



Establishing a Scholars Club

Benefits of a Scholars Club

There are many benefits to creating a Scholars Club:

- ❖ Perpetual “team generating machine”
 - Feeder system to build a strong team
 - Keeps players playing and learning
 - Players transfer skills to new players
 - Allows former players to stay involved
- ❖ Part practice session, part social club
 - Players make “friends for life”
 - Balance structured practice with social interaction
- ❖ Makes ZAC a regular part of members lives
 - Consistent schedule makes it easier for students to “remember”

- Creates a sense of belonging

- ❖ Club members can be programme volunteers at the university
 - They know the game
 - They have experience in game official roles
- ❖ Offers opportunities to involve faculty
 - Meetings are after class hours
 - Faculty as guest lecturers
 - Faculty to run topic specific drills

Quick Tip

Players in the Scholars Club develop friendships that can improve teamplay



Skill development:

- ❖ Members develop specialised game skills
 - Mastering rules & strategies of the game
 - Face-Off strategies
 - Bonus strategies
 - Managing the clock
 - Analysing question categories
- ❖ Members learn each others strengths and weaknesses
 - Who is quick on the buzzer
 - Who is good under pressure and who cracks
 - Who has deep knowledge

- Who knows which areas -- literature, science, history, current affairs, geography, general knowledge, sports, African history, popular culture, etc.

- ❖ Helps build a championship calibre team
 - Practice makes perfect
 - Growth from novice to seasoned player
- ❖ Increases camaraderie between players and coaches
 - More informal setting
 - Reduces fear and intimidation
 - Creates better relationships between players and the coach

Club Essentials

What is the structure of the Scholars Club?

- ❖ Membership is open to all Student Tryout Test participants
- ❖ Student-driven but staff-facilitated
 - Students suggest topics, club events & group activities
 - Coach and/or Liaison serves as Advisor
 - Coach and/or Club president sets the weekly training plan
 - Students and staff work together to plan club activities
- ❖ Students who don't play help in other ways
 - Get phone, email and address for all members
 - Never stop recruiting -- it's never too early for next year
- ❖ Weekly sessions
 - Throughout the school year
 - Start the first week of the term
 - Get a dedicated space
 - Brief sessions
 - Set and maintain a consistent time

Promoting Club Membership

- ❖ Invite strong players from the tryouts
 - The Liaison has the contact info for all players from the tryout tests
 - Have students invite students
- ❖ Look for members where you look for players
 - Attend some classes to inform students of the opportunity
 - Set up a table at campus events
 - Look for students at the library
 - Attend meetings of Honour Societies
 - Students watching local and other quiz programmes
- ❖ Encourage potential members to come "try it out"
 - Don't discount anyone
 - Students who are enthusiastic but not great players can help out and be valuable members
- ❖ Ask faculty for student recommendations
 - Invite them to join; Call or email them more than once

Quick Tip

Keeping Club membership open keeps coaching options open for the team!

Club Activity Ideas

- ❖ Regular Club Meetings
 - Rules Training
 - Skills Testing
 - Research Techniques
- ❖ Board Game Night
 - Quick Facts lectures by faculty members in basic fields of study with Q&A for the club
 - Watch the news or documentaries together
 - Share a meal or go to a movie as a team so players get to know one another
- ❖ Special games during university events
 - Run special theme competitions for other students
 - Special ceremonies or convocations
- ❖ Question writing session
 - Spend time in the library or computer lab researching and writing questions
 - Have members read and critique one another's questions
- ❖ Field Trips
 - To museums, archives and historical sites