

International Sports Federation

Christian Sports Clinic Manual

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* Italicized terms throughout the manual are defined in the Glossary.

INTRODUCTION

The sports clinic has become recognized as an excellent way to evangelize young people and promote the local church. It is an effective supplement to church planting efforts, and an effective tool for ministries seeking to reach into the inner city or multi-housing units. In either case, sports clinics provide opportunities for sports-minded Christians to share Christ with their community.

The station-to-station clinic, where groups rotate between skill specific stations, is one of the most popular clinic styles. It offers the opportunity for personal evangelism as opposed to trying to share with large crowds. Christian themes can be easily incorporated, and new relationships are common place.

Station-to-station clinics also allow ministries to involve themselves in the instruction of several sports. They are adaptable to most sports and facilities. The clinics are adaptable to instructors of varying skill levels when there is a proper distribution of job responsibilities. Instructors have the opportunity to use their athletic abilities, and to utilize their love for Christ to develop new relationships with the unsaved.

Station-to-station clinics are exciting ways for local ministries to involve themselves in Sports Evangelism and aid the local church. The clinics have registration and award times designed to generate prospect and visitation lists. The clinic is designed with openings for local church members of any skill level to participate. Most importantly, station-to-station clinics provide countless opportunities for evangelism and impressionable moments to model Christ's message and example.

“Why Should I Care If They Can Dribble?”

A sports clinic is a tool that can help the local church reach out to its community and see people of all ages come to know Christ. Specifically, a sport clinic can attract sports-minded people and their families to a Christian sponsored event when they may normally ignore or avoid Christian events.

⇒ **Why Sports?**

The popularity of sports is evidenced by the numbers of people participating in organized or casual sporting activities, the stadiums filled with fans attending games, the amount of money parents spend on league fees and equipment, and the media outlets thronging to cover even the smallest sporting activities. A majority of the population has an emotional tie or vested interest in sports.

Sport is the only specific interest that can draw the attention of the world, and it happens for two sporting events. Whether in person or via media, the world gathers patriotically to witness the Olympic games and the World Cup of Soccer. They do so with a religious fervor that for many is stronger than their religious faith.

“Sport is an interest that will draw people to evangelistic events!”

⇒ **How Can I Use Sports?**

This booklet is a guide to help you use your expertise or the expertise of others to lead sports clinics that are designed for evangelism.

For churches in the United States, sports clinics can provide:

- * A way to use a gym or Family Life Center for outreach.
- * A way to involve members who have never served before.
- * A new way to evangelize youth.
- * A way to support *Vacation Bible School* or *Backyard Bible Clubs*.
- * A way to reach the innercity and multi-housing units.
- * A new type of summer mission project.
- * An exciting use for existing blacktop courts and ball fields.

For international ministries, sports clinics can provide:

- * A new means of taking the message of Christ into people groups closed to Christian missionaries.
- * A way to support church planting projects by raising community interest.
- * A way to attract prospects to existing congregations or Bible study groups.
- * A way to use mission volunteers to support mission strategies.
- * A way to begin relationships in spite of language barriers.

“Sports can be used in many ways to grow the Kingdom of God, as a platform for new relationships, and to create evangelistic opportunities!”

⇒ **What If I'm Not an Athlete or Coach?**

Teaching a sport does require a knowledge of the sport, but it does not always require physical proficiency. This booklet does not provide instructional drills or coaching tips, but there are multiple sources of athletic instruction available to clinic organizers. (Foreign missionaries may find it difficult to obtain training materials, but volunteer missionaries and nationals with athletic skills are good sources of clinic leadership. Volunteers can bring training materials from the United States.)

Never try to fool clinic participants. It is unfair to offer an inferior product and then try to justify it with an evangelistic intent. Christians should be living examples of integrity and quality.

It is important to find qualified athletic leadership for sports clinics. However, less qualified instructors are required for children and inexperienced athletes. Non-athletic volunteers can play important roles in any sport clinic.

Remember your priority! Evangelistic sports clinics are evangelistic first and sports intensive second. Clinic organizers should concern themselves with sports training as it opens doors for new relationships and earning trust. These open doors create opportunities for evangelism.

“Sports experts or non-athletic volunteers can organize sports clinics. Most importantly, clinic organizers should concern themselves with communicating Christ’s love to sports-minded people.”

⇒ **Why Should I Use Sports Clinics?**

There are several types of Sports Evangelism. Christians have successfully shared the message of Christ through exhibition games, sports camps, open leagues, chaplaincy ministries, prison sports ministries, sports fellowships, large sporting event ministries, fan-based ministries, and other sports ministries. Sports Clinics have been used in conjunction with these forms of evangelism and alone. In both cases, they have proven to be successful tools for evangelism.

Benefits of ministry sponsored sports clinics:

- + *They can be designed to reach specific groups of people.*
- + *They can be used to support other ministry events and programs.*
- + *They can easily incorporate Christian themes and lessons.*
- + *They can allow time and opportunities to begin and nurture relationships.*

- + *They can be designed to reach participants and their families.*
- + *They can involve a wide variety of volunteer leadership, and involve Christians who have never before been involved in missions or outreach events.*
- + *They appeal to the interests of a large segment of the population.*
- + *They can be used to take the message of Christ into places where traditional forms of evangelism are not accepted.*
- + *They can be organized by most Christian organizations, individuals, or foreign missionaries.*
- + *They are often requested and supported by governments, allowing Christians access and credibility in the community not previously afforded.*
- + *They can be a tool to reach youth or to involve youth in ministry leadership.*
- + *They can cross culture, race, language, and age barriers.*
- + *They can be made to fit the goals and resources of the organizers.*
- + *They are not limited to the physical ability or sports connections of the organizers.*
- + *They involve people in ministry activities that interest and attract them.*

⇒ **What Types of Sports Clinics Can I Use?**

There are many ways to design and lead sports clinics, and clinic organizers must be creative so that their clinic accomplishes their ministry goals with their available resources. The following clinic descriptions provide several options for using clinic resources effectively.

Station to Station Clinics - Clinics involving several clinic stations that participants visit in a rotation. The most common and most adaptable clinic style. It is the basis for most other types of sports clinics.

Uniform or Large Group Clinics - Clinics where all participants learn skills together in a large group setting. The large group setting works best when there is a small number of participants, or highly skilled and well respected clinic instructors.

Special Theme or Large Event Clinics - Clinics held in an area where a particular event creates more interest in the clinics. For example, Olympic themed clinics in an Olympic city during the games.

Ministry Supporting Clinics - Clinics designed to increase interest in another ministry event or program. All ministry led clinics should be based on initiating evangelism, but they can also be designed to draw interest to other evangelism or discipleship programs. For instance, a basketball tournament the afternoon of a youth rally.

Coaching or Officiating Clinics - Clinics designed specifically to teach coaching or officiating techniques. These clinics require a higher level of instruction, but offer the opportunity to minister to leaders and adults.

School Sponsored Clinics - Clinics held on a school campus during a specific class or school sponsored program. Many schools welcome outside expertise when it is free. School sports officials can be the source of invitations to assemblies, physical education classes, and sports program practices.

GLOSSARY

Awards Dinner / Demonstration

A Friday or Saturday evening dinner for the parents of clinic participants hosted by the clinic sponsor where participants receive awards, demonstrate skills learned at the clinic, and view a videotape of clinic highlights.

Clinic Coach

Highly skilled instructor with coaching experience; assigned to administrate the clinic.

Drill

Activity used to demonstrate a skill or provide participants with the opportunity to practice a skill.

Equipment Manager

A manager, not assigned to a specific team, with the responsibility of making sure that adequate equipment is available to instructors throughout the clinic.

Instructor

Individual with playing or coaching experience assigned to teach, demonstrate and oversee drills at a specific station.

Manager

Individual assigned to a specific team to serve as an encourager, leader and assistant to instructors.

Participant

Individual that registers to participate in the clinic to receive instruction.

Ratio

Number of participants per number of managers and instructors.

Registration

Collection of information from individuals in order to recognize them as participants, assign them to teams and contact them after the clinic for follow-up purposes.

Scoreboard

Board at a station used to record and display individual and team results.

Site

Place where a clinic is held.

Skill

A specific ability or proficiency.

Measurable Skill: A skill that can be measured objectively
(i.e. 2 of 5 free throws)

Subjective Skill: A skill that can only be measured subjectively
(i.e. playing good defense)

Station

Place where a specific skill is demonstrated and drills are run.

Station Set-up

Placement designation for a station, or activities involved in preparing a station, scoreboard and theme board for station activities.

Team

Participants assigned to a group according to a common quality, or by skill level, for the sake of parity in team competitions.

Theme Board

Board at a station that displays the skill and theme specific to the station.

Trainer

Individual assigned to administer any necessary first-aid at the clinic.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

CLINIC COACH

The *Clinic Coach* is a specially selected individual responsible for overseeing the athletic and ministry activities of the clinic. They should be selected for their *skills* specific to coaching the sport being taught at the clinic, and for their ability to guide young people. They have the opportunity to lead everyone in an exciting and refreshing look at God and sports. The *Clinic Coach* should:

1. Work closely with *instructors* and *managers* to ensure that they are equipped to provide *participants* with a good clinic experience, quality instruction and a chance to hear the plan of salvation.
2. Work with the *Equipment Manager* throughout the clinic to ensure that there is sufficient and adequate equipment for the clinic.
3. Lead *instructors* and *managers* through a preparation time to assign responsibilities, set-up the clinic *sight*, answer any questions and plan clinic activities.
4. Assist in obtaining the equipment and supplies necessary to set-up and run the clinic.
5. Monitor clinic activities to assure the safety of everyone involved.
6. Oversee *registration* for the clinic and make *team* assignments.
7. Ensure that clinic leadership adheres to the guidelines of the clinic manual and make any adjustments necessary due to *Site* irregularities, time constraints or special circumstances.
8. Work closely with host ministry representatives throughout the clinic to ensure that clinic activities conform to the goals of the host ministry, and promote any plans for follow-up activities.

INSTRUCTOR

An *Instructor* is an individual responsible for teaching and demonstrating specific athletic *skills* during the clinic. They should be proficient in all aspects of the sport being taught at the clinic, and have at least two years of playing experience in that sport at the high school level. For more advanced clinics college experience may be necessary. The *Instructor* should be sixteen years of age or older, capable of teaching clinic *participants*, and leading them in *drills*. An *Instructor* should:

1. Work closely with *Managers* and the *Clinic Coach* to present clinic *participants* with quality instruction and the plan of salvation.
2. Attend clinic preparation time and be responsible for the preparations of their assigned *station*, *theme board* and *scoreboard*.
3. Be familiar with the *drills* being taught at their assigned *station* and prepared to lead them.
4. Be prepared to accept assignment modifications if clinic circumstances change.
5. Be aware of any witnessing opportunities, and ready to share the plan of salvation with *participants* at opportune moments.
6. Assist with *registration*, *site* set up and clean-up times.

MANAGER

A *Manager* is an individual assigned to a *team* as an encourager, guide and assistant to the *Instructors*. *Managers* do not have to have the level of athletic *skill* that an *Instructor* or *Clinic Coach* must possess. *Managers* stay with their *team* throughout the clinic and work to develop relationships with *participants* on their *team*. They also serve as assistants to the *Instructors* at each *station* whenever possible. They should:

1. Work closely with clinic *participants* to assure that they have an enjoyable time and every opportunity to experience a confrontation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the clinic.
2. Work with *Instructors* to demonstrate *skills* and *drills* as their *skills* allow.
3. Serve as extensions of the *Clinic Coach* in maintaining discipline and control among their *team* members.
4. Record all information necessary for updating *scoreboards* at each *station* their *team* visits.
5. Attend clinic preparation time and assist *Instructors* in preparing the clinic *stations*, *scoreboards* and *theme boards*.
6. Have a working knowledge of the *skills* and *drills* being taught at the clinic.
7. Be prepared to accept assignment modifications if clinic circumstances change.
8. Assist in *registration* and clean-up times.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

The *Equipment Manager* is the individual responsible for assuring that equipment for the clinic is adequate, readily available and well maintained throughout the clinic. They should work closely with the *Clinic Coach* and clinic sponsors in order to have a knowledge of equipment acquisition, care and storage during the clinic. The *Equipment Manager* should not be assigned other clinic responsibilities that would suffer if they were called away to handle an emergency.

TRAINER

The *Trainer* is the individual responsible for attending to any minor injuries during the clinic that require first-aid. They should be trained in first-aid procedures and have experience treating minor injuries. Clinic sponsorship should apprise the trainer of any phone numbers, insurance information and medical contacts necessary to handle any emergency situations. All emergencies should be handled with assistance from the *Clinic Coach*. The *Trainer* should not try to treat any major injuries. The *Trainer* should only be assigned to trainer responsibilities during the clinic.

CLINIC PREPARATION

ESTABLISHING GOALS FOR A MINISTRY SPONSORED SPORTS CLINIC

Athletically, a sports clinic can be designed to reach any number of goals. However, ministry sponsored sports clinics are much more specific in their focus. The first step in planning a sports clinic is deciding on whether evangelism, discipleship or church growth is the focus. All three should be prevalent in the clinic, but one may be a more primary target.

Clinics can be designed for any level of evangelistic outreach. Relational, one-on-one or group evangelism can be incorporated at any level. Clinics can also be used to offer Christian mentoring and fellowship to Christian young people. In both cases, there is a need for some type of discipleship activity to follow the clinic. The clinic can incorporate an extensive *registration* process, church promotion, local church participation and other activities to promote follow-up discipleship activities.

The ministry goals for a ministry sponsored sports clinic should be established before proceeding with other clinic planning activities. These goals serve as guidelines for the rest of the planning process.

The following questions should be considered when determining and applying the goals for a clinic. Individual items on the list are detailed later in this section of the manual.

- _____ What are the goals of the sponsoring ministry?
The goals of the clinic should mirror and promote those of the church or ministry organization sponsoring the clinic.
- _____ What is the demographic of the *participants* you are trying to reach?
It is important to determine the socio-economic status, age range, general athletic *skill* level and needs of the *participants* or community you are trying to reach.
- _____ What resources are available to support the clinic?
The amount of financial, human, *site* and equipment resources available for clinic use helps to determine the guidelines for ministry goals.
- _____ Where will the clinic be held?
The location of the clinic is important for establishing accessibility to the *participant* and for clinic planning activities.
- _____ When will the clinic be held?
The availability of the clinic *site*, budget, and target *participants* will serve to determine the times and length of the clinic. The times available can effect overall clinic goals.
- _____ What sport will be taught at the clinic?

- It is important to focus on a sport that is of interest to potential *participants* and can be taught by potential *Instructors*.
- _____ Who will serve as clinic leadership?
It is important to understand what level of instruction potential clinic leadership can offer when establishing goals for the clinic.
- _____ To what degree will the local ministry hosting the clinic be involved?
The ability of the host ministry to provide finances, volunteers, equipment or a *site* for the clinic affects clinic goals.
- _____ What equipment is available for the clinic?
It is important to know if there are sufficient equipment resources available to support the desired goals for a clinic.
- _____ Will competition (directly or indirectly) be a part of the clinic?
There are varying views on the compatibility of competition and evangelism. Competitive situations may adversely affect the goals for a clinic if they are not planned and handled properly.

RECOGNIZING THE NEEDS OF POTENTIAL CLINIC PARTICIPANTS

Church communities are filled with young people spending time participating in athletics and looking for friends. There are also ministers in those churches spending considerable amounts of time and money trying to get young people inside their buildings. In many cases, the two never meet.

Sports Clinics offer opportunities for Christian people to meet young people where they are. Efforts are not wasted on trying to entice, lure and drag people to church. They are used to befriend, evangelize and love people on common ground.

Participant Profile

- _____ Age range. Too wide an age range is difficult to facilitate. Plan activities that are appropriate to the age of *participants* (i.e. 5 years olds cannot shoot free throws on a regulation goal).
- _____ Location. Location is everything. The clinic *site* should be easily accessible to the *participants* being targeted.
- _____ Skill Level. It is important to have clinic leadership and a clinic program appropriate to the *skill* level of the *participants*. If the *skill* level of the clinic and the *participant* do not match, then there will be frustration or boredom.
- _____ Socio-Economic Status. Clinic leadership should be prepared to properly relate to clinic *participants*. Inner city, minority, underprivileged, gang related and other young people are all relationally different.

SETTING A BUDGET

These items should be considered when developing a detailed budget for a ministry sponsored sports clinic.

1. Cost of hiring any instructors, interpreters, etc. \$ _____
2. Fees for use of the clinic facility. \$ _____
3. Housing and meal costs for guests, athletes or officials. \$ _____
4. Cost for any equipment not donated. \$ _____
5. Costs of refreshments and meals. \$ _____

6. Transportation costs for *participants* or clinic leadership. \$ _____
7. Cost of instructional materials if needed. \$ _____
8. Promotional costs. \$ _____
9. Cost to purchase awards and certificates for *participants*. \$ _____
10. Cost to purchase any gifts for instructors. \$ _____
11. Costs for clothing and giveaways for *participants*. \$ _____
- Sponsorship funds. \$(_____)
- Total Funds Needed \$ _____**

PARTICIPANT FEES

Try to acquire enough volunteer assistance and donated equipment to offer *participants* a free clinic experience. Determine whether cutting costs will lessen the effectiveness of the clinic or increase the number of potential *participants*. If there are fees, try to get church members or community organizations to sponsor needy *participants*.

SELECTING A SITE

It is important to select a suitable *site* to hold a ministry sponsored sports clinic. The *site* must be able to facilitate not only the athletic instruction of the clinic, but also the outreach ministry. The following checklist can be used to determine if a *site* is appropriate for a sports clinic.

- _____ Does the *site* fit within budget allotment?
- _____ Is the *site* accessible to potential *participants*?
- _____ Can at least thirty *participants* be easily attracted to the *site*?
- _____ Can the *site* accommodate the estimated number of *participants*?
- _____ Can refreshments be served at the *site*?
- _____ Are there adequate restroom facilities at the *site*?
- _____ Does the *site* meet quality and safety standards?
- _____ Is there sports equipment available at the *site*?
- _____ How will rain affect a clinic at the *site*?
- _____ Can the host ministry handle follow-up in the *site*'s community?

SETTING A TIME FOR THE CLINIC

There are three schedules that must be established for a clinic. How many days will the clinic be held? How long will the clinic be held each day? When will the awards dinner be held, and how long will it last?

A clinic can last one day or several days. The goals, budget, potential *participants*, leadership availability, volunteer availability and *site* availability help to determine the number of days a clinic lasts.

A one day clinic may last several hours, but most should not exceed four hours per day of actual instruction time. In clinics lasting several days, two or three hours is sufficient. Free play, set up and clean up times should always be scheduled.

SAMPLE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday

- 1:30-2:00 Registration / Division of Teams
- 2:00-2:15 Welcome and Instructions
- 2:15-2:25 Team Orientation
- 2:25-2:35 Stretching and Theme Time
- 2:35-2:40 Skill One Demonstration
- 2:40-2:55 Skill One Practice Time
- 2:55-3:10 Skill One Game
- 3:10-3:15 Skill Two Demonstration
- 3:15-3:30 Skill Two Practice Time
- 3:30-3:40 Skill Two Game
- 3:40-3:45 Bible Theme Time
- 3:45-4:00 Combined Skills Game

Tuesday and (Thursday)

- 1:30-1:45 Late Registration / Group Games
- 1:45-1:55 Daily Instructions
- 1:55-2:00 Break into Teams
- 2:00-2:10 Stretching and Theme Time
- 2:10-2:15 Skill Three (Five) Demonstration
- 2:15-2:30 Skill Three (Five) Practice
- 2:30-2:40 Skill Three (Five) Game
- 2:40-2:50 Refreshment Break
- 2:50-2:55 Bible Theme Time
- 2:55-3:00 Skill Four (Six) Demonstration
- 3:00-3:15 Skill Four (Six) Practice
- 3:15-3:25 Skill Four (Six) Game
- 3:25-3:30 Team Leader Theme Time
- 3:30-3:40 Set-up for Practice Games
- 3:40-4:00 Practice Games

Wednesday

- 1:30-1:40 Daily Instructions
- 1:40-1:45 Break into Teams
- 1:45-1:55 Stretching and Theme Time
- 1:55-2:05 Skill One Review and Game
- 2:05-2:15 Skill Two Review and Game
- 2:15-2:20 Bible Theme Time
- 2:20-2:30 Skill Three Review and Game
- 2:30-2:40 Skill Four Review and Game
- 2:40-2:45 Set-up for Practice Games
- 2:45-3:00 Practice Games

Friday

- 1:30-1:45 Group Games
- 1:45-1:55 Daily Instructions
- 1:55-2:00 Break into Teams
- 2:00-2:10 Stretching and Theme Time
- 2:10-2:15 Skill Seven Demonstration
- 2:15-2:35 Skill Seven Practice

2:35-2:40 Refreshment Break
2:40-2:45 Bible Theme Time
2:45-2:50 Set-up Open Play
2:50-3:20 Open Play
3:20-3:30 Break
3:30-3:45 Open Play
3:45-4:00 Instructions for Awards Dinner
4:00-5:00 Break
5:00-6:30 Awards Ceremony and Dinner

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

1:30-2:00 Registration / Division of Teams
2:00-2:15 Welcome and Instructions
2:15-2:35 Team Orientation
2:25-2:35 Stretching and Theme Time
2:35-2:40 Skill One Demonstration
2:40-2:55 Skill One Practice Time
2:55-3:10 Skill One Game
3:10-3:15 Skill Two Demonstration
3:15-3:30 Skill Two Practice Time
3:30-3:40 Skill Two Game
3:40-3:45 Bible Theme Time
3:45-4:00 Practice Games

Daily Theme "Making Good Decisions"

Bible Verse

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will make your paths straight.

Theme Time

The first skills taught in the clinic are ball handling and passing. Both involve concentration and decision making. Encourage the participants to use the same effort to make good decisions in life as they use to become better in basketball. Stress the importance of thinking before they make decisions.

Easy Way to Say It

ABC - A good Attitude leads to good Behavior. Good Behavior leads to good Consequences.

RECRUITING CLINIC LEADERSHIP

It is important to recruit clinic leadership personnel who meet the job requirements for the clinic. There should be enough leadership to maintain a ratio of 1-to-15 or less (no more than fifteen *participants* per clinic leader.)

Places to recruit clinic leadership:

1. Host ministry organization
2. Friends
3. Local Christian colleges or schools
4. Christian athletes
5. YMCA or YWCA
6. Local sports ministry organizations
7. Local referee and umpire organizations

UTILIZING HOST MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

The host ministry should be able to provide volunteers that can assist with *registration*, refreshments, evangelism and local church promotion. They already have a familiarity and name recognition in the community. The clinic is a tool for helping them develop new relationships and prospect lists in the community; therefore, they should maintain a sense of ownership in the clinic at all times. The ministry of the clinic is that of the host ministry. They are responsible for consistent and faithful follow-up activities.

CHOOSING THE SPORT FOR A CLINIC

A clinic should offer instruction in a sport that potential clinic *participants* find interesting and would choose to improve their ability to play. The demographics of the potential *participants* should be considered when selecting the sport for a clinic. The common sports such as basketball, baseball, soccer and track are universal, but sports like volleyball, golf, tennis or hockey are more demographically specific.

The availability of skilled clinic leadership is also an important factor in selecting the sport to be taught at a clinic.

OBTAINING SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Once the *site*, sport and expected participation for a clinic are established, a list of needed equipment should be made. Use the following steps to make the equipment list.

1. List material available at the *site*.
2. List material not available at the *site*.
3. Determine any large or high price equipment that needs to be obtained. (i.e. portable basketball goals)
4. List any equipment specific to the sport being taught that needs to be used at the clinic. (i.e. baseball gloves)

5. Adjust equipment needs to the number of *stations* in a *station-to-station* clinic, or to the number of potential *participants*.
6. List any potential equipment donors and sources and what they could provide.

Compare the equipment needs list to the available budget before acquiring any equipment. Explore all options of obtaining equipment without cost.

REFRESHMENTS AND MEALS

There needs to be refreshments at a sports clinic. These can be purchased with budgeted funds, or provided by the host ministry. If a meal time is included within the clinic schedule, then the cost should be budgeted and plans made to have that food available and served at the appropriate time.

The clinic may include an awards or celebration dinner. Cook-out style food is appropriate. Enough food should be available to feed clinic *participants* and their families. Refreshments and meals should also be available for clinic leadership and volunteers.

PROMOTING A SPORTS CLINIC

There are a multitude of ways a sports clinic can be promoted with creative sports themes. Enlist the help of the host ministry for use of newsletters, bulletins, announcements, bulletin boards and volunteers to hand out promotional flyers. Flyers can be made with a computer or with clip art, and reproduced on a copy machine.

Alert local media outlets of the sports clinic, and take advantage of public service announcements, community calendars, and upcoming events services. A one page press release is sufficient for these services. Most require the information at least two weeks to a month in advance.

Enlisting the services of a local personality or prominent athlete can aid in the promotion of the clinic. However, the use of such personalities merely for the sake of promotion needs to be seriously considered. Do they have a heart for the ministry?

Places to publicize a sports clinic include:

Churches	Church Associations
Schools	Local Sports Agencies
Parks and Recreation Departments	YMCA or YWCA
Other Local Ministries	Other Sporting Events
Newspapers, Radio Stations, TV Stations and other media outlets	

FINDING SPONSORS FOR A SPORTS CLINIC

Many individuals and corporations have available resources for sponsoring community events such as free sports clinics. Approach them with specific budget items they can either donate or provide the finances to purchase. Sponsors are also good sources for giveaways. Many will provide clothing and products in return for promotional signs at the clinic, space on a flyer or logos on clothing. The products or philosophies of sponsors should be compatible with the goals of the clinic.

Items that can be acquired from sponsors include:

- Participant* entrance fees
- Clinic specific clothing (i.e. T-shirts, hats, wristbands, etc.)
- Equipment
- Goody bags for *Participants*
- Printing Costs
- Promotional Gifts (i.e. pens, posters, Frisbees, toys)
- Awards and Certificates
- Memorabilia Giveaways (i.e. autographed items, sports cards)
- Certificates (i.e. fast food, miniature golf, soft drinks)
- Refreshments and Meals

GIVEAWAYS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Participants at sporting events and sports clinics enjoy receiving free material. Try to provide a clinic packet or goody bag to everyone who registers. They can include clothing, certificates, toys, sports cards, etc. Each packet should contain material relating to the host ministry, a local congregation, and the plan of salvation.

Other prizes should be given out during the clinic for accomplishments and good behavior.

REGISTRATION AND REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

Registration is the second most important part of a ministry sponsored sports clinic behind evangelism. *Registration* is used to develop prospect lists and follow-up strategies for the host ministry. *Registration* can also be used to register *participants* for other ministry activities other than the clinic.

Registration forms should request at least the names, address, phone number, emergency contacts, parents names, age, church affiliation and membership information from the *participant*.

Medical release forms may be required. If so, pre-*registration* is helpful.

There should be activities planned to occupy *participants* who have completed *registration*, but are waiting for others to register. Activities should be away from the *registration* area.

For a *station-to-station* clinic, the *registration* time should also be used to divide *participants* into their assigned *teams*. *Team* assignment guidelines should be established before *registration*, but remain flexible if participation does not conform to expectations.

CLINIC FOLLOW-UP MINISTRY

There should be some type of follow-up contact with everyone who attended the clinic, and visits with those who made spiritual decisions.

Clinic *participants* need to receive consistent and ongoing signs of love and faithfulness from the host ministry. They should be encouraged to affiliate themselves with a local congregation and attend its meetings regularly. Anyone who chooses to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior must be given attentive care and discipleship.

INVOLVING ATHLETIC PERSONALITIES

Many times clinics are associated with professional athletes or other sports personalities who help promote and lead clinic activities. These individuals can be tremendous assets. Clinic *participants* enjoy meeting and hearing from these figures.

However, the motivation for involving these personalities must be seriously examined. God is in control of the ministry activities of His people, and does not require secular promotion for success.

Make sure that these personalities have a similar heart for ministry as leaders in the sports clinic. Never mislead personalities as to their role in clinic activities, and do not make promises to *participants* in the name of the personality. (i.e. Do not promise that there will be an opportunity for autographs if the individual has never agreed to sign autographs.)

COMPETITION IN A MINISTRY SPONSORED SPORTS CLINIC

The athletic world is based upon competition, but ministry is not. *Participants* expect to be able to play the sport of the clinic at the clinic, and are frustrated by a clinic that is totally non-participatory. However, the purpose of a ministry sponsored sports clinic is ministry. *Participants* can be given time to play in games after clinic instruction times if there is an opportunity at the *site*.

Competition can cause frustration, anger, embarrassment, and other negative feelings if unmonitored. These feelings are stumbling blocks to building relationships. Competition times in a clinic should be monitored carefully as to possible negative effects on the ministry.

There are several ways to keep track of objectively measured activities (i.e. free throws), and subjectively measured activities (i.e. attitude), for the sake of positive competition.

Individuals have the chance to improve upon their *skills*, and *teams* have the opportunity to work toward the highest score without physical play. Competition can be an exciting and challenging part of a clinic experience, but it must be monitored and planned carefully by clinic leadership.

FREE PLAY IN A MINISTRY SPONSORED SPORTS CLINIC

When planning the athletic details of a sports clinic it is always important not to forget the ministry goals of the clinic. If ministry is not the goal of the clinic, then there is no reason for a minister or ministry organization to sponsor the clinic. The concept of sports evangelism is to use an attractive and popular activity to draw people to the message of Jesus Christ. *Participants* should learn to respect instructors, participate, and most importantly, they should have fun and leave the clinic remembering how good it was to be with Christian sports people who shared the love of Christ with them. This is especially important for multi-day clinics. *Participants* should want to return each day.

One way to incorporate a lot of fun for *participants* is to schedule times of free play into every day of a clinic. Free play times allow for *participants* to do what they want to do most, play. These are also good times for more personal interaction between *participants* and *instructors* while they are playing together.

There are lessons to be learned during competitive times, and teachable moments that develop during the highs and lows of competition. Also, most clinic *skills* and techniques can be more clearly explained and understood when seen in game situations. Free play times allow instructors to point out how *skill work*, *drills*, and practice are necessary. Misplays are natural, and the extra help of an *instructors* watchful eye builds credibility with *participants*.

THE STATION-TO-STATION SPORTS CLINIC

The *station-to-station* clinic is an easily run sports clinic that is adaptable to varying goals. They can be one day in format or last for an entire week. They can also be adapted to the varying *skill* levels and availability of *Instructors*.

THE FORMAT OF A STATION-TO-STATION CLINIC

A *station-to-station* clinic divides a ball field or court into separate areas, and uses *Instructors* to teach multiple *skills* in those areas simultaneously. For instance, a baseball diamond may have a *station* at home plate for hitting instruction, *stations* around the bases for infield instruction, and *stations* in the outfield for learning to catch fly balls and play defense as an outfielder. *Participants* in the clinic are divided into *teams* and rotate from *station-to-station* during the clinic time to receive instruction in several aspects of one sport.

The *station-to-station* clinic allows for a large group of *participants* to receive instruction in many aspects of a sport on a personal level because *Instructors* address small *teams*, not the large group. This aspect makes the *station-to-station* clinic an excellent option for sports ministry.

THE FORMAT OF A MINISTRY SPONSORED STATION-TO-STATION CLINIC

In a ministry sponsored *station-to-station* clinic, one *station* is designated as the evangelism/refreshment *station*. This *station* allows for clinic *participants* to take a break during the clinic's athletic activities. It also offers the opportunity for local ministry representatives to share the plan of salvation, information about a local church or ministry, and encouragement with clinic *participants*. This opportunity to address *participants* in a small group setting avoids distractions characteristic of a large group, and allows local ministry representatives a chance to make themselves more visible in the community.

STATION-TO-STATION CLINIC STATIONS

Overall, the *station-to-station* clinic offers a good opportunity for sports instruction and evangelism, and the individual *stations* offer an opportunity for personal relationships and evangelism. They can be collaborated in many ways to promote the goals of the clinic and ministry.

MAKING STATIONS FUNCTIONAL

For the instructional purposes of the clinic, *stations* should be well-spaced and large enough to accommodate the activity being taught at the *station*. For instance, punting a football cannot be fully demonstrated in the back corner of a gymnasium. A *station* should also be equipped for the *skill* assigned to it. For instance, free throws cannot be practiced without a goal.

Distractions should be considered when setting up *stations* at the clinic. The evangelism/refreshment *station* should be in an area where it is easy to serve refreshments and somewhat quiet. This *station* can be placed in the bleachers of a ball field, or in the reception area of a gym. If there is a *station* that involves *participants* running or yelling, it should not be placed beside a *station* where *participants* are sitting to receive rules instruction. Avoid placing *stations* in such a way that *drills* from one distract *participants* in another.

SELECTING DRILLS AND ACTIVITIES FOR A STATION

The activities of individual *stations* are determined by the following factors:

1. The sport being taught.
The specific sport is used to determine *skills* taught in the *stations*.
2. The size of the clinic *site*.
Helps to determine the *drills* that can be run and where they can be run.
3. Equipment available for the clinic.
May limit the activities of the clinic.
4. The time available for the clinic.
Determines the number of *stations* and time available for instruction and *drills*.
5. Number of qualified *Instructors*.
Determines the number of *stations* and level of instruction that can be offered.
6. Number of *participants*.
Can limit activities and require a change to more or less *stations*.
7. Skill level of *participants*.
Determines level of needed instruction.

Once all of the station determining factors have been established or closely estimated, then the number of individual *stations* needed, time allowed for individual *station* instruction and *drills*, and individual *station* activities can be established.

The number of *stations* needed can be easily determined by dividing the available clinic instruction time by the length of time desired for individual *station* instruction. Movement between *stations* should be included in this time. *Registration*, as well as opening and closing activities are not included in this time.

The activities of the individual *stations* are generally determined by the sport and ministry goals of the clinic. Equipment, time and participation can effect these activities, but *station* plans should be set before the clinic.

The activities of the individual *stations* should reflect the basic *skills* of the sport being taught at the clinic. For example, if basketball is being taught, then dribbling, shooting and defense should be among the *skills* represented by instructional *stations*.

The primary activity of a *station* is instruction. The *Instructor* must clearly teach *participants* the *skill* assigned to their *station*. Physical *skills* require practice, so *drills* should accompany verbal and demonstrated instructions. Coaches and instructional manuals are good sources for proper *drills* and their use. If the clinic is planned for more than one day, then beginner *drills* can be used early in the clinic, and advanced *drills* can be used later with more advanced instruction.

SAMPLE SKILLS AND DRILLS FOR CLINIC STATIONS

Basketball

Skill One: **Ball Handling**

Focus Points

1. Hands - Use fingertips to control the ball, and do not slap with palms.
2. Head - Keep the head and eyes up to see what is happening on the court.
3. Knees - Keep slightly bent for balance.
4. Feet - spread shoulder width and do not stand flat-footed.
5. Upper Body - Forward for balance and control.

Practice Drills

1. Dribble across the gym with the right hand, with the left hand, and alternating hands.
2. Standing Ricochet Drill and Around the Body Drill. Ricochet - Bounce the ball from front to back between the legs. Around - Pass the ball from hand to hand around the body.
3. Dribble across the gym behind the back and between the legs.

Skills Games

1. Team relays across the gym and back using right and left handed dribble, behind the back and between the legs dribble.
2. Dribbling Relay. Around the body five times, ricochet once, across the gym and back using various assigned dribbles.

Skill Two: **Passing**

Focus Points

1. Feet - Shoulder width for balance.
2. Fingers - Spread with thumbs pointed toward each other.
3. Chest - Pass to a person's chest, and catch with arms out in front of the chest.
4. Eyes - Look where the pass is going and avoid traffic.

Practice Drills

1. Two lines facing each other with participants paired with the person across from them.
2. Throwing overhead passes and bounce passes around instructor as defender.

Skills Games

1. Two facing lines Zigzag Drill. Chest pass, bounce pass, overhead pass, from one end of the line to the other and back in a zigzag or criss-cross pattern.
2. One-Line Drill. Person on the end of the line shuffles from one end of the line to the other and back passing to each member in the line. Drill lasts until everyone in the line has taken a turn.

Skill Three: **Shooting**

Focus Points

1. Feet - Shoulder width with shooting foot forward and the toe of the shooting foot pointed straight toward the basket.
2. Knees - Slightly bent and used for power in the shot.
3. Elbow - Slightly below the chin and in front of the ball.
4. Wrist - Parallel to floor, used to push up with complete follow through.
5. Hands - Shooting hand behind the ball and other hand cradling the ball.

Practice Drills

1. Mental Shooting with an emphasis on each focus point.
2. Free throws with team members rotating around the lane and two shooters at one time.

Skills Games

1. Free throw percentage game. Each team member takes two shots and team percentage is calculated.
2. Lay-up, Free Throw, Lay-Up, Free Throw Drill. Place a ball on the ground near the right side of the basket and one on the free throw line. A team member shoots a lay-up with the first ball runs to shoot a free throw

with the next ball, runs to shoot a lay-up from the left side, and runs to shoot a free throw to finish. Other teammates rebound during the drill.

Skill Four: **Advanced Shooting**

Focus Points

1. Emphasize ball-handling focus points before each shot.
2. Re-emphasize shooting focus points.
3. Lay-ups.
 - a. Jump off of leg opposite of shooting hand.
 - b. Use the square on the backboard.
4. Pull-ups.
 - a. Approach basket at an angle.
 - b. Set feet properly before shooting.

Practice Drills

1. Lay-up lines run from the right and left sides.
2. Lay-up lines with pull-up jumpers from the right and left sides.

Skills Games

1. 10'-15' Triangle Drill. Place a ball 10'-15' out on each wing and in front of the basket. Team members shoot them in rapid progression.
2. Lay-up relay starting at the right corner of the free throw line. Run to shoot the lay-up, get the rebound run back to the opposite corner of the free-throw line and run to shoot a left handed lay-up.

Skill Five: **Ball Movement**

Focus Points

1. Emphasize passing focus points.
2. Footwork.
 - a. Stay on balls of the feet.
 - b. Do not cross feet on shuffling moves.
 - c. When running forward turn only upper body to pass.
3. Pass in front (lead) of a moving teammate not behind them.

Practice Drills

1. Pairs stand lines across from each other. Pairs take turns shuffling across the gym and back throwing chest passes.
2. Pairs run across gym and back throwing passes to each other.

Skills Games

1. Relay with the shuffle drill. If the ball touches the floor then the pair must start over.
2. Relay with running drill if the ball is dropped the pair must start over.

Skill Six: **Man-on-Man Defense**

Focus Points

1. Hands - Keep hands open and off of the defensive man.
2. Arms - Keep them up when your man does not have the ball. Use the forearm only to touch the defensive man.
3. Body - Between the ball and the basket.

4. Knees and waist - bent for balance and control. Do not stand up straight.
5. Feet - Spread wide and up on the balls of the feet.
6. Eyes - On the player's chest and the ball. Not on the player's eyes.

Practice Drills

1. One-on-One defense drill. One player dribbles up the sideline and back against a defender. Then the players switch ball possession and go again.
2. Defensemen on the baseline throw the ball to the offensive man on the free throw line and tries to keep the offensive man from scoring.

Skill Seven: **3-on-3 Play**

Focus Points

1. Emphasize passing focus points. Look to pass first.
2. Emphasize ball handling focus points. Look to dribble second.
3. Emphasize shooting focus points. Look to shoot last.

Practice Drill

1. 3-on-3 Play. Teams play until one team scores. The team that scores stays on the court and the next three person team waiting comes onto the court to play defense.

INCORPORATING MINISTRY INTO A CLINIC STATION

Theme:

Develop a theme around each *station* that incorporates a Bible verse or verses. Try to find a theme that relates the activities of the *station* with a Biblical principle, but do not stretch or manipulate any scripture for convenience.

Example: Station Five: Defense
 Proverbs 4:23 - Guard your heart diligently

Ephesians 5:15 - Be careful how you live

Lesson:

Incorporate the theme into the *skill* instruction for the *station*. Repeat the Bible verses, and make *participants* repeat them.

Relationship:

Team *Managers* have the opportunity to get to know *participants* as they join them in their clinic experience. *Managers* should work closely with *participants* in *drills* and encourage them while they are receiving instruction. There will be impressionable moments for team *Managers* and *Instructors* to incorporate lessons and a Christ-like example into the clinic experience.

THE EVANGELISM / REFRESHMENT STATION

There should be refreshments available for *participants*. It is good to have a *station* specifically for refreshments because there is not enough time to serve them between *stations*, and it would disrupt instruction and *drills* in a normal *station*. However, a *station* devoted only to refreshments would leave *participants* unoccupied and anxious for the next activity.

It is also difficult to share the plan of salvation with all clinic *participants* at once because of distractions, the noise of a gym or playground, or the anxiousness of young people ready to begin a clinic or tired of being at one. This problem can be avoided by having the refreshments and evangelism time combined into one *station*.

An Evangelism/Refreshment *station* allows for the plan of salvation to be presented to a small group of *participants* who are enjoying refreshments and not distracted by the beginning or end of the clinic. This time should be led by a representative of the local ministry sponsoring the clinic who is responsible for the clinic follow-up ministries and needs to be a familiar figure to clinic *participants*. If the clinic takes place over the span of multiple days, then the ministry representative can use this time to talk about the local ministry, promote other events sponsored by the ministry, as well as clearly present the plan of salvation. Local Christian athletes can also be recruited to speak at the Evangelism/Refreshment *station*.

INCORPORATING HEALTHY COMPETITION INTO A CLINIC STATION

The young people that attend sports clinics enjoy some level of competition in athletics. There are many aspects of competition that can be detrimental to the Christian witness if they are not controlled or are mishandled. However, there are ways to incorporate competition into the *stations* for the enjoyment of the *participants*, and as a basis for awards.

Try to design *station drills* and events around activities that can be objectively measured (i.e. free throws can be counted two of five, seven of ten, etc.) Develop a *scoreboard* for each *station* and keep track of scores throughout the clinic. If the activity of a *station* cannot be measured objectively (i.e. how well a person ran a defensive *drill*), then allow for the *Instructor* to give one to ten evaluation scores that can be recorded. This is similar to the scoring of a figure skating or diving competition.

Station scoring can be used to measure individual *skill* mastery and improvement, or in *team* competitions. During *registration* individuals should be assigned to a *team* by number, and that number used to display their scores.

For example, little Johnny is eight years old, and the eight-year-olds are on the blue *team*. He is the third eight-year-old to register, so he is number three on the blue *team*. He gets a blue wristband or T-shirt, and his scores are recorded as number three on the blue *team*.

With this system of scoring, *participants* and clinic leaders can monitor individual and *team* scoring, but no *participant* can ridicule another for a lesser score displayed on the board.

Instructors that must score subjective activities and must adjust to the level of the *team* of *participants* (i.e. an eight-year-old cannot perform at the level of a fifteen-year-old. If a good fifteen-year-old performance equals seven points, then a good eight-year-old performance should also equal seven points.)

Team *Managers* are responsible for keeping score at the individual *stations*.

THE AWARDS DINNER / DEMONSTRATION

This ministry sponsored sports clinic has the opportunity to reach young people, and bring them into contact with the local church or ministry. They are brought into contact with Jesus Christ in a fun and exciting way. An *Awards Dinner / Demonstration* provides the same opportunity for the parents of the clinic *participants*.

The scores kept during a clinic are used to determine the results of competitions, and the improvements of *participants*. Parents enjoy the opportunity to watch their children demonstrate learned *skills*, and receive awards for accomplishments. They also appreciate the efforts of organizations that offer positive environments for their children to play and learn.

An *Awards Dinner / Demonstration* time is a good opportunity to invite parents to see their children demonstrate the *skills* they learned at the clinic and receive awards they earned during clinic activities. A simple meal like hot dogs and hamburgers can be served. Parents can watch a video of clinic highlights and see their children demonstrate *drills*. The evening can be concluded by a representative of the sponsoring ministry who shares the plan of salvation.

The *Awards Dinner / Demonstration* provides an opportunity for parents from the community to visit the sponsoring ministry, and meet its representatives. Parents are

given the chance to see a commitment from the organization to reach the community. The time is an opportunity for meaningful interaction between the ministry organization and adults from the community. Each adult that visits becomes a new prospect for involvement with the ministry.

THE MULTISPORT CHALLENGE - SPORTS CLINIC

There are times when a ministry organization is interested in providing a sports opportunity to their community, but they lack the sports expertise necessary to facilitate an instructional *station-to-station* clinic. The Multi-Sport Challenge can be used in this situation as an effective sports outreach tool.

FORMAT

The format of the Multi-Sport Challenge is the same as the *station-to-station* clinic except that individual *station* activities are not specific to instructional activities in one sport. Each *station* activity is taken from a different sports. They are objectively judged activities that can be easily scored.

Examples: Football Station: Throwing a football through a target and punting for distance.

 Baseball Station: Homerun derby and stealing home from third in the shortest amount of time.

Station activities can vary, but there must be a clear system of measurement such as a number, time or successful attempt.

Activities should be planned so that they use the time allotted for the *station*. If the activities are short, then two activities may be done at each *station*. *Participants* should not have to stand in long lines. There should be no activities planned that require time longer than that allotted for the *station*.

PERSONNEL

The personnel for a Multi-Sport Challenge need to be willing volunteers that fit the description of a team *Manager*. There is no need for *Instructors*, but there needs to be one or two volunteers overseeing each *station*.

The Multi-Sport Challenge is also an excellent option for working with elementary school aged *participants*. It is more appealing to them because they have the chance to participate in many different exciting activities.

Other aspects of the Multi-Sport Challenge are similar to those of the *station-to-station* clinic. The criteria for selection, budgets, etc., outlined in the *station-to-station* clinic manual are appropriate for multi-sport challenge preparations.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Even the most detailed planners run into problems; some unexpected. The key for success is adaptability. It is important to remember that the priority is ministry. There are changes and compromises that must be made, but it is vital that they are made in favor of ministry over sport, and with the goals of the sponsoring ministry as a guide.

The following list contains some problems that may be a part of a *station-to-station* clinic along with guidelines for dealing with them.

Lack of Coordinating Assistance

If there are not enough people available to help with the planning and preparation of the clinic, then it should be delayed or postponed until other help can be enlisted. It is better to delay the clinic than have to cancel it after it has been publicized. One person can plan and prepare for a small clinic with limited *participants*, but coordinators need to consider such problems with prayer as to the timing of the clinic.

Lack of Support from the Host Ministry Organization

If the sponsoring ministry has approved a clinic but has not provided any other resources or assurance of follow-up to the clinic, then the clinic should be postponed until such support can be procured. The sponsoring ministry representatives may only need more information concerning their role in the clinic.

Conflicting Events

If the preliminary clinic dates conflict with events planned by the sponsoring ministry, or other events at the clinic *site*, then the clinic date should be prayerfully scrutinized. The date should be rescheduled if participation or the good will of the sponsoring ministry is threatened.

Budget Problems

If the budget for the clinic does not meet expectations, then compromises can be made without detriment to the ministry. The number of giveaways can be cut. Donations can be solicited to cover any refreshment or *site* costs. Any other expenses that can be replaced with free equipment or donated funds need to be alleviated.

Problems with Site Acquisition

If there is a problem with usage of the selected clinic *site*, then there should always be an alternate *site* for consideration. There may never be a need for an alternate *site*, but there should be one available. Date changes and other clinic adjustments may make the preferred *site* available.

Lack of Qualified Instructors

If there is a lack of qualified *Instructors*, then other recruiting sources should be used. The clinic can be adjusted to use a fewer number of *stations*, or a Multi-Sport Challenge may be more successful. The qualifications for *Instructors* should not be compromised to the point of offering *participants* inferior instruction that may negatively affect their clinic experience.

Too Few Participants

If a proper *site* is selected and there is adequate clinic promotion, then there should be an acceptable number of *participants*. *Pre-registration* can also give an indication of participation. If numbers are low, then fewer *stations* can be used, and time can be spent in one on one instruction. *Participants* should be given sincere instruction, and they should not be subjected to a negative environment caused by clinic leadership outwardly showing signs of disappointment over small crowds. Many first-time clinic experiences are small and successful foundations for larger clinics in the future.

Too Many Participants

A *pre-registration* process could indicate any participation or potential overcrowding problems. There should be a plan in place for handling an oversized crowd. The clinic can be made non-participatory, where *Instructors* teach groups who only observe *drills* and ask questions. Or if the clinic is planned for more than one day, then more *Instructors* can be recruited to assist and more *stations* added on days after the overflow crowd attends. *Participants* can be divided into two clinic groups, if the *site* allows, making *station* numbers more manageable.

If the crowd is a threat to the overall ministry, then the clinic can be offered at two times each day with *participants* divided between the two clinic times. There would be no need of new leadership, only double duty.

Rain or Inclement Weather

There may be weather issues that force the cancellation of clinic activities. No *participants* or clinic leaders should ever be put in danger due to wet facilities, lightening, inclement driving conditions, or heat.

Planning clinics inside gymnasiums or having alternate indoor facilities available for outdoor clinics is suggested. Plans should be made for adaptations to outdoor clinics that must be moved indoors.

Participants are less likely to be upset if promotional materials explain weather contingencies and possible cancellations.

Injury or Sickness

The insurance policy of the host organization or *site* owner should be considered carefully before the clinic. Medical forms may be necessary and certain policies may have to be followed in the care of injury or sickness. A first-aid kit should be available on *site* with gloves included for protection from blood. All other requirements of the host organization and *site* owner must be known prior to the clinic and adhered to during the clinic.

Every precaution should be taken to avoid illness and injury during the clinic. Common causes of injuries or sickness in sports clinics include horseplay, improper use of equipment, heat related illness or dehydration.

Disciplinary Problems

Minor disciplinary disruptions in the sports clinic should be handled by the appropriate *team Manager* or *Instructor*. Repeat problems or extreme cases should be referred to the *Clinic Coach*.

If “at risk” individuals are participating, then a host ministry or *site* representative should be available to intervene in problem situations.

A clear set of clinic behavior expectations should be related to *participants* and clinic leadership along with consequences for negative and positive behavior. Consequences for negative behavior should be administered quickly, quietly, and in a way that causes minimal disturbance to the clinic. Physical contact with *participants* in disciplinary situations should be avoided, and disciplinary action should never take place one-on-one away from the sight of others.