining a WBGT value. Conditions should be measured at the event venue to make a decision about activity modification or cancellation. Modifications are meant to be fluid, meaning if the environment gets more oppressive, the modifications become stricter. If the environmental conditions improve, modifications will be in line with the new conditions.

- During events lasting about an hour or less (e.g. intramurals), WBGT measurements should occur prior to the start of the event.
 - If there is a high level of risk and the potential for conditions to worsen, WBGT monitoring should be taken more frequently, at least every 30 minutes.

Campus Recreation venues are within the state of Florida, which is identified as a category 3 heat safety region. Recommendations are based on the best practices for our region at the time of this policy's approval. The following chart assigns levels of risk to WBGT values and provides suggestions about how activity should be modified based on WBGT readings:

WBGT	Level of Risk	Comments
<82.0°F	Normal	Activities may occur as normal.
82.0°F – 86.9°F	Low	Slightly increased risk of EHI. At-risk individuals should be considered.
87.0°F – 89.9°F	Moderate	Outdoor exertion should not exceed two hours. Short frequent breaks should occur.
90.0°F – 92.0°F	High	Sports requiring significant protective equipment should be delayed until a cooler WBGT is reached. Outdoor exertion should not exceed one hour. A 20-minute rest should occur during activity.
>92.1°F	Unacceptable	No outdoor exertion should occur. All activity should be delayed until a cooler WBGT is reached.

Locations

Intramural Sports activities take place at locations both on campus and off campus.

FAU Recreation and Fitness Center

The FAU Recreation and Fitness Center is a state-of-the-art facility where students, faculty, staff and alumni can meet, relax, workout, and engage in FAU campus life. The building is located on the north side of the campus with parking conveniently located next to the building in Lot 4. The center also has two high school-sized indoor basketball courts referred to as the Main Courts, one college-sized indoor basketball court referred to as the MAC Gym, as well as modern locker rooms that lead to a swimming pool.

- **Main Courts 1 & 2:** These courts are primarily used for informal rec purposes, Intramural Sports, and Sport Clubs; mainly Basketball, Volleyball, and Pickleball.
- **MAC Gym:** The Multi-Activity Court (MAC) Gym is adjacent to the women's locker room and Court 2. This space is home to Intramural Sports, Sport Club practices, and informal recreation. IM use is focused around Indoor Soccer, though other activities such as Basketball or Dodgeball may also be held in the MAC.

Track & Field Complex

The Track & Field is located on the west side of campus on University Drive. This is the primary home for outdoor Intramural Sports. The Track & Field Complex includes a turf field, beach volleyball courts, and tennis courts.

Henderson Field

Henderson Field is located on the east end of campus adjacent to A.D. Henderson School. Henderson Field is used for Intramural Sports, Sport Clubs, and Special Events. Intramural Sports may hold special events or smaller sports such as 4v4 Flag Football, Softball, or Kickball on this field.

Tom Oxley Practice Fields

The Tom Oxley Practice Fields are behind the Tom Oxley Athletic Center on campus' west side. Oxley features two full-sized practice fields that are used by many other FAU Athletics and Campus Recreation

programs. Intramural Sports may hold some events, including 7v7 Flag Football and Soccer, depending on allotted times shared with Athletics.

Note: Trespassing – If any Campus Recreation fields are locked, please do not jump the fence. Those individuals caught trespassing will be suspended indefinitely and may face further disciplinary action. If there are any questions about field locations, please contact imsports@fau.edu.

Virtual Programming Participant Agreement

A general guideline for compliance via the Florida Atlantic Sport Programs Virtual Programming is the Student Code of Conduct. Sport Programs holds all its participants to the same set of community standards as outlined in the Intramural Sports Participant Handbook. These are:

- Good sportsmanlike conduct is vital to the conduct of every contest
- In order to encourage proper conduct during games, Sport Programs shall make decisions on whether to warn, penalize, or eject players or teams from their leagues for poor sportsmanlike conduct. These decisions are final.
- Examples of poor sportsmanship include (but are not limited to): Profanity, derogatory and abusive remarks towards an opponent, any action which shows disregard for the rules and policies of Sport Programs.

There is a zero-tolerance policy for violating the following rules:

- No racism, sexism, or hate speech of any kind.
- No NSFW (Not Safe for Work) content of any kind
- No profanity or intimidation of any kind directed at another user, gamer, or administrator.

Rentals

Equipment Rentals

Florida Atlantic students and departments can rent sports equipment and space to play in various organized sports. Intramural Sports equipment is available to rent throughout the year for team building, training, or end of year celebrations.

An administrative fee of \$25 will be charged each time equipment is rented. An additional \$10 fee will be charged for requests received 5 or fewer business days in advance of the event.

Please fill out the Sports Equipment Request Form and we will get back to you within two business days. A minimum of 2 weeks' notice is required. For more information, email the Sport Programs department at imsports@fau.edu.

Note: Rental request for Campus Recreation facilities must be submitted through the [Reservations department](#).

IM Officials Reservation

Florida Atlantic University departments and student organizations looking to request Campus Recreation officials to work their special events must adhere to the following policies:

- Events must be approved and in good standing with the University.
- Event hosts are responsible for the behavior and actions of the event participants. Officials have the ability to forfeit an officiated game if the behavior is deemed unacceptable. If an individual is ejected or disqualified from a game due to behavior, they are not permitted to return to the event. If a Code of Conduct violation occurs, the individual will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.
- Officiated sport events must adhere to Florida Atlantic University Campus Recreation Intramural Sports rules. Any rule modifications must be agreed upon with the Sport Programs department prior to the event.

Staff fees for officials are \$15 per hour for each official. Certain sports do require a minimum number of officials in order to officiate properly. That information can be provided by request.

Officials will come prepared to officiate. Their role is only to officiate games. The host organization is responsible for event planning, operations, and coordination. Any equipment needs and setup should be coordinated with Campus Recreation staff prior to the event. Please contact us at imsports@fau.edu if interested.

Note: Officials will not provide score keeping duties.

Employment, Officiating & Treatment of Staff

Employment Opportunities

The Sport Programs Administration hires and trains student officials every year. Officials are needed for all Intramural team sports. Previous experience is not required, and all individuals are encouraged to apply. Officials in each sport go through an extensive training program before becoming certified and scheduled to officiate contests. A typical training series includes classroom sessions, scrimmage games, and on-site clinics. We are seeking officials for flag football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, softball, and others. With competitive pay and flexible weekly scheduling, our jobs are some of the best student employment opportunities on campus. [Click here to apply now.](#)

For more information, visit us online at fau.edu/campusrec or contact the Sport Programs Office at imsports@fau.edu.

Statement on Officiating and Personnel Conduct

Intramural Sports staff (including administration, supervisors, officials, and scorekeepers) are trained to enforce policies and act in manners which are safe, fair, fun, welcoming and informative to all participants. With specific respect to officiating, Intramural Sports asks all participants to understand that it is a difficult job. Mistakes will be made and inconsistencies from contest-to-contest will inevitably happen. The program also understands that not everyone will agree with all decisions and actions officials make/take. Administrative staff work as best as they can to provide good, ongoing education and opportunities to improve all officials and other staff. Participants, in turn, are asked to exhibit patience and understanding. The program will not have professional officials but will work to introduce people to great craft and avocation. Your support and advocacy for ongoing learning and opportunity goes a long way towards encouraging more people to officiate. Games cannot happen without officials. Please do your part and engage/interact with our staff positively.

Treatment of Staff

When it comes to treatment of staff, participants are asked to understand and acknowledge the following items:

- All Intramural Staff members receive comprehensive training opportunities prior to being scheduled to work. This includes officials (i.e. referees) who are trained based on agendas crafted by certified officials following rules/mechanics/basic practices as outlined by the NFHS, NIRSA, and the FHSAA.
- All participants are asked to understand that the Intramural Sports program is often one of the first places officials get exposure to, trained and implement officiating practices.
- Staff do not write rules; they enforce them to maintain activity equity and create an environment that multiple parties can enjoy.
- Asking for clarification on rules, policies and decisions made (and not made) is welcome, permitting the inquiry/discussion to be initiated in a professional manner.
- Disagreeing with a decision made by a staff member is a common occurrence in sports in general and Intramural Sports is no exception. Participants are encouraged to seek clarification and may even voice their displeasure, but when doing so, are asked to keep in-mind that not all staff members may have the experience participants have grown accustomed to and may therefore not know how to address an inquiry. While this may be unfavorable, it must be understood and respected, as experience and opportunity to continue to learn are the main two ways staff and the program will improve.
- Mistakes will be made by everyone. Including participants. All parties are expected to respect each other's actions and end goals related to their Intramural Sports involvement, no matter what they may be. Perspectives and perceptions rarely ever align perfectly, and all anyone can ask is for a rational explanation of what has been observed and interpreted. Demeaning someone based on a varying opinion or perceived unfavorable result is not welcomed behavior.

Recognition / Extramural Tournaments

Championship T-shirts / Photos

- Winning teams of all Sport Programs Leagues, Tournaments, and Virtual Programming will receive Intramural Sports Champion T-shirts.
- Shirt availability varies by sport, but the Sport Programs 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 5v5 basketball team
- Some Special Event winners may receive T-shirts or other types of awards.
- In addition to receiving a championship t-shirt, teams and individuals may have their pictures taken and posted on the Campus Recreation social media accounts as well as posted on the Campus Recreation website on the [History of Champions](#) page.

Extramural Tournaments

- Occasionally, opportunities to participate in extramural tournaments and events may arise. Extramural refers to intramural/club level tournaments that are held off-campus at colleges and universities across the country. These extramural tournaments take place at the state, regional, and national levels for flag football and basketball.

- Intramural Sports players and teams may be asked to represent Florida Atlantic University at local, regional, and national extramural tournaments. These extramural competitions are an excellent opportunity to visit a new place, learn new strategies and techniques in flag football and basketball, and meet new people. Please contact the Sport Programs office for more information at imsports@fau.edu.
- The NIRSA Championship Series gives college recreational sports participants an opportunity to compete, coordinate, and connect with skilled peers from other schools and take all the benefits of recreational competition to a higher level. More information on extramural tournaments can be found on the NIRSA website: <http://play.nirsa.net/>

Note: Students participating in these tournaments are responsible for following the FAU Student Code of Conduct throughout the duration of the trip. Any act of misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary procedures by the Department of Campus Recreation, the Division of Student Affairs, and local authorities if necessary

Feedback

The Intramural Sports program takes pride in striving for continuous improvement. While there is a collection of many remarkable things already in place, we understand some things could go better, or we may need to modernize specific aspects of our operations. If you have anything you would like to share, please do so! All we ask is that your thoughts and opinions be shared respectfully and progressively. Your feedback will not be considered if it is presented in an unprofessional manner. Opinions related to officials are certainly welcome but must be substantive in-nature.

To share anything related to your Intramural Sports experience or program operations in general, or if there is a new and exciting sport that you would like to see incorporated into our schedule, please contact us at imsports@fau.edu or consider completing a feedback form.