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THE ATHLETIC PROGRAM

AT

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

(A Review of The Current Program)

by

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There seems to be some question as to what constitutes the various participation levels of our athletic program. In order to clarify some of these questions let me review our current organization together with a few paragraphs of explanation.

We currently have five areas of participation. The first area is referred to as our intercollegiate program. In some cases these activities are referred to as varsity sports. The intercollegiate program receives the bulk of the financial and administrative support within the Division. These sports are supported with scholarship money, including both grants-in-aid and tuition waivers. Their operating expenses are fully funded. Each sport has a head coach and in most cases facilities for these sports have received top priority. In these sports there is generally no cost to the individual participant and the basic philosophy is the development of excellence to the extent that participation can take place on a highly recognized level in order to promote the University. Currently sports in this category include soccer, wrestling, baseball, tennis, and golf and beginning July 1st assuming the moratorium on program development is lifted, women's golf, softball, and volleyball will be included.

The second level of participation involves the club sports program. These teams are sometimes referred to as intercollegiate in nature, but they are not referred to as intercollegiate teams. They are intercollegiate only from the standpoint that competition is usually outside the realm of the University against other clubs or intercollegiate teams. They are also deemed intercollegiate for insurance purposes. The club teams receive some financial support, but they receive no scholarship aid. These sports are

usually given money for partial operating expenses, and do not have a person assigned to them as coach as part of that faculty member's responsibility. Facilities are usually limited and players must usually contribute financially in order to participate.

Perhaps the most significant difference between the club teams and intercollegiate teams is that of personnel. Most of the intercollegiate squad members are recruited, the majority of the players are on scholarship and they are expected to be at practice every day. Club teams on the other hand, are made up of individuals who for the most part have not been recruited, but are interested students and faculty who wish to play a sport. Due to the nature of the University and the clientele many of the club players are in the position where they must work, attend class, or for some other reason miss a number of practices each week. The same is true of the volunteer coach who often must meet other University responsibilities rather than be at practice.

Beginning next year the intercollegiate teams must abide by NCAA rules, whereas, the club teams have no rules other than those policies set by the University. Since club teams are open to all students at the University, they may register themselves with the Student Government Association, elect officers, and appeal for additional funds where needed. Because the clubs compete outside the University proper, student insurance programs do not cover them; therefore, the Division takes out insurance on these sports. At present there are seven club sports. They are lacrosse, basketball, judo, fencing, karate, weightlifting, and track.

The third area of activity is club activities. These activities deal mainly with non-competitive programs and consist of organized groups which are administered to some extent through our Coordinator of Athletics. They receive some financial help in terms of publicity, faculty members' time, and an occasional entry fee or other such limited expense. These clubs for the most part govern themselves and seek only permission from the University in order to conduct their program in available facilities. These activities change from year to year and include such things as horseback riding, jogging, and remote control flying.

The fourth level of activity is the intramural program. The intramural program is competitive in nature, involves organized teams, and is administered by our Coordinator of Athletics. Money is spent in this area on officials and

some equipment. The program is open to faculty and students alike, but is limited in scope due to the commuting nature of the University. Some of the intramural sports are flag football, basketball, volleyball, and softball.

The fifth area of activity is the recreational program which is open to all faculty, students, and staff and consists of a variety of opportunities including tennis, conditioning, and handball.

All members of the college community are entitled to the services of the Division including equipment room, training room and lockers. As the budget permits towels and soap are furnished to all individuals.

Sports information is mainly geared to the intercollegiate program, but some effort is directed towards the other activities. It is our hope that the program will serve all people of the college community and contribute significantly to the educational goals of Florida International University.