

Tech Talk


Implementing Technologies in Intramural Sports

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2014 NIRSA IM Institute - Oklahoma City, OK

Learning Objectives

- Evaluate Aspects of Individual Technologies Including Hardware and Software Solutions
- Assess the Potential Impacts Implementation Will Have on Various User Groups
- Develop an Implementation Plan to Best Ensure a Smooth Transition for All Users

 At the Forefront of Collegiate Recreation

Session Overview

Steps to Technology Implementation

Materials

Worksheets & Slides Available Online at fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa

IM Sports on the Cutting Edge of Technology

Wealth of Information, Communication Needs
Student Participant Demand

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Tech Wave: A Look Back



- 1993: AOL Disk Mailings Begin
- 1995: Amazon.com Sells First Boo
- 2000: Dave's First Cell Phone
- 2001: iPod Introduced
- 2005: Broadband Use Overtakes Dial-Up
- 2005: Facebook Goes Mainstream
- 2007: iPhone Introduced
- 2009: Twitter Explodes
- 2010: iPad Introduced

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The Process

Seven Steps to Technology Implementation

- Focus Your Efforts
- Gather Basic Information
- Determine the Feasibility
- Evaluate the Impacts
- Make a Selection
- Plan for Implementation
- Review and Revise

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Key User Groups

- Program Administrators**
Full Time Staff
- Student Staff Members**
Program Assistants, Supervisors, Officials
- Team Captains**
Your High Involvement Participants
- General Participants**
Regular and One-Time Players

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Tech Possibilities

- Information Distribution**
Team Schedules, Rules, Champions
- Team & Event Registration**
Free or Pay, Instant Schedule or Preferences
- Captains Education and Exam**
The Meeting Replacement
- Team & Participant Communication**
In-Season Notices & Reminders




Tech Possibilities

- Daily Program Administration**
Field Assignments, Nightly Forms
- Staff Scheduling**
Game Officials, Other Student Staff
- Staff Evaluation**
Electronic Evaluations & Video
- Program Assessment**
Participant Surveys, Feedback



Tech Possibilities


- Program Promotion**
Implementing Social Media
- Weather Monitoring**
Severe Weather Alerts, Lightning Detection
- Other Processes**



Focus Your Efforts

For Each User Group & Process, Rate the Following:
How Valuable Would Implementing a New Technology Be for This Part of My Intramural Sports Experience?

- +2: Major Impact, We Must Do This
- +1: Moderate Impact, People Would Notice
- 0: Not Affected by This Technology
- 1: Slight Impact, It Would Be Nice...
- 2: No Desire, Why Change a Good Thing?



A Realistic Timeline

Infusing Technology Takes Time
 There are Always Options to Explore
 There are Always Hurdles in Your Way
 There are Always Consequences to Plan for

Think in Terms of MONTHS
 For Just ONE Technology Enhancement



FSU IM Technology Timeline

- 1998: IM Team Schedules Online
- 1999: Department Web Site Launches
- 2000: Electronic Roster Tracking (IPS)
- 2002: Online Registration: Select Events
- 2004: Online Registration: Team Sports



FSU IM Technology Timeline

- 2007: Staff Scheduling Online (W2W)
- 2007: Game Site Player Verification & Roster Tracking
- 2008: Online Captains Exam Option
- 2010: Online Captains Exam Required (No Mtgs)
- 2010: Online Rules & Guidelines Videos



NEW FOR 2008-09!
TAKE THE TEST, SKIP THE MEETING
 Available to IM Participants Who Serve as Team Captains in Multiple Intramural Sports Throughout the Year

Flag Football Field
 To Win a First Down By Crossing a Zone Line-to-Gain

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FSU IM Technology Timeline

- Sum 2012: Purchased iPads for Nightly Supervisor Staff
- Spr 2013: Added Wireless Internet to Rec SportsPlex
- Spr 2013: Implemented Online Administrative Forms
- Fall 2013: Electronic & Video Officials Evaluation
- Spr 2014: Nightly Social Media Coverage




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Gather Basic Information

See What's Out There
 Check Out the NIRSA Expo
 Talk to Your Colleagues
 Find Programs with Similar Processes

Educate Yourself
 Locate Multiple Options / Solutions
 Learn the Basic Functions / Components
 No Need to Be an Expert Yet




Implementation Factors

Facility Infrastructure
 Electricity, Internet Availability & Dependability

Hardware
 Computers, Tablets, Peripherals

Software
 Know the Options

Data Needs
 Hosting / Storage, Security Issues




Implementation Factors

Finances
 Initial Investment, Ongoing Costs

Systems Administration
 Installation, Regular Maintenance


Institutional Policy
 Advertising Restrictions, Business Processes



Determine the Feasibility

For Each of Your Prioritized Areas,
Rate the Various Implementation Factors.


- +2: Definitely Ready to Go
- +1: Doable with a Few Calls, Meetings, or Resources
- 0: Not Sure, Have Not Discussed This Yet
- 1: Doable with Some Real Effort
- 2: Challenging or Next to Impossible



Prepare to Select & Implement

Product Selection
Right Combination of Feasibility and Impact


Implementation
Taking Advantage of Benefits
Preparing for the Consequences
Adjusting as Needed



Evaluate the Impacts

For Each of Your Prioritized Areas,
Evaluate the Impacts a New Technology Would Have on Each Affected User Group.


General Assessment
Using the Common Characteristics of Identified Solutions



It's All in the Details

Time, Effort, Convenience Factors
Recognize the Benefits
Is Your Technological Enhancement at the Expense of Another User Group?

Know the Consequences
Intended
Unintended



Gain Approval

Solicit Approval to Move Forward
Gain Supervisor's OK
Connect with Other Institutional Partners & Resources




Prepare to Make a Selection

For Each Option (Each Specific Technology),
(1) Review the Implementation Factors.
(2) Evaluate the Impacts the Technology Would Have on Each Affected User Group.

Real Answers, Not Vendor Promises


Rate for Individual Software / Hardware to
Make the Best Selection for Your Program



Plan for Implementation

Select Your Technology
Finally!

Activating the Actual Technology
Preparing Hardware, Installing Software, Connecting Databases, Etc.
Utilize Departmental & Campus Resources
Schedule Appropriate Time for Move to Technology



Plan for Implementation

Adjust Procedures

Review and Rewrite Work Procedures

Educate Users

Plans Vary by User Group

Prepare for Consequences

Prompt Response to Issues

Have Plan B Ready



Review & Revise

Post Launch Review

You're Not Done Yet!

Give It Some Time (Semester)

See What Isn't Working

Revise Procedures

Seek Solutions to Enhance Technology Adoption



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