Good Sports
Creating a Respectful Atmosphere for Competition

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Q1: Where Do You Stand?
On a Scale of 1 to 5, Please Rate the Level of Sportsmanship in a Typical Intramural Sports Contest on Your Campus?

- 5 Excellent
- 4 Good
- 3 OK
- 2 Troubling
- 1 Awful

Webinar Topics & Materials
Key Issues
Why Focus on Sportsmanship?
Setting the Foundation for Good Sportsmanship
Celebrating the Positive, Dealing with the Negative

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

Q2: Why Are You Here?
On-Field Troubles
Ejections, Staff-Participant Conflicts
Developing & Implementing a Policy
Setting the Guidelines for Behavior
Handling Unsportsmanlike Incidents
Post-Incident Meetings and Discussions
Improving Overall Atmosphere
General Negativity Towards Sportsmanship

Variables:
Knowing Our Product
Intramural Sports
Collection of Organized Sports Leagues and Athletic Events in which Members of the University Community Can Participate

Cold Hard Facts
Facility Availability, Day & Time Availability
Cost to Participate

Program Decisions / Participant Influenced
Sports & Events Offered
Staff (Officials and Supervisors)

Variables:
The Customer (Participant) Side
Talent Level & Intensity Level
Typically We’re Not in the Coaching Business
Influenced by League / Division Structure

Competitiveness
Playoff Qualification, Other Policies

Team & Individual Sportsmanship (Behavior)
How Can We Influence?
Values: Why Do Your Students Participate?

**Play to Win**
Inherent in Virtually All Participants
Often Major Focus of Previous Sports Experiences

**Competitive Play**
Participating with Equally Skilled Players / Teams

**Personal Fitness**
Getting a Workout While Participating

**Enjoyable Environment**
Simply Having a Good Time While Participating

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Why Do Our Students Participate?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>08-09</th>
<th>09-10</th>
<th>10-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Win It All</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoy Sport</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercise</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hang Out</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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* Totals from Annual Surveys of 300 to 500 IM Participants Across Various Intramural Sports at Florida State University

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Key Questions for Your Program

**Current Participant Values**
Why Do Your Current Participants Participate in Your Intramural Sports Program?

**Potential Participant Perceptions**
If You Asked a Typical Sophomore or Junior on Your Campus, What Would Their Perception Be of Your Intramural Sports Program?
Does It Scare Off the Recreational Participant?

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Why Focus on Sportsmanship?

**Competitive vs Recreational Sports Programs**
Finding the Most Talented Teams: HS, NCAA, Pros
Finding Teams to Participate: IM

**Sportsmanship in Recreational Sports**
Increase Participant Value for Enjoyable Environment
Environment Enhanced by Sportsmanlike Behavior
Programs Can Influence Sportmanship – Key Variable

**Impacts**
Enhances Team & Staff Retention, More Inviting
Key Factor in Recreational Experiences in Adulthood
Learning Outcomes: Appropriate Behaviors

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Proactive vs Reactive Measures

**Proactive Measures**
Establishing a Policy, Written Rules
Unwritten Rules Enforced by Parents, Coaches
Educating Participants and Staff
Increase Perceived Value within Program

**Reactive Measures**
Handling Team Issues
Dealing with Individual Ejections

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Setting the Ground Rules

The **Sportsmanship Policy**
Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How
Rating Scales
Required Scores
Mandatory Markdowns & Grey Areas
Who, When, & Where

The **Who**
- Players
- Coaches
- Spectators

The **When & Where**
- Pregame, In-Game, Postgame
- Throughout the Facility

What Behaviors are Inappropriate?

**Inappropriate** Behaviors
- Technical fouls / Unsportsmanlike penalties
- Physical abuse
- Arguing with opponent
- Taunting or threatening behavior (verbal / nonverbal)
- Captain has little or no control over players/spectators
- Using derogatory verbal or nonverbal language
- Continually complaining about officials’ judgment
- Captain abuses right to discuss situations with officials

What are Appropriate Behaviors?

**Appropriate** Behaviors
- Team members have a positive attitude toward teammates, opponents, and game staff
- Team captains are in complete control over their players and spectators
- Team players participate within the spirit of the rules of the sport and of the program
- Players accept the judgment of the contest officials
- Players show respect for recreational facilities

Establishing a Policy

**How to Rate Sportsmanship?**

**Subjective Scale**

**Category Terminology**

Value Based
- Standard Based

**Category Descriptions**

Generic or Detailed

Rating Scales

**Indiana / UT-Austin**

**3.00** Required Average Rating

4 – Excellent Conduct and Sportsmanship
- Players cooperate fully with the officials and other team members. The captain calmly converses with officials about rule interpretations and calls. The captain also has full control of his/her teammates.

3 – Good Conduct and Sportsmanship
- Team members verbally complain about some decisions made by the officials and/or show minor dissatisfaction, which may or may not merit an unsportsmanlike penalty. Teams that receive 1 unsportsmanlike penalty will receive no higher than a “3” rating.

2 – Average Conduct and Sportsmanship
- Team shows verbal dissent towards officials and/or the opposing team, which may or may not merit an unsportsmanlike penalty. Captain exhibits minor control over his/her teammates. Teams receiving multiple unsportsmanlike penalties will receive no higher than a “2” rating.

Rating Scales

**Indiana / UT-Austin**

**3.00** Required Average Rating

1 – Below Average Conduct and Sportsmanship
- Teams constantly comment to the officials and/or the opposing team from the field and/or sidelines. The team captain exhibits little or no control over teammates and/or himself/herself. A team which has a player ejected can receive no higher than a “1” rating.

0 – Poor Conduct and Sportsmanship
- Team is completely uncooperative. Captain has no control over teammates, and/or himself/herself. Any team causing a game to be forfeited, other than by not showing, or receives multiple ejections shall receive a “0” rating.
Rating Scales
OSU / FSU / UA
3.00 (B)
Required Average Rating

Ohio State University
A – Excellent Conduct and Sportsmanship
B – Average Conduct and Sportsmanship
C – Poor Conduct and Sportsmanship
D – Deplorable Conduct and Sportsmanship
F – Intolerable Conduct and Sportsmanship

Florida State / Alabama
"A" or 4 Points – Excellent Sportsmanship
"B" or 3 Points – Acceptable Sportsmanship
"C" or 2 Points – Sportsmanship Needs Improvement
"D" or 1 Point – Unacceptable Sportsmanship
"F" or 0 Points – Season Ending Rating

Rating Scales
Nebraska / Washington St
Effects of Ratings
1 UA = Office Meeting
2 UA / 1 SE = Dismissed

Acceptable
Team members participate in the spirit and intent of the intramural sport game rules and/or program policies. Team members accept judgment decisions made by the officials during the contest.

Unacceptable
Multiple technical fouls for unsportsmanlike conduct and/or multiple unsportsmanlike penalties given

Season Ending
Team was uncooperative and out of control before, during or after intramural sports contest.
Washington State also includes an Outstanding Rating.

Other Rating Scales
Kentucky & UCLA
5-Option Scale: 4, 3, 2, 0, -1 ... 3.0 Average
Michigan
Deductions from 10 ... Minor 1, 3, Major 7
7 Average in Playoffs (31 Total in Regular Season)
Georgia Tech
More Detailed Scale Utilized by Officials

Black, White, and Grey Areas
Mandatory Markdowns
Unsportsmanlike Conduct Penalties
Ejections
Fraudulent Information (or Withholding)

Required
Sportsmanship Infractions
Puts Your Officiating Staff on Notice

Grey Areas

Special Situations
Rainouts & Cancelled Games
Rating or No Rating?

Forfeits and Defaults
Ratings for Winning Team
Ratings for Losing Team

In-Progress Forfeits
Ratings for Each Team?

Sportsmanship Rating Scales
By the Numbers
87% Utilize a Rating System for Sportsmanship
74% Include Mandatory Deductions for Unsportsmanlike Penalties
77% Include Mandatory Deductions for Ejections
41% Include Positive Behaviors That Can Enhance Team’s Rating

* Statistics from a Survey of 90 Intramural Sports Programs at the 2011 NIRSA Annual Conference & 2008 NIRSA IM Symposium
Ratings in Action

The **Sportsmanship Factor**
Establishing a Required Minimum Rating
Playoff Qualification
Playoff Seeding / Selection Order

In the **Postseason**
Special Playoff Rating Benchmarks
Final Game Sportsmanship Problems

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Educating Your Participants

**Preseason Captains Meetings**
Stress the Importance
Prioritize in Meeting, Give Examples

**Pregame Captains Meetings**
A Frequent Reminder

Facility **Signage**
Work to Inform All Participants & Attendees

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Educating Your Participants

**RESPECT**
You Can't Play Without Them!

Sportsmanship Expected from Participants and Spectators. Sportsmanship Violations Can Result in Player & Spectator Ejections and Team Dismissal from League or Tournament Play.

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Participant Knowledge

How did your team address sportsmanship during this sport’s season?

- **68%** We didn’t really do anything special. Our team normally tends to show good sportsmanship.
- **28%** Our team actively worked to keep our sportsmanship high during the season. The captain talked about it with teammates before a game or players helped calm down other players in intense situations during game play.
- **7%** My team could have made a better effort to demonstrate good sportsmanship during the season. We had a few troubles during the season.
- **36%** My team was aware of the IM Sportsmanship Rating Scale and the requirement to maintain a 3.0 average to continue playing in the league.

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Educating Your Staff

**Staff Training Sessions**
Thorough Review of Rating Factors & Scale
Provide Examples / Scenarios

**Evaluate Sportsmanship as a Team**
Veteran Officials Assist Rookies with Ratings
Supervisors Provide Input, On-Field Learning

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Recognizing Good Sportsmanship

**Team Awards**
By League, By Sport, By Term, By Year
Similar to Award for League Champions

**Raise the Perceived Value of**
Sportsmanship in Your Program
Educating Participants & Staff

By the Numbers
94% Discuss Sportsmanship at Preseason Captains Meetings
65% Instruct Officials to Discuss in Pregame Captains Meetings
60% Review Policies/Scale During Officials Training
17% Recognize Teams With Excellent Ratings

* Statistics from a Survey of 90 Intramural Sports Programs at the 2011 NIRSA Annual Conference & 2008 NIRSA IM Symposium

Handling Issues

Complete Documentation
Require Comments on Low Ratings
Detailed Reports of Problem Situations
Exact Language, Who Said What When

Monitor Problem Teams
Proactive Warnings & Reminders
Basic Emails to Office Meetings

Problem Participants

At the Game Site
Ejected Unsportsmanlike Participants Must
Leave Facility
Reinstatement Checklist
Suspended from All Sports Pending Meeting

Problem Participants

Getting All Sides of the Story
Complete Documentation from Staff
Required Statement from Ejected Participant
The Office Meeting
The Reinstatement Meeting
Constructive Conversation
Identifying Areas for Personal Improvement
Looking at the Future

Educating Yourself

Campus Resources
Residence Life
Greek Life
Student Activities
Dean of Students
Student Counseling
Campus Police
Student Code of Conduct

Effective Enforcement

Be Proactive
Notify Problem Teams Before It’s Too Late to Improve

Be Consistent
Enforcement for Talented & Untalented Teams

Be Understanding
Appeals Process: Have It in Writing, Time Limits
Inform Others

**Taking a Stand**
Get Appropriate Buy-In from Administrators
Prepare Them for Potential Situations

**Reach Out**
Student Staff Buy-In
Participant Buy-In

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**Participant Support**

Which of the following statements about sportsmanship do you agree with?

- 62% Good sportsmanship by both teams during games improves my playing experience.
- 28% How my team and our opponents act does not really factor into my playing experience. It’s just part of the game.
- 10% The focus on sportsmanship is too much... Come on, just let us play the game how we want.

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**Questions?**

**Questions, Comments, Suggestions?**

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**2012 NIRSA Intramural Symposium**

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**Session Materials**

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