

## UW-Whitewater Intramural Sports

### Frequently-Asked Questions

If the items addressed via this document do not answer any of the questions or concerns you have, please contact our staff! We are happy to assist and appreciate you looking into Intramural Sports!

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#### Other Helpful Resources

[Recreation Sports & Facilities](#)

[Williams Center Hours of Operations](#)

[Intercollegiate Athletics](#)

[Club Sports](#)

[Sign in to IMLeagues](#)

Do you have a suggestion? Any feedback? [Submit our online form](#). Our staff is happy to learn your thoughts and will reply as soon as we are able!

For any FAQs or items related to IMLeagues troubleshooting, please see the [IM Sports website](#) and scroll to the “IMLeagues Information” section.

Interested in an on-campus job? Intramural Sports has multiple student employment positions. [Linked Rec Sports employment site](#)

#### What are Intramural Sports? Why should I participate?

Intramural (IM) Sports are on-campus activities for the UW-Whitewater campus community only. Activities are both competitive and recreational in-nature and feature a wide variety of options ranging from team sports (i.e. basketball, flag football, soccer, softball, volleyball, etc.) to individual/dual sports (i.e. badminton, bag toss, Esports, fantasy sports, tennis, etc.). Our staff lives by the motto, “A Sport for Everyone, and Everyone in a Sport,” and we take a lot of pride in providing positive, engaging experiences for as many Warhawks as possible.

There are a lot of benefits to participating with Intramural Sports. Not only do our activities provide opportunities to get exercise, compete and continue to play the sports you grew up enjoying, but involvement often leads to increased social interaction, making long-lasting memories, meeting new people and being introduced to some life-long recreational habits. Studies also show recreational involvement often provides good stress relief and may lead to higher academic performance.

#### What is the difference between Intramural Sports, Club Sports and Intercollegiate Athletics?

Based on a tier of competitiveness and involvement:

**Intercollegiate Athletics:** Most competitive. Division III athletics as governed by the NCAA and WIAC. Each team has a dedicated coaching staff on university payroll with higher expectations for involvement. Athletes may have minimal (if any) financial commitment/requirement and all equipment is provided. The university arranges travel and university-appointed administrators make decisions on day-to-day team operations. Roster cuts are permitted and strict eligibility guidelines may be in-place. Intercollegiate teams compete in the WIAC and have daily team requirements. Athletes cannot participate on intramural or club teams in comparable activities.

**Club Sports:** Mainly competitive with some recreational components. Not defined by a specific division (in most cases) and not regulated by the NCAA (although some clubs may use NCAA competition guidelines). Although clubs are student-lead and receive some funding from the institution, members may be asked to make contributions in the form of membership dues and fundraising. There is no full department committed to clubs given their status as student organizations. Clubs have a couple of practices and semi-regular meetings each week and may travel and compete with other institutions across the state, region and country. Although travel roster limitations may apply, no roster cuts are permitted and eligibility guidelines are less strict (mainly academic and behavioral). Club athletes may participate in intramural activities.

**Intramural Sports:** Activities offered on-campus only. All teams are assembled with other members of the UW-Whitewater campus community. Although the competition level is high, activities tend to be more recreational and fun in-nature. Championship teams compete for the coveted intramural championship t-shirt! All eligibility guidelines are established by UW-Whitewater campus administrators. A small participation fee is required for each team.

## Intramural Sports – Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is eligible to participate in Intramural Sports?

Any currently-enrolled student, faculty or staff member may participate in the program. There may be some circumstances in-which an individual comes up as ineligible in our system. If that is ever the case, please contact us and we'll work with you to find a solution. Please be advised there may be some situations in-which someone may not be eligible.

Alumni, family members, campus visitors, community members, etc. who are not classified as current students, faculty or staff members are not permitted to participate in Intramural Sports as the program does receive funding from segregated fees.

All members must be on a team roster and present a valid UW-Whitewater ID when prompted in order to check in.

### Are there any opportunities for members of the UW-Rock County campus to get involved?

Yes! Although a vast majority of IM opportunities are scheduled for the main campus, our office does work with UW-Rock County administrators to offer some programs on the Janesville campus. The intent is to offer at least one opportunity to the UW-Rock County campus per quarter (two per semester), which is subject to change. Opportunities will be listed on the IM Sports website under the "Rock County" tab via the ["List of Current Activities" section of the site](#).

### Does it cost anything to participate?

There is a minimal cost affiliated with IM participation, which varies on the activity.

Team activities require a team captain to pay a team fee at the time of registration. Team fees currently have a base cost of \$25 per team, with additional fees added for each extra staff member required to facilitate a contest. As of Fall 2020, the most expensive team activity is flag football at \$45/team (three officials and a scorekeeper needed on top of the base fee). Team fee collection is the responsibility of the team captain and is not something regulated by our office. In most cases, captains ask their players to contribute an average of \$5 for registration.

Individual/dual activities are currently \$5 (singles) or \$10 (doubles).

Fees are payable online via IMLeagues or in-person in Room 100 of the Williams Center. Credit card is not an option for in-person payment although there is a no-fee ATM located on the second floor of the Williams Center. A personal PayPal account is NOT required to pay for a team registration.

### How are teams formed?

Teams are mainly formed by a group of friends, roommates, floor mates, classmates, organizations, etc. Teams are registered by an appointed captain who then assembles a team roster in IMLeagues.

### I don't have a team to play on. Can I still participate?

If someone wants to participate without a team affiliation, they can sign up on the IMLeagues "Free Agents List." Via this list, free agents can share their availability to participate, past playing experiences, etc. It is not a guarantee a free agent will be picked up, as it is up to a captain to invite a free agent to a roster. Free agents can also request to join a team which a captain must authorize.

In the event there are enough free agents registered to field a legal roster, IM administration may attempt to group free agents together to form a team.

### When are activities scheduled to take place?

Intramural Sports are played Sundays thru Thursdays in the evening (mainly 7 thru 11 pm). Depending on the activity, teams play either once or twice per week during the regular season. Teams still competing in playoffs may have scheduled contests multiple times throughout a week. No on-campus events are scheduled for Fridays or Saturdays, although independent matches (i.e. Esports, racquet sports) may be played if opponents agree. On average, from contest preparation to cool down, a single contest spans as long as 90 minutes.

### How long is a season?

The intent is for regular seasons to span five contests. Depending on the activity, that means a season could be 2.5 (two contests per week) or five weeks in-length (one contest per week).

## Intramural Sports – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do teams have coaches or practice sessions?**

Coaches are not a requirement and are not recognized. If a team wishes to have a “coach,” the individual in that role must be on the team roster and checked in to play. Practices are not scheduled by Rec Sports although teams may choose to “practice” during open recreation periods if the facility space allows.

### **Do teams have to qualify for playoffs?**

Teams qualify for playoffs by meeting the following criteria:

- winning at least two regular season contests
- maintaining an average sportsmanship rating of 3.0 out of 4
- adhering to the IM Sports forfeit policy
- not having any outstanding fees or fines (i.e. forfeit fines or lost/damaged equipment)

In the event a team does not receive a full season schedule (five regular season contests), the team is automatically placed into playoffs as long as sportsmanship, forfeits and fine policies are met. Having a forfeited contest does not count as not receiving a full schedule as forfeits count as victories for the offended team and a loss for the offending team.

### **How are rules and policies determined?**

Intramural Sports are governed nationwide by the National Intramural and Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA). NIRSA does make rule and policy suggestions that most campuses adapt. Our program also uses rules and policies established by the WIAA and NFHS and we also make sure we adhere to UW-Whitewater’s student code of conduct. Rules are updated on an as-needed basis and are available upon request.

To ensure our teams understand basic rule and policy items, a brief rules quiz must be passed in IMLeagues as part of the roster addition process.

Intramural Sports also has a participation handbook that goes into greater detail on some of our policies and procedures. This document is published on the [IM Sports website](#).

### **What is IMLeagues?**

IMLeagues is the third-party Intramural Sports management system used by UW-Whitewater Rec Sports. IMLeagues is your one-stop shop for all things related to your IM Sports involvement! Registrations, payments, rosters, scores, standings, schedules, playoffs and more are all managed via IMLeagues.

This is a free program to use and user accounts are automatically generated for our campus community. Accounts must be activated prior to participating by logging in with your UW-Whitewater NetID and password.

IMLeagues is also used as a way to inform the campus community of upcoming IM opportunities, activity season news, cancellations, etc. Emails are sent by our administrative team using an IMLeagues message feature and users may opt out on automated texts/emails at any time.

### **What is the difference between a league and a division?**

Because there are limits to how many teams someone may participate on within a given activity, leagues are classified by gender (men, women, co-rec). Divisions are subsets of a league and are typically labeled by the day and time of competition. For example, a Tuesday 7:00 pm division of the Women’s league indicates a team plays their weekly contest every Tuesday at 7:00 pm and their opponent will also be an all-female team.

IM Sports encourages participants to be involved however they so choose and we will honor the gender in which someone wishes to identify.

Registrations, schedules and standings in IMLeagues are organized by leagues and divisions as well.

## Intramural Sports – Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is a forfeit?**

We understand teams may not be able to attend a scheduled contest. Teams are permitted to miss one scheduled contest per season. More than one absence results in a team being dropped from competition without receiving a refund. There is no penalty if a team provides advance communication regarding their intent to miss a contest. If a team provides a late notification or if they do not communicate at all, the team is subject to receiving a forfeit fine. This policy is in-place to ensure our registered teams have the opportunity to receive an experience they have paid for. We also have staff who are on-site ready to assist. When teams do not show for a contest, this negatively impacts the experience of teams and staff alike.

Forfeiting teams receive a loss in the standings and their opponents receive a win. Sportsmanship rating situations may also apply.

### **Why are teams assigned sportsmanship ratings?**

Teams and individuals have many different reasons for participating in IM Sports. As a result, contests may not always be competitive or be seen as enjoyable. The best way our program can ensure as many people are having as enjoyable an experience as possible is to enforce a sportsmanship policy. All teams and individuals are expected to treat opponents, staff, officials, scorekeepers, fans and other members/patrons with respect at all times. Teams receive a sportsmanship rating at the end of each contest, which the captain is expected to acknowledge.

Sportsmanship ratings are assigned on a GPA scale of 0 to 4 points (4 = A, 3 = B, etc.). Teams must meet the sportsmanship average requirement in order to qualify for playoffs. Sportsmanship scores are reported in IMLeagues along with contest scores and standings.

### **Do contests/events get canceled or postponed?**

Weather cancellations/postponements do happen for outdoor sports. Our staff will reschedule regular season contests if we are able, but some contests do get lost because of playing conditions. In that case, we work with our teams to be a little more relaxed on our playoff qualifications, although sportsmanship ratings must remain at an appropriate level.

Any playoff contest postponed by unfavorable playing conditions will be rescheduled. Due to bracket progressions, postponed contests typically get rescheduled for the next IM business day (not necessarily for the exact time/location). Other contests may need to be rescheduled as a result as well.

There may be other circumstances where playing a contest would not be safe. In the event of a cancellation, all impacted team captains receive a phone call and all impacted team members receive an IMLeagues email/text notification.

### **My team just won a championship. Is there a prize/award?**

All champions receive a specially-designed and highly-coveted intramural championship t-shirt! The shirts have been worn around campus and the surrounding communities as a badge of honor since 1974! Teams do have shirt quantity limits, but we do our best to ensure all of our champions receive the recognition they deserve! Championship pictures are uploaded to Rec Sports social media accounts for the entire world to see so you can brag to your family and friends!

### **Is the Intramural Sports program hiring?**

The program is always looking for individuals to work as officials (i.e. referees). No prior experience is necessary, although there are mandatory training requirements in order to get on the field/court. To learn more about our officiating program, [see our site here](#) or complete an [online interest form](#). The program also hires scorekeepers for certain activities. All employment opportunities are for students only and scorekeepers must have Work Study.

Other positions (student coordinators, office staff, supervisors, etc.) are hired every spring for the following academic year. If you are interested, check out information on the [Rec Sports employment site](#). We'd love to have you join the team!

### **Are there other opportunities to compete and travel without being on a varsity team?**

Yes! The Office of Recreation Sports & Facilities also oversees the [Club Sports program](#), which currently has 30 club teams. Although our IM Sports program is often competitive, if you are looking for more opportunities to compete against other institutions and have regular practice times, Club Sports may be the right option for you.

UW-Whitewater is also a member institution of the [Wisconsin Intramural and Recreational Sports Association \(WIRSA\)](#). WIRSA does have various events throughout the academic year where IM teams may have the chance to travel around the state and represent UW-Whitewater, although there are typically costs affiliated with this participation.