

DUPR Collegiate Pickleball Club Guide

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Starting the Club

Recreational Club vs. Club Sport

Before starting your club it's essential to understand the distinction between starting a recreational club and a club sport at your university. While both options offer unique opportunities for student engagement, they differ in terms of structure, resources, and level of competition.

A recreational club (also known as a student organization at some schools) primarily focuses on providing a casual and inclusive environment for students to enjoy the sport without the pressure of competitive play. It emphasizes social interactions, skill development, and fostering a sense of community. They are typically easier to get started, and a great way to draw in new members looking to play pickleball for fun.

A club sport is a more organized and competitive entity that represents the university in intercollegiate competitions. It requires adherence to club sports policies, dedicated practice schedules, and a higher level of commitment from its members. Club sports can often be more difficult to start from scratch than a recreational club, and may also involve probationary periods before becoming a fully vested club.

It is your responsibility to research what the different types of clubs will allow you to do at your respective school. Some schools will offer different types of support, funding, and benefits to a certain club type. You may decide to start as a recreational club and then transition to club sport, or create both a recreational club for student enjoyment and a club sport for competitive events. For 2023, DUPR doesn't require schools to be organized as a club sport or recreational club to participate in our official events. However, we encourage the development of these programs at every school, and this guide should be a valuable resource for whatever stage you're at.

Obtaining School Requirements

The steps of starting a club or club sport will vary from school to school, but the core requirements will typically all be the same. You will almost certainly need to create a club charter or constitution, have a core leadership filled out (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), and present your club to a governing body.

You can start the process by going to your school's website and searching "Clubs", "Student Organizations", or "Club Sports". Usually, you can find a landing page your school has set up with FAQs on how to start a club or student organization at your school, and the requirements needed. If you cannot find this information for your school, you may have to reach out directly to individuals who are responsible for student organizations and clubs on your campus. You

can find these individuals by searching for individuals in charge of Campus Recreation or Student Life for your school and requesting more information through them.

Creating Charter/Constitution

One of the most important factors that determines a club's longevity is a strong charter or constitution. This document will help you govern your organization and ensure that future leadership has a solid foundation to continue to grow the club. When crafting a pickleball club constitution, it's important to include several key elements to ensure clarity, organization, and effective governance.

Start by providing an introductory statement that outlines the club's purpose, goals, and mission. Clearly define the club's membership criteria, including eligibility requirements and any associated fees. Include details about the club's leadership structure, specifying positions and their responsibilities. Outline the club's meeting schedule, frequency, and procedures, including how decisions will be made and voting processes. It's important to incorporate provisions for amending the constitution in the future to accommodate any necessary changes as your club grows and evolves. In addition, include a code of conduct section that sets expectations for member behavior and addresses disciplinary actions for violations. Consider including sections on club finances, event planning, and any necessary disclaimers or liability waivers. Lastly, ensure that the constitution adheres to the policies and regulations set by your university or college.

By including these components, your pickleball club constitution will provide a solid framework for the club's operations and help establish a strong and sustainable organization. Feel free to save this <u>Club Constitution Example</u> and change it to meet your club's needs. Go to File, then Make a Copy to edit it. It's important to double-check that this outline meets the requirements of your specific university.

Recruiting

Student Organization and/or Intramural Sports Fairs

These fairs typically happen at the beginning of the semester when there is an influx of new students. Reach out to the organizers and secure a booth for your club. Try bringing some paddles and a ball for interested students to try hitting a couple of volleys with a friend. In addition, you'll also want to print pamphlets that include all of the necessary information for joining the club. Here is a <u>pamphlet template</u> you can use and edit for your club's needs. Go to File, then Make a Copy to edit it.

Staff and Faculty

Building relationships with faculty and staff can also provide support and increase your club's visibility within the campus community. Reach out to influential leaders at your school to see if any of them play pickleball (Board of Trustees, Chancellors, Vice Presidents, Deans). Having a powerful ally in your school's leadership can help reduce the amount of obstacles your club faces when getting started.

New Players

When recruiting new players to your club, do your best to meet their needs with paddles, balls, and training. Having spare paddles and balls makes it easy for new players to jump into a game quickly without having to wait for someone to loan them equipment. Try to have a couple of officers on your team prepared to teach the wonderful game of pickleball to any new players who want to learn. Everyone wants to feel welcome, so having paddles, balls, and teachers ready for new players trying out your club goes a long way.

Recruiting Players for Events

DUPR Collegiate Pickleball team events follow the MLP format, which means we use co-ed teams of four players. One of the most common challenges that programs face is an imbalance of male/female players, which can be an obstacle to attending DUPR Collegiate Pickleball events. Here are some places we recommend clubs look to recruit players to their club:

- Men's/Women's tennis team
- Men's/Women's tennis club might be combined into the same club
- Intramural competitions See who has competed in the Men's/Women's doubles bracket in any intramural competitions that your recreation department has conducted

Remember, the success of your pickleball club depends on your dedication and commitment to recruitment efforts. By following these strategies, you can attract enthusiastic members and create a thriving pickleball community on your campus.

Equipment

We recommend using <u>GAMMA</u> for all of your pickleball needs, as they are the title sponsor for DUPR Collegiate Pickleball.

If your university does not have pickleball courts on campus, find courts nearby that your club can play/practice at. If that is not an option, consider taping tennis courts and using portable nets with the necessary approval. Indoor basketball courts are also a possibility, but you will still need portable equipment and permission to use them.

If your club members don't have their own paddles, there are a couple of things you can do. Reach out to different paddle companies to see if they will donate paddles to use. <u>GAMMA</u> is especially good at working with college clubs. Selkirk and ProXR are other companies that have worked with college clubs in the past. Your university might also have pickleball gear that you can rent or borrow until club members acquire their own equipment.

Pickleballs can either be provided by the club itself or members can provide their own. If the club is going to provide them, consider buying them in bulk (100-count boxes are recommended). The Franklin X-40 or the Onix Dura Fast are the most popular outdoor balls. If you are playing on a hardwood floor or similar, consider using an indoor ball to improve the overall quality of play. Currently, all DUPR collegiate events use the Franklin X-40 as the competition ball.

Practices & Scheduling

Perhaps the most rewarding step during the club initialization process is holding your first pickleball practice. Seeing your efforts materialize into actual students playing organized pickleball is the first of many moments that make a lot of work put into running a club worth it. These are some suggestions and best practices to help make sure that first (and subsequent) club practices run smoothly.

Schedule and Plan Ahead of Time

This suggestion may seem obvious, but making sure you plan your practices ahead of time will ensure that you have the details figured out beforehand. Every campus has different resources and facilities, so preparation will look different for every club. However, making sure you have these basic questions answered before each practice will allow you to provide an excellent experience for the students, leading to increased retention and organic growth:

- Where will pickleball be played?
 - o Do we need to make reservations?
 - o Do we need to pay?
- What times will practice start and end?
- What does set up and take down look like?
 - o Do we need to set up nets?
 - o Do we need to tape lines on the courts?
 - Who is in charge of setting up and taking down?
- What equipment are we providing?
 - o Do we need nets?
 - o Do we need paddles?
 - o Do we need balls?
 - o Do we need court markers?
- Other Considerations:
 - o How are we checking in students?
 - Are we providing food/snacks?
 - o Are we providing music?
 - Are we providing something for students to do while they wait for a court?
 - How are we organizing play?
 - How will we keep track of the equipment we loan out?

While preparation for each club will look different, by being able to answer the majority of these questions, you will be setting your club up for success when it comes time for the first practice.

How to Run a Practice

As long as you have planned properly and prepared well, running your pickleball practice will be easier than the planning stage. It doesn't matter if your club is holding a competitive practice in preparation for a tournament, or if this practice is purely recreational and laid-back; students are taking time from their day to come to the practice you are hosting. In order to respect that fact, it is your responsibility to run a practice that the students will feel justifies their time commitment to the pickleball club.

The easiest way to ensure that students leave pickleball practice feeling satisfied is simply to make sure they played enough pickleball. Though there may be many factors surrounding a student's decision to attend a club pickleball practice, the main reason can be distilled down to the fact they just want to play pickleball. Taking steps during your planning session to make sure students can get in as many games as possible will improve their experiences when attending a club pickleball practice.

Some simple steps that you can take to help students get more quality games of pickleball include:

- Use a paddle queue system.
- Implement a skill-level system with your courts.
- Play a king of the court, or round-robin event during practice.
- Assign club leaders to ensure players are rotating out after each game.

Officers

Without quality executive leadership guiding the club, it is impossible to fully reach the growth potential of your club. A proper leadership team that executes their roles can help even a casual pickleball club from a small school transform into a national collegiate pickleball powerhouse.

As a club president, it will be relatively easy to run all aspects of the club by yourself; it may even be the right move while your club is still getting off the ground. However, as your club continues to grow, you will find that managing all aspects of your club will become overwhelming very quickly. It is the responsibility of the club president and the other founding individuals to create an executive board.

It is advisable to find individuals with certain skill sets that fit a need for your club, rather than to fill club positions just for the sake of having them filled. That said, these opportunities to serve in executive leadership positions for the club will help your officers cultivate and hone their skills that will benefit them in the future. Try to allow some positions to be filled with Individuals who are still learning the skills needed for the job, as it can be hard to find someone willing who already has all of the necessary skills.

When filling roles in your executive leadership team, don't be hesitant to branch out from your immediate pool of club members if you do not find a comfortable match. Using avenues to find recommendations like social media, student government, faculty, and department staff will aid you in your search. Remember to clearly outline how officers are selected, and their responsibilities in your club's constitution.

Officer Roles

Below are some suggestions for roles to fill when assembling your executive board. Remember, it is more important to staff roles that satisfy the specific needs that your club has, rather than to fill as many roles as you can for the sake of having them filled. You may also find that combining or splitting certain roles makes sense for your club and the personnel that you have. Don't be afraid to make changes and even create new roles if your situation calls for it.

Your school may also mandate the filling of certain roles before your club is officially recognized. Make sure to comply with those requirements.

Possible Roles:

- Vice President Assist the President with their duties. Step in for when the President is not available.
- Treasurer Oversee all financial matters of the club.

- Secretary Keeps attendance and meeting notes.
- Director of Outreach Seek out sponsorship and partnership opportunities with companies.
- Social Media Director Manage all social media accounts.
- Tournament Coordinator Plan and run all tournaments.
- Practice Coordinator Plan and run all practices.
- Fundraising Coordinator Oversee all fundraising efforts for the club.
- Recruitment Coordinator Run recruitment and retention efforts for the club.
- Coach Responsible for improving the pickleball skills of the members.

Running Your DUPR Digital Club

Getting Started

Once you are ready to move your club onto DUPR, contact the DUPR collegiate team by sending an email to college@mydupr.com. In order to set up your club, you will need to let the DUPR collegiate team know who you want to make as the club director to start. While it can be any of your club's executive board members, it is also advisable to create an "admin" DUPR profile for your club. While your executive team will inevitably change over time, having an admin profile stay as a permanent director for your club can help your club mitigate potential issues when club directors and organizers eventually graduate. This same idea applies to making a Gmail for your club, allowing members to send the club emails and to have an admin email to use.

The first thing you will want to do once your club is made is set up your club's profile information shown to players. You will want to complete these steps before you do anything else with your DUPR club:

- 1. Add your profile picture. This should be your club's logo or your school's logo that you are approved to use.
- 2. Add your club's contact information. Include the best email address for players to contact your club. Including an address and phone number is also strongly encouraged.
- 3. Create the "About" section for your club. This should include where and when your club meets. This should also include information about where students can go to find more information about your club, such as an Instagram link, and when/where your club meets for practices.
- 4. Add club organizers. Club organizers have nearly all the same privileges as club directors. Club organizers should be leaders in your club that you trust. Please note that when someone is an organizer or director of a club, they will not appear in the members roster. They can do everything a member can, but will not show up when you search their name in the club members list.

You may reference this diagram when completing the above steps.

Adding Members

There are two ways that players can join your DUPR club: they can request to join the club, or you may invite them to the club. You will use the "Add Players" button on your club's homepage to invite players. You can use the "Invites" tab on your club's homepage to see your pending invites and accept or decline requests to join your club from other players.

Ideally, the player will already have a DUPR account created before trying to join your club. However, when inviting someone to the club there is an "Invite" button with a blue person and a plus sign. Clicking this will allow you to send an email invite link to the person you want to invite to the club. They will need to create their account before any of their matches are validated.

You may reference this <u>step-by-step guide</u> when inviting and accepting club member requests. <u>Here is the PDF version of the guide.</u>

Adding Matches

Once you have players in your club, you can start adding matches. The sources of these matches could be from your club practices, player scrimmages, or any other competitive games you want to log in to DUPR. The only stipulation when adding matches is that the players for each match must either be a member of the club or sent an invite to join the club on DUPR.

When you log a match from your club, that match holds more weight than a self-reported match. That means that matches logged from your club account will affect the increase or decrease of the player's DUPR rating more than a self-reported match. Make sure when you log matches for your club members that all players agreed beforehand on the format of the match, and that the match results will be entered into DUPR.

To add matches, you will use the "Add Match" button on your club's profile. Please make sure that all match information is correct when adding a match.

You may reference this <u>step-by-step guide</u> for more instructions when adding matches to your club profile. <u>Here is the PDF version of the guide.</u>

Adding Payment

In order to run events, you will need to set up your payment profile. Payment to your club is handled by the third-party vendor, Stripe. You will need to use the "Set Up Payments" button on the club's homepage. Stripe will then walk you through the setup process. Once you are done, the "Set Up Payments" button will change into a "Payments" button and you will be able to use that button to view your payment history on Stripe.

Stripe FAQ can be found here: Stripe Express FAQ

Running Events

Tournaments are a great way to earn money for your club and to involve the student body and the community with your organization. A well-run tournament takes a lot of preparation and planning before the first game is ever played. One of the perks of hosting your organization on DUPR is that DUPR provides tournament software for you. This can be a major asset for you and your organization when planning and running tournaments.

Initial Steps

Once your organization decides to run a tournament, there are a couple of considerations to figure out before you start creating a detailed plan. One suggestion when starting to plan your tournament is first to identify a target fundraising goal. Once you have your fundraising goal in mind, it will help you make other decisions about your tournament, such as fees, number of events, and bracket sizes. You will also need to identify costs to running your tournament, like court fees, personnel fees, or even snack and swag items you plan on providing at the tournament.

Here are some fundamental questions to answer when first planning your tournament:

Fundraising

- What is our target amount to fundraise?
- How much will the registration & bracket fee be?

Venue

- Where will the tournament be held?
- What dates/times will the tournament take place?
- What are the fees for this venue?

Tournament

- What events will we hold?
- How many teams per bracket?
- How will we separate by DUPR or age?

Logistics

- How many courts are available?
- How many games can be played at a time?
- How much time will we allot for each event & bracket?
- What will the order of play be?
- Should we stagger the start times?

Once you feel comfortable that you can answer most of these questions, you can move on to the next step.

Creating an Event on DUPR

This section covers actually putting your tournament into DUPR. While you may choose any tournament software of your preference, hosting your tournament on DUPR's platform will offer you tournament software that is automatically connected to your club, allows players to sign up easily, and ensures that all matches are inputted into DUPR.

In order to set up your tournament, you will first need to make sure your club has its Stripe account set up to receive payments. Once that's complete, you will click on "Add Event" from your club's main page.

On the first page, you add an event name, location, logo, and description. Make sure your description provides players with all the information they need to play in the tournament. It should also include who they can contact for further questions. You will also determine the entry fee for both members and nonmembers of your club on DUPR. This is a one-time fee that players pay upon registering for the tournament.

On the next page, you have space to upload liability, refund, and health & safety policies. It is highly encouraged to include these, and depending on your venue and school regulations may be mandatory.

Once those are inputted, you will be prompted to enter in each bracket. For each bracket you create, you will be able to customize the format, gender, age restrictions, skill level restrictions, and bracket name. Once that is set, you will also be able to customize the registration deadlines, competition dates, timezone, bracket fee (charged in addition to the entry fee), size cap for the bracket, and how many teams are allowed on the waitlist.

Once you complete this information for your bracket, you will be able to submit the details. You can then repeat this process for every bracket in your event, or review all the event information and publish it to the public.

Even after you publish your event, you will be able to edit event information, add players, issue refunds, and delete brackets. If you have questions about making changes to your event, you may reach out to the DUPR college team personally, or send an email to college@mydupr.com.

At any point during the event creation process, you may reference this <u>step-by-step guide</u>. Here is the PDF version of the guide.

Best Practices

When running a tournament, there are best practices to keep in mind in order to ensure your tournament is not only successful in raising funds for your club, but also providing a positive and enjoyable experience for all the players involved.

As a general suggestion, you should follow as many of these practices as possible:

- Make all important tournament information available to the public before registration open.
- The earlier you open your tournament registration and advertise, the better. A good rule of thumb is to open registration and start advertising no later than 2-3 months before the tournament date.
- Limit your event/bracket sizes based on your court availability. For example, if you are running a round-robin tournament with 8 courts available, and you plan on running two brackets at a time, it would make sense to cap each bracket at 8 or 9 teams to allow you to stay within court availability restraints.
- Plan your tournament cadence and timing on your court availability. Generally, a side-out game to 11 and rally-scored game to 21 take an average of 12-15 minutes. Rally scoring is typically more consistent in timing than side-out scoring games. Higher leveled players will also take longer to finish their games compared to lower leveled players, due to the duration of their rallies.
- Ensure your tournament is well-staffed. Have one person act as a tournament director. If you are running multiple brackets/events at the same time, assigning someone as a "bracket coordinator" for each bracket will help make sure the events are running smoothly. You can also assign "runners" to help with miscellaneous tasks during the tournament.
- Offering things during your tournament such as snacks, hydration, and rest areas are small touches that can largely improve a player's experience. Make sure to have an accessible bathroom and easy instructions for how your players can access it.
- When sourcing prizes or raffle items, many businesses will be willing to donate items and goods to your event. During your tournament, you should have a moment where your sponsors are recognized and thanked for their contributions. You should also ask these businesses and sponsors if there is a custom message or description of their business that you can provide for them during that time.

Communication & Social Media

A good social media presence will pay dividends for your organization in the forms of student recruitment and retention, efficient communication with club members, and increased recognition from your school, community, and outside organizations. Building your social media typically takes time to do properly, but will be a useful asset to your club from the start.

Platforms

Social media is always growing and evolving, so what may be considered a norm today could be very different in 6-12 months. These are the most popular platforms and their typical pickleball audiences:

- Instagram: For brands and organizations related to pickleball, this is probably the most active and most efficient platform. This is a great space to build a profile for your organization to showcase its brand to students, and the community.
- Facebook: Pickleball on Facebook is mainly run by regional and national pickleball pages.
 Unless you find more niche pickleball groups, these pages are typically filled with an
 immense amount of broad questions that have little to nothing to do with collegiate
 pickleball. However, it would be wise to scan these groups every so often for any
 information that could benefit your organization.
- X (formerly Twitter): Pickleball on X is currently in an interesting spot. Here, you will have the most direct access to pros and notable individuals. Most of the pickleball content here is geared toward discussion of PPA and MLP pickleball, with many pros (and troll accounts) weighing their opinions. There is some talk of collegiate pickleball on the platform which is slowly increasing. The "pickleball sphere" on X is newer and continually growing. While it may not be the ideal platform for your pickleball organization yet, you can find quality discourse and valuable information here.
- TikTok: TikTok is a huge sea of content, yet there is a growing space for pickleball on TikTok and there are now a few pickleball influencers creating content here. If you have the manpower to closely follow TikTok trends and post content with trending audios, this would be a great platform to put some of your resources in, and possibly the easiest platform to have your content go viral.

Example Accounts

Here are some (but not all) of the top collegiate pickleball accounts on Instagram

- Utah Tech
- TCU
- UVA
- Auburn
- NC State
- UW-Whitewater

Getting Started

From the start, you will need an effective way to communicate information to your club members. While preferred communication channels may differ depending on the campus, many schools make great use of GroupMe. GroupMe is a convenient and effective way to distribute information to students. Once you set up your GroupMe channel, you can easily direct students through a link or QR code to join GroupMe.

Once you have communication secured, the easiest platform to get your organization onboarded on will most likely be Instagram. Creating an Instagram for your organization will allow you to post photo and video content, interact with other pickleball organizations and individuals, and continue to communicate information with students and members of the community.

Best Practices

- Managing the social media for your organization can be a beast to handle. It is wise to have at least one member of your executive board dedicate their entire responsibility to running social media.
- Once your social media starts growing, consider bringing on more leaders to form a
 dedicated social media team. Having leaders be in charge of specific tasks such as
 gathering photo and video content or creating graphic design templates will help you
 continue to grow your social media without risking burnout.
- Plan as much of your social media schedule and content beforehand as possible. Ideally, before the semester starts you should have a roadmap of different types of content you want to post on social media and a general timeline of when you want to post it. Then, start scheduling when you will create assets and gather content for those posts.
- Your school will have policies about using the school's likeness, logos, and wordmarks on social media. Make sure you understand completely and abide by your school's policies when operating on social media. This type of information can usually be found in a branding guide or style guide published by your school that dictates when to use certain logos, colors, fonts, spacing, etc. Violations of these policies typically result in punitive action taken against your organization.
- Keep your posts cohesive. Try and use the same fonts, colors, and formatting in the graphics you create for your organization for use on social media. This will allow you to convey information easily to your followers.
- Consider defining your brand's identity and voice on social media. What type of content are you going to post? Will it be something akin to your school's athletic department social media pages, or will it be something more casual? Will you be posting highly edited content, candid content, or pickleball memes? Are you going to write big, informational descriptions for all of your posts, or are you going to tag your posts with catchy one-liners? Whatever direction you decide to take for your organization's identity on social media, make sure you stick with your decision and don't vary too often to avoid confusion among your followers.

Competitive Play

Competing against other schools is intrinsic to collegiate pickleball. Representing your school and your organization when you play against other teams brings a different level of competitiveness that is hard to find outside of collegiate sports. The two easiest ways to play against other collegiate teams are by setting up matches between other schools and attending DUPR Collegiate Pickleball events.

Matches Against Other Schools

Setting up matches against other schools is an excellent way to not only give your players competitive experiences but also help build and develop collegiate pickleball in your area. When setting up matches against other schools, consider starting with nearby schools to make travel easier. Schools that have pickleball teams in your state, or athletic conference make great candidates. If you need assistance in getting contact information for some of these schools, feel free to reach out to the DUPR collegiate team at college@mydupr.com. You may even consider inviting multiple schools to a single event.

You will want to coordinate with all schools participating on a location, time, and event format. Ideally, you will follow the same MLPlay format as the DUPR collegiate events, but you should also be flexible if needed to allow as many students to compete as you can. You will also want to coordinate with the schools on how the games will be entered into DUPR.

While the other schools will technically be your opponents, these types of intercollegiate matches are a great way for your organization to network and build relationships with other schools.

DUPR Collegiate Events

DUPR hosts a robust schedule of collegiate events. In 2023, there are twelve regional championships that lead into the 2023 Collegiate National Championship in November. There is also the Collegiate Individual National Championships held in the spring semester. Besides the Collegiate Individual National Championships, all of DUPR's collegiate events are formatted the same as Major League Pickleball, using two males and two females to form a team. In order to compete in these events, you will need a minimum of two males and two females with a DUPR account. More information on the rules of play can be found here. These tournaments are held over the course of a weekend. Schools that want to participate are allowed to register for as many of these regionals as they are willing to travel to.

At each of these 2023 regionals, semifinalists and above will receive <u>scholarship money</u>. Both finalist teams will receive a bid to the 2023 DUPR Collegiate National Championship. In order to play in the DUPR Collegiate National Championship, a team must receive a bid and attend a

Regional. The winner of the Collegiate National Championship will be crowned the 2023 DUPR Collegiate National Champions. <u>Here is the link</u> to the full schedule of DUPR's collegiate events in 2023.

The 2023 Collegiate National Championship (CNC) will be held in Peachtree Corners, GA from November 17-19th. 36 schools will receive a bid to the team bracket. Those schools will be divided into 6 groups of 6 teams, from which the top 2 teams will advance to the playoffs. \$31,000 in total will be given out to teams that make the playoffs in the team bracket. Here is the link to the Registration Guide for the 2023 CNC.

The 2023 CNC will also have a challenger bracket alongside the team bracket. The challenger bracket is a doubles bracket that will be sorted by DUPR to create fair matches. Any college player from any school can compete in the challenger bracket, but they must pair up with another player from their school. The school that brings the most challenger teams will win \$1000 for their pickleball program. The school that averages the most total wins across their challenger teams will win \$1000. There will also be prizes for the teams that finish first in their group.

Travel

When dealing with the logistics of travel, it will always be easier to figure out the travel details ahead of time. For in-state and other events in your region, travel by car will almost always be cheaper. When flying becomes the cheaper or more logical option, booking far in advance will help you avoid last-minute flight prices.

Traveling can be a big financial burden on your organization, however, there are ways to mitigate those costs. By planning your travel before the semester starts, you can get an idea of what the costs of your travel will be, how much of your funds you need to allocate to travel, and how much money you will need to fundraise. Additionally, your university might offer services that would help you when planning your travel such as fleet vehicles to rent or discounts through state travel agencies. It is wise to explore all resources available from your university that will help you save costs when traveling.