INTRAMURAL SPORTS : GENERAL RULES

These General Rules govern ALL IM SPORTS in addition to the IM Rules Modifications specific to each sport. The following rules are intended to promote safe, fair and enjoyable competition among intramural participants. The Intramural Staff reserve the right to issue any new rules or regulations that are deemed essential to the success of the program.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

1. SIGN UP YOUR TEAM or YOURSELF: There are sign up dates for each sport. PSU ID+Cards are required to register for any individual sport. Entries close when space is full or by 5pm on the last day of entry.

   • TEAM SPORTS (*NEW*): Sign up during dates on IMLEAGUES.COM/PSU
     Step 1: CREATE ACCOUNT on imleagues
     Step 2: CREATE TEAM (during dates) on imleagues
     Step 3: PAY FEE at IM Office (during dates) at IM Office

   TEAM ROSTERS: (*NEW*): ALL PARTICIPANTS should JOIN team BEFORE 4pm of Game Day!
   Score sheets with current rosters are printed at 4pm. If you aren't listed you can't play until you JOIN officially on your phone at the IM Shed in order to verify eligibility! This can take a while if you don't have enough players by game time (risk forfeiting). We can't delay games for players to join late.
   BEST BET - JOIN team online BEFORE 4pm of Game Day!

   • INDIVIDUAL SPORTS: Sign up during dates with PSU ID+ at IM Sports Office, 101 IM Bldg (8am-5pm)
   • SPECIAL EVENTS: (Swim Meet and Track & Field Meet) Sign up at meet on its date.

   • FREE AGENTS: Students without a team can sign up on the "Free Agent List" on imleagues.com during sign up for that sport. There is no guarantee of placement on a team.

   • WAITING LIST: when space fills a waiting list is available. Additional space is sometimes added and will be filled from this list. There is no guarantee of placement.

2. CHOOSE your PLAY NIGHTS (Formats): choices vary by sport, some have max limits, see website/flyer.

   • INSTANT SCHEDULE LEAGUES: choose day and time from available leagues.
   • ROUND ROBIN NIGHT: choose one night to play a small round robin (1.5 - 2.0 hour time commitment)
   • PLAY-BY-DATES: used in some individual sports where participants are given a deadline date for each round. Requires players to contact and play each opponent at their convenience.

3. ATTEND the MANDATORY MEETING (if required): A team representative is REQUIRED to attend a MANDATORY MEETING for any team sport that has a required meeting. The meeting is typically at 5:30pm in the IM Bldg on the last day of sign up for that sport. If no representative is present at the meeting, the team will not be scheduled.

4. GET A JOB - OFFICIATING! We hire student officials for basketball, football, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling. A pre-season training meeting is scheduled. Any student wishing to become an intramural official should go to our website and follow the jobs link.


6. ARE YOU READY to PLAY?

   • T-SHIRTS w/ 6" NUMBERS are REQUIRED for FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL and SOCCER: The number should be 1 or 2 digits on the back of all players. Can be printed, thick marker or spray paint (NO TAPE) in a contrasting color to t-shirt.
• **PSU ID+CARDS are REQUIRED:** Current ID+Cards are required for eligibility verification at all IM events. Supervised Sports: ID+Cards must be shown to IM Official or Supervisor prior to the start of the game. Late arrivals must show ID+Card to IM Supervisor prior to participation. Unsupervised Sports: ID+Cards should be shown to your opponent prior to match, honor system.

• **LOST or STOLEN ID+CARD?:** GET a WAIVER DURING IM OFFICE HOURS from IM Sports Office prior to your game (closes at 5pm M-F). Bring another photo ID & proof of student status (class schedule) or proof of faculty/staff employment. The waiver is valid for only one game and will be taken by the official. You will also show a photo ID to the official. Waivers CANNOT be granted on site.

• **EQUIPMENT:** Limited equipment is available for all IM sports except golf clubs/balls and softball gloves. Any IM game issued equipment must be used (ie. softball bats, basketballs, etc.) Protective eyewear is available for racquet sports.

• **PRACTICE:** Field & court space in the IM Bldg is available first come / first serve. It cannot be reserved.

7. **GAME TIME = FORFEIT TIME!** The minimum number of players is required by game time.

• FORFEIT = NO PLAYERS present on field/court at game time, 1 forfeit = team disqualification from sport.
  Teams that inform the IM Sports Office by 4pm of game day that they cannot play, allowing us to call off their opponent, will receive a loss by default instead of a forfeit.

• **DEFAULT = MINIMUM NOT MET** at game time. 2 defaults = 1 forfeit and disqualification from sport.

8. **IT’S RAINING – ARE WE PLAYING?** Check IM Sports WEBSITE, FACEBOOK or TWITTER after 4pm for notification or call the IM Sports Office (865-5401). The decision to cancel is made NO EARLIER THAN 4PM on game day. We hold off until closer to game time if there is a reasonable chance of playing. Cancellations result in a WIN for both teams. Check sport specific rules for games called off while in progress. Rescheduling of regular season rainouts is not possible. Playoff rainouts will be rescheduled (usually the next day).

9. **CAN WE RESCHEDULE A GAME?**

• **TEAM SPORTS (supervised):** Due to the size of the program and limited facility space, it is not possible to reschedule any regular season games. Check your schedules carefully & choose wisely during sign up.

• **INDIVIDUAL SPORTS (unsupervised):** When agreed upon matches can be rescheduled, provided it does not delay the progress of the entire tournament. The IM Sports Office must be notified of a postponements and the IM Staff must approve the rescheduled date.

10. **WE MADE IT TO THE PLAYOFFS:** Regular season preferences can no longer be followed. Any night of the week (M-Th) can be used & double headers are sometimes scheduled. If teams inform the office prior to scheduling about conflicts, a reasonable effort will be made to avoid those conflicts. If a conflict arises after being scheduled, any change must be agreed upon by both opponents, or the game stays when it was originally scheduled.

11. **WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!** Awards are given to the champions in each sport as follows:

• **TEAM SPORTS:** players with 50%+ participation receive IM Block. T-shirts are awarded when available.

• **INDIVIDUAL SPORTS:** champions receive IM Block. T-shirts are awarded when available.

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**ELIGIBILITY:** PSU ID+Cards are required for eligibility verification prior to each game and at any time.

**PARTICIPANTS MUST BE:** full-time undergraduate students, registered graduate students, or faculty & staff members of Penn State University at University Park to be eligible for any IM sport. An individual who uses an assumed name, or plays under the name of another person, forfeits their right to participate further in the intramural program.

*Affiliate Policy for Participation in only Summer Intramurals Sports (Summer 2016): Affiliates can only participate in summer intramurals. They must carry their Penn State Affiliate ID card and a photo ID card.*
(driver’s license). They must present the Penn State Affiliate ID card along with a photo ID card (driver's license) when checking in to participate in Intramural games or when requested by an Intramural Staff person. If a photo ID card is not given at the game then the Affiliate will be considered ineligible to participate.

PLAY on "ONE TEAM"

- You may PLAY on only ONE TEAM within a sport.
- You may PLAY in only ONE LEAGUE within a sport. Exception: when Co-rec & non Co-rec are offered together, you can play for 1 Co-rec & 1 non Co-rec team.
- Playing in ONE game "declares your team" for the remainder of that sport.
  You cannot switch teams or brackets within a sport.

CAN WE ADD PLAYERS TO A ROSTER?

- Regular Season: you can add eligible players on imleagues.com.
- Playoffs: NO NEW PLAYERS (including league ties) you may ONLY use players who have played in at least 1 regular season game for your team.

LEAGUES: There are 6 leagues with the following eligibility requirements:

- RESIDENCE HALL: For full-time undergraduate students living on campus in a residence hall. Any mix of men & women may participate in team & individual sports. Can only play on 1 team within a sport season.

- FRATERNITY: For full-time members of an IFC registered fraternity, including IFC registered pledges. One team & one individual may represent the Fraternity within a pointed sport, unless otherwise indicated on the sport flyer. The team or individual(s) representing the Fraternity will score points according to the Fraternity point system toward the overall Fraternity champion “The Bischoff Trophy”. See “Fraternity Points” on website.

- MEN’S: For men who do not play in Residence Hall or Fraternity, who are full-time undergraduate students, registered graduate students or faculty/staff members.

- WOMEN’S: For women who do not play in Residence Hall, who are full-time undergraduate students, registered graduate students or faculty/staff members.

- CO-REC: For full-time undergraduate students, registered graduate students or faculty/staff members. A 50/50 ratio of men & women are required in this league.

- OPEN: For any mix of men & women who are full-time undergraduate students, registered graduate students or faculty/staff members. This league is only offered a few times during the year when the size of a sport is small and separate male & female leagues are not possible (ex. summer basketball, dodgeball).

COMPETITION LEVELS: Team sports in Men's, Women's & Co-Rec may have 2 levels of competition offered. Note: when team numbers are small, these levels may be combined.

  MINOR - players have little organized experience at the high school or club level
  MAJOR - majority of the players have experience at the high school or club level
ABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: Intramural Sports encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, please contact the Director of Intramural Sports in advance of your participation.

CLUB SPORTS PARTICIPANTS: Limits are placed on Club Sports participants to preserve the integrity of the Intramural program. Our programs are intended to serve the general student body; therefore, members of club sports will have the following limitations for intramural participation: (check specific sport info for additional limits)

- "Team" Club Sports: Traveling Team club members are limited to 2 players per team (IM roster) in the same or "like" sport, and should play in the higher skilled leagues; typically the major division. (ex. baseball club participants are limited in IM softball.) The IM Staff retains the right to move teams into appropriate leagues.
- "Individual" Club Sports: 2 year+ club members are either limited or restricted in IM play for the same individual sport. (check specific sport info for additional limits)

FRATERNITY SUSPENSIONS (IFC): When the IM Sports Office receives official notification from the IFC office of a fraternity suspension the following actions will occur immediately:

- The fraternity is ineligible to continue participation in any active sport and cannot register for any upcoming sport.
- The fraternity will not earn any fraternity points while suspended. Their opponents will receive notification of a win by suspension and will receive all related points.
- If a fraternity suspension will impact playoffs: either the fraternity with the next best record from their league will advance prior to the playoffs or if already advancing in the playoffs, a win by suspension will be awarded in the next round.
- Official notification from the IFC office is required for any suspension regulations to be lifted.

PGM MAJORS (Professional Golf Management): are limited in the golf "team" competition: 1 PGM student per IM golf team in any division. They are NOT eligible for an individual championship.

CURRENT & FORMER VARSITY and PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES: Current members of collegiate athletic teams (active squad roster on the date of the first varsity contest), fringe players (those who work out with a team, retain a locker and/or receive equipment), or anyone receiving an athletic grant-in-aid assistance shall be ineligible to compete in the same or "like" sport. Former varsity letter or award winners at this or any other four-year collegiate institution must wait 1 full calendar year from the date the letter was received to be eligible to participate in the same or "like" sport. Anyone who has been declared a professional athlete in a sport may not compete in that same or "like" sport until 1 full calendar year from the date of their last contest.

RESPONSIBILITY: Team Managers and Chairpersons are responsible for informing all players on their team and abiding by these IM General Rules and the specific IM Sport Rules.

ENFORCEMENT: Protests on eligibility must be made in writing to the IM Sports Office within 24 hours of the game. See "Protests"

CODE of CONDUCT: ALL PLAYERS, COACHES & SPECTATORS

UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT (Yellow & Red Cards)

Physical and/or verbal abuse directed toward players, officials, or supervisors will not be tolerated. Unsportsmanlike conduct, rough play, and improper language/behavior will be handled through the yellow/red card system described below. Coaches, players, and spectators will answer to this system:
YELLOW CARD: Any undirected foul or derogatory language; arguing calls or decisions made by intramural officials; mistreating the facility or the equipment of Penn State University. Players receiving a yellow card will be removed from the game while the supervisor completes the reporting process. They must identify themselves, present their PSU ID+ to supervisor, and will be subject to a cooling-off period before being allowed to re-enter the game.

RED CARD: Any physical or verbal abuse directed at intramural officials or other players/spectators. Players receiving a red card will be immediately removed from the game. Identification of the individual must be confirmed (by either the individual or the captain) or the game will not continue. The individual will (then) be required to leave the premises, will be suspended from the next game, and must meet with the Director of Intramural Sports before being reinstated.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY:

- Physical or verbal abuse directed at an intramural official or supervisor will result in an automatic tournament suspension (no reinstatement).
- Abusive language from unidentified spectators will result in the appropriate penalty plus the automatic (and immediate) removal of all fans for the duration of the tournament.

PLAYOFFS: Teams receiving a red card during playoffs are immediately disqualified. Individuals receiving a yellow card during playoffs are disqualified from the remainder of the playoffs. (This policy does not apply to non-conduct cards in the game of soccer).

COMPLIANCE: After being issued a yellow/red card, the individual must furnish his/her PSU ID+ to the IM Supervisor/Staff. Failure to do so will result in further disciplinary action against their team (i.e. tournament disqualification). If a carded player refuses to divulge his/her name, a team manager or representative will be required to do so. If the manager does not comply, the game is forfeited and the team is barred from further competition until the necessary information has been supplied.

SUSPENDED INDIVIDUALS: Before any suspended individual can be reinstated, he/she, accompanied by the house president (fraternity) or team manager (all other leagues), must appear for review before the Intramural Director in 101 IM Building. This person must make an appointment at the convenience of the director. Additional sanctions may be enforced against any person(s) receiving a card. Additional action may also be taken against the individual’s team.

CARD ACCUMULATION: (by game, by season, by year)

- TEAMS (including players, coaches & spectators) receiving the equivalent of 3 yellow cards (3 yellows or 1 red & 1 yellow) will be immediately removed from the tournament. Any team accumulating 3 or more yellow cards (or equivalent thereof) in a particular tournament will be disqualified from that tournament and will be subject to review by Intramural Sports.
- INDIVIDUALS (including players, coaches & spectators): When an individual is issued 2 yellow cards in the same game, he/she will be ejected from the game, and will be suspended for the next scheduled game. When an individual accumulates 2 yellow cards in different games, the person will be suspended from the game immediately following the issuance of the second yellow card. Any individual accumulating the equivalent of 3 yellow cards (3 yellows or 1 red + 1 yellow), in a particular academic year, will be suspended from intramural activities for a period of one year. They will also be subject to review by the Intramural Sports Director before being reinstated.

ALCOHOL & CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POLICY: The possession and/or consumption of alcohol or controlled substances are strictly prohibited in all PSU recreation facilities and during all Intramural games. This policy applies to all Intramural participants, coaches and spectators. Any participant, coach or spectator under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances will not be allowed to participate or attend any Intramural activity. They will be asked to leave the facility
immediately and are expected to comply. Further disciplinary action may be taken if the participant or spectator is not compliant with the directive to leave.

PROTESTS: Eligibility and Rule Protests

INELIGIBLE PLAYER PROTESTS: PSU ID+Cards will be required for eligibility verification prior to each game and at any given time. Refer to the "ELIGIBILITY" and "ONE TEAM" sections for details on eligibility. The use of "ineligible players" will result in:

1. Default of Game* involved.
2. Ineligibility of Player from future IM play within that sport.
3. Ineligibility of both Teams for playoffs within that sport.

*Eligibility violations discovered after 24-hour limit will NOT result in default; however #2 & #3 will apply.

If you suspect an ineligible player DURING A GAME: Make your game official aware of the situation immediately. The official should ask for assistance from the supervisor on duty.

If you suspect an ineligible player AFTER A GAME: You have a 24-hour limit from game time to submit a written protest to the Intramural Office to receive a "Win by Default". (Submit a written protest to IM Sports Office by 5pm the next business day.) Teams found to involve ineligible players will be dealt with according to the above policy. Provide the players name (if possible), team name, game date, time and location, and why you believe they are ineligible to assist with verification.

RULE PROTESTS: Judgment calls by an official cannot be protested. If you believe a rule has been interpreted or applied incorrectly by the game official: Keep your Cool! Ask for an "Officials Time-Out" to discuss the rule with the official or a supervisor. Rule protests must be handled immediately following the play or the decision on the field. Refuse to play if the official does not grant the time-out. The supervisor will make a final ruling on your field.

Unsupervised Sports: like tennis, racquetball, golf etc. fall under the Honor System. Opponents should discuss a rule and make a mutual decision or declare a "replay". Questions should be directed to the IM Sports office for future clarification.

STATEMENT of RISK: The intramural participant is encouraged to consider their personal health and physical condition prior to participation in intramural activities. Such participation involves physical exertion, fundamental skills for that sport or activity, and may involve contact with another participant. The participant, being aware of any conditions predisposing them to injury or illness, and in consideration of the inherent physical exertion and possible contact involved in intramural participation, may wish to seek the advice of a physician prior to participation or may choose not to participate at all. The intramural program carries NO INSURANCE. Therefore, participants are encouraged to purchase insurance that will cover them in the case of an injury occurring as a result of participation. The intramural staff will do everything possible to provide suitable and safe playing facilities with supervision. When available, a certified athletic trainer will supervise students in athletic training who will provide emergency care as needed. In a case of serious injury, the certified trainer’s recommendation will be followed.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination, harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, genetic information, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or veteran status and retaliation due to the reporting of discrimination or harassment. Discrimination, harassment, or retaliation against faculty, staff or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University.  http://guru.psu.edu/POLICIES/Ad42.html  Direct all inquiries regarding the
nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802.

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