

KEEPING RECREATION IN INTRAMURAL SPORTS

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Competitive versus Recreational

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

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

★ *How Does Your Program Rate?*

Mission & Goals: Where Do You Want Your Program?

★ *What is Your Most Competitive Sport? Least Competitive Sport?*

Learn from Participant Attitudes in Designated Sports

Participant Types: Automatic, Interested, Team Player

Statistics and Surveys

★ *Does Your Program Track Participants?*

The Facts, Quantitative Data: Participant Demographics; Sport, League, Division Information

★ *How Does Your Program Survey Participants and Non-Participants?*

The How and Why, Qualitative Data: Why They Play, How They Learn About League, Rules

Who to Ask? Not Just Team Captains, Normal Participants, Potential Participants

When & Where to Ask? Free from Emotional Setting of Competition

What Method to Use? Paper & Pencil, Web-Based, Incentives

How to Ask? Stress You Need Their Help, Appreciate Their Feedback, Note Length & Time Required

★ *What Survey Data Have You Collected?*

Constructive Responses: Descriptive Choices, Free Response Area

Anonymity Can Lead to More Honest Responses

Respond to Survey Participants, If Possible

Participant Restrictions

★ *Does Your Program Restrict or Limit Talented Players in Particular Sports, Leagues, or Divisions?*

Regulating Participant Talent Levels: Proven Talents

Varsity Athletes in Related Sports, Unrelated Sports

Scholarship, Practice Squad Members, Former Varsity Athletes in Related Sports

Current Sport Club Members in Related Sports

Leagues and Divisions

★ *How Many Leagues and Divisions Do You Offer in Your Major Team Sports?*

Sport: Designated Activity – Flag Football, Soccer, Basketball, Softball, etc.

League: Gender / Organization Based – Men's, Women's, Co-Rec, Fraternity, Sorority, Res Hall, Faculty/Staff, etc.

Division: Skill-Level Based – Advanced, Beginner or Major, Minor, etc.

Section: Day and Time Based, Group of Teams That Play Each Other – Monday at 7:00 pm

Regular Season Scheduling

★ *Do You Use Different Scheduling Methods for Different Divisions?*

Recreational Divisions: Shorter or Longer Season, No Playoff Option, Most Rec Teams Still Need Competition

★ *Do You Use Different Scheduling Methods for Different Sports?*

Traditional Competitive Team Sports: Multiple Game Regular Season and Playoff Tournament

More Recreational Team Sports: Shorter Season and/or Practice Games and Playoff Tournament

Other Recreational Sports: Weekend Tournaments

One Division: Can Ask About Skill Level – Average, Good, Very Good

Week-to-Week Scheduling Can Benefit Smaller Programs, Can Assess Talent Level for More Even Matchups

Playoff Qualification

★ *What Criteria Must Teams Meet to Qualify for Postseason Playoffs on Your Campus?*

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

Limited Number of Teams Quality: Every Game Impacts Playoff Chances, Increased Competitiveness

All Teams Qualify: Record Less Important, Regular Season Less Competitive, Participants Refocused on Participating

Time & Facility Limitations: With All Teams Qualifying, the First Round Playoff Game Can Count as a Guaranteed Game

Playoff Structure

★ *Do You Have Multiple Levels of Playoff Tournament Competition?*

One Division, One Bracket: Enhances Competitiveness, Yields Prestigious Single Champion

One Division, Multiple Brackets: Split a Division Based on Record (Skill Level), Two Separate Playoff Brackets, Often

Produces More Even Matchups, Helps Avoid Best vs Worst Team Matchups

Multiple Divisions, Multiple Brackets: Pre-Playoff Adjustments, Promotion and Demotion of Teams

★ *Do You Automatically Schedule Teams in a Playoff Bracket or Hold a Playoff Draw Meeting?*

Seeding: Based on Record, Advantageous for Better Teams

Selection: Based on Playing Day and Time Preference, Selection Order Criteria

Communicating the Recreational Mindset

The Sales Job: Program-Wide Policies & Procedures, Everyday Emphasis

Current Participants: Must Retain This Group of Participants, Serve as Advocates for Your Program

Potential Participants: Create Welcoming Environment for All Talent and Interest Levels

★ *What Names Do You Use for Your Divisions?*

Making Changes: Educating Old Participants Can Require a Fresh Naming System to Force Them to Adapt,

Educating All Participants Can Be Enhanced With Easy to Understand Descriptions

Naming Sports: Flag Football, Express Soccer, Playground Dodgeball

★ *How Do You Educate Your Participants?*

Emphasize at Captain's Meetings, Clear Policies, Utilize Signage for Common Participants

Policy Enforcement: Player Restrictions, Sportsmanship Requirements, Team Promotion

★ *How Do You Recognize Recreational Participants?*

Championship Awards: All-Campus, League, Division

Other Awards: Sportsmanship

Presentation Materials, Examples, and Survey Results

Available Online at fsu.campusrec.com/nirsa

Survey Results Available Tuesday, April 15th