

Introduction

The mission of the Campus Recreation Department is to enhance students' fitness and wellness, knowledge, personal skills, and enjoyment by providing:

1. Opportunities for a variety of activities that may contribute to individual physical fitness and wellness.
2. Opportunities for cooperative and competitive play activity in the game form.
3. A medium through which students can learn and practice leadership, management, program planning and interpersonal skills.
4. Access to quality facilities, equipment and programs.

The Intramural Sports Program desires to provide sports and activities of interest to the campus community. Our aim is to provide you with an opportunity to participate in some sport or activity of your choosing, insofar as facilities and equipment permit. Sports and activities are organized on a team and individual basis, thereby enabling all to participate. Competitive sports and recreational activities are a desirable part of a student's program of education. It is hoped that through participation the individual will develop an appreciation of the worthy use of leisure time and a wholesome attitude toward physical activity for recreational purposes later in life.

This handbook contains policies and rules governing your participation. It explains how to participate, who can participate, and other important information that will make your participation more enjoyable and fun.

Remember your skills and abilities are not the most important thing; all you need is a desire to participate and a willingness to have fun.

Good luck, play hard, and have fun!

General Information

Teams and individuals imply their acceptance of the rules and regulations established to govern sports and activities when they elect to participate in the Intramural Sports Program.

There are specific rules and regulations which take precedence over the policies and rules listed in this handbook. They can be seen on the Intramural Website @ usu.edu/camprec/intramurals

Participation Warning

There are inherent risks of mental and physical injury in all sports and activities; therefore, you may be mentally and/or physically injured by participating. Our goal is to reduce or eliminate as many risks as reasonably possible to provide safe programs.

This does not mean that injuries will not happen. We ask for your full cooperation in following instructions regarding proper conduct, proper use of equipment and facilities,

and adherence to the rules of a particular sport or activity as established by the Intramural Sports Program.

Participants are responsible for the cost of any injuries; therefore, you are encouraged and recommended to have adequate health insurance.

Purpose & Objectives

Intramural Sports will strive to be student friendly and committed to excellence in providing quality programs and activities for the campus community.

- Promote sportsmanship by creating a healthy atmosphere for participants, spectators, and intramural employees.
- Promote participation regardless of race, religion, age, gender, handicap, skill level, national origin, and past experience, in their favorite team or individual sport.
- Provide the campus community with opportunities to participate in a variety of recreational sports and activities.
- Provide structured and organized programs while assisting in the fulfillment of such basic human needs as relaxation, socialization, accomplishment, maintenance of physical fitness, and most important, having fun.
- Provide spouses the opportunity to participate together.
- Provide an opportunity to develop motor skills which will be beneficial throughout life.
- Provide an opportunity to develop important values and skills such as self-esteem, social skills, sportsmanship, and self motivation.
- Provide student development and work opportunities to help with their financial needs.
- Provide an opportunity for relaxation from strenuous school work and the rapid pace of modern living.
- Provide a safe and healthy environment by reducing or eliminating as many risks as reasonably possible.

Eligibility Requirements

All students, faculty, and staff currently enrolled or employed by any department of Utah State University are eligible to participate in the Intramural Sports Program. Their *spouses* are also eligible if they purchase a spouse card. For questions concerning eligibility, please call 797-1505.

Undergraduate and Graduate Students

A person is considered a undergraduate or graduate student if enrolled at Utah State University with at least one (1) credit, paying fees, or is doing research and possesses a current student activity card or proof of enrollment.

Spouses of Students, Faculty and Staff

Spouses will be allowed to participate in the Intramural Sports Program as long as they have purchased a spouse card. Student spouses can purchase the card in the Card Office in the Student Center.

Intercollegiate Athletes

- Teams may have on their roster no more than *one former or current* USU varsity members. USU Red shirt or Prop 48 athletes are considered current varsity members. Co-Rec teams can only have *one player of each gender* on their roster.
- USU varsity coaches reserve the right to declare any player ineligible to participate.
- This only applies to that sport, or related intramural sport, for which the athlete is/was recruited. Any other athlete that practices with a varsity team on a regular basis with the intent of joining the team is considered a USU Red shirt athlete.

Club Sport Athletes

- For, indoor soccer, ultimate frisbee, and volleyball: teams may have on their roster *no more than two former or current* USU club sport members. Co-Rec teams can have on their roster *no more than one of each gender*.
- For soccer: teams may have on their roster *no more than two former or current* USU club sport members. Co Rec teams can have on their roster *no more than one of each gender*.
- USU club sport coaches reserve the right to declare any player ineligible to participate.
- This policy only applies to that sport, or related intramural sport, for which the athlete is/was a sport club member. This policy will be strictly enforced to ensure equal participation among other students not involved in sport clubs.

Special Note: You are considered a USU sport club athlete if you have played on a club team or practiced with a club team during the current school year.

Identification Requirements

All participants must bring their student, faculty/staff, or spouse card at every game, or they will not be allowed to play. No drivers licenses or passports. **USU ID'S ONLY!!! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!** It is the team manager's responsibility to check the eligibility of his/her team members.

Ineligible Participants

An ineligible participant is one who does not meet all eligibility requirements, uses an assumed name, has been suspended from intramural participation, or violates any of the following restrictions:

- A player cannot play on two organized teams in the same division or league. Example: A player cannot play on two men's, two women's, or two co-rec teams.
- **Once a player has entered a game for a given team he/she is on that team and cannot change to a different team.** If you don't want to be on a certain team, don't play with them.
- Teams may not play an ineligible person even by mutual agreement.
- Teams with an ineligible player will forfeit each game played with the ineligible player.
- It is the team manager's responsibility to make sure his/her team members do not play on another team.

Note: If any of these situations occurs, the player will be suspended for his/her next game or may be ineligible for the remainder of league and/or tournament play.

Assumed Name

The situation of an assumed name occurs when a player does not use his or her own name, student I.D. card, or student number while participating in a intramural sport or activity.

- Anyone found playing under an assumed name or using another student's I.D. or student number shall become ineligible for at least one game or can be suspended from all intramural sports for the remainder of the semester on the first offense. A second offense will result in suspension from participating in all sports for one year from the time of the infraction.
- Any manager found using a player under a assumed name or using another student's I.D. or student number shall become ineligible for at least one game or can be suspended from all intramural sports for the remainder of the semester on the first offense. A second offense will result in suspension from participating for one year from the time of the infraction.

Special Note: Any person found using an assumed name or using another student's I.D. or student number can be prosecuted for theft of student services. All situations will be handled by the Intramural Director, University Judicial Officer, and/or Campus Police.

Individual Entry Procedures

Any participant who wishes to enter a team sport, but is not a member of a team, may enter individually as a free agent. However, **the Intramural Office does not guarantee that each free agent will be placed on a team.**

To enter as a free agent you must do the following:

1. Complete the free agent registration form and pay the required entry fee by the deadline.
2. Attend the managers meeting for that sport.

Registration Format * Team Sports * League Play

For most team sports the days and times of league play are pre determined prior to the distribution of the manager's packets. Choice of league, day, and time of play will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Managers are encouraged to register their team early if a particular day and time is needed. Teams will play once a week for four weeks. During league play the day and time will always stay the same.

Team Entry Procedures

To enter a team in an intramural sport you must do the following:

1. Designate a team manager and obtain a managers packet from the Campus Recreation Service Desk.
2. Read and understand the information contained in the managers packet.
3. Read and adhere to the manager's duties listed below.
4. Submit the registration form, roster, and pay the entry fee on or before the deadline.
5. Attend the required managers meeting for that sport.

Managers' Duties • Team Sports

Each team must have a team manager who serves as a liaison between the Intramural Office and the members of his/her team. The Intramural Office contacts this person throughout the season. The duties of the manager are invaluable to both the Intramural Sports Program and to his/her team members.

The team manager should perform the following duties for his/her team:

1. Choose an appropriate team name. The Intramural Office reserves the right to refuse inappropriate team names.
2. Submit team registration form, roster, and pay entry fee before the entry deadline.
3. Attend the required managers meeting to receive rules and schedules.
4. Explain to team members the inherent risks of participating in intramural sports and activities. Encourage team members to enroll in the university's or other insurance plans.
5. Keep fully informed on eligibility rules, abide by them, and educate team members of all rules and player eligibility requirements. Keep team roster current and up-to-date.
6. **Inform team members to bring their student, faculty, or staff identification card to every league and tournament game.**
7. Notify team members regarding place, dates, and times of contests.
8. Keep in touch with the Intramural Office regarding canceled games due to poor weather or other unforeseen events.
9. **Keep team members under control at all times.**
10. Pick-up refunds by the end of the last day of that semester if eligible to receive one.

Entry Procedures Individual Sports

To enter an individual intramural sport or activity you must do the following:

1. Obtain a participants packet from the Intramural Office.
2. Read all the information contained in the participants packet.
3. Submit the individual entry form and pay the entry fee on or before the entry deadline.
4. Attend the required participants meeting to receive rules and schedules.

Entry Fees

To provide quality team and individual sports, the Intramural Sports Program requires a participation fee. These fees are kept as low as possible in regard to students' finances. Participation fees differ according to the particular type of sport or activity.

- A forfeit deposit will be assessed to team sports, which is included in the entry fee upon registration. The forfeit fee will be listed in the manager's packet and on the roster form. If teams do not forfeit any of their games the deposit will be refunded.
- If a manager or team representative misses the managers meeting, you will lose your refund.
- If your sportsmanship falls below a B average you will lose your refund.
- If a team forfeits one game they will lose their refund.
- Refunds must be picked up by the end of the last day of that semester.

Sportsmanship Rating System

The sportsmanship rating system is intended to be an objective scale by which teams' attitudes and behaviors can be assessed. Behavior before, during, and after an intramural contest is included in each rating. Each team manager is responsible for educating all players **and spectators** affiliated with his/her team about the system. Teams must maintain a 3.0 average in order to qualify for tournament play. The intramural director, supervisors, officials, and scorekeepers will determine the score for the teams after each intramural contest. Intramural staff reserves the right to review and/or change any sportsmanship rating given. Managers inquiring about their team's sportsmanship rating should do so the business day following the contest by contacting the Intramural Director, Scott Wamsley, in HPER 126 or call 797-1504.

The Sportsmanship Rating System is based on the following criteria but not limited to:

“A” = Excellent Conduct and Sportsmanship (4.0)

- Team members cooperate with and demonstrate good sportsmanship toward members of opposing team, spectators, and ALL campus recreation staff.
- Team manager exhibits control over his/her team and spectators, converses reasonably and rationally with officials about rule interpretations, and cooperates by providing any information requested by any Intramural staff member.

“B” = Good Conduct and Sportsmanship (3.0)

- Team members verbally complain about some decisions made by the officials and/or show minor dissensions, which may or may not merit an unsportsmanship like conduct penalty.
- Teams that receive one unsportsmanship like conduct penalty will receive no higher than a “B” rating.

“C” = Average Conduct and Sportsmanship (2.0)

- Team shows verbal dissent towards officials and/or the opposing team, which may or may not merit an unsportsmanship like conduct penalty.
- Manager exhibits minor control over team/spectators or him/herself.
- Teams receiving multiple unsportsmanship like conduct penalties will receive no higher than a “C” rating.

“D” = Below Average Conduct and Sportsmanship (1.0)

- Team constantly complains to the officials and/or opposing team from the field/court/sidelines.
- Team manager exhibits little or no control over team/spectators or him/herself.
- Team fails to appear at their scheduled contest or is unable to produce enough players to field a team according to the rules of the involved sport.
- Teams that have a player ejected will receive no higher than a “D” rating.

“F” = Poor Conduct and Sportsmanship (0.0)

- Team is completely un-cooperative, manager has no control over team/spectators/self.
- Teams play with ineligible participants or withhold any information requested.
- Damage or destruction of any campus recreation facility/ equipment.
- Multiple player ejections, or causing a contest to be forfeited by any reason than not having enough players will receive an “F” rating.
- Any threatening behavior (verbal/nonverbal) towards any player, spectator, or campus recreation employee.

*****Teams receiving an “F” rating during tournament will not be allowed to advance.**

*****Teams receiving a rating below a “B” during tournament play must have their manager meet with the Intramural Director before their next scheduled contest.**

Tournament Play

To be eligible for tournament play teams must: A) demonstrate good sportsmanship throughout league play maintaining a 3.0 sportsmanship rating average. B) Have no more than 2 forfeits. If a team with more than 2 forfeits wishes to play in the tournament, they must pay a \$10 fee.

Tournaments will be offered per division for most team sports. All teams will be placed into the same tournament

- Placement in tournament depends on league record, skill level, and the best judgment of the intramural staff.
- All tournaments are structured and organized to be competitive. Formats will depend on the number of teams, time frame, and scheduling availability.
- Tournament games will be played at different times and days; therefore your team may play at any time and day.

Awards

- First place winners of all tournaments or activities will receive a championship t-Shirt.
- Members of first place teams must have participated in at least two (2) games to be eligible for any awards.
- Unless otherwise stated, all awards must be picked up at the Campus Recreation Service Desk prior to the last day of that semester in which the award has been earned or the award will be forfeited.
- Unless otherwise stated, all refunds must be picked up prior to the last day of that semester in the Intramural office.

Forfeits

- If a team fails to appear within five minutes after the scheduled game time, that team will be assessed a forfeit and lose their refund.
- If both teams scheduled to play fail to appear, both shall be given a forfeit, lose their refund, and that game will not be rescheduled.
- If a team uses an ineligible player, they will be assessed a forfeit and lose their refund.
- Intramural supervisors and officials have the authority to declare a forfeit in any contest in which violations of rules, policies, and/or poor sportsmanship occur.

- If a team receives two (no show) forfeits during league play, that team will be ineligible for tournament play.
- Teams that anticipate problems fielding a team for a scheduled game may contact the Intramural Office by 5:00 pm the day before the scheduled game. A loss will be assessed, as a default, teams will still be eligible for their refund and tournament play.

Adding Players

Managers needing to add players to their roster may do so by following the below procedures:

1. Players must fill out an addition to the roster form before he/she can participate in the contest.
2. Additions may occur any time as long as the individual meets all other requirements and the form is filled out completely. Players must provide proper identification at this time.
3. To add a player to a team roster the same day of the contest, additions must be done at the site of the scheduled contest.
4. Prior to the day of the contest, player additions may be taken to the Intramural Office.
5. **All team rosters will be closed after the team's first tournament game. No additions will be accepted after this time.**
6. If a player is injured during tournament play, he/she may be replaced on the roster by another player. This player must meet all other eligibility requirements. Also, he/she may not have played on another team during league or tournament play.
7. It is not necessary for a player to have played in a league game in order to be eligible for tournament play provided he/she is on the roster prior to the deadline.

Postponements

The Intramural Office has the right to reschedule and/or cancel any contests, sports, activities, or games due to poor weather, scheduling conflicts, and/or unsafe playing conditions.

- League games may, or may not, be re-scheduled. Missed games will be pro-rated and added to your refund.
- Tournament games may be rescheduled at any time, including weekends. Team managers must keep in touch with the Intramural Office as to when games will be rescheduled.
- Decisions pertaining to weather related postponements will be made an hour and a half before the scheduled contest, call 797-1505 or 797 1504 (between 8 am - 5 pm).

Protest

A \$10 fee will be required to file a protest. If the protest is ruled in favor of the protesting team, the fee will be returned. If the protest is overruled, the team will lose the fee.

- A protest must be made by the team manager. Managers must notify the supervisor(s) when protesting rulings other than eligibility.
- Any decision of an official which involves judgment, and not an error in the application of a rule, shall not be open to a protest.
- Rule interpretation protests must be made at the time of the infraction.
 - a committee consisting of the Intramural Director, at least one supervisor, officials, scorekeeper(s), and the team manger(s) shall be involved with the protest.
 - decisions evolving from this committee are final, unless the Intramural Director feels he/she needs to change the outcome for the betterment of the Intramural Sports Program.
 - games, in which, a protest on a ruling is sustained shall be replayed from the point of protest (i.e., time, score, inning, and ball/strike count will stand and resume from that point).
- Eligibility protest must be made within 24 hours after the contest in question.
 - The Intramural Director and Coordinator shall make the decision regarding the protest; his/her decision will be final.
- Games in which a protest on eligibility is sustained will result in a forfeit by the offending team.
- In tournament play, all protests will be handled immediately at the time of the infraction.

Participation Policies

For your safety as well as others, certain participation requirements have been implemented and are strictly enforced. All participants are required to adhere to the following policies in order to continue participating throughout a contest.

Bleeding

If a player is bleeding, has an open wound, or has an excessive amount of blood on his/her uniform or clothing, he/she shall be removed from the game to receive medical attention. In order for the participant to return to the game, he/she must have the bleeding stopped, the wound covered, and/or clothing changed.

Jewelry

No jewelry may be worn while participating in games. Players must remove all jewelry before they will be allowed to play. The following is considered jewelry: watches, bracelets (friendship included), earrings, rings, necklaces, chains, and headgear (barrettes,

plastic clips, hats, etc.). Head-bands or bandannas may be worn if they are no wider than 2 inches and made of non-abrasive cloth.

Spectators

Spectators are welcome at all games and activities. However, team managers are responsible for their behavior. Spectators are expected to follow the sportsmanship guidelines explained within this handbook. Team managers are responsible for educating their spectators on these guidelines.

Our goal and responsibility is to provide and create a healthy atmosphere for all participants, officials, score keepers, supervisors, and spectators. We ask for your help as spectators to help develop a more positive atmosphere. It is the responsibility of each spectator to do everything possible to ensure that the game atmosphere is friendly and good natured.

Sportsmanship

The Intramural Sports Program is a student service. Upon paying student fees you are provided with an opportunity to participate in an organized and structured program. This right is taken away when one demonstrates poor sportsmanship or violates the policies, rules, or guidelines which govern participation. Additional rules, policies, and penalty for each sport are listed in the managers packets.

Participants are expected to follow the sportsmanship guidelines explained within this handbook, managers packets, individual packets, as well as the code of conduct policies for students here at Utah State University.

Our goal and responsibility is to provide and create a healthy atmosphere for all those involved. For this reason the sportsmanship policy is strictly enforced. We ask for your help in developing a more positive atmosphere.

It is the responsibility of each participant to do everything possible to ensure that the game atmosphere is friendly and good-natured.

The following rules and policies will be used as guidelines for penalties and disciplinary action for poor sportsmanship:

A. No player, manager, or spectator shall:

1. Use abusive language, verbally or physically threaten any other player(s), spectator(s), or intramural employee(s) before, during, or after a game.
2. Disrespectfully address the game officials/umpires and/or supervisor(s). Only the team captain may **courteously** address the game officials/umpires and/or supervisor(s) concerning the interpretation of a rule.
3. Intentionally strike, push, or trip another player(s), spectator(s), or intramural employee(s). Any unnecessary physical contact is considered fighting. **Fighting is not allowed.** Those fighting will be ejected and removed from the playing area.
4. Mistreat the facilities, equipment, or supplies of the Intramural Sports Program.

5. Use or be under the influence of alcohol or other dependent drugs on campus property. Intramural supervisors reserve the right to dismiss anyone abusing this rule.

B. Penalties and Discipline for unsportsmanlike behavior:

1. Any player, manager, and/or spectator ejected from a league or tournament game will be ineligible for their next scheduled (league or tournament) game. For each time thereafter they will miss their next (league or tournament) game.
2. Any individual who verbally abuses and/or threatens an intramural employee, player, and/or a spectator can be unconditionally barred from all intramural sports for the period of one year from the time of infraction.
3. Any individual who physically threatens and/or abuses an intramural employee, a player, and/or a spectator shall be unconditionally barred from all intramural sports for at least a period of one year from the time of infraction.
4. Any individual who mistreats the facility and/or intramural equipment and causes damage, will be held liable for all repairs and replacements. They may also be disciplined further or legally prosecuted.
5. During a contest, if it is in the opinion of the game officials/umpires or the intramural supervisor(s), that either/or both teams are making a travesty of the game, the game shall be forfeited and the offending team(s) will receive a forfeit for the game.
6. Players, managers, teams, and/or spectators can be barred from intramural participation for a period of one year for extreme behavior. This extreme behavior is determined by the Intramural Director. All decisions will be final.
7. Unsportsmanlike behavior will be handled on an individual basis and the penalty and/or disciplinary action is entirely up to the Intramural Director's best judgment.
8. If any participant or spectator disagrees with the disciplinary action towards them, they may present their case to the Intramural Director. This must be done within 5 days after the incident.

Intramural Officials

Intramural contests are officiated by fellow Utah State University students. These student officials are novices (individuals who are learning the art of officiating and are usually not highly experienced). Participants should compete with this understanding. The Intramural Sports Program requires all student officials to participate in a training clinic and successfully complete a rules and mechanics test. There is continued monitoring of the official's performance throughout each sport. Additional guidance and assistance is available for supporting and developing the quality official. Any questions or concerns about the intramural officials should be directed to the Intramural Director.

Participants are eligible and encouraged to officiate in the program. All officials are paid and the program employs student officials throughout the year. Call 797-1505 or 797-1504 for further information on officiating.

Student Employment Opportunities

The Campus Recreation & Intramural Sports Program offers a variety of opportunities for student employment. Interested students, either undergraduate or graduate, may find opportunities to work throughout the school year. Those with approved work study will be given first priority in filling these positions (if qualified). All positions are seasonal throughout the school year. Questions regarding student employment with Campus Recreation & Intramural Sports can be directed to the Campus Recreation Office, HPER building, room 126.