

SPORTING BEHAVIOR | Promoting Sportsmanlike Behavior Among Teammates, Opponents, Spectators, & Staff

Intramural Sports strives to provide a recreational environment for the University community which is safe and enjoyable. While the game atmosphere is often competitive, ensuring participant safety, providing a fun, social atmosphere, and promoting sportsmanlike behavior among participants, spectators, and team followers are our primary goals. The game atmosphere should remain good-natured at all times. Participants shall maintain good sportsmanship throughout their participation in all facets of the Intramural program.

The Sporting Behavior Rating System

The Sporting Behavior Rating System is intended to be an objective scale by which teams' attitude and behavior can be assessed throughout the Intramural Sports league and playoff seasons. Behavior before, during, and after an Intramural Sports contest is included in the rating. The team captain is responsible for educating and informing all players and spectators affiliated with their team about the system.

A team is responsible for the actions of the individual team members and spectators related to it. The team captain's efforts in assisting officials/staff to calm difficult situations and to restrain troubled teammates are key to controlling team conduct.

Good sporting behavior is vital to the conduct of every Intramural contest. In order to encourage proper conduct during games, officials, administrative personnel, and supervisors shall make decisions on whether to warn, penalize, or eject players or teams for poor sporting behavior. These decisions are final. The Intramural Sports administrative staff will rule on further penalties as a result of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Each participant should choose their team members carefully, as all team members will suffer the consequences of any disciplinary action taken by the Intramural Sports staff against that team for violation of the Intramural rules and sporting behavior guidelines.

Rating Method

Each team in each contest shall be rated by the officials. The authority of the officials' ratings exists prior to, during, and following all contests to which that official is assigned, and extends to all persons on, at, or near the playing site. Sporting Behavior ratings shall be marked on the scoresheet.

In all cases, IM Supervisors and the Intramural Sports administrative staff may provide input which may raise or lower the rating. Supervisors may amend any rating for inappropriate conduct by a team or its spectators before, during, or after a contest. Intramural Sports administrative staff members may amend a rating at any time for inappropriate conduct, use of an ineligible player, use of a suspended player, and/or inaccuracy in reporting.

Officials have been instructed not to comment to teams about ratings. Teams may inquire with an IM Supervisor at the game site to view their sporting behavior ratings. Teams may also view their sporting behavior ratings in the Intramural Sports Office during normal business hours. A team captain may appeal their team's sportsmanship rating by submitting an appeal to the Intramural Sports Office by 12 Noon of the next business day following the game or match. Appeals after this time will not be accepted.

The Intramural Sports administrative staff reserves the right to review any rating given to a team.

Rating Factors

The following actions and behaviors by team members, spectators, and/or team followers can have a **positive** effect on a team's sporting behavior rating:

- Team members cooperate with and demonstrate good sporting behavior toward members of both teams, spectators, officials, and all other IM staff.
- Team captain exhibits control over their team and spectators, converses reasonably and rationally with officials about rule interpretations/calls, and cooperates by providing any information requested by an IM Official/staff.
- Team members participate in the spirit and intent of the Intramural Sports game rules and/or program policies. Team members accept judgment decisions made by the officials during the contest.
- Respect is shown for FSU Campus Recreation facilities and equipment.

The following actions and behaviors by team members, spectators, and/or team followers can have a **negative** effect on a team's sporting behavior rating:

- Participants/spectators who continually complain about officials' decisions and display dissention which may include derogatory or abusive remarks. Complaints include both verbal and nonverbal behavior. Excessive arguing between opposing teams/spectators might also lead to a lower rating.
- Team captain (spokesperson) exhibits little control over their team and spectators, converses in a dissenting manner with officials about rule interpretations/calls (discussion is allowed as long as it is done in a mature manner by the team captain), or does not cooperate with game officials or IM staff. Does not provide information requested by any Intramural Sports Official/staff while performing duties.
- Having any technical fouls or penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct or having a player ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Taunting an opponent or opposing team spectator (trash talk).
- Public indecency, vulgarity, or obscenity including foul or profane language and obscene gestures, incidental or intentional, non-directed or directed at an opponent, official, teammate, supervisor, spectator, or Intramural Sports staff member.
- Physical abuse by participants/spectators in the form of fighting with an opponent, teammate, official, or staff member which occurred before, during, or after an Intramural Sports contest.

- Any threatening behavior (verbal and/or nonverbal) to any FSU Intramural Sports or Campus Recreation employee, participant, or spectator which occurred before, during, or after an Intramural Sports contest.
- Individuals/teams playing after the consumption of alcohol/drugs. If the contest has begun when this is discovered, the player(s) will be immediately removed from the facility, and the contest will be forfeited to the opponent.
- Damage to or destruction of any FSU or FSU Campus Recreation facilities including failure to remove trash from the field or court following a game or match.

Rating Scale

Team sporting behavior is graded following each contest according to the following scale **(and can grade in .25 intervals)** and criteria:

4 Points: Excellent Sporting Behavior

Players cooperate fully with the officials about rule interpretations and calls. The captain also has full control of their teammates. Team members and spectators were respectful of opponents and officials and encouraged each other's efforts. At no time was this team disrespectful toward participants or officials.

3 Points: Acceptable Sporting Behavior

Team members and spectators are respectful of opponents and officials except for one or two minor incidents which may or may not merit a warning from the game officials or supervisor. Teams receiving one technical foul or penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct should receive no higher than a 3.0 rating.

2 points: Sporting Behavior Needs Improvement

Team members or spectators are disrespectful of opponents or officials on a number of occasions which may or may not warrant a penalty. Captain exhibits minor control over themselves and their teammates and spectators. Teams receiving multiple warnings, receive two technical fouls/penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct or having a player ejected for unsportsmanlike act should receive no higher than a 2.0 rating.

1 point: Unacceptable Sporting Behavior

Teams constantly comment to the officials and/or opposing teams from the field and/or sidelines. The team captain exhibits little or no control over teammates or themselves. Majority of individuals on this team are disrespectful of opponents or officials on a regular basis. Teams receiving multiple warnings, receive three technical fouls/penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct or having a player ejected for an unsportsmanlike act and one technical foul/unsportsmanlike conduct should receive no higher than a 1.0 rating.

Teams which receive a second unacceptable rating of 1.0 in the same sport or activity are subject to immediate dismissal from league or tournament play.

0 points: Season Ending Rating

Team is completely uncooperative and out of control before, during, or after intramural sports contest(s). Team captain (spokesperson) exhibits poor control over self, the team, and/or the spectators. Multiple ejections or blatant unsportsmanlike conduct that endangered participants, fans, officials, or supervisors. Team fails to cooperate/comply with intramural sports administrative staff/University officials while performing their duties; falsely represents or withholds any requested information. Teams receiving multiple warnings, receive four technical fouls/penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct or having multiple ejections should receive no higher than a 0.0 rating.

Teams which receive a 0.0 rating are subject to immediate dismissal for league or tournament play.

Special Game Situations

A team winning a game by default or forfeit with no game play occurring will receive a 4.0 rating, unless special circumstances dictate otherwise. A team that wins a game by forfeit after the game has started and game play has occurred shall receive a rating based on their sporting behavior in the game play up to the time of the forfeit.

A team losing by default or forfeit will receive a 3.0 for their sporting behavior rating.

Teams receiving an unacceptable (1 point) or lower sporting behavior rating in a weekend tournament will be eliminated from further competition regardless of the contest's outcome.

Team Sporting Behavior & Playoff Eligibility

A team must have a 3.0 average or better sporting behavior rating during regular season league games to be eligible for the playoffs. The average sporting behavior rating will be calculated similar to the grade point/game ratio.

Playoff Tournament Sporting Behavior

A team must maintain its 3.0 average or better sporting behavior rating during the playoffs. The average will include regular season and playoff games.

A winning team which receives a sporting behavior rating of 1.0 to 2.4 points in a playoff game is subject to dismissal from further tournament play and should be prepared to petition the Intramural Sports Office on the next business day to remain in the tournament. If the team is allowed to advance, it must receive a sporting behavior rating of 3.0 points or higher in all remaining playoff games.

Any team which receives a sporting behavior rating of 0.9 points or below during the playoffs will be immediately dismissed from further tournament play and subject to further disciplinary action as a team in subsequent sports, as individuals when appropriate, or to the team captain.

A losing team which receives a sporting behavior rating of 1.9 points or below in their final playoff game, is subject to further disciplinary action as a team in subsequent sports, as individuals when appropriate, or to the team captain.

Ejected or Suspended Participants

A. Ejections

A player, spectator, or other visitor may be ejected by game officials or other Intramural Sports personnel for any conduct deemed unsportsmanlike or for not staying within the spirit of the rules. An ejected person is immediately ineligible for ALL Intramural Sports leagues, events, and activities and is subject to additional penalties including revocation of access to other Campus Recreation programs, services, and facilities including, but not limited to, the Leach Student Recreation Center and the FSU Rez Lakefront Park.

B. Reinstatement Procedure

To regain eligibility, the ejected person must complete each of the following:

1. Prepare a written statement detailing the events surrounding the incident. The statement should be sent to the website listed on the Ejection Procedure Checklist given to the ejected person, when possible, at the time of the ejection.
2. Schedule an appointment to meet with the Coordinator of Intramural Sports to discuss the incident.
3. Attend the scheduled meeting with the Coordinator of Intramural Sports.

C. Failure to Complete Reinstatement Procedure

An ejected person who does not complete the required steps in the reinstatement procedure outlined above remains ineligible for all Intramural Sports leagues, events, and activities and is subject to additional penalties including revocation of access to other Campus Recreation programs, services, and facilities including, but not limited to, the Leach Student Recreation Center and the FSU Rez Lakefront Park for the remainder of their collegiate career. This "lifetime suspension" from all IM activities carries over from academic year to academic year until the ejected person completes the outlined procedure to regain their eligibility. The ejected person's name will be removed from the list once the reinstatement procedure is completed.

D. Unsportsmanlike Incidents

For incidents deemed unsportsmanlike, when the ejected person does not complete the required steps in the reinstatement procedure within the designated time period as outlined above, the ejected person remains ineligible for all Intramural Sports leagues, events, and activities and is subject to additional penalties including revocation of access to other Campus Recreation programs, services, and facilities including, but not limited to, the Leach Student Recreation Center and the FSU Rez Lakefront Park. Such incidents may also be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards, FSU Police, or University Judicial Officer for further action.

E. Physical Assaults of Players, Spectators, Game Officials, and Other IM Staff

Anyone who physically assaults a spectator, player, official, or activity supervisor will be automatically suspended for a minimum period of one year from the date of the incident. The person must petition the Intramural Sports administrative staff for re-admittance into the program. Further, appropriate charges may be filed with the University Judicial Officer.

F. Suspensions

While an ejected player's suspension from Intramural Sports begins at the time of the ejection, any official suspension for the ejected person's actions with respect to the particular incident does not begin until issued during the ejected person's meeting with the Coordinator of Intramural Sports.

G. Appeals

Any appeal of an Intramural Sports suspension shall be first heard by the Director of Intramural Sports. 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. No previous Intramural games or matches will be replayed as a result of an upheld appeal. 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.



Participant Suspensions

Any person ejected from a game or game site must leave the game site immediately and will be suspended from participating in any Intramural competition. Length of suspension will depend on the severity of the action that resulted in the ejection.

A. Physical Contact with Intramural Sports Staff Member

Player or spectator makes physical contact in a threatening manner (battery) toward an official or supervisor. **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.** Minimum of one semester, effective immediately. Further, appropriate charges may be filed with the University Judicial Officer and Dean of Students Office.

B. Physical Contact with Another Player

Player strikes another player. **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.** Minimum of rest of season, effective immediately. Further, appropriate charges may be filed with the University Judicial Officer and Dean of Students Office.

C. Leaving the Bench Area to Participate in an Altercation

Team members and/or spectators who leave benches/viewing area to participate in any isolated altercation. **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.** Minimum of one game, effective immediately.

D. Threatening Behavior Toward a Staff Member, Opponent, or Patron

Threatening behavior (verbal or physical) toward an official/supervisor/participant. **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.** Effective immediately.

E. Verbal Abuse of a Staff Member, Opponent, or Patron

Player verbally abuses an official/supervisor/participant. **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.** Effective immediately.

F. Violation of Eligibility Standards

Individual playing on more than one team in any Intramural activity and/or in violation of established eligibility rules. **INDEFINITE SUSPENSION.** Effective immediately.

G. Use of an Assumed Name or Other Fraudulent Act

Fraudulent acts shall be defined as misrepresentation of a score, playing while ineligible or under suspension, using another person's ID, or allowing an individual to use your ID for Intramural competition. Should a participant, team captain, chairperson or other associate be guilty or responsible for the use of an assumed name or fraudulent act, they 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.

Team & Organization Sporting Behavior Violations

Independent teams and organizations may be sanctioned for major sporting behavior violations by their members, such as using ineligible players, threatening actions towards opponents, officials or supervisors, or fans entering the playing area. Upon the first major violation, the team or organization may be suspended from other ongoing Intramural Sports or suspended from participating in upcoming sports. Additionally, the team or organization may be placed on probation within the Intramural Sports program for up to one calendar year. Upon the second major violation within any one calendar year, the organization may be immediately suspended from all Intramural activities for one year. Serious offenses may also be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards or other judicial boards for further review. See Fair Play, Appeals of Administrative Decisions, for information on the appeals process.