



## **SPORTSMANSHIP POLICY**

Exemplary sportsmanship is an essential component to an enjoyable experience with the Campus Recreation Intramural Program at Stanislaus State University. We respect and understand the wish to compete, but competition should stay within the spirit of the game and within the rules. This will not be a "win-at-all-costs" environment. Persons wishing to participate outside of this realm should reconsider their entry into the league and continue to play pickup games or join a community league costing in the hundreds of dollars. Our sportsmanship policy was put into place to ensure the primary intent of the program: safe, fair and enjoyable competition. This policy applies to ALL participants, spectators and anyone associated with each team before, during and after the game. All parties involved should hold themselves accountable. We respect your wish of a structured environment; show your appreciation in return by respecting the officials, intramural personnel, intramural and/or intramural equipment, intramural rules, and this sportsmanship policy. We appreciate your support of the Campus Recreation Intramurals Program! Enjoy your experience!

### **CAPTAINS' EXPECTATIONS:**

It is essential that captains communicate good sportsmanship and educate team members with regard to the intramural rules and sportsmanship rating system. We recognize the team captain as the leader of the team; they put forth the effort to form the team, attend all meetings, and ensure an accurate and up-to-date team roster. We expect the captain to use his/her leadership role to demonstrate full control over their team in each game and be the team's spokesperson to officials, addressing them in a respectful, questioning manner in matters of rule interpretations only, not judgment calls.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP RATING SYSTEM:**

The team rating system is intended to provide an objective scale in which teams can be judged on attitude and behavior throughout the intramural season. The rating system will be used in conjunction with rules that govern conduct in a specific sport. The rating system is designed to rate team and not individual conduct, yet hold the team accountable for an individual's actions. The team rating system is not meant to penalize, but to educate on the importance of sportsmanship over winning and losing.

Sportsmanship will be rated on a 4-1 rating scale. Officials, Intramural Sports Student Assistants, and the Recreation Specialist will have input into the team's rating and are encouraged to uphold good sportsmanship from each participant, spectator, and team. The team rating is final, even if the game is not completed due to any circumstance. Any questions regarding the rating should be relayed to intramural office personnel by only the team captain, on the next business day. The Recreation Specialist reserves the right to make final determination on team sportsmanship for situations that are not explicitly covered within this policy.

Teams will need an average greater than a 3 on the rating scale at the end of the regular season to advance to any playoffs. Teams receiving less than a 2.5 in the playoffs results in the team being eliminated (win or lose). If a team falls below a 2.5 at any point during the game, the game will be ended and their opponent will advance, provided that the opponent has a 2.5 or higher. If neither

team meets this criteria, neither team will advance and the game will be considered a double-forfeit.

Any instance where a meeting with the Recreation Specialist is required, all that are required to attend the meeting are suspended from all intramural activities until the meeting occurs.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP RATING:**

### **4: A "normal" intramural game. Good overall sportsmanship.**

Some bickering by teams, but nothing is out of the ordinary. Officials still enjoy working the game. No technical fouls, unsportsmanlike penalties, or cards are administered.

### **3.5: Minor/administrative infractions:**

- Team loses by forfeit.
- Team inadvertently uses an ineligible player.
- The team can receive no higher than this rating for their first regular season game.
- Frequent complaining during the game – more so than a normal game. Official gives warnings.

### **3: Sportsmanship infractions: "One bad apple ruins it for the bunch:"**

- A sportsmanship technical is given or an unsportsmanlike penalty is administered. These infractions include, but are not limited to, based on the judgment of the officials: (Slamming ball, kicking ball, any over-the-line act of emotion, or swearing (even when just frustrated with self), dunking/grabbing the rim with the intent to compromise the rules or dunking postgame, showing emotion with one's jersey, intentionally slapping the backboard, trash-talking or taunting, intentional acts of deception.)
- Problems with team spectators

This rating is also given in the following special situations that are specific to the sport:

Basketball: see grid.

Soccer: see grid.

Flag football: Unsportsmanlike conduct penalty

Volleyball: Multiple sportsmanship warnings given to same team

### **2.5: Any ejection as a result of administrative rules interpretation. This includes multiple sportsmanship issues.**

- Captain losing control of team and/or captain is part of the problem. Teams are beginning to worry more about bickering with officials than playing the game.
- Player is caught playing under an assumed name or with a fake ID.

This rating is also given in the following special situations that are specific to the sport:

Basketball: 2 Technical fouls

Soccer: 1 Administrative red (2 yellow cards to one player, serious foul play or excessive force).

Flag football: 2 unsportsmanlike penalties given to different players on 1 team

Volleyball: Official stops game to verbally warn participant or team for conduct.

### **2: Ejections due to intentional unsportsmanlike conduct and/or Team are a problem:**

The team will be suspended for one game. The captain and ejected player must meet with the Recreation Specialist before being inserted back into the league. The ejected player will be suspended for at least two games.

Two times receiving this rating will result in removal from the league.

Basketball: 1 flagrant foul.

Soccer:	2 administrative red cards
Flag football:	2 unsportsmanlike fouls to 1 player OR 3 to different players on the same team
Volleyball:	Player is ejected from contest

*Note:* An ejected player must leave the facility and its surrounding area WITHIN 2 MINUTES OF NOTIFICATION OF THEIR EJECTION!! The game will not continue until the individual is out of sight, out of sound. If appropriate to the sport, the clock will continue to run. Refusal to leave the facility warrants the Intramural Sports Assistant to deem the game a forfeit and to contact the University Police Department.

### **1: Season-ending:**

- Instances include multiple players being ejected for sportsmanship reasons;
- A team accumulating 4 sportsmanship technical/penalties in the game
- A fight breaks out. (Remember, by rule, any individual(s) that leave the bench to participate, or even attempt to "break up the fight" are also ejected.)
- Physical contact, threats, and/or attempts to injure other participants or intramural staff.

The game will be forfeited and the team will be removed from league. All players on game score sheet will be suspended from intramural sports program for at least 1 year to the day in which incident occurs.

UPD will be called and the incident will be referred to Campus Police and the Dean of Students office.

NOTE: The previous ratings also apply to any sportsmanship issues that occur in the final game of a team's season. Individual names will be collected and held by the intramural sports office. Based on the severity of the sportsmanship infraction, names may be forwarded to the Dean of Students Office.

### **Spirit of Competition**

Sports activities find their origin in the basic human need for the spirit of play. Winning and losing are mere outcomes of this spirit. What is part of the game is the pure satisfaction of participation (fun, fitness, friendship, stress release, etc. ...). Without your opponent, you have no game, no contest and no fun. You are indebted to them as they are to you. The spirit of play is based on cooperation. Upholding high standards of integrity and fair play acknowledges this idea of cooperative competition. All players are encouraged to exercise good judgment in caring for the safety of others as well as themselves. At Stanislaus State, an intentional violation of the rules is considered cheating and a gross offense against the spirit of competition. Abusive language and actions toward officials, managers, other participants and manipulation of the rules are not "part of the game" and will not be tolerated.

"A lifetime interest in sports is a goal of all players, which has more meaning than that of a win or a loss, the memory of which often fades quickly. All players are asked to participate within the context of this spirit of play/competition." -Paul Lee, Allan Tower

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