KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

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SESSION FORMAT and MATERIALS

Focused Roundtable
Provide Framework and Examples
Your Success Stories

Materials
Presentation Outline
Survey
Slides & Survey Results Available Online
at fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa

COMPETITIVE vs RECREATIONAL

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

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

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**

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

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**SURVEYS: ANSWERING WHY?**

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

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**SURVEYS: ANSWERING WHY?**

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

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**CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES**

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.

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**CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSES**

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

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**LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD**

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

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

Sport
Designated Activity

League
Gender Based / Organization Based

Division
Skill Level Based

Section
Day / Time Based, Groups of Teams

LEAGUES and DIVISIONS

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

RECOMMENDED SCHEDULING

Same Method for All Divisions
Recreational Divisions Different?
Shorter or Longer Season
No Playoffs
Most Rec Teams Still Need Competition

REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULING

SCHEDULING:

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:

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

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

**Participatory Criteria**
- Sportsmanship Score or Average
- Forfeits

### PLAYOFF QUALIFICATION

**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

**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

**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

**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

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**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

**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

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### The Sales Job

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

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

**Potential Participants**
Welcoming Environment

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### It’s in the Name

**Naming Divisions**
Educating Old Participants
Starting Over
Educating New Participants
Easy to Understand Descriptions

**Naming Sports**
Express Soccer, Playground Dodgeball

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### Take Action

**Policy Education**
Emphasize at Captain’s Meetings
Utilize Signage for Common Participants

**Policy Enforcement**
Player Restrictions
Sportsmanship
Team Promotion

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### Awards and Appreciation

**Championship Awards**
All-Campus / League Champions
Division Champions

**Other Awards**
Sportsmanship Awards

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**Presentation Notes & Survey Results**
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