Bethany Lutheran College Intramural Handbook

“You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”
I Corinthians 6:19-20

Intramural Sports Mission Statement:
The mission of the Intramural Sports program at Bethany Lutheran College is to provide a wide range of individual and team sports at a competitive level to students, faculty, staff, and other members of this college. Our purpose is to provide exercise, recreation, and most importantly fun to our participants in a competitive, yet relaxed manner. Competition promotes and reinforces teamwork and personal accomplishment, respect, honesty, along with skill and exercise. Everyone is encouraged to play with respect, not only towards officials but also towards each other. Our talents are God-given and as Christians we have a duty to present ourselves in a manner that is pleasing to our Lord. The genuine value of Intramural Sports comes from having the ability and opportunity to play, not from winning.

Bethany Lutheran College’s Intramural Department provides all current students, faculty, staff, and administrators the opportunity to participate in Intramural Activities in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in this handbook.

Team Registration Procedures:
1. Registration forms can be found in the Sports and Fitness Center or online at http://www.blc.edu/athletics/intramurals
2. All Intramural team registration forms should be completed and turned in on or before the identified cut-off date and time. Late entries will not be accepted.
3. Each team registered must have separate registration forms, along with the necessary information such as team names, captain names, telephone numbers, and email addresses. Team schedule conflicts should also be included when registering.
4. Each member of the team is required to read and sign the assumption of risk waiver and completely fill out the medical information on the back of the form before they will be permitted to participate. The assumption of risk waiver should be collected by the team captain and submitted with registration form. The waiver need only be completed once for participation in IM the entire academic year. NCAA varsity athletes must complete the assumption of risk waiver as the IM Dept. does not have access to your health forms submitted to the Athletic Training Staff.
5. No additional players may be added to a roster after the registration deadline. Individuals can complete a Sports Free Agent form prior to the deadline for placement on a team.
6. Completed forms may be handed in to the Intramural Director’s office or in the “completed forms” box on the Wall of Forms in the SFC.
7. It is the team captain’s responsibility to attend a rules meeting in order to pick up the league schedule. If team captain cannot attend the rules meeting, he/she must send team representative to pick up league schedule and participate in rules discussion.
Individual Sport Registration Procedures:
1. Registration forms can be found in the Sports and Fitness Center or online at http://www.blc.edu/athletics/intramurals.
2. All registration forms should be completed and turned in on or before the identified cut-off date and time. **Late entries will not be accepted.** Assumption of risk waiver must accompany the registration form.
3. Completed forms may be handed in to the Intramural Director’s office or in the “completed forms” box on the Wall of Forms in the SFC.
4. Individual participants must attend a rules meeting in order to pick up game schedule.

FREE AGENTS
An individual can join a team sport as a free agent only up to one week into the start of the respective intramural season. The free agent form and release of liability forms must be completed prior to participation.

Team Captain Responsibilities:
The primary duties and responsibilities of the team captains are to recruit individuals to create a team prior to the specific sports registration deadlines. Additional duties of the captain include:
1. **Turn in team registration forms/assumption of release waivers on time.**
2. Represent, or see that the team is represented, at the mandatory rules meeting prior to the specific season.
3. Inform team members of game times for every scheduled (and possibly rescheduled) contest.
4. Ensure that all team members show up on time for games in order to keep games running on schedule.
5. Be sure that all players on your team have knowledge of and meet the eligibility regulations set by the Intramural Sports Department.
6. Make certain that each team member signs and dates the liability form as well as provides the required medical and health insurance information.
7. Notify each team member that they must bring their current Bethany ID card to each competition in order to be eligible to play.
8. Sign the scorecard after each game has completed.
9. Make sure that all members of the team refrain from verbally and physically abusing the officials, opposing teams, or other Intramural staff.
10. Be familiar with the rules, schedules, policies and procedures of the Intramural program including foul language and/or inappropriate actions that could lead to a suspension.
11. Work with the Intramural staff in order to provide a safe and fun experience for all participants.
12. Inform and educate all team members and spectators of the sportsmanship rating system.

Eligibility:
Eligibility for the Intramural Sports program is a privilege and responsibility of each individual participant and of the team captain. The Intramural Sports staff is not responsible for checking the eligibility of all participants; however, it does reserve the right to investigate the eligibility of any participant and take appropriate action against the individual and team in question, if necessary. Each participant should be prepared to present their current Bethany ID card at any time when participating in an Intramural activity.
The following individuals are eligible for Intramural activities provided they meet all eligibility guidelines:

- Any undergraduate student, enrolled in a minimum of one credit hour, with a valid Bethany ID card is eligible until they withdraw from the college or fail to comply with other eligibility guidelines.
- Any faculty member or administrative/staff personnel employed by the college with an administrative/staff ID card.
- Current school year intercollegiate student-athletes are eligible to participate in all IM sports NOT related to their respective sport in their NCAA traditional season. NCAA student-athletes participating in their non-traditional season are eligible to play. However, coaches have the right to prohibit their players from participating in any IM sport. If an individual is cut or quits a NCAA team prior to the IM registration deadline, they are eligible to participate in intramurals. The individual cannot join IM team mid-season.

No player may play as a member of multiple teams in the same sport. If a player is found to be playing on two teams, both teams will forfeit all of their games. It is the team captain’s responsibility to make sure that all members of their team are aware and follow all Intramural policies.

Any player guilty of playing while ineligible or any player ejected from an Intramural game for any reason must leave the playing area immediately. If they do not leave the area promptly their team will forfeit the game. The ineligible/ejected person is ineligible to play another game in any sport until they meet with the IM Director and disciplinary action has been determined.

Any player who attempts to participate under an assumed name will be disqualified for that sport for the remainder of the season and the team will forfeit all games in which the individual participated in.

The **No ID, No Play policy is in effect.** All intramural participants must provide their current Bethany ID card at every Intramural activity. If a participant does not have their ID card with them they will not be allowed to play in that contest. No other form of ID will be accepted.

**Team Rosters:**

1. Players on the original roster must participate in half of the regular season games before playoffs begin in order to be considered a member of the team and receive a championship shirt.
2. No player will be permitted to transfer from one team to another after the registration period has passed.
3. Officials are eligible to play in the sport they officiate.

**Team Captain’s Meetings:**

Each team sport has a mandatory rules meeting prior to the start of the regular season play. Each registered team must have at least one representative at the meeting in order to pick up the league’s schedule. These meetings will be an opportunity to discuss the policies and procedures of the Intramural department, notify the participants of any rule changes, and allow for any questions regarding the upcoming season.
Any team that does not have at least one representative at the mandatory meeting will be dropped from the league/schedule completely.

**Rescheduling & Forfeits:**

When a team or contestant enters into an Intramural organized activity, the Intramural sports department will provide the necessary equipment, facilities, schedules and officials. If a team does not show up for their scheduled time and does not make previous plans to reschedule at least 24 hours in advance, they will forfeit the game. The intramural staff will try to accommodate any teams that have scheduling conflicts (which are to be reported on the registration form). In the event that a team needs to reschedule a game the following reschedule guidelines must be followed:

1. It is the captain’s duty to contact the opposing team’s captain as well as the Intramural Director and arrange a time to make up the game.
2. If the opposing team or player does not wish to reschedule the game the scheduled time will remain the same.
3. If both teams are agreeable to a rescheduled match, it must be in accordance and agreement with the Intramural staff and dependent on the availability of the existing facility space and personnel. Such requests must be agreed upon by both captains and the Intramural Director.

A forfeit will be recorded when a team fails to show up for a scheduled game without prior notification to the Intramural Director, or if a team does not meet the minimum required players needed to play. If there are not enough players to play at the scheduled time the team will receive a 10 minute grace period to allow more team members to show up. If there are still not enough players after the grace period the team will forfeit.

If neither team has the minimum number to start the game, they will be allowed to play with the maximum number of players they can agree on between both teams and the officials.

**Officials:**

Officials are trained in the sport they are officiating prior to the first game of the league. Officiating is entirely subjective and should be respected by all Intramural participants and spectators. Protests involving official’s judgment will not be accepted. The officials reserve the right to remove any player or fan who is acting inappropriately or disrupting the game. The only protests that will be accepted are those based on rule interpretation or player eligibility. The following procedures should be used when making a protest:

1. Immediately notify the official and the opposing team in a sportsmanlike manner that you would like to protest the interpretation of the rule before the next play or live ball. This must be done immediately after the rule was enforced or the protest will not be considered.
2. The official will explain their ruling.
3. If there is still confusion, the person making the protest should get the Intramural Director.
4. The Intramural Director will make a ruling on the situation and the ruling will be final for the night.
5. If a player believes the officiating was intentionally unfair they should contact the Intramural Director (do not react towards the officials) in order to voice their concern.
6. Formal protests will be heard and reviewed by the Intramural Director and other Intramural staff. To be considered, the situation must affect the outcome of the contest.

**Player Conduct:**

If an Intramural participant or spectator is ejected from any contest for any reason they are immediately ineligible from play until they have met with the Intramural Director and disciplinary action has been taken. It is the ejected person’s responsibility to schedule an appointment with the Intramural Director to review their behavior. The following behavior will be subject to disciplinary action:

1. Player or spectator hits, strikes, or pushes a member of the Intramural staff.
2. Player or spectator hits, strikes, or pushes another player or spectator.
3. Any threatening behavior (verbal or physical) towards any member of the Intramural staff, other players, or spectators before, during, or after a contest.
4. Any verbal abuse of an official, Intramural employee, opponent, teammate or spectator.
5. Any actions that could cause damage to equipment, the facility, and/or personal injury.
6. Team players and captains are expected to be cooperative and honest when asked for assistance in identifying teammates who may be involved in any incidents. Failure to do so may result in a team and/or individual penalty including game or season forfeiture.
7. Illegally playing for more than one team—the player is ineligible for the remainder of that activity and each team will forfeit all games in which the illegal player participated.
8. Any other personal conduct situations that are not covered by the above rulings will be handled in an appropriate manner by the Intramural Director.

**Sportsmanship:**

As stated in the Intramural Sports mission statement, our purpose is to provide exercise, recreation, and fun to our participants in a relaxed, yet structured environment. Everyone is encouraged to play to the best of their God-given abilities. Cheating, verbal and physical abuse and negative attitudes are inappropriate. Players will be expected to play fair and treat each other with respect. Realize you are representing Bethany Lutheran College and you are expected to act accordingly. Having these principles of sportsmanship is necessary to facilitate the spirit of competition. Therefore, a team sportsmanship rating system has been developed to encourage ethical conduct at all Intramural contests.

Sportsmanship is a top priority for all intramural activities at Bethany Lutheran College. The following sportsmanship rating system is intended to be objective and will be used as a scale by which teams’ attitudes and behaviors can be reviewed throughout the league and postseason. To encourage acceptable conduct before, during, and after each contest, officials and/or supervisors shall make decisions whether to warn, penalize, or eject persons and/or teams due to poor sportsmanship.

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<th>Team ratings are:</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Season Ending</th>
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A team captain is responsible for the actions of the individual team members and spectators related to it. The team captain’s efforts in assisting the Intramural staff in calming difficult situations and to restrain troubled teammates are the key to controlling team conduct. Intramural officials and/or supervisors will determine acceptable and unacceptable team ratings.
Acceptable Sportsmanship Rating:
1. Team members cooperate with each other, the opposing team, and intramural officials and staff while demonstrating good sportsmanship towards everyone involved.
2. Team captain exhibits control over their team and spectators, converses reasonably and rationally with the officials in the event of any rule interpretations and cooperates by providing any information requested by any Intramural staff.
3. Team members participate in the spirit and intent of the intramural sport game rules and/or program policies. Team members accept judgmental decisions made by the officials.
4. Respect is shown for the campus facilities and equipment.

Unacceptable Sportsmanship Rating:
1. Any player is ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct.
2. Any technical fouls for unsportsmanlike conduct or multiple unsportsmanlike penalties have been given.
3. Participants or spectators continually complain about the decisions of the officials and repeatedly display their disagreement. Complaints include both verbal and non-verbal behavior.
4. Team captain exhibits little control over their team and/or spectators, conversed in an unsportsmanlike manner with officials and did not cooperate with Intramural staff.
5. Team captain fails to provide information requested by any Intramural staff.
6. Team members did not meet the eligibility requirements for participation.
7. Team members played with participants who are currently suspended from participating in intramural sports (regardless of the reason).
8. Public indecency, vulgarity, or obscenity.
9. Individuals or teams played after the consumption of alcohol or drugs. If the contest has already begun when discovered, the player(s) will be immediately removed from the facility and the contest will be forfeited to the opponent.
10. Physical abuse by participants or spectators in any form of fighting either before, during, or after a contest.
11. Any threatening behavior to any intramural staff, participants, or spectators before, during, or after a contest.
12. Any damage to or destruction of any campus facilities and/or equipment.

Consequences for Unacceptable Ratings:
1. The team will be suspended until the captain meets with the Intramural Director. (It is the responsibility of the team captain to schedule the meeting.) The members of the team will be ineligible for any intramural activities until the meeting occurs.
2. Regardless of the length of the season or tournament, two unacceptable ratings will be equivalent to a season ending rating. This may result in the team being dropped from any further competition. The decision is at the discretion of the IM Director.

Season Ending Sportsmanship Rating:
1. Team was uncooperative and out of control before, during and/or after any intramural competitions.
2. Team captain exhibited poor control over self, the team, and/or the spectators.
3. Multiple ejections or blatant unsportsmanlike conduct that endangered other participants, fans, officials, or supervisors.
4. Any physical contact with any member of the Intramural staff.
5. Team failed to cooperate or comply with the intramural administrative staff or College officials.
6. Falsely representing or withholding any information being requested from the intramural staff.
7. A team received a second unacceptable rating in the same sport or activity.

**Consequences for a Season Ending Sportsmanship Rating:**
1. Team will be automatically dropped from any further intramural competition.
2. Future eligibility in the Intramural Sports Program of all team players will be reviewed.

* This list is not all inclusive. Disciplinary action will be at the discretion of the IM Director and Dean of Students if deemed necessary.

**Postponements & Inclement Weather:**
All decisions concerning game postponements will be made as soon as possible on the day of play by the Intramural Director. All team captains for the postponed games will be contacted. It is the team captain’s responsibility to inform their team members of all postponements and rescheduled game times. Rescheduled games will be announced as soon as a date is agreed upon.

**Injuries:**
Participation in the Intramural Sports program is on a voluntary basis. Bethany Lutheran College and the Intramural Department do not provide health insurance and are not liable for any injuries sustained while participating in the Intramural Sports program. Medical costs must be covered by the student’s personal insurance and health care plans. Liability forms should be signed and dated by an individual or each member of the team prior to play begins. This form releases Bethany Lutheran College from any legal liability as a result of an injured player.

IMPORTANT: Do not move a person who is thought to have a back or neck injury or severely broken bones. Have a representative from your team go to the nearest phone and call 911.

**Game Balls & Equipment:**
The Bethany Lutheran College Intramural Department will provide the game balls and most equipment necessary for play. Some Intramural activities will require participants to provide their own equipment (for example: participants are required to provide their own glove for slowpitch softball). You may check out balls or other equipment prior to the game from the intramural desk using your current BLC ID card. Make sure to return the equipment after use. All equipment that is stolen, lost, broken, or misused will be billed to the user.

1. Shoes must be worn during all sports contests. Open-toed shoes (such as sandals) cannot be worn.
2. Non-marking shoes must be worn for any gym-related sports.
3. No metal spikes are allowed at any time for outdoor-related sports. Soles must be smooth or have plastic/rubber cleats. If metal is exposed the shoe is illegal and will not be allowed.
4. Anyone with a cast is prohibited from participating in team sports due to risk of further injury to themselves or others.
5. Knee braces made of hard, immovable material are illegal unless covered with a cushion.
6. Any person wearing eyeglasses or contacts will take the responsibility for protecting their own eyes.

**Awards:**
Intramural Champion T-shirts will be awarded to the team champions as well as the individual sport champions by the Intramural Office. In order for team members to receive a t-shirt they must be an eligible player on the roster and have competed in half of the games. Roster limits have been specified on rules sheet. T-shirts will only be purchased according to this pre-determined amount.

**Employment Opportunities:**
Intramural officials are always needed and welcomed by the Intramural Director. If you like sports and would like to earn some extra money, the Intramural office employs many current Bethany Lutheran College students each school year. You must be eligible for work-study and have a basic knowledge of the sport you would like to officiate. Officials will be trained in the sport and tested on their knowledge in order to provide a fair game. Interested students should contact IM Director.