

UW-Whitewater Club Sports

Frequently-Asked Questions

If the items addressed via this document do not answer any of the questions or concerns you have, please contact our staff! We are happy to assist and appreciate you looking into Club Sports!

Matt Schneider, Assistant Director – Intramural & Club Sports

Office of Recreation Sports & Facilities

SchneideMD30@uww.edu

clubsports@uww.edu

262-472-1145 (front desk)

262-472-5654 (direct)

Other Helpful Resources

[Recreation Sports & Facilities](#)

[Williams Center Hours of Operations](#)

[Intercollegiate Athletics](#)

[Intramural Sports](#)

[Career & Leadership Development](#)

Interested in learning more about a specific club? [Complete our interest form](#) and we will connect you with the appropriate club leaders!

What are club sports?

Club Sports are opportunities for the campus community (students, faculty, staff, etc.) to be involved in activities in a more competitive and involved manner. UW-Whitewater is a proud home to 30 Club Sports teams and all teams either compete, recreate or practice their respective disciplines on a regular basis. Each club must be recognized as a student organization by the university and have at least seven (7) active members. Depending on the club, teams may travel, host events on-campus and compete for state, regional and national championships.

How are Club Sports different from Intercollegiate Athletics and Intramural Sports?

Based on a tier of competitiveness and involvement:

Intercollegiate Athletics: Most competitive. Division III athletics as governed by the NCAA and WIAC. Each team has a dedicated coaching staff on university payroll with higher expectations for involvement. Athletes may have minimal (if any) financial commitment/requirement and all equipment is provided. The university arranges travel and university-appointed administrators make decisions on day-to-day team operations. Roster cuts are permitted and strict eligibility guidelines may be in-place. Intercollegiate teams compete in the WIAC and have daily team requirements. Athletes cannot participate on intramural or club teams in comparable activities.

Club Sports: Mainly competitive with some recreational components. Not defined by a specific division (in most cases) and not regulated by the NCAA (although some clubs may use NCAA competition guidelines). Although clubs are student-lead and receive some funding from the institution, members may be asked to make contributions in the form of membership dues and fundraising. There is no full department committed to clubs given their status as student organizations. Clubs have a couple of practices and semi-regular meetings each week and may travel and compete with other institutions across the state, region and country. Although travel roster limitations may apply, no roster cuts are permitted and eligibility guidelines are less strict (mainly academic and behavioral). Club athletes may participate in intramural activities.

Intramural Sports: Activities offered on-campus only. All teams are assembled with other members of the UW-Whitewater campus community. Although the competition level is high, activities tend to be more recreational and fun in-nature. Championship teams compete for the coveted intramural championship t-shirt! All eligibility guidelines are established by UW-Whitewater campus administrators. A small participation fee is required for each team.

Club Sports – Frequently Asked Questions

How can I get involved with a club team?

UW-Whitewater and Rec Sports provide a lot of ways for clubs to share their involvement opportunities. Most of the common ways to get involved include:

- [completing an interest form](#) on the Club Sports website
- contacting club leaders as they are listed on the [Club Sports website](#)
- submitting a request form via an individual club's Presence page
- visiting Club Sports Awareness Day or the UW-Whitewater Involvement Fair and meeting club representatives
- filling out an interest form in-person in room 100 of the Williams Center
- visiting a club directly at their meeting or practice time
- visiting our staff in room 100 of the Williams Center

Various posters and bulletin boards around the Williams Center may also be updated throughout the year.

AND MORE!

Club leaders are expected to respond to inquiries within 48 hours. If you do not get in-touch with a club leader or staff member within that time frame, please [contact us](#)!

Do club teams have roster tryouts or make cuts?

Some (but not all) clubs have tryouts. Clubs are not permitted to make roster cuts. Tryouts are typically to determine who will make a traveling team, as governing bodies/conferences may have roster size restrictions, which also helps with the costs affiliated with traveling. For inquiries related to tryouts, please contact the Assistant Director or the club-specific contact listed on the [Club Sports website](#).

How much of a time commitment is involved in joining a club team?

Club officers are asked to acknowledge all members are affiliated with the institution in some capacity outside of their club and may have other primary responsibilities. We understand not everyone will be able to attend all practices, meetings, events/competitions, etc. However, in order for clubs to be successful, involvement is key and expected on a fairly regular basis. Involvement expectations are specifically outlined by each club, however it is reasonable to expect a couple of hours per week plus a weekend here-and-there.

It is more than okay to be a member with multiple clubs, however please understand the time commitment could increase as a result.

To get an idea of possible club-specific time commitments, weekly practice days/times and event schedules are published on the [Club Sports website](#).

Who is responsible for leading a club team?

As recognized student organizations, one of the unique characteristics about club teams is the day-to-day operations are led by students. These students may hold their leadership positions (often referred to as an officer position) via elections, volunteering, appointments, etc. Positions vary from club-to-club, but all clubs must have at least a president and risk management officer.

Clubs may also have a coaching staff, although coaches are not required. Coaches must be appointed by the club leaders and approved by the Assistant Director. Aside from assembling practice/competition plans and providing conditioning advisement, coaches may serve as a consultant on day-to-day club operations, however student leaders are responsible for making the final decisions. Coaches may be paid, if permitted by club leadership and budgets.

All clubs, as part of being a recognized student organization, must also have a faculty advisor. Advisors serve as operational consultants and assist with club compliance as it relates to budget adherence, acting in accordance with university policies and upholding the student code of conduct.

How can I become a leader within a club?

As outlined above, club members may become leaders in varying ways. Leaders have a great opportunity to develop desirable skills prospective employers look for, including teamwork, communication, organization, time management, etc. The methodology behind becoming a club leader should be outlined in each club's constitution. Although it is typical to see a junior, senior or graduate student in a leadership position, anyone can (and is encouraged to) be a leader. Club leaders typically participate as a general club member for at least one academic semester prior to the leadership opportunity becomes available. If you are interested in a leadership position, please speak with a current club leader or the Assistant Director. Club teams cannot exist without team leaders!

Who do club teams report to?

All club teams report to the Assistant Director of Intramural and Club Sports in the Office of Recreation Sports and Facilities. The Assistant Director will assist clubs with budgets, event planning, travel logistics, risk management and more. Because club teams are recognized student organizations, Career & Leadership Development (located in the University Center) also requires some items to be addressed on an annual basis.

Some club teams are also members of a governing body (i.e. conference affiliation, etc.). A list of such affiliations is available on the Club Sports website.

What is a governing body?

A governing body is an organization dedicated to providing rules, policies, and general oversight of operations for a specific sport, activity or discipline. For club teams, governing bodies can assist (in some cases) with things such as contest/event scheduling, scores/standings, postseason/championships, official/referee assignments, providing resources for team involvement/development, etc. State and regional conferences are also considered to be forms of governing bodies.

Are there any fees affiliated with joining a club?

This depends on each individual club. Most club teams receive some funding from the institution in the form of segregated fee allocation, although these fees do not cover 100% of many club operations. To make up the difference in operating expenses, clubs may choose to collect dues from its members. The amount of applicable dues are set by individual club leaders and should be clearly stated in a club's constitution. In lieu of collecting or asking for large amounts of dues, clubs may elect to engage in fundraising in the communities surrounding UW-Whitewater. Any money collected by the club is deposited into an on-campus account specific to the club.

Where do clubs practice/play?

All club teams practice and host events/meetings on the UW-Whitewater campus. Most club gatherings take place in or around the Williams Center (north end of campus), which also includes the Kachel Fieldhouse, Kachel Gymnasium, outdoor Intramural & Recreation Fields, the Williams Center Weight Room and multiple classrooms. Other academic and social building on-campus host our clubs, including Esker Dining Hall, which houses Aikido/Martial Arts, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and Karate/Warhawk Martial Arts. UW-Whitewater also has a beautiful outdoor 18-hole disc golf course, located along Schwager Drive.

[Campus Map](#)

Do club teams travel?

Yes. Most teams travel at least once per academic year. Most travel takes place in the state of Wisconsin and in the northern parts of Illinois, although clubs do travel throughout the Midwest. In some cases (typically spring break tournaments, playoffs and championships), club teams will travel long distances. If club travel requires overnight stay, the Assistant Director organizes lodging (individual club budget permitting). Teams may travel using personal vehicles or may elect to rent vehicles. For cost-saving purposes, personal vehicle use is preferred for shorter trips. Travel reimbursement is possible, as long as club funds are available. All drivers, regardless of vehicles, must be authorized by the State of Wisconsin via the Fleet Portal System.

Can I use my own equipment?

Yes, however personal equipment is used at the owner's discretion and Club Sports is not responsible for any personal items that may be lost, stolen or damaged. Club teams do have some of their own equipment and other equipment may be available to rent from the Williams Center Equipment Room (depending on the club). Club teams may also submit requests for additional equipment, which is purchased at the discretion of the Assistant Director (availability of funding).

Do individual clubs have their own websites?

Yes and no. Club teams are not authorized to have websites not affiliated with the uww.edu domain. They are, however, required to have an organization page via Presence, the on-campus management system used for all recognized student organizations. Links to club-specific Presence sites are located on the [Club Sports website under the "Club List" tab](#) in the table near the bottom of the home page.

I am interested in starting a club that isn't currently offered. How do I do that?

Contact the Assistant Director. We are happy to help and will set up an individual meeting to learn more about your ambitions! For starters, we ask interested individuals for proof of campus interest and we'll work to put a club sustainability plan together. Since all teams affiliated with Club Sports must also be recognized student organizations, we will also work with you to identify prospective student leaders and start a constitution.