

Participant Sportsmanship Guidelines

The mission of Intramural Sports is 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 concerns. 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 Sportsmanship Rating System

The Sportsmanship 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 his/her 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 keys to controlling team conduct.

Sportsmanship 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 sportsmanship. These decisions are final. The Intramural Sports administrative staff will rule on further penalties as a result of unsportsmanlike conduct.

Each participant should choose his or her 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 sportsmanship 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. Sportsmanship 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 sportsmanship ratings. Teams may also view their sportsmanship ratings in the Intramural Sports Office during normal business hours. A team captain may appeal his or her 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 sportsmanship rating:

Team members cooperate with and demonstrate good sportsmanship toward members of both teams, spectators, officials, and all other IM 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 an IM official/staff.

Team members participate in the spirit and intent of the intramural sport 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 sportsmanship 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 his/her 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 played 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 sportsmanship is graded following each contest according to the following scale and criteria:

"A" or 4 points: Excellent Sportsmanship

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

"B" or 3 points: Acceptable Sportsmanship

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.

"C" or 2 points: Sportsmanship 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 his/herself and his/her teammates and spectators. Teams receiving multiple warnings or having a player ejected for an unsportsmanlike act should receive no higher than a "C" rating.

"D" or 1 point: Unacceptable Sportsmanship

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 himself/herself. Majority of individuals on this team are disrespectful of opponents or officials on a regular basis.

Teams which receive a second unacceptable rating ("D") in the same sport or activity are subject to immediate dismissal from league or tournament play.

"F" or 0 points: Season Ending Rating

The following actions can result in an "F" sportsmanship 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 which receive an "F" rating are subject to immediate dismissal from league or tournament play.

Special Game Situations

A team winning a game by default or forfeit with no game play occurring will receive an "A" 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 sportsmanship in the game play up to the time of the forfeit.

A team losing by default or forfeit will receive no team sportsmanship rating for the game.

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

Team Sportsmanship & Playoff Eligibility

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

Playoff Tournament Sportsmanship

A team must maintain its "B" (3.0) average or better sportsmanship rating during the playoffs. The average will include regular season and playoff games.

A winning team which receives a "C" or "D" sportsmanship rating (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 an "A" or "B" sportsmanship rating (3.0 points or higher) in all remaining playoff games.

Any team which receives an "F" sportsmanship rating (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 "D" or "F" sportsmanship rating (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.