

A very important function of the intramural office could well be that of a matching service for recreational competition. This could, but need not be, for any other purpose than playing for fun. Many groups have difficulty in meeting on a regular time schedule because of other after school activities. At times, when they can get together, it would be well if the intramural director could contact another team of like ability and reserve playing space for a game. This service would dovetail well with elimination tournaments. Many teams get organized in such tournaments, are beaten right away, and get to play only one game. Such clubs could be matched against each other and get a lot of fun out of the sport. Individual sports take care of themselves on competition pretty well. However, scheduling of tennis courts and like facilities saves a lot of waiting on turns to play. Matching service here would broaden competition beyond personal acquaintances in these sports -- a useful service in large institutions.

A number of activities are particularly suited to recreation which are not so well suited to competition. A few of these are suggested in the following:

Swimming and water play are unusually good. Careful supervision is necessary for safety, particularly in open water away from regular supervision. There is less danger around supervised pools except from infection. Long distance swimming is an especially good developmental activity, interesting to many people.

Canoeing and boating are very good where water is available. Instruction in handling of these craft should precede their use. It is best not to allow anyone in a canoe who cannot swim.

Hiking and camping are related to outdoor activities. Scout training is an excellent preliminary for appreciation of these activities. Cross country jogging is a fine out-of-door exercise suitable for a wide range of age groups.

There are numerous activities related to hunting and fishing. One may or may not take to the woods and streams with archery, rifle and pistol shooting, flycasting, etc. The application of the sport, so to speak, is generally more interesting than its isolated practice.

Outdoor winter sports include ice skating (which is probably the most popular), sledding, and skiing. All are fine sports. The lack of equipment and uncertainty of weather are the greatest handicaps to their more general adoption.

Horseback riding and bicycling are deservedly popular but somewhat handicapped by their cost and the lack of bridle paths or restricted areas for cycling. Bicycling on city streets is a somewhat dangerous activity.

Physical efficiency tests prove to be a popular activity. The individual gauges his skill against the standard or the record. The Athletic Badge Test for youngsters, the requirements of Sigma Delta Psi for college men are examples of these popular self-testing activities.

Social dancing, folk dancing, and like activities are always popular and some of our best recreational activities.