

New Co-Rec Soccer Leagues Growing Larger Each Year

Most intramural activities at Carolina are steeped with tradition. Carolina Tag Football, a razzle-dazzle game unique to Carolina, was first played on campus back in the early 1950s. But a very recent addition to the intramural sport line-up, co-rec soccer, has quickly become a popular and growing activity.

First played just three years ago, co-rec soccer (men and women competing on the same soccer team) started at the suggestion of a few students. That first year, two makeshift leagues were formed the night of the organizational meeting, just ten days before regular season play was set to begin. From that first league of eight teams, the sport has taken off in popularity.

In 1986, The Greeks won the first co-rec soccer championship, defeating First Strike. Over 130 participants competed in that regular season and tournament, and no team forfeited a game during the regular season—quite a statement about the players' enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the new activity.

Two factors contributing to the popularity of co-rec soccer are the general interest in soccer, and the increase in co-ed residence halls on campus. With co-ed residence halls, it is often easier to assemble a team of five or six men and five or six women, than having to find eleven or twelve people of the same sex.

Last fall, 377 people played on 17 teams; and this year, five leagues have been planned to accommodate 20 co-rec squads. The 1988 intramural soccer season opens October 24, but organizational meetings will be held next week.

Soon after the decision was made, then-Associate Intramurals Director Wayne Going sat down with the students requesting co-rec soccer to develop rules. Now the Intramurals Director, Dr. Going remembers compile rules on short notice. "We hadn't even sent out information about co-rec soccer on the information sheet. Our main concern was safety, so, I quickly had to outline some rules. I

shared them with Wade Wilson, one of the students requesting co-rec soccer, and we offered our first league," Dr. Going said. "Last year, we modified those rules and now have an established activity."

In some ways, the explosion of co-rec soccer has followed the popularity of women's soccer, in general, on this campus. Back in 1978, only ten women's teams entered the intramural regular season. This season, just ten years later, eight women's leagues have been formed for 24 teams—and that number of women doesn't include all of the women participating in co-rec soccer!

Dr. Going thinks that the phenomenal success of Carolina's varsity women's soccer program, six national championships in the last seven years, and the growing popularity of soccer in the United States, in general, has led to an increased interest in intramural soccer among women.

"It's a great activity for our program since physical size doesn't dictate where you play," said Dr. Going. "Also, it's an activity that people of all skill levels can enjoy playing."

While the women's soccer program is growing quickly, the men's program has traditionally been strong. Fraternities and residence halls have always entered teams, but even parts of the men's program is growing. The number of independent soccer teams have increased in the last few years.

"In the last several years," said Dr. Going, "soccer is the fastest growing major team activity we offer, in the number of teams and participants. Other major team sports have stabilized, but soccer continues to grow."

Registration for this year's intramural soccer seasons will be held at mandatory captain's meetings early next week. Team captains must attend one of the two meetings, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, October 17 and 18. Both days, the meetings begins at 6 p.m.

Information sheets, describing the times set aside for each league, are available in the Intramurals Office, 203 Woollen Gym.



Men's soccer has always been popular at Carolina. But recently, participation in women's and co-rec leagues have increased dramatically.

Important Events

In addition to the soccer meetings, set for Monday and Tuesday, several intramural events are just beginning. Keep these dates in mind when planning your October activities:

Open Table Tennis, a challenge play regular season followed by a single-elimination playoff, begins Monday, October 24. During the challenge play, you may arrange to play matches at any time convenient for you! If you play three different opponents, you will qualify for the playoff. Entries are due on Friday, October 21.

The annual Foul Shooting Contest is your chance to bury the pressure free throw. The contest will be held on Tuesday, October 25 (and also Wednesday, October 26 if a large number of shooters enter). Entries for the foul shooting contest are also due Friday, October 21.

An all-new Whiffleball league, with new rules, a new location, and a new time, will begin play on Tuesday, October 25. Whiffleball entries are due Friday, October 21.

Other important dates... Don't forget Carolina's Homecoming, featuring football against Georgia Tech, on October 22... The next intramural managers' meeting is set for 6 p.m. on November 9. Up-to-date unit points will be available... Volleyball and soccer playoff conflicts are due at 5 p.m. on November 10... The 1988 Intramural Wrestling Tournament, Crail Basketball, Power Lifting, the Sporus Trivia Bowl, and the annual Turkey Trot are all coming in November.

Information about all intramural activities is available in the IM-REC Sports Office, 203 Woollen Gym, 192-1006/1153.

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