

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
**RECREATION**

**SECTION 9: Sportsmanship**

**Article 1: Team Names and Uniforms**

The Grand Valley State University Intramural Sports Program reserves the right to change duplicate team names to avoid confusion. Also, the Intramural Sports Program reserves the right to change any team name that is deemed inappropriate or offensive to participants (including names involving profanity or of a sexually implicit nature). Please use the proper judgment when selecting names and uniform artwork... our goal is a pleasant, fun atmosphere for everyone competing. If you are unsure if a team name or t-shirt artwork will be acceptable, please contact the Campus Recreation office and ask.

**Article 2: Web Etiquette**

The Grand Valley State University Intramural Sports Program will be monitoring content on all social media platforms. Any comments, pictures, postings or anything deemed inappropriate by the administration of the Grand Valley State University Intramural Sports Program are subject to the following:

- Removal from the league of the offending player or team
- Conduct Referral of the offending individual and/or team captain to the Dean of Student's Office

There will be a zero-tolerance policy for anything that is demeaning, degrading, derogatory or sexually explicit in nature. This includes, but is not limited to, posted materials referring to topics such as race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, and social or political beliefs. Any harassment of staff or participants will not be tolerated.

**Article 3: Captains**

The team captain is responsible for the actions of his/her team. Additionally, the captain will ensure that his/her team is familiar with the rules of play and Intramural Sports policies and procedures contained in this document. Copies of the rules are available the Grand Valley State University Intramural Sports web page.

**Article 4: Unsportsmanlike Conduct**

Players shall not commit acts of unsportsmanlike conduct. This includes, but is not limited to, arguments with staff by any player, team, or spectator (flagrant fouling, fighting, etc. before, during or after a contest). No player or team shall:

1. Use foul or derogatory language, threaten, or verbally abuse any other participant or Intramural Sports Staff before, during or after the game. This includes trash talk.
2. Participate in a game for which he/she is ineligible.
3. Intentionally strike, push, trip or flagrantly foul another player.
4. Mistreat the facility, equipment, or supplies of Grand Valley State University.

Unsportsmanlike conduct fouls and penalties vary between sports. Please refer to specific sport rules for exact penalties.

**Article 5: Disqualified Players**

A player disqualified from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct must see the Intramural Sports Supervisor. The Intramural Sports staff reserves the right to require an ejected participant to leave the field/complex. He/she will be declared ineligible for play in ANY Intramural Sports activity until he/she has submitted a letter requesting reinstatement and has met with Intramural Sports administration. The player's suspension duration will be determined by Intramural Sports administration. Failure to leave the area/complex when directed may result in forfeiture of the game. Any second occurrence of unsportsmanlike conduct by a team may result in that team being

eliminated for the remainder of the season. Failure of a participant to complete the above requirements within 10 business days of his/her ejection may result in a judicial referral.

#### **Article 6: Sportsmanship Ratings**

At the completion of each game the Intramural Sports Staff will assign your team a sportsmanship rating using a 0-4 scale.

- 4 points: Team members cooperate fully with the officials and staff about rule interpretations and judgement calls. The captain has full control over teammates. Team members and spectators are respectful of opponents and officials, and are encouraging of each other's efforts. At no time was the team disrespectful toward participants or officials.
- 3.5 points: Team members display positive sporting behavior overall for the game. Team members are generally respectful toward opponents and officials, with exception of few minor incidents which may not warrant a warning from the game officials or supervisor. Team members may occasionally show dissent to officials' calls.
- 3 points: Team members and spectators have not been assessed any penalties for unsporting behavior, but teams are more persistent in dissent towards calls or show occasional unsporting behavior toward opponents. Any team receiving verbal warnings from officials or staff shall receive no higher than a 3. Teams that default will receive a 3. Any time a team is given a rating of 3 or lower, the IM Staff giving the rating will document reasoning.
- 2 points: Team members or spectators are consistently disrespectful toward officials or opponents throughout contest. Captain exhibits minor control over self or teammates and spectators. Teams receiving any ejections, excessive warnings or any penalties for unsporting behavior shall receive no higher than a 2. Teams that forfeit will receive a 2.
- 1 point: Team receives multiple warnings and/or penalties for unsporting behavior. Despite warnings from staff, team shows little or no control or regards for sporting behavior. Repeated acts of unsporting behavior toward staff and/or opponents. Unsporting behavior is consistent throughout game. Ejected player(s) are uncooperative in leaving the playing area in a timely manner. Teams that receive 3 unsportsmanlike conduct penalties or are involved in a physical altercation or threatening behavior leading to an ejection shall receive no higher than a 1. Teams that receive a 1 rating in tournament play are subject to immediate removal from league or tournament.
- 0 points: Team is completely uncooperative and uncontrollable before, during or after contest. Team captain exhibits poor control over self, team, and/or spectators. Multiple ejections and blatant unsportsmanlike conduct that endangered participants, fans, officials or other staff members. Intentionally violent physical conduct beyond scope of game. Inappropriate conduct or threatening remarks toward staff. Team fails to comply with intramural sports administrative staff/facility staff while performing their duties. False representation or withholding any requested information. Teams receiving a 0 ratings are subject to immediate dismissal from league or tournament play.

#### **Article 7: Unsportsmanlike Conduct and Forfeiture of Games**

Any team that receives 3 unsportsmanlike penalties for that sport during a single contest will forfeit the match to its opponent.

Repeated displays of "poor sportsmanship" (players from the same team repeatedly receiving "yellow cards" and "red cards") will result in the team being ruled ineligible for participation and possible Conduct Referral to the Dean of Students Office.

#### **Article 8: Alcohol & Tobacco Policy**

In accordance with University Policy, alcohol consumption prior to or during participation in Intramural Sports is not only unsafe, but also a violation of University rules, and, if you are underage, illegal. As a reminder, the Intramural Sports Staff strictly enforces the zero tolerance alcohol policy during all intramural sports contests. Consequences for this violation of the rules may include but are not limited to: being prohibited to continue participating in the intramural game, conduct referral; and, in egregious situations, arrest.

Tobacco use during Intramural Sports participation is also prohibited. Participants and spectators are prohibited from using tobacco at Grand Valley State University recreation facilities. Consequences for this violation of the rules may include but are not limited to being prohibited from continuing to participate in the Intramural Sports game.

**Article 9: Review of Sportsmanship Ratings/Appeal Process**

1. It is the captain's right and responsibility to view his/her team's sportsmanship rating after each contest. The game staff will be able to provide the captain with this information immediately after the contest.
2. A team may appeal a Sportsmanship Rating by writing a letter containing all relevant information to the Intramural Sports Administration. This letter must be submitted by 4:00PM the day following the game in question. NO APPEALS will be heard after that time.

**Article 10: Suspension from Intramural Sports**

1. Individuals who have been ejected and who wish to again become eligible to participate in Intramural Sports at Grand Valley State University must a petition in writing, to Intramural Sports administration for a reinstatement hearing. Upon receipt of the petition for reinstatement a hearing will be scheduled. Based on the petition and reinstatement hearing a decision will be rendered generally within one working day. In extreme circumstances (violations of University policy, state law, or federal law), Intramural Sports administration may submit a Conduct Referral to the Dean of Students office.