DEVELOPING A VIBRANT STUDENT ORGANIZATION: PARTNERS IN SPORTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
partners in sports

Creating Opportunities
for Tomorrow’s Sports Leaders

Founded April 30, 1998
Dr. Buck Jones – Founding Director
Who We Are

Partners in Sports is the student organization for Sport Management majors and other students at The University of Tennessee who are interested in pursuing careers in the sport or recreation industry. The organization is active within the university and regional sports community. The mission of the organization is to create opportunities for tomorrow’s sports leaders through practical experiences and professional development opportunities.
Governance

Student Board

Faculty
Advisory Board

Purpose
• Long-Term Direction
• Idea Sounding Board
• Fresh Perspective
• Programming Guidance
• Meet as Needed

Members
Membership

~ 150 Students

~ 10 Faculty & Staff
What We Do?

**Fall**
- Membership Drive
- Success in Sport Panel
- Fall Conference

**Spring**
- Women’s Roundtable
- Spring Reception

**Summer**
- USA Cycling Championships
- Golf Tournament

[Images of people and objects related to each event are shown.]
Other Activities

- Legacy Parks Foundation Luncheon
- Phillip Fulmer Golf Classic
- Eric Berry Youth Football Camp
- IMG 7x7 Football Tournament
- IMG/Vol Network Playbook Distribution
- SEC Swimming & Diving Championships
- SEC Men’s Tennessee Tournament
- Mercedes-Benz Collegiate Golf Championship
- Rhythm & Blooms Musical Festival
Partners in Sports has been able to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with the Southeastern Conference during the past 10 years. More than 80 students have been able to volunteer at a variety of championship and other events which has enable them to gain valuable experience and networking opportunities. The Southeastern Conference, in turn, has been able to have emerging professionals provide operational support in the management of these events.
Student Recognition

- Scholarships (2000)
- Buck Jones Award (2002)
- Partners Service Award (2010)
- Dr. Joy T. DeSensi Award (2013)
- Joan Cronan Graduate Fellowship (2015)
- Emile Catignani Award (2017)

$132,000
Tennessee Sport Management

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The Value of the Hand-Written Note
Our Partners
What’s Next?

**Challenges**
- Student Awareness
- Benefit Awareness
- Student Priority
- Board Priority
- Too Much Programming

**Opportunities**
- Conduit to Volunteering
- Conduit for Support
- Add Appropriate Programming
- Student Driven
Lessons Learned

**The Good**
- Small Student Board
- Be of Service
- Ask How You Can Assist
- Membership Dues
- Steady Growth
- Selective Involvement
- Go First Class – It’s Worth It

**Oops!**
- Business Meetings
- Forced Involvement
- Placing No Value on Activities
- Don’t Always Have Your Hand Out
TAKE AWAYS
CREATE A CULTURE
IT TAKES TIME
STICK TO YOUR PURPOSE
Development and Organization of a Student-Operated Sport Management Co-curricular Club: Partners in Sports

Robin Hissin and James Ranickie
University of Tennessee

Joshua Pate
Jarvis Magnesium University

Experiential learning is a critical component of college education in the area of sport management as students must have the workplace and hands-on industry experiences. One unique and innovative model is the student-operated co-curricular club that offers volunteer work experience for sport management majors. The University of Tennessee’s Sport Management Program implemented a student organization that enables students to work in the sport industry through volunteer experiences. The purpose of this study was to provide a governance and organizational framework for a student-operated co-curricular club and outline how it fits into the Volunteer-Four Step Experiential Learning Model (Foster & Delac, 2010). This study reviews the governance, student involvement, leadership, operations, financials, and yearly activities of Partners in Sports and offers practical applications for each aspect. The exploration revealed that a co-curricular club fits in the Volunteer-Four Step Experiential Learning Model as it introduces students to the sport industry by offering experiential learning opportunities. Providing a co-curricular club allows sport management programs to maximize the practical industry exposure of students.

Experiential learning is an essential component to a college education in the area of sport management where hands-on learning and workplace experiences are critical. Foster and Dollar (2010) stated that experiential learning is when an individual is working or volunteering for an organization in order to gain on-the-job experience in their preferred field of work before graduating from an academic program (p. 10). Experiential learning is a process where knowledge is created through a transformative experience while on the job (Klein, 1994). From this perspective, learning takes place as an individual experiences a behavior or event, or understanding about an学科 book's learning experience, service learning, classroom experience, and/ or research that does not require the completion of classroom assignments and may serve as a genuine education of the student's overall sport management. Experiential learning has shown to be effective in the area of sport marketing (McGraw, 2000, Pollak, 2012, Pollak & Pollak, 2004), event management (Carnagey, 2009, Chabert, 2007), and sport sales (Hoch, 2006).

Hoch and coworkers with the Dept. of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN; Jones with the Dept. of Hospitality, Sport, and Tourism Management, Jones College, University, SA; and Pollak with the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.


The Commission on Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA) recognizes the need for these learning experiences and endorse internships and fellowships to the sport industry as part of the accreditation process (Commission on Sport Management Accreditation, 2010). These requirements for graduation are beneficial because they allow students to engage in activities that help them understand the work environment and are better prepared upon entering the workforce with a degree in hand and a strong resume.
Partners Maxims

1. Work every day to put yourself in position to be successful.
2. Look for opportunities, take advantage of the ones that come your way, and prove your value.
3. Things may not go as planned. Learn from the experience and use it to improve yourself.
4. Protect your personal brand and build personal relationships.
5. Volunteer, intern, and seek opportunities to be involved for this is how you gain experience.
6. Complete every task, no matter how small, to the best of your ability. The small details sometimes matter the most.
7. Work hard but be productive and efficient with your time.
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