

# GET IN THE GAME: PROMOTING PARTICIPATION THROUGH POLICY

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## **Different Perspectives, Different Environments**

★ *What is the Background of Your Intramural Sports Program Administrator(s)?*

Athletic Background: College or High School Athlete, Coach or Administrator, Un-Athletic

Officiating Background: Collegiate or High School Official, Recreational Level, None

Education: Sports Administration, Recreation Management, Physical Education Degrees, Other

★ *What is the Environment for Your Intramural Program?*

The Student Body: Sports Fanatics, Party Scene, Academic Focus

Your School: Public or Private, Large or Small

Your Location: Big City, Small Town, Campus Life, Local Options, Alternative Activities

## **Different Philosophies: Competitive vs. Recreational**

★ *What is Your Program Philosophy?*

Competitive Programs: Playoff Qualification, Emphasis on Stats & Scores, Seeks Best Games, Features Top Teams

Competitive Participants: Committed to Winning, Require Scored/Officiated Contests, Often Intense, Emotional

Recreational Programs: Leagues without Playoffs, Emphasis on Sportsmanship, Seeks Numbers, Maintaining a Quality Experience for the Masses

Recreational Participants: Play for the Fun of the Game, Social Interaction, Less Emotionally Attached

★ *Does Your Philosophy Change Among Sports?*

## **Enhancing the IM Experience**

Participant Types: Automatic, Interested, Team Player

Making Participation Easy, Happy Participants Spread the Word

## **The Convenience Factor**

Jumping through Hoops: Administrative Processes & Procedures

★ *How Easy is It for Your Teams to Register or Access League Information?*

Team Registration Method: Online or In Person

Technology Requirements, Fee Payment, Administrator-Participant Interaction

Registration Options: Instant Scheduling, Preferred Scheduling

Access to Team Schedules: Online Viewing, Email Distribution, Facility Posting, Meeting or Office Distribution

★ *How Easy is It for Teams to Manage Their Roster or Check-In for a Game?*

Roster Management: At the Game Site, Online, In Office, At Registration

Limited Additions or Changes, Roster Locks at Start of Postseason / During Postseason / Never

Game Site ID Requirements: School-Issued ID, Government ID, Roster Comparisons

Participant Verification, Eligibility, Fair Play, Waiver Requirements

★ *What Other Challenges Might a Participant on Your Campus Face When Trying to Participate in an IM Game or Event?*

Required Equipment: Player Uniforms, Similar Color and/or Numbered, Personal Safety or Sports Equipment

Participant Supplied, Program Supplied, Checkout or Sell?

## **Accountability & Responsibility**

★ *How Do You Insure That Your Participants are Taking an Active Role in Their Experience?*

Required Components, Importance of Process, Teaching Participants

★ *How Do You Find the Right Balance for Your Program?*

Program's Need for Participants, Risk Management, Legal Issues

## **Creating a Welcoming Environment**

Structural Issues: Administrative Policies

★ *Do You Identify More Talented or Privileged Players and Restrict Their Participation?*

Player Eligibility: Special Participant Groups

Professional Athletes, Current Varsity Athletes, Varsity Practice Squad Members, Varsity Coaches,  
Former Varsity Athletes, Current Sport Club Players

Restrictions on Participation: Prohibition, Limit Number on a Team, Require Participation in Particular League

Issue Detection: Active Administrative Monitoring, Team Appeals or Eligibility Protests

★ *Are Your Leagues Structured to Entice More Recreational Participants?*

League and Tournament Structure: Skill-Level, Interest-Level Divisions, Playoff Qualification, Tournament Formats

Team & Participant Sportsmanship: Setting the Standards & Scale, Education, Enforcement, Recognition

## **Do Your Research**

Previous Presentations, NIRSA 2008

League and Tournament Structure, April 2008, NIRSA National Conference

Team & Participant Sportsmanship, June 2008, NIRSA Intramural Symposium

Session Materials, Examples, and Survey Results Available Online at [fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa](http://fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa)

## **Contact Information**

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## **Presentation Materials, Examples, and Survey Results**

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Survey Results Available Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>