

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION – Division of Student Affairs

POLICY NUMBER – SA 3.06

POLICY TITLE – Eligibility Requirements for Participation in Intramural Sports

SCOPE OF POLICY – USC UPSTATE

DATE OF REVISION – February 27, 2026

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER - Director of Campus Recreation, Joshua Gordon

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE – Campus Recreation

I. Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to establish eligibility standards and participation expectations for Intramural Sports at the University of South Carolina Upstate. The Intramural Sports Program promotes student engagement, physical wellness, leadership development, and community building while upholding the University’s Code of Student Conduct, Title IX standards, and all applicable federal and state laws.

Participation in Intramural Sports is a privilege, not a right, and is contingent upon compliance with all University policies and Campus Recreation procedures.

II. Eligibility Requirements

A. Eligible Participants

The following individuals are eligible to participate in Intramural Sports:

1. Currently enrolled USC Upstate students (full- or part-time).
2. USC Upstate faculty and staff with active University credentials.
3. Spouses/domestic partners of eligible faculty and staff with approved Campus Recreation membership.

All participants must:

- Possess a valid USC Upstate identification credential.
 - Complete electronic registration through the Campus Recreation management system.
 - Complete and electronically sign the Intramural Sports Waiver and Assumption of Risk form.
 - Meet facility access requirements (Wellness Center membership if applicable).
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B. Registration and Rosters

1. All participants must be listed on the official electronic team roster prior to participation.
2. Rosters will be maintained through the approved Campus Recreation software platform.
3. There is no maximum roster limit unless otherwise specified by sport rules.
4. Participants may only compete for one team per sport per league/division.
 - Exception: A participant may compete on one single-gender team and one Co-Rec team in the same sport.
5. Players must be listed on the roster prior to the start of playoffs to be eligible for postseason play.
6. Providing false identification or participating under another individual's identity will result in immediate suspension and referral to Student Conduct.

Data Privacy Update (2026 Standard):

Social Security numbers will NOT be collected. All participant verification will occur through secure University ID systems in compliance with FERPA and institutional data security policies.

C. Sport-Specific and Competitive Eligibility Restrictions

1. **Club Sport Athletes**
 - Defined as individuals currently listed on a USC Upstate club sport roster and participating in organized practices or competitions.
2. **Varsity Athletes (NCAA)**
 - Current varsity athletes may not compete in their sport or related sports during their season of participation.
 - Former varsity athletes may not compete in their sport or related sports until one academic semester has elapsed following their final varsity competition.
3. **Professional or Semi-Professional Athletes**
 - Individuals who have competed professionally may not participate in the same or related sport for one calendar year following the conclusion of their professional participation.
4. Campus Recreation reserves the right to review and rule on eligibility matters on a case-by-case basis.

Violation of eligibility rules may result in:

- Game forfeiture
 - Removal from playoffs
 - Team suspension
 - Referral to Student Conduct
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III. Protests and Appeals

A. Types of Protests

Protests may only be filed for:

1. Rule misinterpretation
2. Player eligibility

Judgment calls by officials are not protestable.

B. Protest Procedure

1. A protest must be declared at the time of the incident and before the next live play.
 2. The game supervisor will issue an immediate ruling.
 3. If unresolved, the protesting captain must submit an electronic Protest Form by 12:00 PM on the next business day.
 4. Decisions rendered by Campus Recreation professional staff are final.
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IV. Forfeits and Defaults

A. Forfeit

Occurs when a team fails to have the minimum number of eligible players present at game time.

Penalty:

- Recorded loss
- Sportsmanship rating of “0”
- Two forfeits may result in league removal.

B. Default

Occurs when a team notifies Campus Recreation prior to:

- 12:00 PM on game day (weekday games)
- 4:00 PM Friday (Sunday games)

Penalty:

- Recorded loss
- Sportsmanship rating of “4”

- More than two defaults may result in playoff ineligibility.
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V. Sportsmanship and Conduct

The Intramural Sports Program adheres to the University Code of Student Conduct and promotes a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment.

A. Authority of Officials

Intramural staff may warn, penalize, or eject participants or spectators for conduct including but not limited to:

- Unsportsmanlike behavior
 - Verbal abuse
 - Threatening behavior
 - Fighting or physical aggression
 - Discriminatory or harassing conduct (including Title IX violations)
 - Damage to facilities or equipment
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B. Ejections

1. Any participant ejected from a contest is automatically suspended from further participation pending a conduct review meeting.
 2. It is the participant's responsibility to schedule and attend this meeting.
 3. Additional sanctions may include suspension, probation, or referral to the Office of Student Conduct.
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C. Sportsmanship Rating System (0–4 Scale)

Each team receives a rating after every contest:

4 – Excellent: Respectful conduct; captain maintains full control.

3 – Acceptable: Minor complaints; no major penalties.

2 – Below Standard: Multiple complaints; at least one unsportsmanlike penalty.

1 – Poor: Multiple penalties; captain lacks control.

0 – Unacceptable: Ejections, aggressive behavior, or game termination.

D. Playoff Eligibility

- Teams must maintain a 2.5 average sportsmanship rating to qualify for playoffs.
 - Any playoff ejection results in an automatic forfeit.
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VI. Inclusion and Non-Discrimination

Participation is open to eligible individuals without discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, veteran status, or other protected classifications consistent with university policy and federal law.

Reasonable accommodation will be provided in coordination with Accessibility Services.

VII. Health, Safety, and Risk Management

1. Participants assume inherent risks associated with physical activity.
 2. Emergency procedures will follow University risk management and Clery Act protocols.
 3. Campus Recreation reserves the right to remove participants deemed medically unsafe to continue.
 4. Concussion awareness and injury response protocols will follow NCAA and industry best practices where applicable.
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VIII. Policy Review and Amendments

Campus Recreation reserves the right to amend policies, procedures, or sport rules as necessary to ensure safety, fairness, and compliance with university and legal standards. Captains will be notified electronically of significant updates.

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

- February 27, 2026 – Accessibility remediation