

Cornell University Recreation Services



2017-2018 Intramural Handbook

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Cornell University Recreational Services reserves the right to rule on any case not specifically covered in this handbook, or the rules of the activity in question, and will do so in the spirit of fairness and safety. The right is also reserved to put into effect and add to these policies and procedures any new rulings pertaining to Intramural Sports, unsporting behavior, fair play, and the safety of the Intramural Sports participants that will lead to the enhancement of the event or activity and the program’s overall mission of enjoyment, fairness, and safety.

Updated 8/2017

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW

Welcome to Intramural Sports!

The goal of our program is to offer a variety of activities for all skill levels established in an inviting, positive, fun, and safe environment. More than 30 leagues and tournaments are offered to the entire University community each school year. These programs will provide various structured sport opportunities to satisfy as many skill levels as possible. Participation opportunities for single-gendered, and mix-gendered play are provided. Contests, meets, leagues, and tournaments will be offered in various formats.

Participant Responsibilities

Schedules, registration dates, and other pertinent information will be posted on the intramural webpage. It is the team captains’ and/or individual’s responsibility to check the webpage for upcoming events and schedule changes. **No contest information will be given over the phone.** Teams, including all captains, participants, fans, and spectators of the teams are responsible for following the policies and procedures as written in this handbook. If you have questions about policies and/or clarification, please contact the Intramural Sports office. **Lack of policy knowledge will not be a viable excuse for violations.**

Valid Cornell ID Required to Play

Each player must present their Cornell ID when they check in at all events. NO ID = NO PLAY. There are no exceptions to this rule.

II. REGISTRATION & FREE AGENCY

Registering a Team

All registration will be done through IMLeagues.com. If registration is open, there will be a green registration button on the event page.

Registering Individual Players

Captains can invite members to their team by clicking the “Invite Members” link on their IMLeagues team page. Any invited members must accept the invitation to join the team. **All intramural participants will need to create an account on IMLeagues.com to participate in intramural sports at Cornell University. Captains are encouraged to remind all players of this to ensure that players can be added to the roster properly. If the Intramural staff has to create an IMLeagues profile for an individual that is added to a team, a \$5 fee will be charged to the team captain for each instance.**

Individual and Team Registration and Fees

Space may be limited for some leagues or events. **Individual and team registrations will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.**

Registration fees vary for each activity, and may be paid with bursar billing, credit card, check, or budget transfer. Cash will not be accepted.

Please contact Debbie Gatch at dag7@cornell.edu to pay by credit card, check, or budget transfer.

Team Captains’ Meeting

Mandatory captains’ meetings will be held to discuss rules and program operations for most team sports. If a team captain or representative does not attend this meeting, the captain will be charged a \$15 fee. Teams not present may also be replaced by a team on the waitlist (whose representative is present at the meeting) and the team that missed the meeting will be placed at the bottom of the waitlist (if one exists). Teams will also lose the ability to request reschedules during playoffs (if qualified).

Free Agency

Looking to play but don’t have a team?

Individuals may list themselves as a free agent in any number of divisions within a league. This will be visible to all members of the site. Free agents

can request to join teams and the free agent can post information about themselves so teams can request to add them to the team. Free agents may also attend the captains’ meeting for the specific sport they are interested in to speak with team representatives that may be looking for players. If a free agent gets picked up by a team, that team will be the only one that the free agent will be allowed to play with for the entire season.

III. SAFETY AND ATTIRE

Proper attire must be worn for each activity. NFHS and NIRSA standards will be enforced. This is for your protection, as well as that of other participants.

Equipment Approval

Each individual must obtain prior approval from the Director of Intramural Sports for the use of orthopedic devices essential to protect an injury, as well as any casts or wrappings. Religious and medical identifications must be removed from chains and taped or sewn under the uniform. An individual will be allowed to wear religious objects if the individual requests prior approval and the item is determined to not cause injury or give an artificial advantage to the player by the Director of Intramural Sports.

Team Jerseys

Teams are strongly encouraged to wear their own color-matching jerseys with visible numbers on the back. No taped-on or pinned-on numbers are permitted. Pinnies will be available at the contest sites for teams in need

Illegal Apparel

- a. Street/dress clothes (i.e. jeans or shoes)
- b. Bare feet (except sand volleyball), sandals, work boots, or finger shoes
- c. Hard-brimmed caps (unless noted in the sport rules)
- d. Metal or screw in cleats
- e. Any exposed jewelry (rings, earrings, ropes, bracelets, piercings etc.)

Taping of jewelry is not permitted!

Inclement Weather – Prior to Contest Time

Administrative postponements or cancellations occur when the weather or other uncontrollable factors make postponing contests necessary. If the weather is questionable, please check your email for updates from the

IMLeagues account for updates. Contests will be rescheduled at a later date, if possible.

Inclement Weather – Contest Time

If the field conditions support safe play, all outdoor contests will be played as scheduled. Please be prepared and dress accordingly.

In the event of lightning and/or thunder, the contest will be suspended immediately. For the safety of the participants, regulations mandate that play cannot be resumed for thirty (30) minutes when lightning is seen, or twenty (20) minutes when thunder is heard.

IV. MEDICAL PROCEDURES

Assumption of Risk

Cornell University Recreational Services assumes no responsibility for injuries sustained during intramurals, special events, and other recreational activities. Participants have voluntarily decided to participate in this sport or activity and has knowledge of the nature and the extent of the risks. Participants are also aware that there are other risks of injury and illness, that may arise due to participation in this sport or activity and that it is not possible to specifically list every individual risk of injury. However, knowing the material risks and reasonably anticipating, appreciating, and knowing that other injuries and even death are a possibility. It is strongly recommended that all participants have a physical examination prior to participating. Any injuries or accidents occurring during recreational activities should be reported immediately to on-duty personnel. Participants with a health issue and individuals who are on medication are encouraged to inform the Director of Intramural Sports of the specific situation.

Blood/Fluid Spill Procedures

A participant who is visibly bleeding will be immediately removed from a contest and will not be permitted back until the bleeding has stopped and the wound is covered. If any clothing is marked with or saturated in blood, the participant must change into clean clothing before returning to the contest. If a player does not have a change of clothing, they will not be able to re-enter the contest. Therefore, players and teams are asked to bring extra clothing to their contests for such an occurrence.

- a. The Intramural Supervisor will execute all blood/fluid spill protocols.
- b. Blood on the playing surface must be properly cleaned before the contest can resume.

Loss of Consciousness

If, during an intramural contest, a participant loses consciousness for any length of time, they will not be permitted to return to **any intramural activity** for the remainder of the day/night.

- a. Public Safety will automatically be called to assist in any loss of consciousness situation during an intramural activity
- b. Cornell Recreational Services **STRONGLY** recommends getting assessed by a physician prior to returning to any physical activity for health and safety reasons.

V. FORFEIT PROCEDURE

On-Site Forfeiture

Forfeits are detrimental to the entire program and are an inconvenience to participants who want to play. Therefore, a forfeit procedure has been established in an effort to eliminate forfeits. In all contests, if an individual/team fails to appear or fails to have the required number of eligible, properly equipped participants at the scheduled contest time, the opposing player/team who is present will have the following options:

- a. Take the win by forfeit at that time. No contest will be played.
- b. Choose to wait no more than 10 minutes until the opponent arrives with the minimum number of participants to compete by rule. The official contest clock will start running as scheduled. The contest will commence once the opponents arrive with whatever contest time is remaining on the clock. The waiting team will be given a scoring advantage. If the opposing team is not ready to play 10 minutes after the schedule contest time, a forfeit win will be declared for the waiting team.

If neither team has the required number of players at the schedule contest time, both teams will be given 10 minutes to complete their team. No scoring advantage will be given to either team in this case.

Forfeiture & Eligibility

Teams that forfeit only once are still eligible for playoffs. A team that forfeits the equivalent of two contests will be dropped from the league without the possibility of re-entry.

If a player registered or played in a contest for a team that forfeits out of the league, they will not be eligible to participate in that sport for the remainder of the season.

Forfeit Fee

Any team that forfeits one contest will be charged a forfeit fee. The forfeit fee amount will be the result of personnel costs for the contest that was not played. All fees will automatically appear on the captain's bursar account. If a team calls prior to 4 pm on weekdays, or emails the Director by 10 am on weekends prior to the day of their contest, they may default their contest. A default means the forfeit fee will not be applied and the defaulting team will still receive a loss. More than one default will equal a forfeit.

VI. ELIGIBILITY

Individual Eligibility

- a. All undergraduate and graduate students enrolled full-time at Cornell University, current faculty/staff members, and spouses/partners are eligible to participate in Intramural Sports.
- b. Participants retain their status until they withdraw, graduate, take a leave of absence, or fail to comply with eligibility rules or other guidelines.
- c. Alumni, faculty/staff members, graduate students, and spouses/partners are not eligible to participate in the Greek Division.
- d. All participants are free to participate in accordance with their gender identity, including the single-gender league which they feel most comfortable.

Current Varsity Team Members

Varsity athletes are ineligible to compete in their sport or any related sports (i.e. current baseball players may not play softball. Any member of a varsity team who suits up for a contest/match or is listed at any time on the team's

roster during the current school year is ineligible for the remainder of the current school year in that sport or related sport. This rule also applies to athletes who have transferred to Cornell from another university or college during the current school year. **Practice players and players who participated in tryouts are not considered current varsity players.**

Ex-Varsity Athletes

Only one ex-varsity letter winner is eligible to be on an intramural team's roster for each sport in which the student lettered. This rule includes the holder of a current varsity letter at a university or senior college other than Cornell University. Ex-Varsity athletes must be at least one year removed from competition in order to compete in Intramural Sports.

Professional and Elite Athletes

Anyone who has competed in a sport on a professional level can compete if they are more than five years removed from a professional roster.

Club Sport Athletes

Club members are defined as those persons who have: participated in practices and/or contests with the team during the current academic year, are paying dues to the club, and/or listed as a member of the club on the sport club roster.

Club members are eligible to participate in Intramural Sports. Teams are allowed to have an unlimited number of club members on each roster. However, teams are only allowed to have two club members in a related sport check in for each contest for sports that have teams of five or more players and are limited to one club member checking in for sports that have teams of four or less players.

Roster Restrictions

Once a player has been added to a roster, they may only play for that team for the remainder of that sport, league, or tournament. **Participants may play on one single-gender team (including Greek) and one mix-gendered team.**

Playoff Eligibility

For individuals on a team to be eligible for playoffs, the following must be met:

- a. All team members are registered on IMLeagues
- b. All team members appear on the team's IMLeagues roster

If a team member does not appear on the IMLeagues roster, the team captain may denote this on the score sheet on-site, and the Intramural Sports office will check for eligibility. If the team member is found eligible, the office will add the player to the team's IMLeagues roster. If the team member is found ineligible, sanctions found in Section IX will apply.

It is the captain's responsibility to know the status of all team members while participating in Intramural Sports. Cornell Recreational Services reserves the right to rule on the eligibility of any participant and take appropriate disciplinary action. When necessary, Cornell Recreational Services will investigate any properly protested cases (see Section VII), and handle them according to the policies and procedures.

VII. PROTEST PROCEDURE

It is the strong belief of this department that contest should be won or lost on the field of play, not through the technicalities of the rules. The intramural staff will resolve all disputes. Teams or individuals may file a protest concerning the misapplication of rules and/or policies as well as individual/team eligibility. **Matters involving the judgment of an official are not a basis for protest.**

Protest Requisites

- a. For rules misinterpretations, the captain of a protesting team is required to make the protest to the officials in charge of the contest prior to the next resumption of play. **Once play has resumed, a protest will not be valid.** Forms can be obtained from the on-site supervisor.
- b. For eligibility protests, the team captain has until 4pm the day after the game in question to protest. Captains can obtain forms from the on-site supervisor, or e-mail intramurals@cornell.edu if the protest occurs after the contest and before the deadline.
- c. The officials are responsible for notifying the intramural supervisor, who will note the contest situation so that the contest may be replayed from that point, in the event the protest is upheld.

- d. All protests (including eligibility) must be made in writing to Cornell Recreational Services by the protesting team's captain. On-site supervisors will assist in filling out the form if there are any questions.

The Director of Intramural Sports will investigate and rule on the protest. The decision will be final.

VIII. SPORTSPERSONSHIP & PARTICIPANT CONDUCT

Great sportspersonship is a cornerstone of a quality intramural experience. We value the good sportspersonship of our participants

Team Sportspersonship Rating

Following each contest in team sports, the contest officials and intramural supervisor(s) will rate each team on their sportspersonship. Teams qualifying for the playoff tournament (using W/L record) must average at least a "B" (3.0) rating to proceed into playoffs.

In addition, teams must maintain a "B" (3.0) rating throughout the playoff tournament. Teams dropping below a 3.0 average during the playoffs will be eliminated from the tournament. If it is the winning team that drops below a 3.0 average, the next available team (with a 3.0 average) may be placed in their spot to continue in the spirit of participation. Specific rating regulations will be discussed at the mandatory captains' meetings for each sport.

- a. Teams will not receive a grade for a contest forfeited or won by forfeit. **Exception:** contest(s) played, then forfeited due to player(s) eligibility.
- b. Ratings will be cumulative based only on the number of contests played and/or forfeited.

Teams will not receive a sportspersonship rating below a "B" (3.0) without administration of an unsporting behavior penalty from either an official or Supervisor on duty for the contest. **Supervisors may file paperwork to request lowering sportspersonship ratings if they feel the behavior displayed is egregious enough to warrant this action.** The Director of Intramural Sports may review the request and adjust sportspersonship if deemed warranted.

Unsporting Behavior

- a. **Good sportsmanship is required of all participants.** Players, coaches, and spectators are to conduct themselves properly at all times.
- b. Unsporting behavior before, during and/or after a contest will not be tolerated. The team captains are expected to assist the department staff and will assume full responsibility for the conduct of the team and spectators.
- c. Any player, fan, or coach who has to be removed or ejected from a contest or playing area for conduct of an unsporting nature is automatically ineligible from further competition and will be suspended for any major infractions. (See "Section IX: Disciplinary Procedures for sportsmanship infractions")
- d. Notification of disciplinary action will be sent to the individual, team captain, and other university departments, such as University Judicial Affairs, as necessary.

Ejections

All ejected players must leave the playing area/facility when ejected.

- a. If it is inside a building, ejected players must leave the building completely, and may not linger outside the building.
- b. If at an outdoor field, ejected players must be "out of sight, out of sound". This means the ejected player must not be seen nor heard from the field.
- c. If the player refuses to leave within five minutes, the contest will be forfeited and the team captain is held accountable. The decision of an official or intramural staff member to eject a player or spectator for any unsporting conduct (verbal or physical) will be firmly upheld by Cornell Recreational Services. Protests of this type will not be accepted. **Absolutely no exceptions.**

Cornell Recreational Services reserves the right to suspend or disqualify groups or individuals for unsporting behavior at any time.

Harassment Policy

Cornell University prohibits its faculty, staff, and students from engaging in any form of prohibited discrimination or protected-status (including sexual) harassment, and expects these individuals to refrain from committing acts of bias within the university's jurisdiction.

It is Cornell Recreational Services' goal to foster a climate of courtesy and mutual respect between employees and participants. We align our policies with those set forth by the University. Any harassment toward a department employee or participant will subject the individual and/or team to University disciplinary procedures.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

Individuals, teams, and spectators who arrive intoxicated, suspected of consuming or possessing alcohol, tobacco, or other illegal substances will not be permitted to play and will be asked to leave the playing area. The contest may be forfeited and the offending individual(s) immediately suspended. Cornell Recreational Services will not tolerate such behavior and will act in a manner that is prudent, with the safety of all participants the priority. Such individuals will be dealt with harshly, given a minimum of a 365-day suspension and will be subject to University disciplinary procedures. **When in doubt, the Supervisor and officials will err on the side of safety, and will be backed 100% by Cornell Recreational Services and the Office of Student Life on decisions regarding disallowing participation under this policy.**

IX. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Major Infractions

The following are infractions of the Cornell University Intramural Sports Conduct Code:

- a. Any individual disqualified from a contest for addressing an official, another player, or other program personnel in an unsporting manner: suspended from competition for a minimum of their next scheduled contest.

- b. Anyone endangering the welfare of another: immediate disqualification and ejection. In addition, the individual will be suspended from competition for a minimum of their next two scheduled contests.
- c. Anyone flagrantly endangering the welfare of another: immediate disqualification. In addition, the individual will be suspended from competition for the remainder of that sport season (minimum), semester, or 365 days, and the individual may be reported to University Judicial Affairs depending on the severity of the incident.
- d. Anyone flagrantly offending program personnel, verbally, physically, or in writing: suspension from all intramural sports for a minimum of 365 days. In addition, the individual may be reported to University Judicial Affairs.
- e. Anyone becoming involved in a fight: immediate disqualification. In addition, the individual will be suspended from further competition for 365 days. "S/he hit me first" or "I was just defending myself" are not acceptable excuses for fighting.
- f. Cheating: Any individual who is responsible for cheating will be suspended from competition according to the following guidelines:
 - i. Playing for multiple teams and violating any eligibility rules:
 - 1st Offense – The individual will be given the choice of which team they will play for. The other team will forfeit the match the individual participated in.
 - 2nd Offense – The individual will be suspended the remainder of the sport season in which the violation occurred (minimum). The individual will remain eligible to participate in other Intramural Sports. In addition, the individual will be placed on probation for 365 days.
 - ii. Playing while under suspension: 365 days from all Intramural Sports.
 - iii. Using someone else's ID, allowing another person to use one's own ID, playing under a false name, allowing another person to use someone else's ID, or allowing a suspended player to participate: 365 days from all Intramural Sports.

Additional Procedures

- a. If a team is responsible for being involved in a cheating incident, the entire team may be placed on probation. Depending on the severity

of the incident, the team may not be eligible for playoffs or may be removed from the league. **Falsifying identification in any way will result in confiscation of suspected ID and will also be reported to Judicial Affairs, no exceptions.**

- b. During a suspension, a contest forfeited by the suspended player's team will not count as a contest served for the suspension.
- c. While under suspension, individuals are not allowed to participate in any Intramural Sports (exception: refer to Major Infractions f.i.).
- d. In cases occurring late in the sport season or the academic year, a suspension may carry over into the next sport or intramural/school year.
- e. After reinstatement, anyone involved in a second offense will be suspended from competition for one full calendar year (365 days). Depending on the severity of the incident(s), the individual(s) may be reported to University Judicial Affairs to determine if a violation of the Campus Code of Conduct has occurred.
- f. All suspended players must meet with the Director of Intramural Sports to discuss their case. It is each individual's responsibility to contact our office at (607) 255-8063 for a meeting.
- g. In addition to the above guidelines, the team will forfeit all contests in which an ineligible player participated.

X. INTRAMURAL FORMAT

Playoffs and Tie-Breaking Procedures

For most sports, teams with a winning record (0.500 and above) and acceptable sportspersonship rating (3.0 and above) will be included in the playoff bracket. In determining seeding for the playoffs, the following system will be used to rank teams:

- a. Intramural points earned for the sport
 - i. When Computing points for win/loss record, the following system will be used:
 - 1. Win = 3 points
 - 2. Tie = 1 point
 - 3. Loss = 0 points
 - 4. Forfeit = -1 point
- b. Head to head

- c. Sportspersonship rating
- d. Total point differential for all contests
- e. Coin Flip

Divisions

Greek

- a. Fraternities and Sororities registered with the University as a member of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Panhellenic Council (PHC) or Multicultural Greek Letter Council (MGLC)
- b. Players must be a registered pledge or active member
- c. Registered pledges can only play with the organization they have originally registered with for the year.
- d. Alumni (defined as former students who have graduated as undergraduates), all grad students, and spouses/same-sex partners are not eligible to participate with their organization

Single-Gender

- a. Elite
- b. Competitive

Mix-Gender

- a. Teams consist of a minimum number of differently gendered individuals specific to each activity

XI. ALL-SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Scoring

To encourage participation and achievement throughout the entire academic year, Intramural Sports offers the opportunity for teams to earn points towards this system. Keep the same team name for each sport that you play and you can earn points for participation. Points will be awarded according to the following:

Participation Points Per Sport = 50 (sport seasons), 20 (individual, dual, one day)

- a. Win = 10
- b. Tie = 7
- c. Loss = 5

- d. Default = 0
- e. Forfeit = -10

1st Place = 30 2nd Place = 15 3rd Place = 10

4th Place = 8 5th Place = 5 6th Place = 3

The team must finish the regular season to receive participation and All Sports Championship points.

Participation points are only given once to each team/individual for each event, regardless of how many teams/players are participating in the event.

If a team with the same name signs up multiple teams in that sport and any one of those teams forfeits out of the league without finishing the regular season, that team name will not receive participation points for that sport.

Each group may enter as many teams or individuals as they want in all sports with the same team name. However only two teams for intramural sports seasons, top four teams for one-day team events, or top 6 finishers in the individual/dual events will receive points towards the All Sports Championship.

XII. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Many opportunities exist for students to work in paid positions with Cornell Recreational Services. Experience is not mandatory; all you need is enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. Prior to employment, the department staff will conduct mandatory training sessions that discuss policies, rules, and performance expectations. Both work study and student labor candidates are welcome!

Intramural Sport Officials

Student officials are the backbone of our program. The primary prerequisites for all officials are dependability, self-confidence, a willingness to learn and study the rules, and the ability to communicate tactfully with participants. These officials assume an immense task and are there to help produce healthy, fun, and safe playing environments. In an attempt to continually upgrade the quality of the officials, mandatory training clinics are required for each sport. Specific information regarding time and place of

these clinics will be announced in advance of that sport season so that students can plan to attend. Contact us at (607) 255-9592 if you are interested!