

Wesley College Intramural Sports Handbook



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WHAT IS “INTRAMURAL SPORTS”?

The Intramural Sports program at Wesley College is designed to provide an opportunity for all current full-time students, faculty, and staff to participate in organized recreational competition. Structured leagues and tournaments are offered in a diverse array of sporting activities ranging from Flag Football, Basketball, Soccer, Volleyball, Dodge ball, Team Handball, and Kick Ball.

THE INTRAMURAL SPORTS STAFF

The Intramural Sports staff is here to serve you. We hope you will have a fun, safe, competitive intramural sports experience. We will do everything possible to meet the goals of the Office of Student Life and Wesley College Mission. We encourage constructive comments and ideas and want to hear from you.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Positive sportsmanship is vital to the success of each and every program we offer to the College community. **Intramural League Coordinators, game officials, and the entire intramural staff have authority to make decisions to warn, penalize, or eject participants and/or teams for poor displays of sportsmanship.** All issues will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and could warrant a judicial conference with an administrator. In most cases, the Intramural Coordinator and/or Graduate Assistants will rule on further penalties to be issued.

ELIGIBILITY

Officially enrolled students of Wesley College are eligible for participation in the scheduled competition phase of the Intramural Sports Programs as defined in the following rules:

1. Participants must be full-time undergraduate or graduate students.
2. Members of an intercollegiate team are ineligible to participate in intramurals in that same activity, or in any related activities (i.e. intercollegiate baseball player may not compete in intramural softball) during the season in which they are a team member.
3. Intercollegiate athletes are defined as any member having been a team member for one varsity game that academic year, on the roster, or “lettering” in the sport.
4. A member of an intercollegiate team who loses member status due to injury is ineligible to participate in intramurals, subject to the requirements listed in #2 above, unless otherwise approved.
5. A student who quits an intercollegiate athletic team, is cut or otherwise leaves a team *prior to the first contest* will be eligible to participate in that activity in intramurals.
6. Any player losing varsity status after the first intercollegiate contest may or may not be eligible for intramural play according to the discretion of the Intramural Coordinator.
7. The Intramural Coordinator reserves the right to rule on individual cases of previous letter winners and any instances involving eligibility.
8. Every effort will be made to prevent stacking of ex-intercollegiate and out-of-season variety athletes in an activity in which they participated at the varsity level. **The basic guideline to follow is that only any combination of 2 or out-of-season athletes (playing a similar sport i.e. softball/baseball or outdoor/indoor soccer) will be permitted on the field at once for any one team. Out-of-season athletes are defined as students whose name is on an NCAA sports roster (including redshirts) as determined by respective coaches in the same academic year. (i.e. An intercollegiate soccer player who plays Fall 2011 is considered an out of season athlete for indoor soccer in the Spring 2012. However, an intercollegiate athlete who competes in soccer in Fall 2011 may participate as a non-varsity athlete in Spring 2013) [See #3 for more info]**

9. Only any combination of 2 Club Sport members will be permitted on the field or court at once in that same activity or any related activity.
10. Students barred from any intercollegiate team because of professionalism are barred from the same activity or related activity in intramurals.
11. Any student who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted to participate in intramurals and will be referred to the conduct system.
12. Players may play for one team per sport league.
13. Students on a team which forfeits may be eligible to play on another team—upon request and decision of the Intramural Coordinator.
14. In league or single elimination championship playoffs, teams cannot use players who have not played in at least **two** regular season contests for that team.
*If there is evidence that a player on an original roster is injured or sick and becomes well enough to compete in the playoffs, he/she is permitted to compete.
15. An individual who uses an assumed name, or plays under the name of another student, will forfeit his/her right to participate further in the intramural program. **All players must show their Wesley ID card to the official prior to the start of play.** NO ID = NO Play! **The exception to this rule would occur if a player has presented his/her ID in a past game and is recognized on the team roster. In this case, the player has to show his/her ID at his/her next scheduled game (whether participating or not) or the previous game will count as a forfeit for the team.**
16. Ineligible players will be dropped from intramural competition. Teams that are found using ineligible players shall forfeit that contest and possibly others. This will be at the discretion of the Intramural Coordinator
17. The Intramural Coordinator reserves the right to modify or issue any new rules or regulations that are deemed essential to the total program.

ELIGIBILITY AS A FREE AGENT!

Individuals as well as teams are encouraged to participate in intramurals. Teams are usually formed from students living together in residence halls, student organizations, hometown affiliations, and simply groups of friends. However, if you want to play but don't have enough people to form a team, don't worry, you can still get involved! The intramural staff will either form a team of Free Agents or try to place the free agents on an existing team. If you are placed on a team, it is an expectation that the Captain will contact you before beginning competition. Any questions concerning free agents can be directed to the League Coordinator or Graduate Assistant.

ADDING/DELETING PLAYERS

Team Captains may add or delete players from their roster prior to their team's last two regular season games through IMLeagues. Specific instructions will be communicated to all team captains during the captains meeting. **Students must play in at least 2 regular season games to qualify for playoffs.**

LATE ENTRIES

Late entries will be kept on file and included into the schedule when possible. There is no guarantee that the participant/team will be included in the league or tournament schedule. Please sign up during the scheduled registration period to ensure your spot on the schedule or tournament bracket.

INJURY/INSURANCE

Wesley College assumes NO responsibility for injuries occurring while participating in intramural activities or informal play. Students are urged to enroll in a family or personal health and accident plan. The intramural participant is encouraged to consider his/her personal health and

physical condition prior to participation in intramural activities. Such participation involves physical exertion, fundamental skills for that sport or activity, and may involve physical contact. The participant, being aware of the conditions predisposing him/her to injury or illness, and in consideration of the inherent physical exertion and possible contact involved in intramural participation, may wish to seek the advice of a physician prior to participation.

The Office of Student Life does not guarantee that a CPR-certified or 1st Aid certified staff member will be present during Intramural competition. Participants should have personal insurance information on-hand, as well as a personal plan in the case of a possible injury.

EQUIPMENT

The Intramural Department will provide the necessary equipment for team competition.

1. Participants must furnish personal equipment if choosing to utilize it
2. Normal care of the equipment is expected, and all equipment must be returned to the Office regardless of condition.
3. Participants are permitted to wear soft-soled rubber cleated shoes in indoor facilities. Metal, fiberglass, or plastic cleated shoes are NOT permitted.
4. Appropriate attire and footwear are required for all activities.
5. Jewelry is not permitted

TEAM CAPTAINS

Every team must be represented by a team captain and should have an assigned alternate captain. The captain is the representative of the team in all matters concerning the team and is the liaison between the Intramural Coordinator, Graduate Assistants, Intramural Staff and all team members. Team captains are responsible for the following:

1. Making sure his/her teammates accepts all team member responsibilities and liability terms and conditions via IMLeagues based instructions given during registration period.
2. Attending captains' meetings and remaining the liaison between the Intramural Coordinator or League Coordinator(s) and team members.
3. Responsible for the team and team fan's conduct during games and the team's awareness of the rules and regulations.
4. Communicating changes in schedule or weather postponements and cancellations.
5. If a team receives a free agent, it is the Captain's responsibility to contact the free agent prior to the start of competition. The team captain will be notified of potential Free Agent additions at the Captain's Meeting.

CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELIGIBILITY

The Intramural Staff does not assume the responsibility for checking upon the eligibility of individuals participating, but any cases of ineligibility called to the staff's attention will be dealt with according to the rules. Team captains are responsible for checking the eligibility of his/her own teammates and should check that of his/her opponents.

CAPTAIN'S MEETINGS

Before any team sport begins, a team representative, preferably the captain or alternate captain, is required to attend an important meeting. This meeting addresses rules of competition, facilities, schedule explanations, Wesley's Sportsmanship Policy, and general discussion relevant to the specific sport at hand.

The meetings are conducted prior to the beginning of the particular season to inform all participants of the aforementioned subjects. Attendance is mandatory. **Failure to attend a meeting could jeopardize your entry into the league.**

SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY

All intramural participants are subject to the Sportsmanship Policy! All team's sportsmanship will be evaluated each game by the intramural officials. At the conclusion of each game, the officials will rate sportsmanship on a scale of 0-8 (0-poor, 8-exceptional). Ejections, verbal abuse to the official, disruptive behavior by a team or fans, and poor sportsmanship will warrant low sportsmanship scores. Additional points will be subtracted at the conclusion of the game if a team is found to be responsible for excessive trash left at game sites. This includes, but is not limited to, empty water bottles, cups, and trash. If a team has a sportsmanship rating average lower than 4.5 at the end of the season, that team will not be allowed to participate in the playoffs. If a team receives a score of lower than 2.0 for any game, the team captain must schedule a conference with the Intramural Coordinator or Graduate Assistant. If a team receives two consecutive scores of 2 or lower in the playoffs, they must meet with the Intramural Coordinator before they advance. This policy has been implemented to ensure and continue a high level of sportsmanship with all Wesley College Intramural Activities.

PLAYER CONDUCT

The development of positive sport attitudes is a major goal of the Office of Student Life. Good sportsmanship is vital to the conduct of every contest in the Intramural Sports program. *Clearly, sporting contests are important to the participant, but the importance should not become so overriding that players lose sight of appropriate behavior.* The playing field is not a venue for physical or verbal abuse for players or spectators. An individual or team must be able to accept defeat wholesomely without blaming others. A team is responsible for the actions of individual members and for spectators directly related to their team. **Any participant who is ejected from a game must report to the Intramural Coordinator or Graduate Assistant before their next scheduled game to be considered before they can be reinstated to play.**

Racial epithets, anger-motivated outbursts, demeaning, degrading and derogatory remarks, homophobic comments, and intimidating actions are unacceptable. This behavior is contrary to Wesley College's Sportsmanship policy. Spectators associated with Wesley College or any team(s) or person(s) participating in activities and/or in attendance at activities will be held to the same standard as participants.

SECTION 1

The conduct of players and spectators before and after the game is as important as the conduct during the game. Team/organizations will be held responsible for their group's conduct. To discourage unsportsmanlike conduct, the following policies have been adopted:

- A. **Disrespect/Verbal Abuse Toward Staff or Officials:** Any individual addressing a staff member or official in an unsportsmanlike, discourteous, or threatening manner will immediately be disqualified and ejected from that game/event. ***Suspension; to be determined by Supervisor***
- B. **Intentionally Shoving or Striking a Staff Member or Official:** This shall result in immediate ejection from the game/event. ***Suspension; minimum of 1 Calendar Year.***
- C. **Unsportsmanlike or Disruptive Behavior:** Team members, captains, spectators, coaches or entire teams may be asked to leave the playing area if displaying such behavior. This includes racial prejudice and overall poor sportsmanship (swearing, rude comments, constant arguments, "trash talk"). ***Suspension; to be determined by Supervisor***

- D. **Becoming Involved in a Fight:** If the instigator(s) can be identified, they will be suspended from further participation in that sport. "He Hit Me First" or "I Was Just Defending Myself" are NOT acceptable excuses for fighting. Instances more severe in nature will result in further action being taken by the Intramural Coordinator. ***Suspension; minimum 2 games, subject to suspension for the remainder of the semester on based on case-by-case basis and meeting with Intramural Coordinator.***
- E. **Team Members and/or Spectators** who leave the benches/viewing area to participate in any isolated altercation. ***Suspension; indefinite for team/organization, minimum of one semester.***
- F. **Playing on More Than One Team:** ***Suspension; minimum remainder of that sport.***
- G. **Alcohol:** Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on or around the intramural playing areas. Students who appear "DRUNK" due to alcohol will not be permitted to participate. The official(s) assigned to the game or any staff member has the authority and responsibility to make a decision. ***All teams/individuals guilty of alcohol infractions will be asked to leave the intramural playing area and may be banned from further participation.***

SECTION 2

- A. **The use of an assumed name** in any manner in the Intramural Program shall constitute a violation of the Wesley Student Code of Conduct. ***Suspension; minimum of the remainder of that semester. Automatic 1 game forfeit for the team.***
- B. **Fraudulent Acts:** Any misrepresentation of a score, playing while ineligible or under suspension or allowing an individual to use your Wesley College ID for intramural participation is illegal. ***Suspension; minimum of the remainder of that semester. Automatic 1 game forfeit for the team.***

SECTION 3

An organization or individual, for sufficient reasons not covered in Sections 1 & 2, will be given a suspension by the Intramural Coordinator or Graduate Assistant. Any player who has violated player conduct and has been suspended from Intramural Sports will be added to the "Ineligible list of players" which will be kept by the Intramural Coordinator

REINSTATEMENT PROCEDURES FOR EJECTIONS

Any player, coach, or spectator who is ejected from an intramural contest is automatically suspended from all intramural activity until official reinstatement.

- A. To be reinstated, one needs to set an appointment to meet with the Intramural Coordinator or Graduate Assistant as soon as possible following the ejection.
- B. The period of suspension for each person is determined by the players' misconduct and the Intramural Coordinator or Graduate Assistant. Examples of possible suspension times are listed under "Player Conduct." Typically, students who are ejected will serve a 3-month probationary period.
- C. No individual will be reinstated prior to a personal visit with the Intramural Coordinator or Graduate Assistant.
- D. The suspended individual may not participate in any intramural activity until the suspension is lifted.

FORFEITS

Any team or individual having two forfeits may be dropped from the league schedule and playoffs.

A forfeit will be issued when:

1. An ineligible player is used or there is a misrepresentation of an individual [see Section 2 of Player Conduct]. All team members must provide their ID prior to the start of competition. [See Eligibility # 15 for exception]
2. A team is not present or prepared to begin play at the scheduled time
3. A team becomes abusive or unruly. This judgment can come from a staff member.
4. A team, through expulsion or injury, does not have the minimum number of players necessary to play or continue playing.
5. If a defaulted player refuses to leave the area.

*To win a forfeit, the winning team must have the minimum number of players present. A double forfeit will be recorded when both teams are lacking the necessary number

PROTESTS

The only protests permitted are those pertaining to player/s eligibility for participation in an intramural sport. **The protest must be registered with the Game Supervisor immediately.** The game will continue and that team's roster will be checked the following day. If it is determined that the player/s is ineligible, then that team will receive a forfeit.

Calls that officials or referees make are not protestable. Questions that arise on the court or field of play concerning rules and interpretations are decided immediately by the Supervisor on duty. Once a situation has passed, however, it is no longer subject to change or protest. **The decisions of the Intramural staff are final.**

SPECTATOR POLICY

Teams are responsible for the actions of their fans. When the number of spectators and players in any facility impede the Official's ability to correctly perform their job, potentially affects the safety of student participants, or blocks the view of the time clock/score, spectators will be asked to leave the facility.

Typically, the two teams in competition and the two teams waiting to play will be permitted to remain in the gym. Once players complete their game, they may be asked to exit the facility. Teams should bring a minimum number of spectators/fans to each game.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Intramural Sports Program reserves the right to postpone or reschedule a game if circumstances warrant such action. Overall, the Intramural sports staff will do their best to reschedule regular season games cancelled by rain or inclement weather.

In the case of inclement weather, the Intramural Sports staff will generally not make a decision regarding the playing of games until after 3:00 pm. A sport staff member will text message or call each team's Captain to inform him/her of a cancelled game. Captains who have concerns can get information from IMLeagues, Facebook, or contact the Intramural Staff at the contact info provided.

When games are cancelled due to the weather, the fields will not be available for practice to avoid costly damage to the fields and potential injury to participants.

A regular season game stopped because of inclement weather that has gone four or more innings, or over half of the competition has been played; the game will not be rescheduled.

REFERENCES

- Special thanks to former Intramural Coordinator of the University of South Florida, Al Gentilini
- Florida State University Intramural Policies
- St. John's University Intramural Handbook
- West Chester University Intramural Handbook
- Wilfred Laurier University Athletics & Intramural Hand