



Recreational sports scheduling authority goes to EMS

Less Work, More Play

Of Texas A&M's 14 departments using EMS, perhaps the area where the scheduling software facilitates the most fun is the Department of Recreational Sports. But managing the student recreation center's 373,000 square feet, in addition to offsite activities, is no game.

Roughly the same number of people who flood stadiums to watch the Dallas Cowboys during an entire NFL season – 1.2 million – participate in this department's activities each year. These students and community members take part in a wide variety of activities, including: 31 internal sports clubs, university classes, tournaments and even wedding receptions.

"We may have 1,000 screaming cheerleaders in our facilities at one time with a lot of other activities going on," said Tawyna Moehlman, the Department of Recreational Sports' facilities reservations coordinator. "We have to make everybody happy."

Using EMS, Moehlman schedules the activities for the center's three pools, diving well, 10 buildings, 12 tennis courts, golf course and 14 fields – which can be divided in half or even into quarters for different activities.

"With EMS, nothing is impossible."

Whether it's booking time on the rock climbing wall for a local Boy Scout troop or reserving a field for

a group of students who are planning an ultimate Frisbee tournament, the rec department relies on one tool to organize all the ongoing activities.

"Everything is scheduled through EMS," Moehlman said. "EMS has increased my productivity. I can enter reservations faster and more accurately."

Fast Facts

- **1.2 million** participants per year
- **373,000** square feet
- **31** internal sports clubs

Scheduling Needs Go Deep

EMS also gave the university the flexibility it needed when it came to its swimming facilities, which play host to swim meets, local swim teams and national diving championships.

"Aquatics – it was its own beast," Moehlman said.

When booking an event or making reoccurring reservations, she was able to schedule by each pool, accounting for its individual quadrants, lanes and even the required water depth for certain events.

For A&M's off-site excursions like wilderness first-aid

EMS Case Study *Department of Recreational Sports, Texas A&M University*

training or canoe, surfing and skiing trips, Moehlman booked “phantom rooms” to organize all the details in EMS. By creating a fake “space” in the EMS system, she can track all the resources associated with a group of students’ visit to a river, mountain or ocean.

From Bows to Bow Ties

A&M may have a lot of recreational space to work with, but just like smaller schools, it’s not limitless, which means many spaces serve dual purposes.

For example, the school’s archery room morphs into a stellar place for a wedding reception – especially because EMS will prevent spaces from being double-booked.

In addition to reserving space for events as diverse as celebrations and sports classes, EMS lightens the work load when it comes to keeping track of invoices and billing facility users.

All of the bookings made in EMS can be invoiced in the system, allowing Moehlman to email a simple bill to facility renters.

She charges users on a two-tier system, which bills outside groups at a higher rate.

The Department rents out space to other campus entities and has contracts with dining services, the athletics department and the Aggie Swim Club.

One-time bills are also easily generated and sent for events like lock-ins.

The invoices are created with the information that was entered into EMS when the space was initially reserved and are easily understood by rec department users, Moehlman said, adding “with EMS, nothing is impossible.”

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