

CHAPTER IX

AWARDS, POINT SYSTEMS AND RECORDS

SYSTEM OF AWARDS

The purpose of an award system in the intramural program is twofold, namely; motivation and recognition of achievement.

Award systems are not universally used, as there are some physical education leaders who think the system is stressing the award rather than participation for enjoyment. However, there are arguments for giving awards by proponents of the plan.

Awards create interest, and, as a result of the increased student interest, there will be a greater percentage of participation, which is a step toward the realization of our objectives.

There is an opportunity for each student to win an award. If an award plan is used (which is recommended for junior high and high schools) it places all students upon the same level of opportunity and encourages all of them to participate. In other words, we are not only encouraging the physically superior students but those whom we might call physically inferior by participation awards.

Intramural athletics is only one of the many extra-curricular activities that are being carried on in the school program. The activities are made as appealing to the students as possible in an attempt to gain their individual participation but at the same time the awards are also given to make it more attractive.

In giving awards we recognize individual achievement in that we give the students something that is of little monetary value but, at the same time, gives credit for their interest, participation, and physical prowess and proves to them and shows the world that they have the physical and mental capacities to turn in a creditable performance.

Those who feel that we are stressing the wrong thing by giving awards present as their arguments the following points:

The individual should be taught to participate for the enjoyment he can derive from the activity. This argument is worthwhile and no doubt many students would enter into the program if no awards were given. However, there are others that are not participating who will be attracted by the award. We strive for 100% participation in the program and if the awards will attract some of those students who would not otherwise be in the program, surely the award system is all right.

Awards are an added expense. This is true and if the awards system takes away from or limits the type of program that is carried on, it is an argument that deserves every consideration. Awards, however, need not be very expensive as cheaper ones will successfully accomplish the same purpose.

If each individual can win an award, awards mean very little. In this argument one thing is not taken into consideration and that is, we are not recognizing ability as such, but participation. In interscholastic and intercollegiate athletics awards are given for ability, as the individuals are the outstanding