

## Washington, D.C. Chapter of IUAA's Co-Ed Sports Philosophy

### *Sportsmanship, Camaraderie, and Fun*

The IUAA D.C. Chapter's philosophy on participation in team sports mirrors the Capital Alumni Network's (CAN) purpose: to "foster networking, friendship and collegiate spirit between local alumni members." The D.C. Chapter values good sportsmanship, camaraderie (with fellow alums and other alumni clubs), fairness in playing time, and an overall "team player" attitude. While our teams do aim to compete well in an effort to win games, they never sacrifice their values on behalf of competitiveness.

The IUAA D.C. Chapter is growing larger every year, as are the Chapter's co-ed sports teams. This growth is a testament to the CAN league, the coaches, and the players. Because the Chapter is becoming so large, individuals should be aware that they may not get as much game play time as they wish, but that this measure is in place to ensure adequate and fair play time for *all* players. That being said, players who show more commitment to the team may be rewarded with more play time. The role of the coach is to look out for the best interest of the team, which means balancing competitiveness and strategy with fairness and fun. All players, regardless of skill level, are treated fairly at all times.

Please note that there is a difference between how our teams are coached and managed during regular season versus tournament time at the end of the sport seasons. During tournaments, the focus of the team is slanted towards advancing as far as possible in the competition rather than ensuring fair play time. However, again, sportsmanship and "team player" attitude are *never* forsaken on behalf of winning games.

The D.C. Chapter's sports teams pride themselves on their positive attitude and spirit; therefore, negative attitudes and poor sportsmanship are not tolerated on any of its teams. In addition, the CAN sports league is entirely staffed by volunteers who give their personal time to strive for success as well as an enjoyable time for all alumni chapters involved; this means that players on the IU teams are expected to help out with duties such as refereeing, field saving, equipment carrying, field set-up, and helping with any other activity that the coaches assign. Failure to embrace a can-do attitude in completing an assigned volunteer duty can lead to less playing time and/or dismissal from the team.