

# Intramural Suspension Guidelines

In addition to the rules and responsibilities outlined in the Lakehead University's Student Code of Conduct, it is expected that participants in Intramural Sport Programs will: Treat everyone with courtesy and respect, and without discrimination, avoid any negative interaction or conflict with other individuals, abide by all rules, regulations and procedures governing the sport, the Intramural Sports Program and the facilities in which they are played, and act in a safe, responsible manner regarding themselves and others.

In-game incidents should be reported on-site to a staff member, who will instruct individuals through next steps. League administration will review any incidents that are reported. When incidents are not directly observed by staff it may however be difficult to issue penalties. To combat this, all incidents that are reported will still be reviewed, documented, and at minimum, warnings will be issued. When trends of inappropriate behaviour are identified, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken even if the behaviour is not directly observed by staff. Trends are defined as two or more similar complaints about the same individual or team.

For clarity and consistency of consequences, offenses are classified into four categories, each of which has a minimum sanction. These sanctions are a minimum, and can be increased at the discretion of administrative staff based on situation severity, repeat offenses, etc.

- ★ The repeated action of committing an offense will automatically increase the minimum sanction to the next appropriate level.

## **Classifications:**

**Level 1** - Level 1 offenses occur when there is no intent to injure or cause harm and the player has been disruptive and / or disrespectful to a staff, opponents, or the department.

**Level 1 Minimum Sanction:** 1 game suspension from the sport in which the incident occurred.

<b>Level 1 Offenses</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.1 Excessive questioning and/or arguing with Intramural or Facility Staff	Consistently posing an elevated number of inquiries or engaging in disputes with the staff members responsible for intramural activities or facility management.
1.2 Verbal aggression directed to an opponent, staff member, or spectator	Verbal aggression directed towards an opponent, staff member, or spectator, which is hurtful and may contain non-discriminatory swearing/profanity. Verbal aggression can look like communication that is delivered in a manner which is disrespectful, and may involve yelling or speaking in a hostile manner.
1.3 Failure to follow basic facility rules	Non-adherence of standard guidelines, protocols, or procedures that were provided to teams either in writing or verbally on site.
1.4 Throwing an object onto the playing surface	Intentionally throwing objects onto the playing surface, posing a potential threat to participants, officials.
1.5 Illegal Participation	Playing illegally includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individuals who are not fully registered to your team, or who are registered to an alternate team within the</li></ul>

	<p>same sport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individuals who play without mandated equipment</li> <li>• individuals playing without mandated equipment</li> </ul>
1.6 Sport-specific major penalties (e.g. Red Card, Technical Foul, Major Game Ejection)	Receipt of one sport-specific major penalty during a game or ejection during a match.

**Level 2** - Level 2 offenses include inappropriate incidents that warrant disciplinary action due to the level of disruption or potential harm the action may have caused

**Level 2 Minimum Sanction:** 3 game suspension from the sport in which the incident occurred, with the possibility of cross-league suspensions.

Level 2 Offenses	Description
2.1 Striking an opponent (not a fight)	Striking an opponent during an intramural game, distinct from a full-fledged fight, involves the deliberate and intentional act of making physical contact with an opposing player in a manner that goes beyond the normal and acceptable levels of incidental contact within the sport. This offenses includes actions such as hitting, punching, shoving, or any form of forceful impact directed at an opponent
2.2 Intentional contact from behind (e.g. checking)	Intentional contact from behind involves making physical contact with an opponent from the rear, typically when they are not aware or unprepared for the impact. This may include checking, pushing, shoving, or hitting.
2.3 Verbal abuse of referees or staff	Includes but is not limited to using offensive, discriminatory, or harmful language directed towards individuals employed within our organization.
2.4 Offensive language that is directed toward an opponent or staff member, that is deemed highly vulgar	Offensive language directed toward an opponent or staff member that is deemed highly vulgar involves the use of explicit, crude, or inappropriate language with the intention of causing significant offense or discomfort
2.5 Failing to leave after an ejection	The refusal or failure of a participant to promptly exit the playing area or venue after being formally ejected from a game.
2.6 Throwing an object at someone which is not considered a part of regular play	The deliberate and improper act of propelling an item towards another individual during an Intramural game, including both active gameplay, warm-ups, and time-outs.

**Level 3** - Level 3 offenses include serious incidents that warrant disciplinary action due to the high potential of injury or bodily harm to another individual. Level 3 offenses may warrant the participant involved to be reported to additional governing bodies, such as the Office of Student Affairs, in accordance with the [Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct](#).

**Level 3 Minimum Sanction:** 5 week removal from all Campus Recreation programming

<b>Level 3 Offenses</b>	<b>Description</b>
3.1 Checking to the head	The act of making deliberate and forceful contact with an opponent's head using one's body or stick.
3.2 Fight as considered by Intramural Staff	A fight refers to a physical altercation or confrontation between two or more players, and may involve (but is not limited to) shoving, or other physical contact.
3.3 Evidence of drugs, alcohol, or any inappropriate substances at an intramural venue	The presence of evidence of drugs, alcohol, or any inappropriate substances at an intramural venue refers to the identification or discovery of substances that are not permitted within the designated area for intramural sports or recreational activities. This evidence may include the observation of individuals being in possession of drugs, alcohol, or other prohibited substances, or locating previously listed substances within team changing areas or bench areas
3.4 Threatening an opponent, staff member, or spectator	Making explicit threats of harm or violence towards another player, staff member, or spectator, creating an atmosphere of intimidation.

**Level 4** - Level 4 offenses include incidents that significantly violate Campus Recreation policies, Lakehead University Policies, and/or can cause significant harm to the university community. Level 4 offenses may warrant the participant involved to be reported to additional governing bodies, such as the Office of Student Affairs, in accordance with the [Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct](#).

**Level 4 Minimum Sanction:** 365 day removal from all Campus Recreation programming

<b>Level 4 Offenses</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.1 Playing under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or any substance not prescribed by a medical professional OR consuming drugs, alcohol, or any other substance not prescribed by a medical professional at an Intramural venue	This can include evidence of consumption prior to, or during, intramural activities.
4.2 Facility vandalism	Facility vandalism involves the intentional and malicious act of causing damage to the property, structures, or equipment.

4.3 Playing while suspended	Participating in an Intramural Sport during indicated suspension period.
4.4 Spitting on an opponent or staff	Intentionally spitting towards a player or staff member
4.5 Discriminatory language	The use of words, phrases, or expressions that are offensive, derogatory, or prejudiced based on a person's race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or any other characteristic
4.6 Intentionally using equipment to strike another participant	A purposeful and deliberate act in which an individual employs sports equipment, such as a stick, or other gear, to physically hit or strike another participant.
4.7 Intent to injure another participant or staff member	The deliberate and purposeful intention of causing harm or injury to another participant. Examples of such acts include punches, aggressive tackles, dangerous hits, or other actions aimed at causing harm rather than playing within the boundaries of fair competition,
4.8 Physical abuse of a referee or staff	The intentional and harmful physical contact directed toward an Intramural or Facility staff member. This behavior includes actions such as striking, pushing, shoving, or any form of physical aggression intended to harm or intimidate referees or staff members.
4.9 Continuing a fight after an advantage has been gained	Persisting in a physical altercation or confrontation with an opponent even after achieving a clear advantage or dominance in the situation
4.10 Leaving the bench to join a fight or altercation	Joining a fight or altercation by leaving the designated bench area, further increasing the risk of injury to other players and oneself.

## Appeal Process

1. Player is provided with a suspension notice from the Manager, Recreation & Operations
2. Player has 48 hours to review, and submit their [appeal digitally](#) the Manager, Recreation & Operations
3. When an appeal is received, the Appeal Committee\* will determine if there is merit for the appeal. Merit will be determined by whether the suspension issued met the criteria of the infraction and the documentation submitted to the Manager, Recreation & Operations.
  - a. Please note that suspension for sport-specific penalties (e.g. red cards, technical fouls, major penalties in hockey, game ejection) are not eligible for appeal.
4. If the appeal will be heard, the Manager, Recreation & Operations will schedule a meeting with the suspended individual and appeal committee. Reasonable efforts will be made to have the appeal occur prior to the suspended individuals next game.
5. During the hearing, the student who committed the infraction will have an opportunity to present their reasons for appealing the decision. Members of the appeal committee may then ask their questions and seek further clarification.
  - a. If necessary, the referee or sport supervisor may also be called to discuss.

6. After the hearing, the members of the appeal committee will discuss and provide the Manager, Recreation & Operations with a recommended decision (e.g., Reduce, Uphold, Provide Further Discipline)
7. The final verdict will be issued by the Manager, Recreation & Operations to the player. Once a final decision has been issued, the individual cannot re-appeal.

\*The Appeal Committee will consist of at minimum two (2) or more members drawn from any of the following (but not limited to) parties: Lakehead Athletics, the Office of Student Conduct, sport governing bodies, and the Office of Human Rights and Equity. All potential members will be vetted prior to meeting to ensure that there are no existing conflicts of interest in the respective case. It is within the authority of the Appeal Committee to determine the following: suspension type, suspension duration, date of return to Lakehead Athletics and its' programming, and so on. A decision reached by the majority of the group will be the decision of the whole Appeal Committee, and is not subject to further appeals.