

Michigan State University
Intramural Sports and Recreative Services
Division of Vice President of Student Affairs and Services

**ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR
IM COMPETITION**

MSU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

ELIGIBILITY RULES

The SPIRIT of the rules calls for their most careful consideration. They have been designed to protect the great number of intramural athletes and to ensure them ample opportunity to participate. It is important that all groups observe the rules equally so no one team gains an unfair advantage over those abiding by the rules. Therefore, all participants of the competitive program are expected to know the eligibility rules which govern the specific activity.

It is ultimately the responsibility of each team manager to understand the rules and to communicate them to the team. In addition, the manager should check the eligibility of each team player while making sure each person knows the consequences of an ineligible player for the team.

Penalty: Any team using a player who is ineligible (with intent or not) shall lose all contests in which the ineligible player played if the violation is detected (through protest or by officials) before league playoffs begin. If detected during playoffs, the team shall lose only the game in which the player is detected. The game will be awarded to the team that originally lost the game and that team will automatically advance. In addition, managers allowing violations of any of the following eligibility rules may, themselves, be suspended from participation in any capacity at the intramural director's discretion.

I. In General

- a. All currently enrolled Michigan State students, faculty and staff are eligible for participation in the IM competitive programs.
- b. Spouses are eligible to participate in only the non-playoff leagues during the academic year (Sept. – June), but may play in any league during the summer session. However, both the MSU affiliate and the spouse must play for the same team. Also, the spouse **MUST** have a valid University issued spouse card and a picture ID to verify his/her eligibility.
- c. Women are not eligible for men's independent playoff teams or vice versa with the exception of soccer; in this sport, **NO** more than 2 members from the opposite sex may be on the field of play. However, women may play for a men's non-playoff team without restriction.
- d. Alumni are not eligible to play on IM teams.
- e. MSU Detroit College of Law students eligible to play. Cooley Law students ineligible.

II. Ineligible Players

- a. To exemplify the values of honest sport competition, protests of alleged ineligibility should be made immediately to intramural game officials and supervisors rather than waiting to determine the game's outcome.
- b. IM Employees are responsible for reporting suspicions of ineligible players to the supervisor who is authorized to ask for the appropriate identification. Failure to produce proper ID disqualifies a player until acceptable identification has been provided to the supervisor.
- c. Teams who play with ineligible players risk losing each game an ineligible player's name appears on the score sheet. For this reason, team managers are encouraged to review the eligibility rules with their teams.

III. Intentional Deception

- a. Any player using an assumed name shall be barred from intramural competition during that season and the team penalized with losses for all games in which the violator participated. Teams using a player under an assumed name shall be barred from playoff competition. The intramural department has the responsibility to bar any organization that willfully uses an ineligible player.
- b. Students participating illegally (varsity athletes, assumed name, etc.) in track, swimming, or team sports with individual events, will be disqualified or may cause their team to be disqualified. Any points won by the illegal player will be forfeited. Points won by legal members of the team may be counted, if so determined by the director.

IV. Varsity, Professional or Sport Club Athletes

- a. *Varsity athletes* who have played for a two or four year college (regardless of size) are not eligible for the sport(s) in which they played or a related sport (eg. Baseball/softball; ice hockey/roller hockey). Varsity athletes must “sit out” for a period of five years starting from the end of the last season their name appeared on the team roster.
- b. *Varsity athletes* in season, in organized practice or in training may not participate in the related intramural sport(s).
- c. Walk-ons for any *varsity squad* must be officially dropped 10 days before they can participate on an IM team in a related sport. If a student is still listed on the squad after the second week of the current semester (from the first day of registration), the player will be ineligible for intramurals in that sport for the entire season. The intramural staff with the student and coach involved will determine eligibility in borderline cases in which the ability of an athlete who is scholastically ineligible is questioned. In the event of an exceptionally early starting practice date, eligibility will be determined on the basis of whether or not the athlete has gained a significant advantage because of coaching and training.
- d. *Proposition 42 athletes* are allowed to participate in intramural programs and activities. However, only one Proposition 42 athlete may participate on an intramural team in his/her particular sport. Professional athletes permanently terminating their active training and competition have the same five year waiting period as varsity award winners.
- e. *Sport Club* members are eligible for IM competition in the sport they are a member of; however, only two club members are allowed on an IM team.

V. Leagues

- a. In General
 - i. Participants may play on more than one team in different leagues; however, no participant may play on more than one team in the same league. In the event of facility limitations, restrictions may be placed on the number of teams an individual may participate on. Every effort will be made to provide the greatest number of people the maximum opportunity to play.
 - ii. Any player discovered playing for two or more teams in the same league will be disqualified for the remainder of the season. In this situation, the first team to list the player will be considered the player’s legal team. Teams subsequently listing the player must forfeit any game the player’s name appears on the score sheet.
 - iii. Individual questions regarding a player’s eligibility should be discussed with the director in charge of the sport. Each request will be given complete consideration and is dependent on university affiliation.
 - iv. IM Supervisors have the authority to request participants to show their University ID for confirmation of student status or residence hall verification.
- b. Fraternities and Sororities
 - i. Players must be either an active member or pledge during the semester they are playing.
 - ii. Pledges may represent their fraternities under the following conditions:
 1. A fraternity-sorority desiring to utilize pledges in its IM program must submit a list of those pledges to the Office of Greek Affairs. This list does not restrict a pledge’s opportunity to participate; the pledge also may participate for a residence hall or an independent team.
 2. If a student de-pledges or drops from the fraternity/sorority for any reason after playing for one fraternity/sorority in a sport, he/she is ineligible to participate in that sport for another fraternity/sorority until he/she becomes an active member.
 3. The IM department will be responsible for determining ineligibilities for IM competition; the Office of Greek Affairs determines whether or not a student is a pledge.

c. Residence Halls

- i. *Men* residence hall teams compete by floor. Floor teams must consist of students living on that floor.
- ii. *Women's* residence hall teams may be composed of any female student residing in the hall.
- iii. *Co-Rec residence* hall teams must be comprised solely of students living in the hall.
- iv. All students moving to another floor, another residence hall, or off-campus must immediately contact the director in charge of the activity in which they are participating. Clarification of their eligibility will then be determined.
- v. Graduate advisors may not participate on any floor team in their residence hall for such sports as touch football, basketball, softball, or volleyball. Graduate advisors may however participate on an all residence hall team such as track or swimming.
- vi. Students living in the residence halls are also eligible to play on an independent team and/or for a fraternity/sorority team.

d. Independents

- i. Any valid MSU student, faculty, or staff member may play on an independent team.

e. Non-playoff leagues

- i. Students are reminded that non-playoff leagues are available in basketball, ice hockey, soccer, softball, touch football, volleyball, and water polo. The non-playoff league is designed for those who wish to participate for fun and recreation. Students may compete without consideration of their affiliation.
- ii. Individual events, such as table tennis, swimming, track, golf, wrestling, etc., are open tournaments and students may compete without consideration of their affiliation.