

Eligibility Rules & Regulations

It is not possible for the Wellness and Recreation Office to check the eligibility of all participants. Each participant and manager is responsible for verification of individual and team eligibility. Refer questionable cases to the Intramural Sports Coordinator for a ruling before competing. Whenever a specific case is reported to the Wellness and Recreation Office by protest or otherwise, an investigation is made to determine whether the person in question is eligible.

1. Conduct

Any player or manager whose conduct and/or language is considered threatening to other players, officials, spectators, or supervisors, or who disrupts play intentionally will be referred to the Intramural Sports Coordinator. The offending individual must then personally appear before the Intramural Coordinator, who reviews his/her eligibility for further play. If gross misconduct is found, the offending individual loses the privilege to compete in the intramural program and may face university disciplinary action.

2. Individual Eligibility

a. All students registered at the University of Northern Iowa are eligible to participate in all phases of the intramural and recreational programs. Extension courses do not qualify an individual for intramural competition. **Hawkeye and Allen students living in Residence, fraternity or sorority house may participate for a fee- depending on the activity. For cost contact the IM office.**

b. Faculty and staff members are not eligible for intramural participation in the student structured point system programs.

c. No player may participate on more than one team in the same sport. (Exception is Co-Rec in addition to participation on a men's or women's team.) All games in which the illegal player participated shall result in a forfeit loss. If a player participates with more than one team, the first team played with determines his/her eligibility. The second team forfeits all contests in which such a person played.

d. Any student who discontinues classwork at the university becomes ineligible for intramural competition at that time.

e. Any individual who changes his/her place of residence during the semester must continue to play for the team originally signed with until that sport season is completed. The individual will be allowed to sign up for events that have not yet started under his/her new residence listing.

f. A player is declared ineligible and dropped from further competition in that sport if his/her name does not appear on the official team scorecard for the contest being played. Nicknames are not allowed. A team forfeits all games in which an unlisted player participated and the team is charged with a forfeit.

g. A team forfeits any contest in which an ineligible player was used. An ineligible player is defined by the rules listed in "Eligibility Rules and Regulations."

3. Organization Eligibility

- a. The classification for all students will be focused upon the residence in which the student is housed.
- b. Eligibility rules for organizations are covered under “Organization for Point Competition.”

4. **Team Eligibility**

- a. Names are placed on the scoresheet at the time of the contest. This is the official team roster, and the manager must be sure all players are eligible for competition.
- b. To be eligible to participate in any intramural contest, a player’s correct name (no nicknames) must be entered on the scoresheet.
- c. The roster maximum for class “I” team sports plus 3 on 3 basketball and 4 on 4 volleyball is twice the number needed for the sport.
- d. Once a participant has played in one game for a team in any activity, he/she may not switch to another team for the duration of that activity’s season.
- e. An individual may not, under any circumstances, represent more than one intramural organization during a sport season.
- f. **WRS reserves the right to edit inappropriate team names.**

5. **Free Agent Policy**

Men and women who live in a residence hall house that does not have enough people to field a team (softball, flag football, 4/4 and 6/6 volleyball, 5/5 basketball, track, swimming) will be allowed to participate with another house.

- a. The Intramural Office must be advised regarding individuals name/house and the name of the house they will be participating with.
- b. A house can only use people from one other house.
- c. A house can use one off-campus man/woman who cannot find a team.
- d. Items b and c may not be combined.

6. **Play-Off Eligibility**

A player must participate with his/her team a minimum of two regular season contests to be eligible for play-off competition in Class I sports and one contest for Class II sports, Class III and bowling. Players names appearing on the scoresheet of games won by forfeit are considered participants. If a team is suspected of using an ineligible player, the protest must be made prior to the end of regular season play. **If a player’s eligibility is not questioned until the playoff teams are decided, the team will advance, but an ineligible player will not be allowed to play.**

7. **Co-Rec Eligibility**

The requirements outlined under the “Intramural Policies and Procedures” section also apply for the Co-Rec program, with the following exceptions:

- a. Housing restrictions do not apply to this program.
- b. All spouses of UNI students are eligible to participate in the Co-Rec Program.
- c. Each spouse must participate with her/his sponsoring husband/wife.
- d. No participation points are awarded for Co-Rec Competition.

8. **Open Eligibility**

Open competition is for all students, faculty and staff. Teams may be formed regardless of housing. No participation points are scored for open events. Select team sport open leagues and several tournaments are open competition.

9. **Members of Athletic Teams**

- a. The coaches of each sport may elect to declare their athletes ineligible for Intramural sports.
- b. Members of UNI athletic teams are ineligible for participation in that sport or its related sport if they remain on such a team during or after the first contest in that sports season. Students trying out for an intercollegiate team are ineligible for intramural participation in that sport until they voluntarily withdraw or are cut from the team. (This must occur within a reasonable time before IM competition.) Any student receiving any amount or form of athletic “grant-in-aid” is ineligible for Intramural participation in the sport or related sport for which the “grant-in-aid” is given, regardless of his/her team status. This includes red shirt athletes. Related sports are: football: flag football, pass & kick; basketball: all basketball activities; wrestling: wrestling; volleyball: volleyball; swimming: all water sports; softball, fall & spring baseball: all softball activities; cross country track & field: all track and running activities; tennis: all racquet sports.
- c. All UNI varsity and sport club coaches are ineligible for Intramural competition in the sport(s) or related sport(s) in which they coach. This ruling applies to any person receiving any type or amount of financial compensation in this regard. This rule does not apply to graduate assistants.
- d. The Intramural eligibility of students who have earned Division I collegiate athletic letters is subject to the following:
 - The letter was not awarded during the current school year.
 - He/she does not participate or practice with a team in that sport or its related sport during the current school year.
 - Not more than one such letter winner in softball/baseball, football, volleyball, wrestling, track, swimming or basketball may participate on an Intramural team in that sport or its related sport.
 - Must compete at the highest level of competition available.

10. **Members of Sport Clubs**

Members of UNI Sport Clubs are eligible for Open Tournament and Co-Recreational Intramural competition in that sport or its related sport subject to certain restrictions. Sport Club members are ineligible to compete in Participation Point Sports. Questions concerning eligibility should be referred to the Intramural Sports Coordinator prior to participation.

11. **Professionals**

Any student who has competed in a sport on a professional basis (an individual who has received pay for playing a sport) shall be ineligible for Intramural competition in that

sport or its related sport. Bowling and golf professionals who are registered with their respective professional associations are exempt from this rule.