PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK
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RECREATIONAL SPORTS STAFF

Mrs. Jacqueline Hamilton, Director ................................................... 825-3397
Mrs. Stephanie Arevalo, Assistant Director ..................................... 825-2455
Ms. Kim Rottet, Assistant Director ................................................. 825-2976
Ms. Lisa Streit, Aquatics Coordinator ............................................. 825-2364
Mr. Chris Dillon, Fitness and Wellness Coordinator ....................... 825-2171
Mrs. Janie Lara, Administrative Assistant ...................................... 825-2454
RECREATIONAL SPORTS

MISSION STATEMENT

The Recreational Sports department provides equipment, facilities, and opportunities for participation in a variety of sports, recreational and social activities designed to accommodate all ages, skill levels, gender and sport interests for the University community. Participation facilitates educational interaction outside of the classroom among students, faculty and staff. The activities stimulate a sense of community; provide leadership and development opportunities for students; and promote individual wellness.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK

Participation in any TAMU-CC Recreational Sports activity is completely voluntary. Individuals assume responsibility for all injuries that result from their participation in the program. In sports, there is risk to the participants involved due to physical nature of activities. Injuries, including but not limited to sprains, strains, contusions, fractures, head, neck and back injuries and even death are possible. It is strongly suggested that individuals have sufficient health coverage and a physician’s approval before participating in any physical activity. Information on Student Health Insurance is available through the University Health Center (825-2601).

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

The possession or use of alcoholic beverages at any Recreational Sports facility or sponsored event is not permitted.

All participants are expected to abide by state and federal laws pertaining to controlled substances and illicit drugs. Standards of conduct strictly prohibit possession or use of drugs on University property or at university-sponsored activities.

Suspicion of alcohol on any person(s), including, participants, spectators and coaches and any irregular behavior, may be reason for sanctions.
INTRAMURAL SPORTS PROGRAM

The word Intramural comes from the Latin origin and it means within the walls. The program is for all TAMU-CC students and faculty/staff program pass holders who would like to participate in contests with and against each other. Competition is offered in sports for men, women, co-rec and individual/dual. Competition is provided in the form of leagues, tournaments, and/or special events each semester. The programs offered are based upon student interest and the availability of resources and facilities.

REC SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD (RSAB)

The Advisory Board serves as a liaison between the participants in the Recreational Sports program and the administrators of the program. The committee assesses and reviews present programs, policies, and rules, and makes recommendations for changes in and additions to the program.

The Board includes two faculty members recommended by the Faculty Senate, two staff representatives (generally persons who have purchased recreational sports program pass), one male intramural participant, one female intramural participant, one on campus live-in representative, one student employee who works as a sports official or supervisor, one sport club representative and one student selected at-large by the Student Government (generally a commuting student). The Director of Recreational Sports is an ex-officio member.

REC SPORTS DISCIPLINARY COUNCIL (RSDC)

The Disciplinary Council is drawn from the Advisory Board when necessary, along with other individuals specifically involved in the incident.

OPEN RECREATION

Any abusive (physical or verbal) infractions that occur during open recreation will be decided by the Recreational Sports Disciplinary Council, comprised of Facilities Supervisor, Program Participant, and a student member of the Recreational Sports Advisory Board. The Assistant Director will facilitate all open recreation hearings.

SPORT CLUBS

Any abusive (physical or verbal) infractions that occur during Sport Clubs’ practice or competition will be decided by the Recreational Sports Disciplinary Council, comprised of a Sport Clubs Supervisor, Program Participant, and a student member of the Recreational Sports Advisory Board. The Assistant Director will facilitate all sport club hearings.

INTRAMURALS

Any abusive (physical or verbal) infractions that occur during an Intramural activity may be decided by the Recreational Sports Disciplinary Council, comprised of an Intramural Supervisor,
Program Participant, one official or scorekeeper and a Recreational Sports Advisory Board student representative. The Assistant Director will facilitate all Intramural hearings. A person who receives infraction will be permitted to present to the RSDC and bring one witness.

**EXTRAMURAL EVENTS**

Each year, Intramural champions and interested teams represent Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in a variety of events (i.e. flag football, basketball, softball) against champions from other universities. In the past, teams have traveled to Miami, Dallas, San Marcos, Arlington, Waco, Austin, New Orleans, and San Antonio. Information on extramural events will be provided to campus champions and interested teams during the sport’s season.

**National Flag Football Championships** – The largest extramural tournament in the country is at a different location every year. This year the 2008 National Flag Football Championships will be held at the University of South Florida. Intramural championship teams from universities all over the countries are invited to participate. Leagues include men’s, women’s and co-rec. divisions.

**Island Bowl** – The Island Bowl is a flag football tournament that takes place on the TAMU-CC campus and is usually in the fall semester. Regional universities and military institutions are invited to compete in men’s, women’s, and co-rec. divisions.

**All championship teams that are interested in participating in an extramural tournament:** The team must have at least 50% of the original members and proper travel paper work completed in compliance with University travel policies in order to represent TAMU-CC. In certain situations, the Rec Sports Department may be able to assist with paying registration fees.

**AWARDS**

The Department of Recreational Sports at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi recognizes students that participate in the Recreational Sports program every year. The department recognizes students for their leadership, athletic abilities, and sportsmanship, both in academic achievements and in the program.
I. ELIGIBILITY

GENERAL INTRAMURAL RULES

1. Currently enrolled at TAMU-CC students and faculty/staff with a program pass are eligible to participate, except as otherwise noted in the rules and regulations.

2. A player shall not be permitted to play with more than one intramural team in the same league. A player is only allowed to play in one division. The exception to this rule exists when a team forfeits two of its games and is being dropped from league play.

3. The captain of the team will be allowed to add people to the roster until the last game of the season by simply adding participants and student ID numbers on the score sheet in which they are going to play. No changes can be made on the roster after the last game of the regular season. In order to compete in the playoffs, a player must have participated in two of the regular season games, or as otherwise noted. In short tournaments (i.e. weekend tournaments) a player can not play in the championship game, unless they have participated in any previous games.

4. Any team that allows an ineligible player to play will default the game(s) in which the ineligible player participates.

5. Students whose names appear on an official intercollegiate varsity or junior varsity squad list (i.e. practice squad) on the day of the first played scheduled intercollegiate game, for that related sport, shall be ineligible to compete in that sport or a related sport for a period of one year.

6. Professional athletes are banned from their related sport for a period of five years. These athletes will not be eligible for awards in individual sports.

7. Playoff eligibility will be determined by names in the regular league score sheets. Falsification of names on the score sheets may subject a team to be suspended from intramural activities.

8. Participants will be required to show SandDollar ID at all intramural activities.

9. Spouses of TAMU-CC students, staff and faculty are eligible to compete in intramural events if they purchase a program pass from Recreational Sports.

10. No team may have more than three players on the court/field that participate in a Sport Club for that particular sport. Exception – Open Division/Advanced Divisions.

11. The limit on roster size is two times the number that are allowed to play at one time. (Example, 5-on-5 Basketball – the limit is 10 participants). A team will receive as many
t-shirts as players on their roster for the championship game. The team will decide how they are distributed.

12. Appeals on rulings by the Rec Sports Disciplinary Board must be made to the Director of Recreational Sports, in writing by one week following the decision. All rulings of the Recreational Sports Disciplinary Council will be enforced until the appeal process is completed.

13. If a league is offered in your gender and it is made, you must play in that league. (Example, female can not play in a male league or male can not play in female league, unless the league does not make.)

NOTE: A player may move from a Rec. Level to the Advanced Level, but can no longer play at the Rec. Level. Any Advanced Level Player can not move. Any team member that is on a team that has forfeited out of league play, may choose to play for another team. No player is allowed to switch teams once they are on another team’s roster, except stated above.

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

A rating system is used to promote good sportsmanship. Intramural sports officials will rate teams after each league game on a five-point scale for sportsmanship. Teams with less than a 3.5 average sportsmanship will not be allowed to participate in their league playoffs or any extramural events regardless of the team’s win/loss record. Averages include regular season play, no rating will be given or averaged in for forfeited games. All playoff teams must have a 3 sportsmanship rating in order to advance, if the team fails to do so, the opposing team advances in the tournament. Any team that receives a "1" will be suspended from further play until a scheduled meeting is made with the Intramural Coordinator and a reinstatement is made.

**SPORTSMANSHIP RATING**

"5" Excellent sportsmanship displayed by involved team. No incidents and no verbal or physical abuse occurs.

"4" Good sportsmanship displayed. Officials do not incur any abusive comments. "Normal Intramural Game".

"3" Profane language may be used, possible exchange verbally between opposing team players.

"2" Team member or members use profanity, verbally abuse official or member of opposing team.

"1" Poor sportsmanship, the lowest rating a team can receive.
Verbally abusive to officials, or opposing team. Physical abuse may occur towards official or opposing team.

**Notes:** Any team(s) involved in a fight will receive a “1” for a sportsmanship rating. If a player is ejected from a game, his/her team will receive a “2” (at best) for a sportsmanship rating.

**FORFEITS**

A team must have the minimum number of players ready to play at the scheduled time. If a team has the minimum number of players at the scheduled game time the game will begin. If a team does not have the minimum number to start a game at the scheduled time a 10 minute grace period will be granted. After 10 minutes, if the team still does not have enough players, the team will forfeit. After two forfeits, the team is dropped from the remainder of the league and post season play.

**DEFAULTS**

If it becomes impossible for a team to play a scheduled contest, can not be rescheduled, and if the team captain notifies the Recreational Sports Office 24 hours in advance in writing, the game will be scored a default rather than a forfeit. A loss by default does not count as a forfeit.

**RESCHEDULE POLICY**

Any teams needing to reschedule a game must contact the opposing team captain and the Recreational Sports Coordinator at least 24 hours prior to game time. ONLY if both captains and the Intramural Coordinator agree on a new time, will the schedule change.

**POSTPONEMENTS**

A scheduled contest may be postponed by the Intramural Coordinator, due to weather, etc. Postponements will be made no later than 12:00 pm on the day of the scheduled contest.

**I.D. WAIVER**

The I.D. Waiver form is available for those participants that have forgotten to bring their SandDollar I.D. with them to Intramural activities. The ID waiver is valid once per sport on that date. For example, if you have forgotten to bring your SandDollar to a men’s intramural basketball game, you will not be able use another waiver for another men’s or co-rec game during the regular season or playoffs. Only exception is if you are playing two games in the same sport on the same date.
PROTESTS

1. There shall be no protest allowed on judgment calls by officials or sportsmanship ratings.
2. If, in the team captain’s opinion, an error on a rule interpretation was made, (he/she must) notify the official that the team is protesting a rule interpretation before the game continues. If the captain does not immediately notify the official of the team’s intent to protest, the team waives all rights to protest on that call. If the protest cannot be resolved by the field supervisor, the official shall stop the game and record the game situation on the back of the score sheet.

To complete a formal protest, it should be filed by 12:00 pm the next day in the Recreational Sports Office. The typed protest should be submitted to the Intramural Coordinator. In addition to this a $10.00 protest fee is required at this time.

II. ENTRY PROCEDURES AND INVOLVEMENT

ENTRIES
Information concerning all Intramural activities is available in the Recreational Sports Office in the Field House between 8am until 7pm Monday through Thursday and on Friday 8am until 3pm.

1. Team Sports – all official entries will be accepted at the Field House until the posted entry deadline unless all available spots have been filled. A team is not considered entered until the team fee has been paid.
2. Team name, captain’s name, phone number and email address, division, league and preferred playing days are required upon entering. Schedules will be prepared and distributed at the managers’ meeting.
3. If there are not enough number of teams for a division and/or level to make, they will be combined with another division and/or level.
4. Entry fee for major teams sports will be $40.00. This fee is for forfeits if your team does not forfeit they will receive their money back at the end of the league.
5. Individual/Dual Sports/Special Events – entries will be accepted until the posted entry deadline. Specific schedules for these events will be available at the Field House or GFWC.

TEAM CAPTAIN’S/TEAM MANAGER’S DUTIES
Any team that is not represented at the Manager’s Meeting will receive a “3” sportsmanship rating that counts toward their league play average.

1. Pay the team entry fees.
2. Attend all meetings pertaining to his/her team’s activity.
3. Submit the appropriate team roster. Make roster changes and additions when necessary, according to the eligibility rules.
4. Pick up schedule.
5. Notify team members of date, place, and time of contest or schedule changes.
6. Enter line-up on appropriate score sheets.
7. Relay all information to all team players, fans, coaches, etc. from the intramural handbook and all other information that was given at the captain’s meeting.
8. Be knowledgeable of all playing rules governing the sport in which they are participating.
10. Display good sportsmanship.
11. Team captains are held responsible for the actions of teams, specific players and/or spectators.

**HOW TO BECOME AN OFFICIAL**

Students need to demonstrate reasonable knowledge and skill of the sport, be dedicated to the sport and express consideration toward all participants.

1. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply the first week of the semester, but applications are accepted throughout the year.

2. The week prior to the beginning of the season, a clinic and rule discussion is held. Attendance is mandatory. If you continue as an official, you will be paid for the clinics.

3. All officials are paid for officiating.

4. Officials assigned to intramural activities shall have general supervisory responsibilities and control of the activity 30 minutes proceeding the scheduled activity time to the activity completion.

5. It is the official’s responsibility to check out all the equipment necessary for proper play and to ensure the safety of all participants.

6. Officials will be evaluated periodically by the intramural staff.

*There are limited opportunities for officials. Some may not be scheduled during the season and will not be paid for the clinics if this is the case.*
III. PENALTIES
The following are penalties guidelines for infractions, each situation will be handled on an individual basis, and all interpretations will be made by a/any member(s) of the Rec Sports Staff. (Multiple offenses of any combination of the following infractions may result in a stiffer penalty.)

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES: INTRAMURALS

All Disciplinary actions will be at the discretion of the Intramural Coordinator. If any player is ejected from any intramural event he or she must meet with the Intramural Coordinator before he or she may participate in any Intramural event. These participants will be on a discipline list. These participants must meet with the Intramural Coordinator to be removed from this list. When a player has been ejected from an intramural event he or she must leave the facility, no questions asked.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG PENALTIES FOR INTRAMURAL SPORTS

If the alcohol and drug policy is violated, the contest will not be played and will be considered a forfeit. The supervisor and/or officials have the authority and responsibility to make decisions regarding those who are not permitted to participate. The intramural supervisor has the authority to administer a forfeit to either or both teams if it is their players or spectators that are not abiding by the policy.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES: SPORT CLUBS

Conduct
Sport Club participants are responsible to the club and to the university for individual conduct. Members are expected to function in a mature and responsible manner both on and off campus in all related activities in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and their club constitution.

Irresponsible behavior can be reprimanded with individual sanctions, as well as effect the club’s privileges and status in the Sport Club Program. For those individuals or clubs who are involved with any type of abusive actions, he/she will be referred to the Recreational Sports Disciplinary Council (RSDC).

Discipline
Sport Clubs that exhibit a continual pattern of inappropriate or irresponsible behavior may be penalized with the following disciplinary actions:

Formal verbal or written reprimand.
Suspension of facility reservations.
Suspension or loss of equipment use.
Suspension or loss of traveling privileges.
Suspension or loss of funding.
Revocation of registration as a Sport Club.
Individual sanctions and the possibility of additional penalties assessed by Student Affairs.
Penalties
Each situation will be handled individually by the Assistant Director responsible for Sport Clubs. Penalties listed below are the minimum consequences.

- Failure to turn in proper paper work (constitution, officer list, participant list, waivers of liability, etc.) at beginning of semester.
  Club will not be eligible for funding.

- Failure to turn in receipts for reimbursement within 3 days.
  Loss of traveling privileges and/or money that is allocated will be suspended for 1 month period.

**DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES: SPORT CLUBS (Continued)**

- Failure to turn in receipts for cash advancement on next day.
  Money that is funded to club will not be available for a 1-month period.

- Failure to clean up (trash, equipment, etc.) facility after use.
  Suspension of facility use/reservation for 1 week period.

- Failure to cancel a reservation in facility i.e. “no show”.
  Suspension of facility use/reservations for 1 month.

Discipline Procedures

- Abusive Language/Unnecessary Roughness by member
  1\textsuperscript{st} Offense – Warning (by E-mail or U.S. Mail)
  2\textsuperscript{nd} Offense – Suspension from next event/practice/meeting.
  3\textsuperscript{rd} Offense – Referred to RSDC.

- Verbal or Physical Threat
  1\textsuperscript{st} Offense – Immediate ejection by Supervisor/UPD, referred to RSDC. Suspension will range from a minimum one week up to four months.
  2\textsuperscript{nd} Offense – Suspension from one week to one calendar year.
  3\textsuperscript{rd} Offense – Permanent suspension.

- Inciting a Fight/Fight
  1\textsuperscript{st} Offense – Immediate ejection by Supervisor/UPD, referred to RSDC. Minimum suspension from four months up to one calendar year.
  2\textsuperscript{nd} Offense – Permanent Suspension (all facilities and programming).

- Damage to Facility/Equipment
  Any person causing damage to the Recreational Sports facilities or equipment will be held financially responsible. Individual/group privileges may be revoked.

- Assumed Name/Fake ID
1st Offense - Immediate ejection from facility and/or game by Supervisor/UPD. Player will be suspended for remainder of club season (semester).
2nd Offense – Suspension from all sport clubs for one calendar year.
If a program pass was purchased under the assumed name, the fee will not be refunded.

- Ineligible player or club member
  Referred to the RSDC.

**DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES: FACILITIES**

The Recreational Sports Professional Staff reserves the right to assign any appropriate sanction. The University may pursue the option to take further action depending on the situation.

These are **SUGGESTED** penalties for infractions:
- **Abusive Language/Unnecessary Roughness**
  1st Offense – Warning (by E-mail or U.S. Mail)
  2nd Offense – 1 week suspension from facilities
  3rd Offense – Referred to RSDC

- **Verbal or Physical Threat**
  1st Offense – Immediate ejection by Supervisor/UPD, referred to RSDC. Minimum 1 week to 4 month suspension from facilities
  2nd Offense – 1 week to 1 calendar year suspension
  3rd Offense – Permanent suspension

- **Inciting a Fight/Fight**
  1st Offense – Immediate ejection by Supervisor/UPD, referred to RSDC and minimum 4 months to 1 calendar year suspension
  2nd Offense – Permanent Suspension (all facilities and programming)

- **Damage to Facility/Equipment**
  Any person causing damage to the Rec. Sports facilities or equipment will be held financially responsible and Individual/Group privileges may be revoked

- **Assumed Name/Fake ID**
  ID confiscated – the person’s Rec. Sports privileges revoked for 1 year, owner of ID – Rec. Sports privileges revoked for 1 calendar year and Program Pass not refunded
DEFINITIONS

1. *Abusive language* – any language deemed offensive or derogatory Rec Sports Staff in any capacity: not necessarily "swear words."

2. *Attempt to incite a fight/Fight* – baiting, teasing, punch/swing, wrestle, push/shove (may or may not make contact). threatening to harm an individual/team or intentionally provoking another.

3. *Division:* When registering a team, they can choose which division to participate in, Independent, Miramar, Greek or Faculty/Staff.

4. *Ejection* – an individual is removed by an official or supervisor for disciplinary reasons.

5. *Faculty/Staff Members* – people currently employed by the University who have purchased a Recreational Sports Program Pass.

6. *League:* When registering a team, a team will choose which League to participate in, Men’s or Women’s and/or Co-Rec.

7. *Level:* A team will choose what level they would like to compete in Advanced or Recreational

8. *Severe penalty* – suspension from intramural participation for remainder of tournament, semester, year or permanently.

9. *Severe infraction* – behavior such as continually abusive language, fighting, continual unnecessary roughness.

10. *Spouse* - a significant other of a currently enrolled student or faculty/staff member at the University who has purchased a Recreational Sports Program Pass.

11. *Student* – a person enrolled in the *current* semester in undergraduate or graduate courses at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.
9. **Suspension** – An individual/team is declared ineligible to participate in intramural activities for a specified period of time.

10. **Team** – an organized group which is registered as a participating unit in an intramural event; if two or more of the players present are involved in an incident, the incident involves the team and warrants a team penalty.

11. **Unnecessary roughness** – actions which are considered threatening to the safety of the participants, staff, spectators, etc. and which are not considered part of the normal action of the contest.

**DEFINITIONS (Continued)**

12. **Verbally or Physically Threaten** – abusive language, unnecessary roughness, fighting, inciting a fight, physical handling or grabbing, behavior not conducive to an atmosphere of sportsmanship.

13. **Warning Letter/E-Mail** – notification from the Rec Sports Staff which indicates that an individual or team has violated a policy along with a possible sanction and, if such behavior is evident at any time in the future, further disciplinary action will result.