

INTRAMURAL PLAYBOOK

Rules & Regulations

USC Upstate

2004-2005

Introduction

The intramural sports program is administered by the Office of Student Life. A variety of intramural sports offered in the fall and spring coincide with weather, USC Upstate athletic schedules, other sporting events, and facility availability. Details about specific regulations and entry for each sport are available in the campus recreation office (864.503.5154) or online at www.uscupstate.edu. Involvement in the intramural sports program does not require a high degree of skill, knowledge, or physical fitness. Rather, it requires a sincere desire to participate and have fun.

Objectives

The intramural Sports program is committed to:

- Promoting personal health and wellness by providing opportunities for satisfactory physical exercise;
- Encouraging the personal development of each participant and staff member;
- Engaging participants in the campus community through opportunities for team camaraderie and competition;
- Creating an atmosphere of good sportsmanship; and,
- Offering a diverse set of activities and services for the entire campus community.

Risk Statement

Participation in the intramural sports program at USC Upstate is purely voluntary and individuals participate at their own risk. Neither the university nor the department of student life or its staff members will accept responsibility for injuries sustained while participating in scheduled contests or activities. Participants should be aware of the possibilities of bodily injury and should understand that they are responsible for any and all costs arising out of injury or property damage sustained through participation. Information regarding the student insurance program at USC Upstate can be obtained from health services.

Eligibility Requirements

All participants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- All participants must be currently enrolled or employed by USC Upstate.
- All participants must have a current USC Upstate ID.
- Current USC Upstate athletes, semi-professional, or professional athletes may not participate in the intramural program in their particular sport. USC Upstate athletes, including “red-shirts” athletes, are considered “current” until the end of the academic year in which they participated in a given sport.
- Players may participate on only one team in a specific sport (Exceptions: one player may play on a co-ed team and on a men’s or women’s team if offered. Players in singles tournaments may also play in doubles or team tournaments of the same sport).
- Participants must be listed on the team roster and liability form to be eligible.

Ineligible players will not be allowed to participate. Teams using ineligible players will forfeit all games in which the player participates or participated and become subject to forfeiture fees for those games. The assistant director of student life, with assistance from the Intramural supervisor, will settle all disputes regarding eligibility.

Team & Individual Entry

Entry forms for all sports are online at www.uscupstate.edu. All forms must be submitted prior to the entry deadline. Late entries will not be accepted unless there is an opening for a team or individual in game scheduling.

Team Captains

Each team must elect or appoint a captain to serve as the spokesperson for the team before, during, and after play. Team captains must attend the captains meeting and be prepared to:

- Attend any meetings pertaining to team or team eligibility;
- Submit by the specified deadlines a team entry and roster including the names and student ID numbers of all members;
- Ensure that all players understand the risks and personal liability statement involved with participation;
- Be aware of all eligibility requirements and rules governing participation in their team sport;
- Serve as the team representative to officials and campus recreation & student life staff members;
- Inform teammates of schedules and sign-in procedures;
- Include free agents if possible;
- Assist officials in obtaining correct names when changes in the lineup are made;
- Submit forfeiture and game entry fees when appropriate;
- Notify campus recreation staff immediately of any conflicts with game times; and,
- Make every effort to promote good sportsmanship in their team members and spectators.

League Play

Game play will be scheduled by the campus recreation staff and will normally occur Monday through Thursday. League play may be scheduled in a round robin, divisional, or elimination format according to the number of teams and facility availability. Many leagues may have tournaments after the regular season. During regular and post-season play, games may have to be cancelled by campus recreation due to inclement weather, loss of facilities, or other circumstances beyond campus recreation control. Cancelled games may not be rescheduled. Neither team will be penalized for games cancelled by campus recreation. Teams with poor sportsmanship or numerous forfeitures may be removed from league play and/or post-season play.

Forfeits & Defaults

A team will forfeit a contest or multiple contests when:

- The minimum number of players is not present at the game site within 5 minutes of game time; or,
- The team uses an ineligible player; or,

- The team or any player or spectators affiliated with the team displays flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct; or,
- Team has not submitted forfeiture fees; or,
- There is no team representative at scheduled meetings.

Any team that forfeits a game for any reason will receive a loss for that contest and become ineligible for further competition in the league. To be reinstated, the team must pay a \$10.00 forfeiture fee per game before the next contest. A team with 2 forfeits will be removed from the league.

A team may default a game by giving written notification from the team captain by 1:00 pm on the day of the scheduled contest. A default counts as a loss for the contest, but does not subject the team to the other penalties associated with forfeiture. A team may use two defaults per season. Any further defaults will be counted as forfeitures.

Officials & Scorekeepers

Officials and scorekeepers are employees of USC Upstate campus recreation and should be treated as such. Most officials are students. Officials go through training for each sport understanding that most calls made by officials are judgment calls. Therefore, it is in the best interest if a team to respect the judgment of an official. This keeps all teams in good standing. Verbally attacking, threatening to strike, or striking an official or scorekeeper may result in forfeiture of the game and removal from the intramural sports program.

Procedure for challenging a call made by the official:

The team captain should call a time out and confer with the official and the team captain for the other team. No other players should be involved unless requested by the official. Players who challenge calls to the officials who are not the captain of their team will be removed from play immediately for the duration of the contest and may be subject to further disciplinary action. Calls that are made by officials may not be changed after play resumes.

Appeals

Any appeal of game results, player eligibility, or rule interpretation must be submitted in writing within 24 hours of the contest to campus recreation. Verbal protests will not be evaluated. All decisions related to the interpretation of the rules will be made in a timely fashion by the Intramural Supervisor & the Assistant Director of Student Life. Their decision will be final.

Contact information

Campus Recreation: 864.503.5154 (phone) 864.503.5100 (fax)

Assistant Director of Student Life: 864.503.5174

Office of Student Life: 864.503.5122

The campus recreation office is located in the University Commons Office and is open daily during scheduled office hours.

Sportsmanship

The purpose of the intramural sports program is to provide an enjoyable recreation experience for all participants. Therefore, sportsmanship is a high priority and all participants are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner.

All individuals and teams participating will be expected to comply with the spirit as well as the letter of the rules that govern competitive situations. Participants are expected to be fair, honest, courteous, positive, and respectful of contest results. In order to encourage proper conduct during contests, officials, intramural supervisors and administrative personnel will make decisions whether to warn, penalize, or eject persons or teams displaying poor sportsmanship. **Instances of poor sportsmanship will be handled quickly and severely.**

Individual Sportsmanship

The office of student life and its staff take an active part in educating students as well as enforcing the USC Upstate campus discipline code to keep sportsmanship an integral part of the intramural sports program. The Student Handbook highlights several actions that could be considered unsportsmanlike conduct. This is certainly not an exhaustive list:

Minor misconduct infractions:

- Persistent or gross acts of willful disobedience or defiance toward university personnel;
- Verbal abuse of a student or employee;
- Disorderly, lewd, or obscene conduct;
- Disruptive behavior;
- Profanity;
- Failure to comply with directions of university officials, faculty, staff, or university police who are acting in the performance of their assigned duties and responsibilities.

Major misconduct infractions:

- Assault, battery, or any other form of physical abuse of a student or employee or another person;
- Any conduct that threatens the health or safety of another individual;
- Theft of or damage to the property of the university or another individual;
- Unauthorized entry to or use of university facilities;
- Unauthorized possession or use of alcoholic beverage on university property or at any function sponsored by the university;
- Illegal possession or use of firearms, explosives, dangerous chemicals, or other weapons;
- Gambling.

Infractions will be reviewed by campus recreation, the office of student life, and/or the office of the dean of students. Appropriate penalties will be given.

Any participant ejected from regular season play in any sport becomes automatically ineligible from league play until he/she meets with the assistant director of student life or other designated university employee. A player refusing to leave will cost his/her team a forfeit for the contest. Officials and administrative staff have the ability to eject a player without notice, especially as the result of a misconduct infraction.

Team Sportsmanship

Teams are responsible for the actions of the members of their team and spectators. Any unsportsmanlike conduct from team members or spectators may impact team eligibility. Teams displaying unsportsmanlike conduct will not be eligible for post-season play. Some sports employ a sportsmanship rating schedule as follows:

SPORTSMANSHIP RATING SCALE

Sportsmanship ratings will be assigned in certain sports for overall team play. At the end of each game, the officials and one scorekeeper will rate the sportsmanship performance of each team. These scores are averaged and become the sportsmanship rating average. The sportsmanship rating average for each team and each game will be recorded in a logbook. The overall season sportsmanship average is the sum of all game sportsmanship rating averages divided by the total number of games played by that team. This average will be posted on the intramural standings board in the campus recreation building and a determining factor for a team entering tournament play. Officials' decisions concerning sportsmanship are final. Averages will not be rounded up.

A (4 points)

Players fully cooperate with officials & team members; AND
Captain calmly converses with officials; AND
captain has full control of teammates, fans, and bench.

B (3 points)

Players maintain positive attitude most of the game; AND
Emotions are kept under control; AND
complaints and disagreements with officials are limited; AND
no instances of excessive contact or unsportsmanlike infractions.

C (2 points)

Players direct negative comments toward officials; OR
there is at least one instance of excessive physical contact; OR
the team captain demonstrates minimal control of team; OR
the officials have to give verbal warnings; OR
at least one unsportsmanlike conduct infraction is issued.

D (1 point)

Players other than the captain persist in questioning the officials' decisions or repeatedly argue calls; OR
players frequently use profane or vulgar language; OR
spectators clearly related to team fail to cooperate with officials; OR
more than one unsportsmanlike infraction has been given; OR
any player has been ejected from the game.

F (0 points)

Players' behavior is consistently hostile or profane; OR
any member verbally or physically threatens officials or opponents; OR
any fight or altercation occurs; OR
multiple team members have been ejected from the game.