

# KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

2008 NIRSA National Conference  
Austin, Texas

# KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

## David Peters

Director, Intramural Sports & Sport Clubs, Florida State University

## Darrell Hargreaves

Coordinator, Intramural Sports, University of Alabama

## Rick Palmieri

Coordinator, Intramural Sports, North Carolina State University

## SESSION FORMAT and MATERIALS

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### Focused Roundtable

Provide Framework and Examples  
Your Success Stories

### Materials

Presentation Outline  
Survey  
Slides & Survey Results Available Online  
at [fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa](http://fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa)

## COMPETITIVE vs RECREATIONAL

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### Competitive Participants

Committed to Winning  
Require Scored and Officiated Contests  
Often Intense, Emotional

### Recreational Participants

Play for the Fun of It  
Less Emotionally Attached to Game

## COMPETITIVE vs RECREATIONAL

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### By Program

How Does Your Program Rate?  
Where Do You Want Your Program to Rate?  
Program Mission and Goals

### By Sport

Most Competitive  
Least Competitive  
Learning from Participants in These Sports

## PARTICIPANT TYPES

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### Automatic Participants

Former HS Athletes, Sports Freaks, Often Highly Skilled  
Seeks Out IM Programming / Little Marketing Needed

### Interested Participants

Enjoys the Game, Recognizes Own Skill Level  
Needs Reassurance That There is a Place for Them in  
the IM Program / Structure

### Team Player

Interested in Socializing within Sports Atmosphere

## BASIC STATISTICS

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### The Cold Hard **Facts**

Who Plays, What Sports, What Leagues  
Participant Demographics  
Sport, League, Division Information

### Answering **How and Why?**

How Do They Learn About League, Rules  
Why Do They Play

## SURVEYS: ANSWERING WHY?

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### **Who** to Ask?

Not Just Team Captains  
Feedback from Normal Participants Essential

### **When & Where** to Ask?

Free from Emotional Setting of Competition  
Should Produce More Constructive Responses

## SURVEYS: ANSWERING WHY?

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### **What** Method to Use?

Paper & Pencil Surveys  
Web Surveys  
Incentives

### **How** to Ask?

Stress That You Need Their Help, Value Input  
Note the Length, Limited Time Needed to Complete

## CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### **Sample Question**

Why did you choose to participate in IM basketball (primary reason)?

- I wanted to win it all and earn the coveted IM champion t-shirt.
- I simply enjoy playing basketball and wanted to participate in an organized league.
- I was looking for a team activity to get some exercise.
- I was looking for a fun way to hang out with my friends or meet new people.

## CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### **Survey Tips**

Free Response Area  
Demographics, Team & League Information  
Allow Anonymity  
Respond to Survey Participants, If Possible

## LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### Regulating Participant **Talent Levels**

Back to the Facts: Proven Talents

### **Varsity** Athletes

In Related Sports, Unrelated Sports

### **Scholarship** or **Practice Squad** Members

In Related Sports, Unrelated Sports

## LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**Former Varsity** Athletes  
In Related Sports

**Current Sport Club** Members  
In Related Sports

**Enforcement** Challenges  
Attention Varies Based on Needs of Program

## LEAGUES and DIVISIONS

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**Sport**  
Designated Activity

**League**  
Gender Based / Organization Based

**Division**  
Skill Level Based

**Section**  
Day / Time Based, Groups of Teams

## LEAGUES and DIVISIONS

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

### Division Names

- Advanced, Intermediate, Beginner
- A, B, C
- Major, Minor
- A, AA, AAA, AAAA
- Competitive, Recreational
- I, I-AA, II, III
- Pro, Semipro, Amateur
- Extreme, Normal

## REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULING

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**Same Method** for All Divisions

Recreational **Divisions Different?**

- Shorter or Longer Season
- No Playoffs
- Most Rec Teams Still Need Competition

## SCHEDULING: VARIES BY SPORT

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

### Traditional Sports

Normally Competitive Sports  
Flag Football, Basketball, Soccer, Softball  
Regular Season & Playoffs

### Recreational Sports

Shorter for More Recreational Sports  
Tennis, Kickball, Dodgeball, Volleyball  
Practice Games and/or Tournament

## SCHEDULING: SMALLER PROGRAMS

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

### One Division

Ask About Skill Level: Average, Good, Very Good

### Week-to-Week Scheduling

Weekly Assessment of Team Skill Level Permits  
Scheduling of More Evenly Balanced Matchups

### Rainouts & Rescheduling

Courtesy or Competition

**PLAYOFF QUALIFICATION**

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**Competitive Criteria**  
 Number of Wins  
 Winning Percentage  
 Rank Within Section (Group of Teams)

**Participatory Criteria**  
 Sportsmanship Score or Average  
 Forfeits

**PLAYOFF QUALIFICATION**

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**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

**PLAYOFF QUALIFICATION**

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

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

**All Teams Qualify**  
 Record Less Important, Rainouts Not Needed  
 Regular Season Less Competitive  
 Participants Refocused on Participating  
 Teams Still Have Desire to Win

**PLAYOFF QUALIFICATION**

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**6 Teams, 1 Game per Week, 5 Game Guarantee**

**Option 1:**  
 Complete Round Robin, 5 Games, 5 Weeks  
 Top 3 Teams Advance to Playoffs in Week 6

**Option 2:**  
 Shorter Season, 4 Games, 4 Weeks  
 All 6 Teams Advance to Playoffs in Week 5  
 In Week 5, 3 are Eliminated; 3 Remain for Week 6

**PLAYOFF STRUCTURE**

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**One Division, One Bracket**  
 Enhances Competitiveness, Prestige  
 Detrimental to Poor Teams

**One Division, Multiple Brackets**  
 Split a Division Based on Record  
 Two Separate Playoff Brackets  
 Often Produces More Even Matchups

**PLAYOFF STRUCTURE**

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**Multiple Divisions, Multiple Brackets**  
 Team Adjustments Prior to Playoff Bracketing Based on Performance  
 Administrative Promotion or Demotion of Teams Based on Skill Level Relative to Division

## SEEDING or SELECTION

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### Seeding

Based on Record: Best vs Worst  
Advantageous for Better Teams  
May Lead to More Forfeits

### Selection Via Playoff Draw Meetings

Participant Friendly from a Playing Day & Time  
Standpoint  
Selection Order Criteria

## THE SALES JOB

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

**Communicating** Your Program's Mission  
Everyday Emphasis

**Current** Participants  
Retaining This Group  
Advocates for Your Program

**Potential** Participants  
Welcoming Environment

## IT'S IN THE NAME

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### Naming Divisions

Educating Old Participants  
Starting Over  
Educating New Participants  
Easy to Understand Descriptions

### Naming Sports

Express Soccer, Playground Dodgeball

## TAKE ACTION

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### Policy Education

Emphasize at Captain's Meetings  
Utilize Signage for Common Participants

### Policy Enforcement

Player Restrictions  
Sportsmanship  
Team Promotion

## AWARDS and APPRECIATION

KEEPING  
RECREATION  
IN  
INTRAMURAL  
SPORTS

### Championship Awards

All-Campus / League Champions  
Division Champions

### Other Awards

Sportsmanship Awards

## KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

**Presentation Notes & Survey Results**  
Available Online at  
***fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa***