

season starts, all the officials should meet to go over general rules and learn local ground rules and modifications to be used. After this meeting, a copy of the rules should be available so that contestants will be familiar with them. Usually intramural participants are good sports; however, in the older groups, rivalry sometimes becomes very keen and may even be a reflection of the institution's attitude. In a school where the varsity coach shakes his fist at the officials, his players may have the same mind set. This will be reflected in the crowd which will boo at the officials. With proper training in attitudes from the elementary school through the university, the difficulties of officials can be very much reduced resulting in more enjoyment by the participants, officials, and spectators. Probably the most desirable method of selection of officials is by practical and written tests. By having funds available to pay officials a small wage, better qualified officials can be obtained. In the conduct of any activity, the official should have the final say and everyone concerned should understand that he is in charge of the contests. A Board of Review or Supreme Court can be organized to handle protests, forfeits, etc. The appeal should go through regular channels. No appeals should be possible on an umpire's judgment; for example, whether a certain pitched ball was a strike. Appeals should be possible only on rule interpretations such as the local ground rule, use of ineligible players, etc.

When Shall Contests be Played?

Now that teams are classified, the schedules drawn, good equipment and good officials chosen, and a place to play in safely provided, when shall we play? Probably the best time for contests is after school, but this depends largely upon the activity and the age of the children. The elementary school children are not encouraged to spend their after school hours about the buildings. They could well play some games during the regular recess periods and before school begins. The junior high school children can play after school. Some high schools have opened their gymnasiums in the evening for scheduled contests. Some schools schedule contests Saturday morning. In case of golf, where it is impossible to play near the building, the Saturday schedules have to be followed. In some senior high schools many of the contests are scheduled for the hour preceding the start of school in the morning. If students want to play badly enough to get to school an hour early, they should have a more convenient and hygienic schedule. The noon-hour program has been adopted by many schools as a solution to two problems: first, a free time in which to schedule intramural competition, and second, protection of the school and its equipment from noon hour lunchers. It seems best to have quiet games or activities not involving strenuous physical effort immediately after eating. Some schools have social dancing in the gymnasium during the noon hour. The speed of "Jitterbug" dancing, makes me wonder if this activity should not be classified with the two mile run, something too violent for a full stomach.

It was found, in a large city school, that as many as sixty-five percent of the students in boys' physical education classes were unable to participate in intramural athletics after school or on Saturdays, because of various kinds of outside work such as throwing papers, drug store delivery, and work in grocery stores. For this group, the daily physical education class should allow time for the actual playing of contests in addition to its teaching of sports fundamentals. Some of our most alert teachers feel that there should be more overlapping of required work and intramurals -- more play in required, some teaching in intramurals.

Of all the times available -- the noon hour, before school in the morning, evenings, Saturdays, and after school -- the period after school may be considered best, although it is possible that the other times may have to fit in many local situations.