

Joining or starting teams good way to get into sports

By Jennifer Jordy
Reporter

Does golf get your ball rolling? Do you get a kick out of karate? Do you love tennis? If so, a sports club might just be for you.

There are presently almost 600 recognized student activities and 30 sports clubs on campus. If you can't find the club you desire, you might consider starting your own club.

Students must apply through the Student Activities department to start a club, says Rhonda Bolich, Student Activities secretary.

She said anyone can come in and apply for recognition but they do prefer students.

Forms must be filled out by stating the group's name, purpose and activities. A student group must have a faculty advisor, officers and a constitution.

"Most people are surprised at how fast they can get the paper work done," Bolich says.

After the application is complete, it is presented to Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of Student Services, for approval. If she approves the application, the club receives campus priv-

ileges. The organization can then advertise and hold meetings on campus.

If the club has a sports-related interest, the organizers may choose to operate through the Intramural-Recreational Sports department.

Paula Opal, assistant director of sports clubs, says to become a sports club the activity must first be a recognized student activity.

To qualify as a sports club, the students must offer instruction at all skill levels and offer competition for the more highly skilled members.

Opal said of those sports with national competition, 76 percent of A&M's clubs went last year.

Funding tops the list as a benefit for becoming a sports club, Opal says.

"All of our clubs receive allocation of funds of some kind," she says.

Clubs must first go through a year-long probation period. This allows the office to determine the validity of the club and its activities.

Mark Benden, president of the Pistol Club, says he feels the probation period was well worth it.

"The time spent practicing, training, and talking with people for just a little bit of time is hardly a problem compared to the benefits," he says.

Opal says sports clubs have the opportunity to use campus facilities and receive funding for transportation and entry fees. They can also use University-owned equipment either through loan or rental.

"Sports clubs have priority in facilities and equipment over recreational sports," she says.

A national travel account was set up to assist teams traveling out of state.

"There are several sports clubs who find themselves going to nationals and no funding is available through the University," Opal says. "Unless they are one of our clubs, they are not eligible for those funds."

A club must prove that competition is available in the area either regionally or at the state level, Opal says.

"The odds are that we are not going to start a club where the only competition available is in California," she says.

Most clubs at the University are stable throughout the state.

12th Man Scoreboard

Aggie yachting sails to win in Rice regatta

The A&M sailing team cruised to a big victory in the Armadillo Regatta in Seabrook two weeks ago and travels to Austin this weekend to race in the McCarthy Cup Regatta.

A&M won 11 of 12 races in the Armadillo Regatta which was hosted by Rice University at the Seabrook Sailing Club. Club member Jeff Lewis says A&M finished well ahead of second-place Baylor and the rest of the field.

Sailing

consist of team races in which three boats from each school race together in tactical races to determine a champion, Lewis says. Teams from Rice, Springhill College, Houston, Baylor, Southern Methodist, North Texas, A&M-Galveston, Tulane and the University of Texas are expected to participate in the regatta according to Dave Jones, spokesman for the team.

Tulane and Texas are among the top teams in the nation, ranking second and 20th, respectively.

The club will host a women's regatta on October 29 at Bryan Utilities Lake. The team is a part of the 29-member A&M sailing club and competes in races throughout the year.

Points are given for standings in each race and tallied to determine a winner for the regatta. The lowest point total wins the title. A&M had a low total of 10.25 points while Baylor had 30, and Rice was third with 37 points.

This weekend's regatta will

Aggie ultimate team spins into sectionals

The Texas A&M ultimate Frisbee team opens its season October 1 with the sectional tournament in Alvin and is looking for more members.

The team now has a membership of about 30 people.

Ultimate Frisbee

"Anyone who is interested should just show up to one of our practices," Blinn says. "If you show up, you're automatically a part of the team."

No specific qualifications are needed to play the game.

Since the team is an extramural club, it plays against teams from Austin, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Baton Rouge.

The team participates in an average of six tournaments per year.

"This has been a really good fall for us," says Tom Blinn, vice president of the team. "We've had a pretty good turnout, but we can always use more players — both male and female."

Anyone interested in joining the team should attend one of the practices. They are held every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 6 p.m. The practice field is located next to Cain Hall.

Lacrosse club gearing up for big season

Texas A&M's lacrosse club is gearing up for the spring season with a chance of going to the Southwest Lacrosse Association finals.

Nathan Douglas, president of the club, says the team should be ranked high in the championship games of the Southwest Lacrosse Association, a collegiate league.

The league has two conferences (east and west) with A&M belonging to the east conference.

In the spring, conference games will begin and each of the teams will play every team in their

Lacrosse

conference twice (10 to 12 games) with the top two teams advancing to the championship.

This fall A&M will host the Eighth Annual Fall Tournament, play an alumni game against former A&M lacrosse players and several scrimmages.

Membership is open to both men and women and dues are \$40. Members should expect to pay approximately \$110 for equipment.

Pistol team shooting away this weekend

The Texas A&M pistol team is preparing for their first competition to be held in Dallas this weekend.

The 20-member team comprised of 15 men and five women practices at least three times a week for an hour and a half at the indoor range, according to team captain Mark "Bo" Benden.

"During the first two weeks of school, we have competitive try-outs," Benden says.

The team competes four times each semester in three events: air,

Pistol

free, and standard pistols. The top four shooters from each of the three events comprise the varsity team.

A different team is chosen for each competition in the fall and only one team is used in the spring to begin training for nationals.

The team was 4th in collegiate nationals last year, and has consistently been in the Top 10 since 1974, Benden says.

Steensma leads A&M to easy win

Cheri Steensma had 19 kills in 48 attempts to lead the Lady Aggie Volleyball to a straight-set victory over the University of San Francisco in the first game of a three-game weekend swing through California.

Steensma hit for a .396 average and was aided by Kelli Kellen and Krista Hierholtzer who each had 14 digs.

A&M is 6-3 overall, while USF drops to 1-7.

Head coach Al Givens was pleased with the team's overall performance, particularly that of some of the younger players.

"Our experience and maturity came out tonight," Givens said. "In the third game, we had three freshmen in there, and they got a little rattled but regained their composure and put the match away."

Givens was also pleased with the play of middle blockers Lara Rupf and Alycia Gonzales.

Givens feels the match will benefit the team in more than just the win column.

"We've got to win matches like this," he said. "We displayed great flexibility and versatility and we passed real well."

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Contracts for recognized student organizations are available in the club mail boxes in the Student Finance Center and in 230 Reed McDonald. Late contracts will be accepted until Friday Sept. 30.



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FRESHMEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Texas legislature passed a bill establishing the Texas Academic Skills Program that requires students entering college to take the TASP test beginning in 1989. The TASP test will also replace the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) for students in teacher education fields. Texas A&M University will be serving as a test site for the TASP test field trial on Tuesday, October 18. We need volunteers to represent TAMU in this state-wide field trial. The field trial will take approximately 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Two sessions will be held, one from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and the other from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is no charge to participate in the field trial.

The TASP test consists of three skills: Math, Reading, and Writing. Students who participate will have an opportunity to judge their mastery of academic skills and help the state of Texas develop the best possible test for colleges and universities.

To participate in the TASP test field trial or for additional information, please call 845-0532.