

Player/Spectator Code of Conduct Policy

Sportsmanship Guidelines

The purpose of Intramural Sports is to provide recreational activities for the students, faculty and staff of the University of North Florida which are safe, competitive and enjoyable. While the games are often competitive, providing a fun, social atmosphere and promoting good sportsmanlike behavior among participants and spectators are our primary concerns. The game atmosphere should remain good-natured and the participants and spectators should maintain good sportsmanship throughout their participation in all facets of the Intramural program.

Sportsmanship Rating System

The Sportsmanship Rating System is an objective scale by which teams' (and their spectators) attitude and behavior can be assessed throughout the league and playoffs of their sport. Behavior before, during, and after a contest is included in the rating. The team captain is responsible for educating and informing all players and spectators affiliated with his/her team about the system.

A team is responsible for the actions of the individual team members and the spectators related to it. The team captain's effort and ability to assist officials/supervisors to calm difficult situations and to restrain troubled teammates are essential to controlling team conduct.

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

Each participant should choose their team/teammates wisely, because all team members are will suffer the consequences of any disciplinary actions taken against that team for violation of the sportsmanship guidelines.

How Teams are Rated

Each team in each intramural contest will be rated by the officials in that contest. The authority of the officials' ratings exists prior to, during, and after all contests to which that official is assigned, and extends to all persons on, at, or near the playing site (players and spectators). Sportsmanship ratings will 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 may amend a rating at any time for inappropriate conduct, use of an ineligible/suspended player, and/or inaccuracy of reporting.

How to and How Not to Act during Intramural Contests

Expectations on how to act during Intramural contests:

- Team members/spectators cooperate with and demonstrate good sportsmanship toward members of both teams, spectators, officials and all other Intramural staff
- Team captain exhibits control over his/her team and spectators, converses reasonably and rationally with officials about rule interpretations/calls, and cooperates by providing any information requested by officials/IM staff
- Team members participate in the spirit and intent of the intramural sport game rules and policies.

- Team members/spectators accept judgment decisions made by the officials during the intramural contest
- Have fun!

*Expectations on how **NOT** to act during Intramural contests:*

- Participants/spectators who continually complain about officials' decisions and display dissention with may include derogatory or abusive remarks.
- Excessive arguing between opposing teams/spectators.
- Team captain displaying little control over his/her team and spectators, converses in a dissenting manner with officials about rule interpretation/calls, or does not cooperate with officials/IM staff.
- Taunting an opponent or opposing team spectator (trash talk)
- Public indecency, vulgarity, or obscenity including foul or profane language and obscene gestures, non-directed or directed at an opponent, official, teammate, supervisor or spectator.
- Any threatening behavior (verbal or nonverbal) to any UNF Intramural Sports or Campus Recreation employee, participant, or spectator.
- 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 contest.
- Individuals/teams playing under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Spectators watching contests under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Rating Scale

Team sportsmanship is graded following each contest according to the following scale and criteria:

4 – Players and spectators cooperate fully with the officials about rule interpretations and calls. The captain has full control of his/her teammates, fans, and bench. Team members and spectators were respectful of opponents with no dissension shown whatsoever.

3 – Team members verbally complain about some decisions made the officials and/or show minor dissension, which does not merit an unsportsmanlike penalty. Teams and spectators are respectful of opponents with only minor incidents.

2 – Team members show verbal dissent (yelling, questioning calls, etc.) towards officials and are disrespectful towards opponents and officials on a number of occasions. The team captain shows minor control over himself/herself and his/her teammates and spectators. Teams that receive an unsportsmanlike penalty will automatically at most receive a 2.5.

1 – Team members and spectators related to that team persistently question and complain to officials and constantly comment to opposing players. The team captain exhibits little or no control over himself/herself and his/her teammates and spectators. Players are verbally abusive and cannot calm themselves down. Teams that have an ejection from the game will automatically receive a 1.

0 – Team member are completely uncooperative and are out of control. Multiple ejections or blatant unsportsmanlike conduct has occurred. Captain has no control of himself/herself and his/her teammates. Any team that receives a 0 for a contest will must have their captain meet with the Intramural Sports Coordinator to determine the eligibility status of their team. The team will not be allowed to play and will forfeit each contest until that meeting occurs.

Forfeits & Sportsmanship Policy

A team winning a game by forfeit will not receive a sportsmanship rating for that game. Any team that does not show up for a contest without contacting the Intramural Coordinator 24 hours in advance of the scheduled contest will automatically receive a 1 sportsmanship rating and will be ineligible for the playoffs.

Any team that contacts the Intramural Coordinator at least 24 hours in advance of a contest will receive a loss and an automatic 2.5 sportsmanship rating.

Unsportsmanlike Penalties

Any individual that receives 3 unsportsmanlike penalties in one sport will be ineligible for further competition in that sport and subject to further suspension from future Intramural contests.

Any team that receives 5 unsportsmanlike penalties in one sport will automatically be dropped from competition and the captain will be subject to further suspension from future Intramural contests.

Individual unsportsmanlike penalties will carry over from sport to sport. Once a participant receives a 3rd unsportsmanlike penalty during the course of the school year, they will automatically be ineligible from all intramural competition for one week. If a participant receives a 4th unsportsmanlike penalty during the course of the school year, they will automatically be ineligible from all intramural competition for three weeks. If a participant receives a 5th unsportsmanlike penalty during the course of the school year, they will be automatically ineligible from all intramural competition for the remainder of the school year. Suspensions will carry over each semester and can carry over to the next school year.

Teams/Organizations that receive 8 unsportsmanlike penalties over the course of the school year will be ineligible from all intramural competition for the remainder of the year.

Team Sportsmanship and Playoff Eligibility

A team must have a 2.85 sportsmanship average throughout the season to be eligible for the playoffs. Teams must maintain that 2.85 average throughout the course of the playoffs to remain eligible for competition. A team that receives a 0, 1, or 2 sportsmanship rating during the playoffs is subject to dismissal from further tournament play.

Ejected Players

All participants that are ejected from an intramural contest will be immediately suspended from all intramural contests. The suspension is indefinite in length, carrying over year-to-year, until reinstated by the Intramural Coordinator. The reinstatement process begins with scheduling a meeting with the Intramural Coordinator. **It is the responsibility of the participant to initiate this process with the Intramural Coordinator.** The length of the suspension will be determined on a case by case basis, with information gathered on the incident from the officials, supervisors, and participant ejected.