

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

# Department of Recreational Sports

## **Intramural Participant Handbook**



<http://osa.tamuk.edu/recsports/>

## **WELCOME TO INTRAMURAL SPORTS**

### **Philosophy**

It is the purpose of the Department of Recreational Sports at Texas A&M University-Kingsville to provide the students, faculty and staff an opportunity to become, and remain active in a wide variety of activities.

The intramural program offers ample opportunity for individual, team, and co-rec activities. These programs have been chosen to meet the needs and desires of the student body. It is a departmental objective to aid in the development of each participant's social interaction, need for competition, exercise and recreation, and to develop personal and professional growth opportunities and skills for life-long personal fitness.

Our goal is participation. Take advantage of all that is offered. We welcome and rely on any suggestions you may have. We are here to serve you to the limit of our staff and facilities.

This Intramural Sports Handbook is designed to provide Team Captains and Intramural Sports participants with specific guidelines and information that will assist them in participating fairly within the Intramural Sports Program. These general rules are basic guidelines for intramural activities and will be supplemented by additional regulations specific to each activity. Where additional rules are needed they can be found in the procedures for each activity. Any of these rules are subject to change at the discretion of the Intramural Staff. The Intramural Supervisors reserve the right to issue any new rules or regulations that are deemed essential to the success of the total program. Ignorance is not accepted as a reason for someone not adhering to the rules and regulations. This handbook and all other rules are available for anyone at anytime. Please take advantage of this privilege. Participants are encouraged to have fun and enjoy the experience.

## **DEPARTMENT OF RECREATIONAL SPORTS DIRECTORY**

Office Steinke Physical Education Center  
Department of Recreational Sports  
MSC 198, 700 University Blvd.  
Kingsville, TX 78363

Office Hours Monday-Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Intramural Sports Line ..... 361-593-2273  
Recreational Sports Information ..... 361-593-3059

### **Recreational Sports Staff**

Charles Espinosa, Director..... 361-593-3059  
Romy Timmons, Associate Director.....361-593-3065  
Intramural Program Managers..... 361-593-3059  
Fitness Center Manager..... 316-593-3059  
Fitness Center Supervisors..... 361-593-3059  
Clarisse Perez Cheerleading Coach.....210-896-7605

### **SPEC Facilities Staff**

Charles Wilson, Facilities Coordinator..... 361-593-2306  
Swimming Pool..... 361-593-2009  
Racquetball Reservations..... 361-593-2009  
Open Recreation..... 361-593-2009

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **STUDENT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Department of Recreational Sports hires student employees in a variety of jobs. Mandatory training sessions will be required for all employees to prepare them to work as officials, scorekeepers, fitness center supervisors, or office assistants. Other program related jobs include program managers and graduate assistants. For information about these positions, call the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports at 593-3065. Come by the Steinke Physical Education Center Room 170 (Fitness Center) for more information.

### **PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION**

Upcoming sports and activities are publicized through the year in the following ways:

- Flyers announcing upcoming sports are posted on bulletin boards around campus.
- The Campus newspaper, The South Texan, periodically publishes intramural events.
- Campus Recreation information can be accessed on the TAMUK University Website <http://osa.tamuk.edu/recsports/>
- The Student Handbook includes a section on intramural rules and regulations.
- The intramural SPORTSLINE (593-2273) gives a daily-recorded message of announcements and cancellations due to inclement weather. The Office of Recreational Sports provides schedules, handbooks, and other related information as requested.

### **ENTERING AN INTRAMURAL TEAM:**

- Check for entry dates and information through any of the publicity avenues: bulletin boards, flyers, etc.
- Obtain a team entry form (team roster) from the Fitness Center, room 170 located in, Steinke Physical Education Center (SPEC).
- Complete the team entry form.
- Return the completed entry form to the Fitness Center or bring to captain's meeting.
- Free Agents: If you do not wish to organize a team, the Department of Recreational Sports will assist you in contacting a team to join. If your team needs additional players, the department will give you names and phone numbers of free agents to contact. Individuals (free agents) wishing to join a team should attend the captain's meeting for that sport.
- There is a mandatory team captains' meeting held for all team intramural sports. Failure to attend this meeting will result in a team being dropped from the league.
- Each major sport requires a \$15 entry fee. All entry fees will be DEPOSITED. You can pay \$30 a semester and this fee covers all major sports (usually 3 major sports a semester). The fee needs to be paid at the beginning of the semester (1st major sport captains meeting). The entry fee is non-refundable.

## **RULES OF ELIGIBILITY**

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PLAY?**

- A. TAMUK Students (undergraduate or graduate), Faculty and Staff.
1. Must be currently enrolled in at least one class at TAMUK.
  2. Must be employed by TAMUK.
  3. Must show current TAMUK ID.
  4. Exceptions:
    - a. Professional athletes are permanently ineligible in the sport in which they were considered “professional”
    - b. Any student currently receiving an athletic scholarship is ineligible in the sport in which he/she was awarded the scholarship.
    - c. Any student currently playing/practicing on an athletic team is ineligible for the current intramural sport season for that particular sport.
    - d. Student dropping from TAMUK athletic squads after the squad’s first scheduled game shall be ineligible during the season of that particular intramural sport.
    - e. Family members are not eligible to participate in intramural sports.
    - f. Alumni members are not eligible to participate in intramural sports.
    - g. The limit on roster size is the number of players needed to fill a team TIMES 2 (Ex. 5-on-5 basketball-the limit is ten players).
- B. A person cannot legally participate in two different competitive teams during any one intramural sport’s season (i.e., if a person has played one game, he/she may not join another team). Any player found in violation of this rule would be ineligible for the remainder of the sport’s season and is subject to other disciplinary action.
- A person may participate in co-rec activities and still be a member of one other competitive team in the same sport (men or women’s team).
  - Players performing for a competitive team must be on the official team roster on file in the Office of Recreational Sports. A participant’s name should not appear on more than one roster. Names can be added to a roster during the course of the round robin season if they have not participated with another team. No names can be added after a team’s last scheduled round robin game.
  - A player must play in at least (2) one regular season game, regardless of a forfeit, to be eligible to participate in play-off games.
  - Maximum number of teams in playoffs (8).

## **RULES OF COMPETITION**

### **DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION**

Divisions of participation are utilized to provide a more enjoyable and competitive atmosphere. If there is insufficient registration in a division for a sport, divisions/leagues may be combined to allow for a maximum participation.

### **INDIVIDUAL DIVISION**

Individual sports are divided into Men and Women. In some sports, pairings and tournament play may be determined by skill level or could be based on the number and type of participants.

### **TEAM DIVISIONS**

Divisions are determined for team sports by the Intramural Sports Staff. There are three divisions of team play (Men, Women, and Co-Rec).

#### **MEN**

Only male students, faculty, and staff may participate in the Men's Division. On occasion, a female may be allowed to participate in this division, but gives up her right to participate in the Women's division. Males may participate in the Co-Rec division and the Men's division. Rules of eligibility apply. League winners will advance to the Men's playoff tournament to determine the Men's champion.

#### **WOMEN**

Only female students, faculty, and staff may participate in the Women's Division. Females may participate in the Co-Rec division and the Women's division. Rules of eligibility apply. League winners will advance to the Women's playoff tournament to determine the Women's champion.

#### **CO-REC**

Teams are composed of males and females with the ratio of males to females in accordance with the particular sport rules. All students, faculty, and staff are eligible for the Co-Rec Division if they fulfill the requirements of the Rules of Eligibility. A person may play on a Co-Rec team and one other competitive team. The league winners will advance to determine the Co-Rec division champion.

### **LEVELS OF COMPETITION (TEAM SPORTS)**

Within most divisions a team will choose the level of competition that best meets their goals and ability levels. Depending on the number of participants and the particular sport, the following are levels of competition that will be used for team sports.

#### **ADVANCED LEVEL (GOLD LEAGUE)**

These are highly competitive teams that desire a strong level of competition. At the end of each season, a single elimination tournament pool will be created to determine the league winner.

## **INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (BLUE LEAGUE)**

These teams are slightly less competitive, but still desire good competition. At the end of each season, a single elimination tournament pool will be created to determine the league winner.

## **FORFEIT POLICY**

The following forfeit policy will be in effect for all intramural contests:

1. Entry forms are a contract with Intramural Sports to the effect that we agree to schedule you for competition and you agree to be there to play. Please honor this contract.
2. A team will forfeit a contest when:
  - The team is not ready to play. Game time =Forfeit time! NO grace time.
  - The team leaves the playing area before the contest is completed.
  - The team is found to be using an ineligible player.
  - To start a game, you must have the minimum number outlined in the rules for that sport or it is a forfeit.
3. Two forfeit will eliminate a team from participating in play-offs. After three forfeits the team will be disqualified from the league.

## **PROTEST**

- **\*\*It is the team captain's responsibility to follow protest procedures .**
- All protests must be reported to a game official by the team captain. The game official will then notify the supervisor on duty. Action should be stopped and nothing should occur until the protest is reviewed. **If play has begun again the opportunity to protest is eliminated.**
- Only protests involving **player eligibility will be considered by the Intramural Office.** They must be submitted to the supervisor on the field. The supervisor will complete a Protest Form and turn it in to the Intramural office the next morning.
  - **OPTION 1: Protest during play** -game will be stopped and if player is found to be ineligible opposing team takes win. If player is not ineligible then team protesting takes the loss.
  - **OPTION 2: After game:** protest for ineligible player is done after the game standings remain. If player is found to be ineligible he/she will be disqualified from further play and team will get a 1= **sportsmanship rating.**
- Questions that arise on the field of play concerning rules interpretations **only...will be decided immediately by the supervisor on duty. NO PROTESTS ON THESE INTERPRETATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE FACT. The supervisor's decisions on all protests WILL BE FINAL.**
- Any team playing with an ineligible person loses all rights to protest a game on any basis. Proof of such violation must be presented before the case can be settled.

### **POSTPONEMENTS & RESCHEDULING**

Postponements will be made only through the Graduate Assistant and/or Assistant Director. Decisions for postponements will be made at approximately 3 hrs prior to first game. Games WILL NOT be rescheduled due to team conflicts. Games will only be rescheduled for the following reasons:

1. Inclement weather. Every attempt will be made to reschedule these games. However, due to time and field constraints, it may not be possible to reschedule all postponed games.
2. Poor field conditions. If the condition of the field does not permit play, every attempt will be made to reschedule all postponed games. However, due to time and field constraints, it may not be possible to reschedule all postponed games.
3. University wide event. If a University sponsored event that relies on the entire university population to attend is scheduled on game day, every attempt will be made to reschedule games. However, due to time and field constraints, it may not be possible to reschedule all postponed games.

### **BLOOD-RELATED INJURY RULE**

Any player who is bleeding must be replaced with a substitute until the bleeding stops. An intramural staff member or game official has the authority to remove the player. Of by removing the player who is bleeding the team falls below the minimum number necessary to play for the specific sport, the game clock will stop and a maximum of (5) five minutes will be allowed for the player to stop bleeding. Either an intramural staff member or game official must approve the player re-entering. If the bleeding is not stopped within the allowed time, the team will default the game. The five-minute time allowance is only for teams who have no substitute when the player is bleeding.

### **MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS/INJURIES**

TAMUK University and the Department of Recreational Services are not responsible for any injuries received while participating in Recreational Sport activities or while using any Recreational Sport facility. Participation in Campus Recreation activities is completely voluntary, and all participants are responsible for their own welfare. We strongly recommend that each participant contact his or her personal insurance agent for information on coverage. All injuries requiring transport when the campus health center is closed will be taken to the local hospital. Any expenses incurred for transport or treatment of injury is the sole responsibility of the participant.

### **AWARD SYSTEM**

Intramural Sports Championship shirts will be awarded to the winner/winners of each sport. An allotted amount of t-shirts will be awarded to the winning teams of each division. (Flagfootball-14, Dodgeball-12, Indoor Volleyball-12, Team Bowling -10, 3-3 Basketball-6, Soccer-14, 5-5 Basketball-10, Softball 15, Indoor Nerf- 8, Kickball-15, Water polo- 8, Wiffleball-6 , 4-4 Sand Volleyball-8). All dual sports will receive 2 shirt and single sports will receive 1.



## **RULES OF CONDUCT**

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

In many aspects, good sportsmanship is just as important as the score. At TAMUK, we expect good sportsmanship from all of our participants. Good sportsmanship, however, is not limited to just players; it should be directed towards officials, professional staff, supervisors, scorekeepers, fans, as well as opponents and teammates.

A sportsmanship rating system will be used to promote good sportsmanship with a winning attitude. Intramural sports officials will rate teams after each league game on a five-point scale for sportsmanship. A five would be the rating for a team displaying extraordinary sportsmanship; a one would be the rating for a team displaying poor sportsmanship. Team displaying less than a 3.0 average sportsmanship rating will not be allowed to participate in their league playoffs (regardless of the team's win/loss record).

The following is a description of the point system:

**5** = Considered a "perfect game." Positive reinforcement to players, good attitude towards opponents, team captain control's players and spectators, no abusive language to officials, or no interference to the play of the game.

**4** = Seen as a normal game. Captain in control of players, few questions concerning officials decisions, no verbal or physical threats towards officials and opponents.

**3** = Warning issued. Captain keeps some control of players and spectators, some form of abusive language or unsportsmanlike conduct displayed.

**2** = Several warnings and/or one ejection. Captain exhibits little control over players and spectators, unnecessary roughness.

**1** = Several ejections and/or stoppage of the game. Captain has no control of players. If a 1 is issued, the team captain must meet with the Assistant Director before the start of the next scheduled game.

The following guidelines will be strictly enforced. The purpose of the guidelines is to make the participants aware of what is to be expected of them and to list what the repercussions of disregarding them are.

1. No player, coach, or team follower shall:
  - a. use foul language, threaten, or verbally abuse any other participant, Intramural employee or spectator before, during or after the game;
  - b. participate in a game for which he/she is ineligible;

- c. argue or talk back to the game official(s);
- d. intentionally strike, push, trip or otherwise physically assault or fight with another player, spectator, official, or staff member; or
- e. mistreat the facility, equipment or supplies of TAMUK.

## 2. Warning and Ejection

A warning and ejection system will be used to enforce the sportsmanship policy. Individuals or teams will be issued a warning as explained below. Two warnings will result in an ejection of an individual or the forfeiture of a game. However, please note:

### **EJECTIONS CAN BE ISSUED WITHOUT ANY WARNINGS!**

#### **Sports Specific Examples:**

##### a. Basketball

- (1) Technical foul = warning
- (2) Second technical foul = ejection
- (3) Three technical fouls on one team = forfeit

##### b. Football

- (1) Unsportsmanlike conduct penalty = warning
- (2) Second unsportsmanlike penalty = ejection/forfeit

##### c. Soccer (Indoor & Outdoor) / Volleyball

- (1) Yellow card = warning
- (2) Second yellow card or first red card = ejection
- (3) Two ejections = forfeit

##### d. Softball

- (1) Verbal admonishment = warning
- (2) Second verbal warning or first severe act = ejection
- (3) Two ejections on one team = forfeit

## 3. Ejection

- a. If an individual is ejected, he/she must leave the premises. If this requirement is not met, a forfeit may be called by the supervisor on duty.
- b. Any player, coach, or team fan receiving an ejection must meet with the Graduate Assistant and/or Assistant Director before participating in the next Intramural contest. Penalties for ejection include A MINIMUM suspension one game up to an entire academic year or life.

c. Team captains are responsible for the conduct of their players, sidelines, and spectators. Team captains who cannot fulfill this responsibility will be issued a warning and a subsequent ejection if necessary.

c. In the case of extreme misconduct, teams and or individuals will be referred to the Dean of Students.

d. A participant may appeal the decision of the Supervisor and/or Graduate Assistant to the Intramural Sports Disciplinary Board. The appeal must be received, in writing, within 1 business day in the Recreational Sports office.

e. A player who is ejected rights will be relenquish to represent TAMUK in any extramural event.

f. If a team is a repeat offender, it is at the discretion of the Assistant Director to ban that team from the remainder of the season or intramurals altogether. Participation is a privilege, not a right.

#### 4. Fighting

Fighting is defined as a participant intentionally striking, pushing, slapping, punching, elbowing, tackling, or committing any other malicious act toward any other person. Fighting is never permitted in Intramural contests. Participants who fight will be ejected immediately and suspended from all further participation until the outcome of a disciplinary action meeting with the Assistant Director of Recreational Sports.

### **INTRAMURAL DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

The purpose of the board is:

1. To regularly study the rules and regulations for administration and play.
2. To consider and when applicable to take action on reported cases of fighting and rough play, flagrant misconduct and the assessment of match misconduct penalties. Such conduct as intent to injure; use of equipment as a weapon; serious intentional roughness; and flagrant actions towards officials, other players, coaches or spectators will be dealt with by the Board.
3. To consider protests involving player eligibility or rule interpretations affecting the outcome of a game.
4. The Assistant Director may take immediate interim disciplinary actions when he/she believes that the presence of the student poses a continue danger to others, property or presents a threat of disrupting the Intramural Program. The student will be notified in writing when interim action is taken. A hearing by the board should be held no later 7 working days.

## **EXTRAMURAL EVENTS**

Each year Intramural Champions represent Texas A&M University-Kingsville in a variety of events (i.e. flag football, basketball, softball) against champions from other universities. Information on extramural events will be provided to campus champions during the sport's season.

All team champions that are interested in participation in an extramural event must have at least 50% of the original team members and proper paper work completed in compliance with university student travel policies. Department of Recreational Sports will only pay registration fees for events.

## **CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

The person designated by a team to be a captain is responsible for fulfilling the following duties:

- The captain must be a playing member of a team.
- Enter his/her team in the desired sport on or before the announced closing date. Payment must accompany entry form.
- Keep fully informed of eligibility rules and abide by them.
- Keep in contact with the intramural staff.
- Notify all team members of the rules of the game and game schedules so that all are ready to play at game time.
- Represent his/her team at captain's meetings, protest negotiations, etc.
- Ensure that his/her team adheres to the forfeit policy.
- Maintain high standards of sportsmanship for his/her group.
- Check the intramural bulletin board for information regarding his/her team's activities. Schedules will not be given out over the phone.
- Notify each team member about medical injury considerations as detailed in handbook.

## **OFFICIALS**

1. Capable officials are always needed.
2. Pre-season clinics and demonstrations will be held for all officials, to review rules and positioning. These clinics are MANDATORY and those who do not attend will not officiate.
3. Officials will be paid on an hourly basis. Those officials who have worked the particular sport for the Intramural Office before will receive a higher wage than those who have not.

Revised: 1/12/10