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

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)
  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

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Presentation Materials and Examples
Available Online at fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa