

Otterbein University

Recreational Sports Handbook

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Otterbein University's Recreational Sports Program is to provide an opportunity for all students, faculty, and staff, regardless of skill level, to take part in a well-organized program of sport and recreational (rec) activities.

All individuals are urged to participate in as many Rec Sports as time, interest, and knowledge allow. The overall success of the program depends on each participant's full commitment to the activity by showing up for each scheduled contest and playing to the best of one's ability in a sportsmanlike manner. Know that you play Rec Sports at your own risk and that Otterbein University is not responsible for injuries that occur during play.

The following objectives may be obtained through participation in the Otterbein University's Rec Sports program:

1. To provide an opportunity to spend one's leisure time in organized sports and recreational activities.
2. To develop and/or maintain a physical fitness level.
3. To maintain and/or gain greater physical skill in a sport.
4. To increase social contacts.
5. To test one's physical skill against others.
6. To release mental stress in a positive manner.
7. To provide opportunities for leadership to students.

TEAM ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. All students currently enrolled and all current employees at Otterbein University are eligible to participate in the Rec Sports Program except as listed below in the Varsity Athlete Eligibility Rules section of this handbook.
2. There will be no maximum membership indicated for a team roster; however, the most needed on any given sport/activity team is ten players.
3. Additions to Rec Sports teams are not permitted. A team member must play in at least ONE of the team's regular season contests to be eligible to participate in any play-off or tournament contests.

FORMING TEAM REGULATIONS

1. In order to enter all sports/activities throughout the year, organize your roster according to the number necessary for that sport. (See Participation Rules) If you are having difficulty finding a team on which to participate, ask other students or contact the Rec Sports Coordinator.
2. Fill out a Rec Sports Registration Form with all team members listed. This form will only be usable during sign-up periods, so pay attention to those dates. Clearly mark who your team's captain is.
3. The team name you choose must be APPROPRIATE. If the Rec Sports Coordinator does not approve of your team's name, you risk it being changed without warning.
4. To be eligible for competition in a particular rec sport/activity, the team captain must attend the Captain's Meeting and sign-up their team on the Registration Form.
5. Officials will be used in Rec Sports. However, captains will be expected to keep their teams under control. A knowledgeable arbitrator (Rec Sport Worker) will be present only to settle disputes that cannot be resolved by the captains.

PARTICIPATION RULES

1. A team member must legally play in at least one regular season contest to be eligible for playoffs.
2. If a team fails to appear at the appointed place, the contest shall be declared a "no show." One no show places that team on probation. Once on probation, one additional no show will eliminate that team from competition in that sport.
3. If a team has contacted their opponent to cancel AND contacted the Rec Sport Coordinator for the evening, the game is considered a forfeit, and is a loss for the forfeiting team. A forfeit will also be given if a team is not ready to play at the scheduled starting time or if a team falls short of the minimum number of participants.
4. A team forfeits any contest in which it uses an ineligible player (they are a member of another Rec Sports team in that sport, or are a current/former varsity/JV player who puts you over the allowable number). The responsibility of checking on eligibility rests entirely upon the team captain. The Rec Sports Coordinator will check on a player's eligibility only when requested to do so.
5. Being ready to play means that a team must have (on the playing site) the official number of players needed to start a contest in that sport. The team lineup must be properly recorded. Each member of the team must check in with the Rec Sports Worker and show their Otterbein Cardinal ID prior to the start of the game.
6. Any player ejected from a Rec Sports contest by a Rec Sports Worker/Coordinator shall be disqualified for the remainder of that contest as well as the next regularly scheduled contest. The ejected party may be subject to further disciplinary action if the Rec Sports Coordinator feels the individual's unsportsmanlike behavior merits such action.
7. Forfeit Penalties:

First Forfeit	Second Forfeit	Third Forfeit
Warning	Eliminated from Playoffs	Eliminated from League

VARSITY & JV ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. No varsity or junior varsity athlete may compete in Rec Sports during his/her official sport season unless he/she is officially dropped from the varsity/JV team. If the player is cut before ever making the team (freshmen), they are NOT considered a "former player". However, if a player is cut after having been on a team in a previous year, they ARE considered a "former player" and must abide by those rules. This includes non-traditional seasons, unless otherwise specified by the varsity head coach of their sport.
2. If a student is planning to play in or try out for a varsity or junior varsity sport and has been participating in a given rec sport prior to the date of the first varsity/JV scheduled athletic contest, then that student may "finish out" the given rec sport season if the varsity head coach permits.
3. Participants in a varsity/JV sport at Otterbein University, shall not be eligible to compete in that particular rec sport if any portion of the Rec Sports season corresponds to their varsity or JV season (traditional or non-traditional) or related sports during that academic year. If the ENTIRE Rec Sports season is outside of their season (traditional or non-traditional) and the varsity head coach approves, then they can compete.
4. Any student classified as a professional athlete and barred from varsity/JV competition in a sport shall also be barred from equivalent and/or related rec sports.

REC SPORTS TEAM CAPTAINS

If a Rec Sports team is to receive maximum benefit and the best success in the Rec Sports Program, it must select a responsible person to serve as the Rec Sports team captain. This person is the chief coordinator for all items of business between the team and the Rec Sports staff including such responsibilities as:

1. Becoming knowledgeable in all Rec Sports matters by looking at the Recreational Sports Handbook.
2. Communicating to your team all the important information received.
3. Registering your team by placing all team member's names on an Rec Sports Team Roster / Registration Form and submitting it in person during the registration period (see the Rec Sports Calendar) with accurate restrictions listed regarding times and days of competition.
4. Being a positive and active Rec Sports participant and promoter by doing everything possible to keep your team's participation sportsmanlike.
5. Daily do the following:
 - a. Notify the team members of the date, time, and place of each contest.
 - b. See that team members are on hand for all contests at the scheduled time.
 - c. Be thoroughly familiar with the eligibility rules as contained in the Recreational Sports Handbook and abide by them.
 - d. Make sure your team has checked in with the Rec Sport Worker before game time **WITH THEIR Otterbein Cardinal ID.**
 - e. Be knowledgeable of the sport rules.

Only those students who are vitally interested and have the time and ability to organize a group should be appointed or elected as team captains. Inadequate captains will be asked to relinquish their duties to someone better able to shoulder the responsibility.

CAPTAIN'S MEETING REGULATIONS

1. Captain's meetings are mandatory for participation in a particular sport or activity. The team manager or team captain (or a roster member substitute) must be in attendance at said meeting.
2. Special rules, procedures, and playing arrangements for the sport will be arranged and agreed upon at the captain's meeting with the Rec Sports Worker/Coordinator. Check the Rec Sports Calendar for these meeting dates. Please be on time.
3. All questions regarding the sport and the tournament structure will be answered at the captain's meeting.
4. If you are not affiliated with a team, but wish to participate, contact the Rec Sports Coordinator before or at the meeting.

EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

In Rec Sports competition, no one may use equipment hazardous to others, such as: football equipment, baseball/softball metal spikes, track spikes, or any other equipment or devices deemed hazardous by the Rec Sport Worker/Coordinator.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

1. It is the student's responsibility to consider his/her own state of health/fitness before becoming involved in Recreational Sports. If you have questions about your level of conditioning or readiness, you should consult with the health clinic or your physician. The University is not responsible for students who participate injured, or without a sensible training period.
2. The University does not accept responsibility for injuries resulting from Rec Sports competition. First aid will be the Rec Sports participant's own responsibility and may be obtained at a local hospital at the participant's own expense or at the health clinic during the clinic hours at the participant's own expense.
3. The Rec Sports Program does not carry insurance to cover those individuals who are injured while participating in Rec Sports contests. It is strongly recommended that all participants provide themselves with some form of accident insurance if they are not covered either by their own or their guardian's insurance program.

TIE BREAKER REGULATIONS

If two or more teams are tied after the regular season, the following rules will be followed in order to determine the pool's regular season standings and seeding for the playoffs or tournaments

WITHIN POOLS TO DETERMINE SEEDING:

1. Head-to-head winner, if the two teams played during the regular season.
2. Whoever does not have a "no show" or a forfeit on their total record. A "no show" is a more serious offense than a forfeit.
3. Point differential versus the highest seeded team that both have played.
4. Flip a coin

If a situation occurs which is not covered above, the Rec Sport Coordinator will make a fair and appropriate decision.

SPORTSMANSHIP RULES

Any individual who is found guilty of acting in an unsportsmanlike manner may be disqualified from all Rec Sports participation for the remainder of that Rec Sports season, or any part thereof. The opinion of the Rec Sport Worker/Coordinator will be the deciding factor in the suspension of a participant. If another member of the team is a party to the unsportsmanlike conduct, that individual or the team may also be barred from Rec Sports participation for the remainder of that Rec Sports season or any part thereof. Some examples of the infractions which would be considered as an unsportsmanlike conduct are:

1. Playing under an assumed name.
2. Playing illegally on more than one team.
3. Misrepresenting a score.
4. Being a varsity/JV participant and withholding the fact.
5. Willfully taking action to injure an opponent.
6. Playing "out of position" to gain unfair advantage in rec. sports where ability is an important part of positioning.
7. Behaving grossly or unruly at a rec. sport contest either as a player or spectator.
8. Using swear words toward another or swearing loudly.
9. Any other unsportsmanlike or unacceptable action displayed in any manner or degree.

PROTEST RULES

1. No protest will be considered if it concerns the judgment exhibited by a Rec Sports Worker or Rec Sports Coordinator during a Rec Sports contest.
2. All protests, other than those concerning eligibility, must be made at the contest site at the time of the dispute to the proper official (Rec Sports Worker/Coordinator) indicating that the game or contest is being continued under protest along with the rationale. The proper official will take time to write a note on the back of the score sheet before the game is resumed. Said protest must be signed by the official and both opposing captains. The signatures show that each party knows of the protest. It does not hold you to what is written on the protest. No consideration will be given to a formal protest that has not been made in the manner described above. In most instances problems can be satisfactorily resolved on the site by the Rec Sports Worker/Coordinator
3. All protests, except those regarding eligibility, must be made in writing (e-mail) and given to the Rec Sports Coordinator within twenty-four hours after the contest in which the protest arose. If a protest is filed after the standard 24 hour time period, it must further include a rationale for why the protest should be considered when it is beyond the usual 24 hour period.
4. A team risks forfeiting a game they actually won if they used a non-eligible player. The Rec Sports Coordinator will review protested games and make the call. Again, a team found to have used an ineligible player shall have voided, any victory in a contest in which the ineligible player participated.

CONTEST POSTPONEMENT REGULATIONS

Rec Sports games will be cancelled if there is inclement weather. This decision will be made by the Rec Sports Coordinator by 3 p.m. on the date of competition. Such announcements can be found through an e-mail saying, "REC SPORTS GAMES TO BE PLAYED THAT DAY WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED". Check emails at 3:00 p.m. to see if your Rec Sports game has been cancelled. There will be a "no contest" and will not count for or against the records of those teams. With the large number of entries, the comparatively short playing seasons, and the limited playing facilities, the requests for postponement cannot be accommodated.

FIGHTING

1. Fights will not be tolerated. Any individual who, in the opinion of the Rec Sports Worker/Coordinator and officials, intentionally tries to hurt another player and/or instigates a circumstance deemed unsafe or unsportsmanlike can and will be ejected from the contest. Teams that precipitate and involve themselves in such incidents will be terminated from the league, and/or the Rec Sports Program. Ejection from a game for any serious offense carries an automatic one game suspension. A player deemed responsible for instigating a fight will be barred from the league.
2. It is the captain's responsibility to monitor the behavior of his/her team members. It is the responsibility of the captain to maintain the appropriate behavior of the players on his/her team. The Department of Health and Sport Sciences will preside over all disciplinary actions and levy suspensions on a discretionary basis after consulting with all involved parties. The Otterbein Police Department will be involved if deemed necessary.

SUSPENSIONS

Any player striking or verbally abusing the supervisor, official, or another player will be ejected from the contest, and asked (if necessary) to leave the facility. The person will receive a one game suspension (minimum). A player ejected from two games is barred from playing in the league and may risk termination from Rec Sports for the duration of the year.

REC SPORTS AWARDS SYSTEM

The members of the championship team in each Rec Sports league/tournament will receive a championship Rec Sports T-shirt. A team member must have participated in at least 50% of the team's regular season contests or, if a playoff/tournament is held in a sport, participated in at least one regular season contest and in one playoff contest to be eligible to receive a championship Rec Sports T-shirt for that sport.

REC SPORTS OFFICIALS

1. A Rec Sports Official is the final authority during a Rec Sports activity. The official will direct teams to proper playing areas and policing the contests so that good sportsmanship is practiced at all times.
2. Participants must realize that the game officials are the first source of ruling and information. The Rec Sports Worker/Coordinator may only be consulted when interpretations and applications of the rules that are in question. They will not overrule any judgment calls.
3. Situations such as disorderly conduct, abusive language, and fighting are potentially dangerous and can lead to an official terminating the contest and assessing a forfeit to the team or removing a player from the event and asking him/her to leave the facility.

REC SPORTS WORKERS

The Rec Sports Worker is present to handle the check-in process before games, get the game started, make quick judgments on calls not able to be resolved by teams, and keep track of the score during the contest. The Rec Sports Worker is not there as an official for the game. They can also contact the Rec Sports Coordinator at any time to help handle injuries or disputes. A Rec Sports Worker is a student employed by the Rec Sports Program and selected on his/her ability to make good, quick decisions and knowledge of the rules. They shall not be disrespected in ANY way by captains or players during competition. Such disrespect by a participant could be the cause for suspension or expulsion from Rec Sports play.