

A photograph of four people on a baseball field. From left to right: a man in a white t-shirt and black shorts with a blue stripe, a man in a white t-shirt and black shorts with a blue stripe, a woman in a white t-shirt, red shorts, and a yellow cap, and a man in a white t-shirt and black shorts with a blue stripe. They are all giving high-fives. The background shows a grassy field, a yellow fence, and some buildings under a clear sky.

BRINGIN' RECESS BACK

Remember back to your childhood, when recess was your favorite school subject? You ran free, played hard and didn't worry about paying bills or making meetings on time? Since 2005, Austin Sports and Social Club has been turning adult Austinites into little kids again with its coed games — dodgeball, wiffleball, kickball and more.

Founder Marc Tucci helped run a similar coed sports team in Baltimore, but he saw the tremendous potential a sports club could have on a new city, so he set his sights on Austin. “Austin was the perfect match,” he says. “It has the perfect climate and a fitness-oriented, young demographic.” While Tucci is athletic himself and enjoys sports, he decided that he wanted the club to be more carefree and fun than a traditional sports league. That’s where the recess sports came into play.

While the club does offer so-called real sports, such as flag football, volleyball, bowling (hey, it’s a sport), soccer and softball, Tucci says that he spices things up a bit by adding two things every middle school boy fantasized about: booze and babes. “It’s a socially-based environment without the typical hardcore, aggressive competitiveness,” he says. “Everything we do is coed, which makes it more relaxed. And then we have happy hours after every game. It makes it more inviting and welcoming.”

And much like when you were a kid, you merely sign up and pay the fees for the sport of your choice. That’s right, no monthly fees for things you’re not going to use. And you can even pay to just participate in the social events, which include party barge trips during the summer.

Austin Sports and Social club is ideal for meeting new people — you don’t have to sign up with a team to join. “It’s perfect if you’re new to town,” Tucci says.

Since the success of Austin Sports and Social Club, Tucci has expanded his coed recreational league to San Antonio and Dallas, but he says Austin is still the perfect place to take advantage of such a club because you can play sports from as far north as Pflugerville all the way to Dripping Springs.

Be on the lookout later this year for the addition of tennis and ultimate Frisbee to the club’s repertoire. You can also participate in Austin Sports and Social Club’s boot camp for a fun workout outdoors. “No matter what you’re into – sports, running, getting into shape – we’re your one stop shop,” Tucci says. “And, you’ll have fun and meet new people.”

Darcie Duttweiler

Photo by Shannon Cunningham



“You haven’t played these games in so many years, so no one has any real competitive edge,” Tucci says. It puts everyone on the same level. Plus, it brings out the inner child. It’s fresh and fun.”

— Marc Tucci

Founder, Austin Sports & Social Club
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