

## New Club Information Booklet

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## Sport Clubs Definition

Sport Clubs consists of a group of students who share a common interest in a physical activity, and who promote and develop the skills necessary for a particular sport. The leadership of the students and dedication of the team officers determines the success and stability of the club. Club members are responsible for a variety of administrative duties to ensure the club's success. All Sport Clubs represent Lamar University in competitive play, and must comply with the University's and their national/league organization's rules and regulations.

## Type of Sport Club

Competitive- These clubs compete with other universities Sport Clubs or locally sponsored events and travel to different events/tournaments throughout the year. These clubs are more competitive in nature and usually involve trying out for the club. All of these clubs charge membership dues to belong to the club.

Recreational- Clubs that reserve facility space play their sport, socialize, and have fun. These clubs may or may not charge club members dues. Faculty and staff from either LU or LIT campuses are allowed to take part in this type of club, given that they have paid the Rec Sports membership.

Fitness/Martial Arts/Dance- These clubs strive to increase individuals' physical wellbeing through Physical, creative and/or mental training. These clubs may or may not charge club member's dues. Faculty, staff and students from either LU or LIT campuses are allowed to take part in this type of club.

## Who May Join the Club???

Regular membership in Sport Clubs is open to currently enroll undergraduate and graduate/non-traditional students in good academic standing for competitive clubs. Sport Clubs are voluntary student organizations of Lamar University, which have been recognized by the University, qualifying them for use of facilities and/or funding. Such clubs are not agents of the University, and have no authority to represent the institution or commit it to any contract without prior explicit written approval from the Sport Clubs Office. All participants must show proof of affiliation with Lamar or LIT.

## Step by Step Procedure for Initiating a Club

- All Sport Clubs must also go through registration with the Organizations Office in the Setzer Center.
- A club can be a male, female or a co-ed club.
- You need to have at least 6 members to start a club.
- Come to the Sport Clubs office at the Recreational Sports and discuss this with the Sport Clubs staff.
- If you have a number of students interested, have good organizational skills, fill up the necessary forms with the Recreational Sports Department, there is a good chance that your club can receive University recognition.
- So as to form a club you also need to get setup with the National Governing Body (NGB) of the respective sport. A National Governing Body (NGB) regulates policies and procedure for the respective sport. It also includes disciplinary action for rule infractions and deciding on rule changes in the sport which they govern. Contact list of the governing bodies is attached with this booklet.


## Sport Clubs Criteria \& Expectations

Each new Sport Clubs team will undergo a probationary period of 6 months. If the Sport Clubs team meets each requirement below to the satisfaction of the Sport Clubs Coordinator, the team may achieve Sport Clubs status. Should a clubs period end during the summer, it's probation will extend until September $1^{\text {st }}$.

## Transfer from Student Organization to Sport Club

Clubs may transfer from a student organization to a Sport Club. If accepted the club is required to go through the one semester probationary period and are subject to the same guidelines as any other probationary Sport Club. In the event a student organization chooses to apply to become a Sport Club and are accepted as a probationary club they will not be allowed to accept Student Organization funds. Clubs may not receive both Sport Club and Student Organization funds, if it is found a club is accepting and using both funds they will be immediately removed from Sport Clubs and are subject to further sanctions by Lamar University.

## Funding Probationary Clubs

Probationary sport club teams will be eligible for funding. During the semester of probation clubs may apply for funds. All applications for funds are subject to approval by the Coordinator and Graduate Assistant and are not guaranteed.

These funds are restricted to entry fees and start up equipment only and not every amount requested is guaranteed to be paid partially or in full. These funds may not be used for hotels, food, gasoline, rental vehicles, uniforms, etc. In the event a club is approved for funds and they are not used properly, or at all the participants will be required to repay the amount approved and further sanctions may be taken if necessary.

As part of the probationary period teams will be required to fundraise. This is to prove clubs can and will attempt to build a budget. All clubs are self-sustaining and if they do not make an effort to fundraise their budget will significantly be affected.
Teams are required to fundraise $50 \%$ of the funds they receive from Sport Clubs, if funds are not requested a goal will be set by the Coordinator that must be met during the probationary period.

All funds raised must be submitted to the Coordinator in order to be earned. Funds raised may be in the form of membership fees, donations, sponsorships, etc. Any funds held by a club and not reported and submitted to the club's account may be dismissed and subject to further sanctions by Lamar University. All other purchase/fund requests must be submitted to the Coordinator by the formal deadlines to be accepted.

Clubs transferring from Student Organizations will receive a budget equal to their student organization budget for the school year in which they become a Sport Club. This is to promote Sport Clubs and make it beneficial for transfer.

These funds are available for use during the probationary period, and can be used on entry fees, equipment, hotels, etc. however, any other funds requested are only allowed to be used towards entry fees and start up equipment. Again, any clubs receiving funds must fundraise $50 \%$ of the funds they receive from Sport Clubs. This includes any amounts requested outside of the matching budget amounts.

## To be considered a part of the Sport Clubs Program, all clubs must meet the following criteria:

1. Physically active or athletic in nature
2. Includes some form of competition and availability of adequate competition (tournaments, matches, regattas, etc.)
3. Maintains 5 active student members
4. Registered with a National Governing Body and/or league
5. Demonstrates student leadership by maintaining a minimum of 2 officers (President, Vice President \& Treasurer) within the club in addition to a safety officer
6. Designates one representative for the Sport Clubs monthly meetings.
7. Active club members are LU students only. LU faculty and staff may participate in practice, but not competition or governance.
8. Select a LU Faculty/Staff Advisor (minimum of a bachelor's degree or a graduate assistant with approval from Sport Clubs Coordinator)
9. Hire a coach on a voluntary basis (with approval from Sport Clubs Coordinator) to travel with club. Must have coaching experience preferably with coaching certifications and credentials to travel with club. This is not required, but preferred.
10. Certify 2 club members in CPR \& First Aid with at least 1 certified member present at all team practices and competitions
11. Demonstrate financial stability and submit an annual budget worksheet
12. Adhere to ALL Lamar University policies and procedures
13. Undergrads must maintain a 2.0 gpa , and grad students a 3.0 Officers must have a 2.5 gpa .
14. Approval by the Department of Sport Clubs and Department of Recreation Sports is required for all new clubs. Clubs will be reviewed at the end of the academic year to retain status; no club is guaranteed permanent status.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## - What is the difference between Sport Clubs and Varsity Athletics?

Unlike varsity athletics, Sport Clubs is allocated a small budget through the university. Most of the Sport Club funding comes through alumni or corporate donations, fundraising events and activities, membership dues, \& student fees. Coaches are either students or volunteers, very rarely is a Sport Clubs coach paid for their position, and if they are paid, it comes from the fundraising events the Club holds.

## - Who can participate in Sport Clubs?

All students of Lamar University are eligible to compete in Sport Clubs. Some national governing bodies (NGB) allow LIT students to compete with Lamar students. However, all clubs with NIRSA as their NGB, cannot have both LU and LIT students on the club.

## - What Sport Clubs are offered to me?

Basketball (Women)<br>Volleyball (Women \& Men)<br>Soccer (Women \& Men)<br>Archery (CoRec)<br>Baseball (Men)

Tennis (CoRec)<br>Rugby (Women \& Men) Powerlifting (CoRec) Ultimate Frisbee (Men)

If you are interested in any other Clubs, i.e., Billiards, Golf, Swimming, Hockey, Martial Arts, etc. - Please contact the Sport Clubs Office.

## - Are there try-outs for Sport Clubs?

Depending on the club, there could potentially be try-outs for the competitive team.
However most of the clubs will not have a try-out process.

## - Is there travel involved?

If the club chooses to participate in a tournament, then yes travel could potentially be involved. Travel is not mandatory for all clubs, but if the club chooses to participate in a league that challenges other Universities, then students will have to travel.

- Do I need experience to participate?

Depending on the club and level of competition they wish to compete at, experience may or may not be necessary. Most clubs do not require that you have previous experience, and will encourage newcomers to their sport!

- Where can I get more information if my questions were not answered here? You can come by the Recreation Sports office. You can also email the Sport Clubs Coordinator or the Sport Clubs Graduate Assistants at sportclubs@lamar.edu. Join LU Sport Clubs on Orgsync.com for access to all of our forms and files.


## NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY (NGB) CONTACT LIST


Email







Competitor Schools and their Distance from Lamar University

| School | Distance From <br> Lamar University (Miles) |
| :---: | :---: |
| Abilene Christian University | 499 |
| Angelo State University | 491 |
| Baylor University | 263 |
| Galveston College | 69 |
| Houston Baptist University | 98 |
| Huston-Tillotson University | 280 |
| Incarnate Word University | 283 |
| Midwestern State University | 464 |
| Rice University | 90 |
| Sam Houston State University | 119 |
| Southern Methodist University | 293 |
| St. Edwards University | 246 |
| Stephen F. Austin University | 134 |
| Texas A\&M - College Station | 176 |
| Texas A\&M - Corpus Christi | 308 |
| Texas A\&M - Kingsville | 289 |
| Texas Lutheran University | 250 |
| Texas Southern University | 91 |
| Texas State - San Marcos | 250 |
| Texas Tech - Lubbock | 519 |
| Trinity University | 280 |
| University of Dallas | 292 |
| University of Houston | 90 |
| University of Houston - Downtown | 87 |
| University of North Texas | 363 |
| University of Texas - Arlington | 297 |
| University of Texas - Austin | 252 |
| University of Texas - Brownsville | 441 |
| University of Texas - Dallas | 339 |
| University of Texas - El Paso | 828 |
| University of Texas - Pan American | 359 |
| University of Texas - Permian Basin | 622 |
| University of Texas - San Antonio | 281 |
| University of Texas - Tyler | 190 |
| West Texas A\&M University | 802 |



