

# IM BRACKETOLOGY

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*David Peters, Director of Intramural Sports & Sport Clubs, Florida State University*

*Ray Ellington, Assistant Director of Campus Recreation, Washington & Lee University*

## Enhancing the Intramural Sports Experience

Participant Types: Automatic, Interested, Team Player

Making Participation Easy, Happy Participants Spread the Word

## Reducing Headaches through Proactive Planning

Large Scale Planning: Setting Up Your Annual Schedule of Sports & Events, Selecting the Format for Particular Sports,  
Blocking Out the Appropriate Time Periods

Day to Day Planning: Providing Consistency and Efficiency in Your Daily and Weekly Game Schedules

## Initial Variables

★ *What Variables Do You Consider When Planning Your Annual Schedule or Selecting Formats for Particular Sports?*

Basic Numbers: Anticipated Teams or Participants

Facility Availability: Where to Play, Capacity Issues

Key Dates: Academic Calendar, Holidays, Special Dates (Homecoming, Halloween)

Delays: Weather or Other Unavoidable Issues

Pay or Free Programs: Potentially Heightens Interest in Quality Scheduling, Rescheduling Requirements

Competitive vs Recreational Sports

## Sport Scheduling Options

Elimination Tournaments: Single, Double, Triple...

Consolation Tournament: 2-Game Guarantee

Ladder Tournament: Ranked Participants Challenge Above Their Rank

Regular Season + Playoffs: Standard Number of Regular Season Games then Postseason Tournament

Round Robin + Playoffs: All Members of Same Pool Play Each Other then Postseason Tournament

Practice Game(s) + Playoffs: 1 or 2 Practice Games then Tournament Play

Unique Solutions: Modified Pool Play or Combination of Methods

## Playoff Qualification

★ *What Criteria Must Teams Meet to Qualify for Postseason Playoffs on Your Campus?*

Professional League Approach: Teams Compete in Regular Season for Limited Number of Playoff Spots

Little League Approach: Teams Participate in the Regular Season, All Qualify for Postseason Tournament

Limited Number of Teams Qualify: Every Game Impacts Playoff Chances, Increased Competitiveness

All Teams Qualify: Record Less Important, Regular Season Less Competitive, Participants Refocused on Participating

Time & Facility Limitations: With All Teams Qualifying, the First Round Playoff Game Can Count as a Guaranteed Game

## Deciding on a Format

Looking at the Factors: Available Time and Space, Factors Out of Our Control, Participant Desires

★ *Do You Use Different Scheduling Methods for Different Sports?*

Traditional Competitive Team Sports: Multiple Game Regular Season and Playoff Tournament

More Recreational Team Sports: Shorter Season and/or Practice Games and Playoff Tournament

Other Recreational Sports: Weekend Tournaments

★ *Do You Use Different Scheduling Methods Within the Same Sport?*

Recreational Divisions: Shorter or Longer Season, No Playoff Option, Most Rec Teams Still Need Competition

One Division: Can Ask About Skill Level – Average, Good, Very Good

## **Regular Season Scheduling**

Consistency: Busy Participants Appreciate Consistency, Enhances Participant Experience

Efficiency: Benefits Program Logistics, Staff Scheduling, Saves Money

Planning the Days: Single Day, Same Day Each Week; Paired Days for Multiple Game Weeks (Mon/Wed or Tue/Thu, etc)

Planning the Times: Single Time, Same Each Week; Time Blocks Provide Range of Possible Times

Multigame Sports: What Sports Can Better Accommodate Doubleheaders, Back-to-Back or Spaced

## **Providing Choice at Registration**

Allows Participants to Plan Intramural Participation as a Consistency Activity in Their Busy Schedules

★ *How Much Choice Do Your Participants / Teams Have for Playing Days and Times at Registration?*

Instant Scheduling: Designated Number of Spaces Available with Specific Playing Day(s) and/or Time(s)

Preferred Scheduling: Teams Indicate Preferences for Playing Day(s) and/or Time(s), Not Guaranteed

## **Drawing Up the Brackets**

★ *Do You Use an Automatic Scheduling Program for Playoff Brackets or Schedule by Hand?*

Basics: Number of Qualifying Teams, Facility Space, Available Days and Times, Reschedule Plans

Factors to Consider to Schedule a Participant-Friendly Bracket:

Regular Season Days & Times: Assigning Leagues/Divisions to Similar Times as Regular Season Games

Pairing Up Days & Times: Sections of the Bracket on Designated Day Pairings (Mon/Wed or Tue/Thu) or at Specific Times (Early Time Block or Late Time Block)

Multigame Sports: What Sports Can Better Accommodate Doubleheaders, Back-to-Back or Spaced

Avoiding Multiple Team Conflicts: Co-Rec Specific Time Blocks

Officiating Priorities: Grouping High Level Games for Enhanced Staff Scheduling

League Flexibility: Automatic Participants More Likely to Play at More Inconvenient Times

Participant Preferences: Narrowing in on Preferred Times, Eliminating More Inconvenient Early or Late Times

Increasing Spectators: Games within Same Bracket at Consecutive Times Rather Than Simultaneous Times

Eye on Efficiency: Avoiding Rogue Games, Single Game Nights or Fields

## **Placing Teams on the Bracket**

★ *Do You Automatically Schedule Teams in a Playoff Bracket or Hold a Playoff Draw Meeting?*

Seeding: Based on Record, Less Team Choice for Playing Days and Times, Advantageous for More Talented Teams, Creates Higher Probability of Competitive Games in Later Rounds, May Enhance Probability of Early Round Forfeits by Overmatched Teams

Selection: Playoff Draw Meetings or Periods, More Team Choice for Playing Days and Times, May Create Competitive Games in Earlier Rounds, Lower Probability of Top Teams in Finals But More Likely for Top Teams to Play on a More Convenient Day, Selection Order Criteria

## **Handing Reschedules**

★ *How Does Your Program Handle Reschedule Requests?*

Team-Initiated Reschedules: Required, Possible, Next-to-Never

Reschedule Process: Led by Teams, Led by IM Staff

Required Reschedules: Weather Delays

Playoff Reschedules: Weather Delays, Team Initiated, Team Conflicts

## **Contact Information**

David Peters, Florida State University, 850-644-2430, [ddpeters@fsu.edu](mailto:ddpeters@fsu.edu)

Ray Ellington, Washington & Lee University, 540-458-8244, [sellington@wlu.edu](mailto:sellington@wlu.edu)

## **Presentation Materials and Examples**

Available Online at [fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa](http://fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa)