



# **Intentional Sports Ministry CERW6375**

## **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

### **Christian Education Division**

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*The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill*

*the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church.*

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### **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to instruct students in the fundamentals of intentional sports ministry, particularly as these relate to youth ministry.

### **Core Value Focus**

*Doctrinal Integrity* – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

*Spiritual Vitality* – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

*Mission Focus* – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

*Characteristic Excellence* – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Servant Leadership* – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2012-2013 academic year that Core Value is *Servant Leadership*.

### **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies: (Include only those competencies address in your course.)

1. *Effective servant leadership*: Discover how to serve those who cannot repay, as well as lead them in developing spiritually, physically, socially, and mentally.

2. *Interpersonal relationships*: Build relationships with participants through regular interaction. Enhance skills of instruction and encouragement while developing players in sports skills and improving their self-esteem.
3. *Administration*: Provide competent administration of all aspects of a sports ministry league. Able to implement structure for games and practices involving numerous coaches and players.
4. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: Facilitate training of sports ministry's leadership who are role models for younger participants. Apply learning for players in areas of scripture memory, biblical worldview, and elements of the gospel.
5. *Biblical, Theological, Pastoral*: Communicate scriptural truth in succinct manner which is within the attention span of the intended group.

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to help church leaders understand the value of using recreation, specifically sports, as a part of their ministry paradigm. Special attention will be given to the rationale and mechanics of organizing, administering, and implementing a sports evangelism program (e.g., Upward Sports' basketball, soccer, flag football, and cheerleading). This will include the elements of recruiting volunteers, intentional spiritual development and evangelism, coach and referee training, and participant development.

### **Learning Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the use of sports in intentional ministry setting.
2. Understand the significant potential of utilizing sports in nurturing salvation, character, and self-esteem in those who participate.
3. Demonstrate a competency in player evaluation and league arrangement.
4. Determine the usefulness of a specific sports ministry tool (e.g., Upward Unlimited) in one's ministry model.
5. Demonstrate the value of the coaching while using the circle of affirmation.
6. Exhibit the mechanics and procedure of refereeing.

### **Required Readings**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

**Required Texts** (Remember all of these are provided with your \$50 resource fee.)

McCaslin, Caz, and Bobb Biehl. *Every Child Is A Winner*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002.

Thompson, Jim. *The Double-Goal Coach*. New York: HarpersCollins Publishers, Inc., 2004.

Wooden, John, and Jay Carty. *Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success Playbook*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2005.

*Upward Sports. Upward Training Workbook*. Spartanburg, SC: Upward Unlimited, annual.

*Upward Sports. Upward Coaches Playbook*. Spartanburg, SC: Upward Unlimited, annual.

Yessick, Tommy, comp. *Sports Ministry for Churches (CD)*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1997.

*Youth Worker Journal*. "Good Sports." Jan/Feb 2007. Vol. 23, No. 3. Nashville: Salem Publishing/CCM Communications.

**Optional Resources:** (Will be referred to but not provided)

Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2003.

*Basketball Simplified and Illustrated*. Indianapolis, IN: National Federation of State High School Association, 2005.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

#### **Units of Study**

Unit One: Cultural Overview of Recreation; Context of Recreation in Youth Ministry

Unit Two: Game Leadership Principles and Practicum

Unit Three: Legal Issues related to Recreation in Youth Ministry

Unit Four: Introduction to Adventure Recreation and Practicum

**Teaching Method.** This course will utilize lecture and interactive discovery/learning. This course will be team-taught; thus, the student should expect different presentation formats to enhance the learning experience.

### **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

*Pre-Assignments: Prior to the first class of the weekend, each student will:*

1. Prepare a 3-to-5 minute devotion suitable for adults (appropriate for use during half-time presentation; therefore, consider audience—spectators at game, some churched, some not). Turn in a written version at the first class meeting. Volunteers will be asked to present theirs during class time.
2. Read *Sports Ministry for Churches*. Then write a review on Chapter 1 "Spiritual Application of Sports," Chapter 2 "Philosophy of Sports in the Church," and two other chapters of your choice (except for chapters 5, and 6, 7). Each chapter's review should consist of a half-page of chapter summary ("what it says") and a half-page of personal reflection ("what it says to you"). With title page, you should turn in a five-page paper.
3. Read *The Double-Goal Coach*. With the book's principles in mind . . .

a. Write two one-page papers (double-spaced). In the first paper, reflect on a coach you had in your growing-up years. (If you never had a coach, interview someone else for this report.) In the second paper, interview a junior or senior high school student who is involved (or has been involved) in a sport with a coach. In these papers, note the following: type of sport/activity; age at the time of interaction; and significant memories as a result of this experience. Answer these questions (not verbatim, but in summary):

- What character traits were communicated by this coach?
- What was the team's motto? What motivational phrases were used?
- Did the coach's teachings and lifestyle go together? For example, if he taught patience, was he a patient man?
- To what extent were they win at all costs?
- Did he/she coach from a negative or positive respect?
- What lessons did you learn from this coach?

b. Watch one of the movies listed below (or another as approved by Dr. Jackson) for insights into positive and/or negative coaching experiences and techniques. Come prepared to discuss your movie with special attention given to Thompson's ELM Tree of Mastery, the ROOTS of Honoring the Game, and anything else that stood out to you in the reading. Plan to show a short clip from your assigned movie to emphasize one of these points. Type up a one-page summary of your observations comparing your movie's primary coach figure to the principles presented in *Double-Goal Coach*. Email Dr. Jackson A.S.A.P. to name your top two choices; movies will be assigned in the order of the preferences being received. Please choose from the following: *Coach Carter*; *Facing the Giants*; *Friday Night Lights*; *Glory Road*; *Hoosiers*; *Kicking and Screaming*; *Miracle*; *Pride*; *Radio*; *Rebound*; *Remember the Titans*; and *We are Marshall*.

#### *Course Evaluation*

1. Pre-assigned readings and preparation	30%
2. Class Participation/Evaluation	30%
3. Post-Assignments	40%

### **Course Policies**

#### **Course Due Dates:**

All post-assignments must be completed and submitted to Dr. Jackson's office no later than four weeks after the course completion. Yes, they may be postmarked by that date. No, do not 'overnight' them. A letter grade will be issued based on your performance in the evaluative percentage areas listed above.

#### **Materials Fee**

A \$50.00 materials fee will be required in addition to the matriculation fee. This fee will cover all required resources related to this on-site training for sports ministry.

**Important Information:**

We will meet in Hardin Student Center room 219 for this workshop. Class time will be divided between the classroom and the Recreation Center. Be prepared to wear comfortable clothes and gymnasium-acceptable shoes for all sessions. You will need to secure housing as usual for Thursday and Friday nights. Remember that the YMI classes follow their own schedule (not the typical seminary workshop schedule, beginning on Thursday at 6 p.m.). Our goal is to complete the classroom portion of the course by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

**Netiquette:**

Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

## Course Schedule

### *Fall Weekend (Odd Years)*

#### Day One

6:00 p.m.

Intro to Intentional Sports Ministry  
Break  
Vision of Upward (handout listening guide)  
Discussion Groups  
Reports  
Adjourn

9:30 p.m.

#### Day Two

8:00 a.m.

*A Brief Word*  
First Steps of League Organization

- League Director
- League Timeline
- Advertising
- Prayer Ministry

Sport-Specific Game Format and Evaluation Drills

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Flag Football

11:30 a.m.

*Lunch Break*

12:45 p.m.

Evaluation Practicum (Soccer and Flag Football / Sunshine Park)

1:50 p.m.

Evaluation Practicum (Basketball / Recreation Center)

3:15 p.m.

*Break*

3:45 p.m.

Power of Coaching

- “Positive Coaching”
- Video Discussions (each student to present / 5 min. each)

*Break*

“Good Sport” Discussion Groups

Reports

7:00 p.m.

*Adjourn*

#### Day Three

8:00 a.m.

Practices (Doing It Right!)  
Conducting Games

*Break*

11:00 a.m.

Sports Evangelism

- Connect 3-on-3
- Infinity Sports
- Sports Mission Trips
- Other opportunities/organizations

12:30 p.m.

Review and Q & A  
Preparation for post-course assignments  
*Adjourn*

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- Connor, Steve. *Sports Outreach: Principles and Practice for Successful Sports Ministry*. Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications, 2003.
- Cooper, Kenneth. *Fit Kids: The Complete Shape-Up Program from Birth to High School*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999.
- Engh, Fred. *Why Johnny Hates Sports*. Garden City Park, NY: Square One Publisher, 2002.
- Fish, Joel. *101 Ways to Be A Terrific Sports Parent*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2003.
- Flynt, Johnny. *Coaching with a Purpose: At Home, In the Office, or On the Field*. Collierville, TN: Instant Publisher.com, 2008. (Available from [johnnyflynt@northoxford.org](mailto:johnnyflynt@northoxford.org); or 100 Park Drive, Oxford, MS 38655)
- Garner, John. "Moving 'Upward' in Sports Ministry" [web site on-line]. available from [http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/lwc\\_cda\\_article/0,1643,A%253D150806%2526X%253D1%2526M%253D50088,00.html](http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/lwc_cda_article/0,1643,A%253D150806%2526X%253D1%2526M%253D50088,00.html). Accessed 3 February 2005.
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Woods, David. "Youth League Put Muzzle on Coaches, Parents." *The Indianapolis Star*, 27 April 2001. Gannett News Service.