

## **FAIR PLAY | Ensuring Fair Play in a Competitive Sports Atmosphere**

*Intramural Sports strives to provide opportunities for participation to all members of the FSU community. However, by nature, our sports are competitive. To best ensure fairness among all our teams and participants, numerous guidelines regarding individual and team eligibility have been developed. Additionally, a protest procedure is available to teams in instances when a staff member may have ruled on a particular sport rule incorrectly.*

### **General Participant Eligibility Guidelines**

#### **A. Current FSU Students**

To be eligible for Intramural Sports, students must be registered for FSU classes in the term in which they wish to participate AND have paid their activity and service fees that are assessed with tuition to Florida State University. The following classifications of students are eligible for Intramural Sports: freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate, special non-degree seeking students, provisional (graduate students), and transient (when taking classes at FSU only).

#### **B. Non-FSU Students**

TCC (Tallahassee Community College) and FAMU students are NOT eligible for participation in FSU Intramural Sports. Certain TCC students participating in the TCC to FSU Program are eligible; such student participants are advised to verify their status with the Intramural Sports Office prior to their participation in an Intramural Sports event. Also, correspondence students, high school students, and transient students (when taking classes NOT at FSU) are NOT eligible. Students dual-enrolled at FAMU and FSU who consider FAMU their home school from which they will receive their diploma are also NOT eligible for participation in FSU Intramural Sports.

#### **C. Continuing Students**

The membership provides access to all Campus Recreation facilities and programs during the entire semester.

In addition, those students enrolled in online only classes during the fall, spring, or summer term may also purchase the continuing student membership.

Passes are available for purchase at the Leach Center and Fitness & Movement Clinic front desks. Additional restrictions may apply.



#### *D. Faculty and Staff*

Active, salaried faculty and full-time staff members, classified as A&P or USPS, are eligible for participation in Intramural Sports. An hourly-wage, non-student staff member with OPS job classification is NOT eligible.

#### *E. Spouses*

All student, faculty and full-time staff member spouses may participate in Intramurals by paying an activity use fee for sports at through the IM Office. Additional facility fees may be required for other Campus Recreation and University facilities.

#### *F. Withdrawals and Terminations*

A participant who terminates their ties with the University immediately relinquishes their right to participate in the Intramural Sports program.

#### *G. Proof of Identification*

Participants must present a currently validated FSUCard in order to participate in all Intramural Sports games and events.

#### *H. Gender Classification*

Per Florida Statutes 1006.205, an Intramural Sports participant shall be classified as a male or female based on the gender appearing on the participant's official birth certificate as filed at or near the time of the participant's birth. Each participant shall maintain responsibility for self-identifying by this standard.

### **ID Policy**

Each participant must present their current, valid FSUCard prior to each game/match of participation in all IM sports and events to check in through the IMLeagues app. Campus Recreation staff may conduct random in-game identification checks. Therefore, each participant shall be able to present their FSUCard or IMLeagues profile at the game site upon request. Participants may also be required to supply additional identifiable information in order to verify their identity for participation in an Intramural game or event. Just because a participant is signed in without their FSUCard does NOT mean that person is legal to play. If it is determined that the given information or FSUCard number is invalid, the game may be forfeited for use of an ineligible player.

### **Fraudulent Use of an ID**

Participants attempting to register or sign-in for a contest when using a different person's FSUCard for identification will be barred from participating in the contest. The FSUCard will also be confiscated by the Intramural Sports staff. The FSUCard will be available for collection by the student pictured on the card during normal business hours in the IM Sports Office (1035 Tully Gym). Both the participant attempting to use such card and the actual student pictured on the card will face an indefinite suspension from all Intramural activities and must apply for reinstatement to the Intramural Sports program by completing the Ejected Participant's Reinstatement Procedure.

## **Greek Organizations**

The policies in this section are in addition to the general eligibility requirements set forth in General Participant Eligibility Requirements for all Intramural Sports participants.

### *A. Official Organization Roster*

Official rosters for organizations competing in the fraternity or sorority Intramural Sports leagues will be comprised of those organizational members properly registered through the FSU Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) and the FSU Student Activities Office. Policies and procedures established and administered by the FSU Student Activities Office, FSL, and its affiliated councils/organizations will govern the registration process. No additions or deletions to an organization's roster may be made through the Intramural Sports Office.

### *B. Receipt of Official Roster*

Each organization that participates in a fraternity or sorority league is required to submit a copy of its official membership roster during the fall and spring semesters by the official roster submission date as determined by FSL. The roster shall include all current members and pledges. Pledges or new initiates shall be clearly indicated on the roster. Failure to properly submit or update a roster may result in the immediate suspension of the organization from participation in all Intramural activities beginning the next business day following the roster submission date. Once the official roster is properly received, eligibility for participation for the organization will be restored beginning on the next business day following the day the roster is submitted.

### *C. Member Eligibility*

Those persons listed on the roster will be eligible to compete for their organization as long as they: (1) remain properly registered as a member of the organization and (2) remain a valid, fee-paying student at Florida State University. Once a student becomes inactive at Florida State University (through graduation, dismissal, etc.), that student is immediately ineligible for Intramural Sports competition.

### *D. Pledges and New Initiates - IFC/Panhellenic*

Pledges and other new initiates are eligible to compete for a Greek organization the first day following the conclusion of the official rush period for each semester. These new organizational members must appear on the official roster on the roster submission date for the applicable semester. Persons competing for Greek organizations during this early semester grace period - end of rush through roster submission date - who do not appear on the official roster when received by the Intramural Sports Office for the respective semester will cause that organization to forfeit all games and events in which the ineligible player participated. Teams will be subject to the forfeit point-penalty for overall points standings for each forfeit.

Rosters are finalized on the official roster submission date as determined by FSL. No additions may be made following these dates during their respective semesters. Only those students appearing on the fall roster are eligible for play on fraternity or sorority teams during the fall semester and through the end of rush week of the spring semester. Only those students appearing on the spring roster, and remaining eligible as a student, are eligible for play on fraternity or sorority teams during the spring semester and through the end of rush week of the fall semester.

*F. New Member Eligibility - NPHC / MGC*

Initial rosters for NPHC and MGC groups are confirmed through FSL on its official roster submission date. Additions may be made throughout the year following a new member presentation (probate, showcase) with new members eligible on the day following a presentation. Appropriate roster updates with FSL are required within 7 days of a presentation. Only those students properly appearing on these rosters are permitted to participate for the organization in specific NPHC / MGC leagues.

**Eligibility Challenges**

Any person or organization may challenge the eligibility of a player by notifying the Intramural Sports Office. Eligibility challenges must occur within 7 days of the date of the player's participation in an Intramural game or event. Challenges will be reviewed by the Intramural Sports administrative staff.

*A. Individual Appeals*

If an individual feels that they have extenuating circumstances that should allow them to be exempt from any or all of the Intramural By-Laws, they can make a written appeal stating their reasons for exemption from the rules. This appeal will be reviewed by the administrative staff.

*B. Individual Penalties*

As soon as an individual violates any of the eligibility rules, they shall thereafter be considered ineligible for ALL Intramural activities. Violation of this suspension will result in further or permanent suspension from the Intramural program and possible disciplinary action by the Office of the Dean of Students.

*C. Team Appeals*

If a team feels that they or a member of their team has been ruled ineligible incorrectly, they can make a written appeal within 48 hours of the ruling stating their reasons for review or exemption from the rules. The appeal will be reviewed by the Intramural Sports administrative staff.





## **Participating with an Ineligible Player**

### *A. Team Penalties for Game Site Violations*

1. A team which is discovered to be participating with an ineligible player (according to General Guidelines and Restricted Participants sections of the Fair Play principle and Individual Participants & Team Participation and ID Policy sections of the Participation principle) by IM staff at the game site shall immediately forfeit the game or match. This includes failure to produce valid FSUCard upon request of an IM staff member before, during, or after an IM contest. Forfeited games during the playoffs result in the violating team being immediately eliminated from the playoffs.

### *B. Team Penalties for Administratively-Determined Violations*

1. A team which participates with an ineligible player (according to General Guidelines, Restricted Participants, Individual Participants & Team Participation sections), as discovered through post-game administrative review, in a single regular season game shall be placed on probation for the remainder of the regular season. If the number of eligible players in such game is not enough to field a regulation team, the game will be considered a default (1 less than required number) or forfeit (2 or more less than required number). If the team participates with an ineligible player in any other regular season game, that game will be forfeited. Major or deliberate violations of eligibility may result in the team being dropped from the league following the first violation, at the discretion of the Intramural Sports administrative staff. Furthermore, teams on probation shall be dropped to the bottom of the selection order for the sport's playoff draw.
2. A team which participates with 2 or more ineligible players (according to General Guidelines, Restricted Participants, Individual Participants & Team Participation sections), as discovered through post-game administrative review, in a single regular season game shall forfeit that game. The forfeit fine may apply. Major violations may result in the team being dropped from the league.
3. A team which participates with an ejected player (according to Ejected & Suspended Participants section of the Sportsmanship principle) in a regular season game shall forfeit that game. The forfeit fine may apply.
4. A team which participates with an ineligible player (all eligibility-related sections in all principles) during the playoffs or during any tournament play shall forfeit the game and will be immediately eliminated from the playoffs.

## **Protests of Playing Rule Interpretations**

### *A. Initiating a Protest*

At activities in which an Intramural Supervisor is present, protests concerning misinterpretation of playing rules will be resolved when they arise. Protests of an official's judgment will not be accepted. Play should cease while the officials, captains and supervisors confer on the details of the incident. The Intramural Supervisor will be called over to rule on a disagreement based on the information at hand from the game officials and team captains.

### *B. In-Game Documentation*

If either team is not satisfied with the decision made by the Intramural Officials and Supervisor, they must state to the supervisor that they wish to protest the decision. The supervisor should immediately note the incident in detail and the reasons for which they based their decision. The team captain protesting should also write their account of what happened on the protest form. Play will resume immediately following the completion of the paperwork.

### *C. Post-Game Documentation*

To complete the protest, the following procedures shall be followed as outlined on the protest procedures checklist available at the game site.

**(1)** The protesting team must finalize its protest by submitting a written statement to the Intramural Sports Office (1035 Tully Gym) by 12 Noon of the next business day. The statement shall include: details surrounding the on-field decision, the rule being protested, and the name and telephone number of the team representative initiating the protest. Written appeals may be submitted in print through delivery to the Intramural Sports Office during regular business hours or by email at any time directly to the Intramural Sports administrative staff or via the Campus Recreation website.

**(2)** A \$10 protest deposit is required with each protest. For emailed protests, the \$10 will be charged to the team captain's departmental account prior to review by the Intramural Sports staff.

### *D. Decisions*

If the decision is reversed, the \$10 deposit will be returned to the person filing the protest, and the game will continue from the point of protest with the new ruling taking effect, if time and space permits.

## **Appeals of Administrative Decisions**

An individual, team, or organization may appeal a decision made by the Intramural Sports administrative staff regarding their dismissal from league or tournament play, suspension from Intramural Sports, or implementation of a probationary period for rule violations.

### *A. Appeals Process - League or Tournament Dismissal, Other Minor Penalties*

A team must indicate its intention to appeal and submit a written appeal within 24 hours (1 business day) of a ruling by the Intramural Sports staff. Written appeals may be submitted in print through delivery to the Intramural Sports Office during regular business hours or by email at any time directly to the Intramural Sports administrative staff or via the Campus Recreation website.

### *B. Appeals Process - Suspension from Intramural Sports, Other Major Penalties*

A team must indicate its intention to appeal and submit a written appeal or request for an extension within 72 hours (3 business days) of a ruling by the Intramural Sports staff. Written appeals may be submitted in print through delivery to the Intramural Sports Office during regular business hours or by email at any time directly to the Intramural Sports administrative staff or via the Campus Recreation website.

### *C. Suspensions and Expedited Appeals*

Intramural Sports or Campus Recreation suspensions shall not be lifted or postponed during the appeal process, but may be reduced following the decision regarding the appeal. Due to the nature of scheduling Intramural games and tournaments within a relatively short time period, all appeals are expedited. Should an appealing team submit its written appeal prior to the established deadline, the Campus Recreation staff will work to review the appeal and render a decision regarding the appealing party's eligibility as quickly as possible.

### *D. Review Structure*

Appeals of decisions made by the Coordinator of Intramural Sports shall first be heard by the Director of Intramural Sports. Appeals of decisions made by the Director of Intramural Sports shall be first heard by the Associate Director of Campus Recreation. Intramural Sports and Campus Recreation staff may consult with the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and other University personnel during any part of the decision-making process.

### *E. Results of Appeals*

Previous Intramural games or matches may be rescheduled as a result of an upheld appeal. Conversely, the Director of Intramural Sports or Associate Director of Campus Recreation may decide to levy a penalty that is greater than that originally imposed on a previous ruling.

