Open Letter

Ref abuse in IMs?

For MIT students and faculty, recent incidents of violence and unprofessional conduct in intramural sports have concerned us, the members of the Intramural Executive Committee, that a serious problem exists with participants’ attitudes towards intramural competition. These incidents include threats against seperators at an intramural hockey game and a bench-clearing brawl at an IM basketball game.

As members of the Intramural Executive Committee, we believe that intramurals are meant to be a chance for MIT students and faculty to participate in friendly competition while developing fitness and disciplining emotions. In recent years, the atmosphere of intramurals has become increasingly competitive, especially in the lowest leagues. One result of this heightened competitive atmosphere is referee abuse. Our IM program is unique in that it is almost entirely student run. This includes referees, they are doing their best in a difficult job that allows you to play intramurals. IMs are meant to provide a chance to relax and let off steam through exercise, not by giving referees a hard time.

Referee abuse is a major reason that we have trouble getting referees for intramurals. People don’t want to be a ref if it includes listen to others complain about everything they do. Participants should remember that referees are also students and not professional referees.

In the interest of improving the atmosphere surrounding intramurals, the Intramural Executive Committee is going to be especially aware of any incidents of referee abuse or unprofessional conduct that occur during the spring. We hope that this letter will alert MIT Athletics to the problems of MIT’s intramural program and its current problems.

Michael J. Cohenet ’82
For the Intramural Executive Committee

sports update

Swimming — Bob Schoenick ’84 led MIF to a 17th place spot in the NCAA Division III swim championships March 20-23 in Oberlin, Ohio. Schoenick took points in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke for Tech, setting a school mark of 59.99 seconds in the 100. In addition, the medley team of Schoenick, John Biddle ’84, Mark Eason ’85, and Mark Hartung ’81 set a school record of 3:35.32 to take eighth in that event.

Sailing — The first regatta of 1981 was held this past weekend, and MIT finished runner-up to MIT in the Boston Ducks Club Cup. The Tech sailors were led by Dave Kuller ’81 and Peter Bronzich ’82, who won their division, and the trio of Ed Marcus ’81, Bruce Klein ’81, and Mark Drayton ’81, who finished third.

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