

## **Sports & Entertainment Marketing Unit Seven Outline, 2020-21 School Year**

### **Unit 7: Introduction to Promotion & Sales**

#### **OVERVIEW**

*Unit seven provides a basic introduction to sales and emphasizes its importance to sports and entertainment business. A basis for a fundamental understanding of promotion is also explored. Students will be able to identify steps within the sales process, recognize the role of customer service and identify various forms of promotion. Students are encouraged to work through related class activities, particularly role plays or simulation exercises, to gain a clear comprehension of the sales process.*

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#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1) Define and give examples of sales
  - 2) Identify three personal selling categories
  - 3) Identify four sales methods
  - 4) Name at least five steps in the sales process
  - 5) Detail why customer service is important
  - 6) Recognize some common characteristics of successful sales professionals
  - 7) Define promotion
  - 8) Identify the elements of the promotion mix
  - 9) Describe and offer an example of five forms of promotion
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#### **LESSONS**

- Lesson 7.1** Understanding Sales  
**Lesson 7.2** The Sales Process  
**Lesson 7.3** Sales Strategies, Skills & Techniques  
**Lesson 7.4** Importance of Customer Service  
**Lesson 7.5** Sales Professionals  
**Lesson 7.6** Promotion
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#### **KEY TERMS**

**B2B**  
**Personal Selling**  
**Sales**

**Customer Service**  
**Promotion**  
**Up selling**

**Feature-Benefit Selling**  
**Promotion Mix**

**Objection**  
**Proposal**

## Lesson 7.1

### Understanding Sales

#### *\* DISCUSSION IDEA \**



*Often consumers have a negative perception of “sales” as a profession. The reality is, in almost any industry, sales are a part of almost everyone’s job, particularly in the world of sports and entertainment business. To help illustrate this concept, engage students in a quick classroom discussion. Begin by asking for a show of hands:*

- *How many students have had a negative experience with a salesperson?*
- *How many students enjoy having sales people approach them in a store?*
- *How many students think they could be a successful salesperson?*
- *How many students think they would want to be a successful salesperson?*

*Now, try re-positioning the idea of sales in a more familiar context using sports and entertainment as your platform:*

- *What does a head football coach need to do when recruiting a top prospect?*
- *Why does Emma Stone go on Jimmy Kimmel to promote a movie?*
- *Why does your favorite band do interviews with a local radio station?*
- *What do ESPN Radio hosts do just before a commercial break (tease an upcoming segment...)?*
- *Why do sports teams, music venues and movie theaters have a box office? What do you think those staff members are expected to do?*
- *Why do celebrities engage in sales efforts to sell their latest brand of perfume?*

*The bottom line is that sales is an important component to nearly any profession in the sports and entertainment industry. Everyone from a sponsorship sales representative for a NHL franchise to a front desk worker in a minor league baseball team’s office must have the ability to sell...and here’s a little secret: often times the best way to break into the industry is an entry level sales position!*

- A. Sales
  - 1. **Sales** can be defined as the process of determining customer needs and wants through planned, personalized communication intended to influence purchase decisions and ensure satisfaction
  - 2. Sales activities in the sports and entertainment field could include
    - a. Selling group tickets to a play
    - b. Negotiating an event contract with a facility or venue
    - c. Soliciting donations from alumni to fund scholarship opportunities
    - d. Selling an event sponsorship package
- B. Why is selling important?
  - 1. Selling is the revenue-producing element of the marketing process
  - 2. Sales is the only true revenue-producing function for an organization
  - 3. Selling helps customers make informed buying decisions
    - a. Results in customer satisfaction and repeat business
- C. Personal selling
  - 1. **Personal selling** entails any person-to-person communication in which the seller has an opportunity to influence the consumer's buying decisions
    - a. The process is a two-way communication between a representative of the company and the customer <sup>1</sup>
    - b. Personal selling is the only form of sales that involves direct contact between the sales professional and potential customer
      - i. In a non-traditional example of personal selling, members of the Western Kentucky University football team went door-to-door selling football tickets. That season, players sold 300 season tickets and the Hilltoppers enjoyed the second-highest average attendance figures in school history. Since the introduction of the door-to-door selling effort, student attendance increased more than 80 percent. <sup>2</sup>
  - 2. Benefits to personal selling <sup>3</sup>
    - a. The salesperson can immediately tailor the message he or she is communicating based on the prospective customer's response, feedback and buying signals
    - b. It allows for the communication of more information specifically relating the customer needs than any other form of promotion
    - c. Potentially confusing or complex information can be explained and the salesperson can be assured that the prospective customer has a complete understanding of the information being conveyed
    - d. The likelihood of the customer paying attention to the information being shared is greatly increased because the communication is face-to-face
    - e. Personal selling provides the best opportunity to establish solid working relationships, enhancing the probability of developing long term relationships with consumers
  - 3. Personal selling categories
    - a. Inside sales
      - i. Sales professionals that sell company products and services over the phone, Internet, or other means of communication from inside the company's office
      - ii. They either make outgoing calls to prospective customers or receive incoming orders or phone calls pertaining to company products or services
        - (a) According to a [report](#) from two Illinois State University researchers, the most successful collegiate athletic departments make as many as 3,500 outgoing phone calls each week to try to sell more tickets, an effort that their research suggests can generate \$1 million or more in additional revenue for the school's athletics program

- iii. Often utilized for products and services that require minimal investment levels, such as smaller ticket packages
    - iv. In most instances, an inside sales staff consists primarily of telemarketers
      - (a) Telemarketers are sales professionals that make outbound telephone calls to prospective customers in order to sell company products and services
  - b. Outside sales
    - i. Sales professionals that primarily communicate with customers in person
    - ii. Could include a ticket sales or sponsorship sales position
    - iii. Also referred to as “field sales” or “external sales”
  - c. Box office sales
    - i. Sales professionals located on site at a venue or facility who sell to customers in person at the event or to future events
    - ii. Movie theaters sell most of their tickets through box office sales, although more and more consumers are buying movie tickets in advance online through services like Fandango
  - d. A general rule of thumb among sports and entertainment companies is that everyone employed by the organization represents a salesperson on some level
    - i. If someone who works in accounting knows a friend interested in purchasing tickets, they would be expected to refer that friend to someone on the sales staff who can help them with their purchase
- D. Sales methods
  - 1. Feature-benefit selling <sup>4</sup>
    - a. Product attributes (or features) are the basic, physical, and extended characteristics of an item
      - i. For example, many professional sports teams sell tickets in club seating levels where the seats often have distinct product attributes that set them apart from general seating, such as wider seats, taller seat backs or video screens on the seats in front of them
    - b. Customer benefits are the advantages or personal satisfaction a customer will get from a good or service
      - i. Comfort, convenience, and space are benefits of club seating
    - c. The **feature-benefit** selling process involves matching specific product attributes to a customer’s needs and wants
      - i. A company may have purchased club seats to entertain clients and would want to reward them for their business by allowing them to sit in the most comfortable seats possible at the game or event
  - 2. Full menu marketing
    - a. The selling of a variety of products or services that meet virtually any customer needs and/or wants
      - i. A sales professional working for a minor league sports team may meet with a company and have the ability to offer a small sponsorship, a major sponsorship featuring exclusivity benefits, season tickets, group tickets, VIP tickets, parking or a combination of those options
  - 3. E-Commerce
    - a. The buying and selling of goods and services on the Internet
      - i. Any consumer who is a fan of Disney may go online and purchase DVDs, plush toys, action figures, watches, ornaments or many other products
    - b. Sports teams, arena management companies and touring bands sell everything from merchandise to tickets online
      - i. To encourage fans to purchase season tickets, the Portland Trail Blazers [website](#) outlined the benefits to being a season ticket holder and also featured a short

video featuring exciting game highlights throughout the team's history as they prepared to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the franchise in 2019-20

4. Direct mail
  - a. Direct mail is a sales effort conducted exclusively by mail
  - b. Characteristically sent to large numbers of prospective customers soliciting orders for company products and services
  - c. To be effective, the direct mail approach must be:
    - i. Targeted
    - ii. Personal
    - iii. Measurable
    - iv. Testable
    - v. Flexible
  - d. Direct mail examples
    - i. Ticket brochures
    - ii. Pocket schedules and team posters
    - iii. Solicitation (sales) letters
    - iv. Fliers, postcards and additional print media
      - (a) In an effort to leverage the team's accomplishment of earning a playoff berth, the NHL's Tampa Bay Lightning utilized a direct mail strategy to boost ticket sales by sending 30,000 specially designed postcards to area businesses (the postcards featured each recipient's company name on the name plate above a player's locker in the Lightning locker room)
        - (i) As a result, the team generated over \$500,000 in new ticket revenue through their direct mailing campaigns. Said Lynn Wittenburg, VP of Marketing for the Lightning in an interview with the *National Sports Forum*, "The direct mail campaign was a quick and effective way for us to make the phones ring." <sup>5</sup>
      - (b) To communicate the team's decision to drop concessions prices at their new stadium, the Atlanta Falcons sent direct mail pieces to potential ticket buyers that included a \$2 bill (many of the new concessions items will be offered at a \$2 price point, including stadium staples like hot dogs) <sup>6</sup>
    - v. A creative spin on traditional direct mail
      - (a) Under the guidance of sports marketing guru Jon Spoelstra, the New Jersey Nets basketball team sent rubber chickens wearing tank tops featuring a special message to season ticket holders who had not yet renewed for the upcoming season. The tank tops read: "You're about to fowl out! However, you can avoid the bench and keep on playing. Just read the attached." Included in the package was a renewal letter. The result of the campaign was a 93 percent renewal rate, up from an average of around 80% in the years before Spoelstra took over as team president. <sup>7</sup>
5. Digital/electronic sales and marketing
  - a. E-mail marketing and other digital strategies can be incredibly productive for a sports or entertainment property
  - b. Social media platforms are increasingly providing value for sports and entertainment properties as an additional avenue for generating sales
    - i. Last season, the Atlanta Hawks made a limited number of playoff tickets available exclusively on Twitter
    - ii. A number of collegiate athletic programs, such as Ohio University, have a Twitter handle dedicated specifically to ticketing (@OhioTicketSales)
      - (a) The University of North Carolina actually has a Twitter handle devoted to service *and* another dedicated to sales (@UNCTix and @UNCTicketSales)

- iii. Said Phil Horn, Vice President of ticket sales and service for the Sacramento Kings in an interview with [dmnews.com](http://dmnews.com) when asked how the sales team interacts with consumers: *"Certainly via a variety of different social and electronic methods. We've tried to respond in every way that they wanted to interact with us, whether that was via video chat to email to text message to Twitter to LinkedIn. We looked at all the variety of methods that were convenient for the customer...to get them the information they needed in a timely manner."*

## Lesson 7.2

### The Sales Process

#### A. Sales process

1. Steps to effective implementation and management of the sales process
  - a. Understand the product or service
    - i. What inventory (seat locations etc.) is available to be sold?
    - ii. How much does the product or service cost?
    - iii. What are the features and benefits to your product or service?
  - b. Identify prospective customers and develop leads
    - i. Leads are the names of individuals and companies who could become future customers
    - ii. This step is often referred to as *prospecting*
  - c. Qualify and gather information about a prospective customer
    - i. Do they have experience with your team, venue, or event?
    - ii. What influence do they have over the purchasing decision?
  - d. Contact prospective customers (the sales call)
    - i. The sales call is the initial form of communication in which the salesperson makes contact with the prospective customer
    - ii. Sales calls can take place via telephone, e-mail or in person
    - iii. Utilized by both inside sales and outside sales representatives
    - iv. Often times salespeople will use a pre-written script to help guide them with a telephone sales call
  - e. Establish credibility, rapport and a reason to communicate with the customer
    - i. Secure a sale or, more likely, schedule a face-to-face appointment
    - ii. The face-to-face appointment provides a valuable opportunity for the sales professional to build rapport and establish a relationship with the customer
  - f. Identify and confirm a customer's needs
    - i. Sales people often conduct a "needs analysis" to determine where company products and services may be able to assist a prospective customer in meeting their organization's goals and objectives
  - g. Presentation and proposal
    - i. Increase customer awareness and interest in company products and services
    - ii. This communication takes place in some form of a presentation
    - iii. This information can be presented in the form of a proposal
    - iv. A **proposal** is a written recommendation of products or services his or her organization may offer to meet those customer needs uncovered in the needs analysis
    - v. Each proposal is customized to meet specific customer needs
  - h. Ask prospective customers to act on an interest in company products or services
    - i. Asking for acceptance of the proposal or for a purchase decision
  - i. Handle objections
    - i. **Objections** are a prospective customer's concerns or hesitations in making a purchase decision
      - (a) Occur when there is lingering doubt or unanswered questions in the mind of the prospect <sup>8</sup>
      - (b) The prospective customer may be favorably inclined to make a purchase but needs clarification, more concessions, or approval by another party <sup>8</sup>
    - ii. It is the responsibility of the sales professional to uncover and overcome each objection to the customer's satisfaction
    - iii. Objection examples

- (a) "I'm not a sports fan"
- (b) "I don't have time to attend games"
- (c) "We don't have a budget for a sponsorship..."
- (d) "I need to discuss this with my boss..."
- (e) "I can get the same results for less money by doing something else..."
- (f) "Tickets are too expensive..." (19.1% of respondents to ESPN's "State of Sports" survey indicated that ticket prices were the "biggest rip-off" in sports)<sup>9</sup>
- j. Close
  - i. The close is the stage of the sales cycle where the prospective customer and the sale professional come to an agreement on pricing and services, in which the customer typically commits to a purchase of some kind
  - ii. The close is when the prospective customer becomes an official client
  - iii. Sales professionals often make the mistake of thinking this is the last step of the sales process
- k. Follow up
  - i. The follow up stage is critical to ensure a satisfied and happy customer
  - ii. The organization is responsible for ensuring all services agreed upon throughout the sales process are fulfilled
  - iii. Much new business for any organization comes from existing business
- l. Fulfillment and service
  - i. Fulfillment is the process of following through and delivering on all promised services to the customer
  - ii. Meeting and exceeding customer expectations is integral to retaining their business in the future
    - (a) In a [Wall Street Journal story](#), Jay Fishman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Travelers explained why Travelers decided to extend its sponsorship of a PGA Tour event through 2024: "*The tournament has grown tremendously in the last seven years and has exceeded our expectations. With this agreement, we will continue to build on this world-class event for the fans, the players, our employees and our community.*"
  - iii. Renewal is the agreement between the organization and customer to continue the business relationship for a pre-determined, often contractual, period of time
    - (a) In addition to sponsorship and media rights, renewals also occur between ticket holders and an organization
      - (i) As season tickets are a key revenue driver for many sports teams, renewing these customers is often a top priority
        - 1. Teams offer incentives to entice season ticket holders to renew seats
          - a. Incentives typically include benefits available exclusive to season ticket packages
            - i. Could include such incentives as private autograph sessions, early entry into games, additional ticket discounts, flexible payment plans, concession and merchandise credits, better seating locations, access to team practices and private events, etc.
            - ii. Columbia University rolled out a unique season ticket benefit with the announcement of "[Zip Pass](#)", a private concessions line accessible only to season ticket holders (a trend that has caught on with many sports teams and venues)
            - iii. The NHL's Dallas Stars and Washington Capitals treat season ticket holders to a day at the local six flags amusement park, while the NBA's LA Clippers spent a day with season ticket holders at Universal Studios

- (ii) Many organizations are turning to more creative and unique benefit offers to help retain customers
  - 1. After another season in which the Phoenix Suns struggled on the court, the franchise turned to virtual reality for a creative twist on their 2017 season ticket renewal campaign
    - a. Current season ticket holders were sent a cardboard box with VR goggles they could activate with their cell phones to watch the team's three-minute renewal pitch
      - i. According to [Sports Business Journal](#), the VR video featured game and practice footage, and a message from the team's star Devin Booker, urging fans to renew their season-ticket packages
  - 2. In 2019, the Minnesota Timberwolves offered season ticketholders a once-in-a-lifetime [experience](#) by inviting them to Paisley Park, a private concert, and the chance to interact with the team's players as the franchise unveiled their Prince-inspired "city edition" Nike uniforms
  - 3. Last season, the LA Galaxy enlisted the help of their international star player, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, to help encourage season ticketholders to renew
    - a. The team [emailed](#) season ticketholders with a pre-recorded message from the famously brash soccer star that simply stated "Dear (Season Ticketholder), You will renew now. – Zlatan"
    - b. Click [here](#) to see a video of Zlatan in action on the phone on the Galaxy's YouTube page
- (iii) Click here for a story emphasizing the importance of season ticket renewals for Florida State University in the leadup to the Seminoles' 2019 football season from [tallahassee.com](#).

m. Evaluation

- i. Measuring the results of a promotional investment (season tickets, luxury suites, sponsorships, endorsement agreements) help an organization determine its effectiveness
- ii. Evaluations are typically objective (sales fluctuations) but can also be subjective (increased media attention or public awareness)
- iii. It is important for the sales professional to be involved in this step of the process to gain a better understanding of whether or not they are meeting client needs
- iv. Many sports and entertainment organizations set ticket, merchandise and concessions sales objectives with daily, weekly, and monthly targets. The sales data is then compared with information from the same date for the previous year.
  - (a) Disneyland might set a daily guest target of 50,000 visitors during the winter months based on sales results during that period in previous years, then establish similar goals for weekly merchandise sales and monthly concessions sales
  - (b) For example, the addition of "Rule 40" (a new rule that allows individual athletes to partner with non-Olympic sponsors) could potentially hinder the value of McDonald's current deal with the International Olympics Committee
    - (i) John Lewicki, who oversees McDonald's global Olympic sponsorship program, says the company will use these games to evaluate whether to continue future Olympic deals
    - (ii) Said Lewicki in a recent [Reuters](#) story: *"If we find rule 40 impacts the value of our sponsorship, we could always go back and renegotiate for the future."* <sup>10</sup>



**\* ACTIVITY IDEA \***

*Have students split up in pairs. One person will begin by making a mock phone call to the other in which they are playing the role of sports marketer while the other is playing the role of the fan (consumer). Using the steps provided in this lesson, the goal is to sell the other student season tickets to their favorite sports team. After one student has gone through the sales process, have them switch roles.*

## Lesson 7.3

### Sales Strategies, Skills and Techniques

- A. Personal sales strategies
  - 1. Collaborative selling
    - a. The salesperson and client take time to understand one another and develop a relationship according to the sales person's offer and the client's needs
  - 2. Transactional selling
    - a. The salesperson and client have limited interaction and the sale is based mostly on price or a specific element
  - 3. Team selling
    - a. A variation of collaborative selling that includes multiple people from the selling or buying organization, or both
- B. Sales skills and techniques
  - 1. Prospecting is the process of consistently researching for and seeking out new customers for an organization's products and services
    - a. Prospecting is a very detail-oriented process requiring careful research and analysis
    - b. A sales professional might research local businesses online that fit the demographics of a qualified potential customer
    - c. Sales professionals may explore several avenues when prospecting to develop quality sales leads
      - i. Trade Shows
      - ii. Industry Events
      - iii. Networking Events
      - iv. Consumer Lists
      - v. Directories
      - vi. Industry Publications
  - 2. Referrals occur when an existing customer recommends another organization or individual to a sales professional as a potential customer
    - a. Referrals are traditionally an extremely effective means for generating new sales
      - i. Between 60% and 70% of all fitness industry sales are the direct result of referrals <sup>11</sup>
      - ii. According to a 2019 Bleacher Report [study](#), 36% of U.S. soccer fans aged 26-39 became soccer fans due to influence from their friends
      - iii. To encourage referrals, the Vancouver Whitecaps offered a 12% discount on season ticket packages and a 6% "commission" (credited to their account) for fans who refer friends to purchase season tickets
        - (a) Click [here](#) for an in-depth look at the Whitecaps' referral program from the National Sports Forum
      - iv. According to the [Nashville Post](#), Tennessee State launched a 'Drive for Five' campaign with the goal to increase season ticket sales to 5,000 by the start of the 2019 football season, leaning heavily on referral business to help them reach that goal
        - (a) To incentivize referrals, the program offered 50 percent off TSU merchandise at a home game to anyone who referred someone to purchase a season ticket package
  - 3. Networking occurs when a group of like-minded business people gather to help each other to cultivate sales
    - a. **Business-to-business** (also known as B2B) **marketing** involves activities one business makes in effort to sell their products and services to another business, rather than to the individual consumer

- b. Sales people often involve themselves in local organizations and functions in an effort to connect with as many new people as possible
- c. Chamber of Commerce meetings provide an exceptional means for meeting other business professionals who could become future customers or offer referrals
- d. For example, ticket sales staff for the Portland Trail Blazers are likely to network at events with business people involved with organizations like Portland Executives Association, Portland Business Alliance, Oregon Executives Association, Portland Area Networking Group, and Women Entrepreneurs of Oregon (to name a few)
- 4. Cold calling refers to a sales professional's effort to generate new business through outgoing telephone calls without any previous communication with the prospective customer
  - a. The cold calling technique is generally a less productive means for generating sales than other techniques (networking and referrals) because the personal relationship element is non-existent

## Lesson 7.4

### Importance of Customer Service

#### *\* DISCUSSION IDEA \**



*Think about the last experience you had with a customer service representative. What was the interaction like? Were they accommodating? Was it a positive experience or negative experience? Did the customer service representative's assistance resolve your issue? Do you think that company's customer service should be improved? Why or why not?*

#### A. Customer service

1. **Customer service** is the action taken by the seller to make the relationship between the organization and its customers satisfactory
  - a. Many organizations strive to meet and exceed customer expectations, often times integrating service goals with company mission statements
2. Customer service represents a critical step in the sales process and is ultimately about gaining and retaining the customer base <sup>12</sup>
3. Customer service's role is to help customers enjoy their relationship with the sports or entertainment organization <sup>13</sup>
4. The customer service experience begins when the customer arrives at the event and does not conclude until they have left their parking space after the event
5. Minor league baseball has seen an increase of 50% in its total attendance in the last ten years, thanks in large part to its focus on providing the best customer service possible <sup>14</sup>

#### B. Who are the customers?

1. In past team business planning sessions, the National Basketball Association (NBA) has identified customers as "full season ticket purchasers, partial plan holders, individual game purchasers (walk-ups), group purchasers, sponsors, community relations program participants, people who read our publications, people who watch our games on TV, listen on the radio or log onto our site – *in short, anyone with an interest*" <sup>15</sup>

#### C. The benefits of customer service

1. There are a number of benefits to an organization that have a direct correlation with providing excellent customer service
  - a. Increased levels of customer retention and cost reduction
  - b. Decline in negative associations with organization via word-of-mouth advertising
  - c. An opportunity to provide a source of differentiation
  - d. Amplified levels of profitability
  - e. Creation of brand loyalty
  - f. New sales opportunities through positive word-of-mouth associations

D. Why is customer service important?

1. According to Customer Service Institute, it can cost up to as 5 times as much to acquire a new customer than it does to service an existing one
2. According to the same institution, customers tell twice as many people about a bad experience over a good one
3. 68% of all customers will eventually switch service providers (entertainment options, advertising outlets etc.)<sup>16</sup>
4. It takes twelve positive service incidents to make up for one negative incident<sup>17</sup>
5. Retention (renewal) is crucial to any sports team as season ticket and sponsorship revenue is a vital piece of the organizations' financial viability
  - a. After several years of declining sponsorship revenue, NASCAR has hinted that it will be moving to a new model for attracting, and retaining, corporate partners. Plans [reportedly](#) call for a new model to be in place for the 2020 racing season.<sup>18</sup>
  - b. According to a [story](#) published in the National Sports Forum's electronic newsletter, the Milwaukee Brewers believe that the key to retaining new customers and attracting new ones is to provide "over the top" customer service<sup>21</sup>
    - i. Said Jim Bathey, Vice President of Consumer Marketing for the team, "*We have been successful at selling tickets over the last couple of years because our focus is to provide over the top customer service and because our (sales staff) develops personal relationships with our (customers).*"<sup>19</sup>
  - c. One of the first tasks for the new NHL franchise in Las Vegas was to hire a customer service staff
    - i. Team executive Todd Pollock, told the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#): "*We want to be fair to everybody. We're adding a dozen salespeople to the staff and make sure we have the best customer service.*"

E. Turning service into sales

1. For most segments of the sports industry, 70% of consumers are referred by word of mouth from existing customers<sup>20</sup>
  - a. Sports and entertainment marketing professionals have a responsibility to retain those customers to grow the fan base
2. Many organizations create marketing strategies that cater to both existing and new customers with an emphasis shifting toward existing customers
3. Positive relationships with an organization's customer base enable them to effectively implement and utilize referral programs
  - a. The minor league hockey franchise Corpus Christi Hooks offered a free, personalized team jersey to any ticketholder who referred up to three people to purchase Hooks season tickets<sup>21</sup>
  - b. DirecTV, a longtime leader in delivering sports programming to fans, offers its customers \$100 in credit toward their cable bill for every new customer they refer while providing a significant "new subscriber" discount<sup>22</sup>
4. "Up selling" opportunities become more frequent with happy customers
  - a. **Up selling** is the process of selling additional products to a customer at the time of the order
    - i. For example, a theatre fan might call to purchase tickets to an upcoming performance. During the conversation, the sales representative may suggest group tickets to that event or additional tickets to another upcoming play.
    - ii. The NHL's Phoenix Coyotes created up selling opportunities when they advertised seats with a partially obstructed view for only eight dollars, then turned those seats into 12 game mini plans, and then sold those same fans seats with better views of the ice (at an additional cost)<sup>23</sup>

5. Empathetic approach to sales and service (listening to fans)
  - a. By recognizing the day-to-day challenges facing most consumers (fans) and understanding what consumers want, some organizations take an empathetic approach to sales and service
    - i. The Seattle Sounders soccer franchise gives season-ticket holders the opportunity to vote out the team's GM every four years if they are disappointed in team performance, an approach that has helped cultivate one of the most loyal fan bases in American sports
      - (a) Per game, the Sounders outdraw the Mariners almost 2 to 1, their attendance of nearly 39,000 would place eighth in the English Premier League, merchandise sales are on a par with the Seahawks, and NBA commissioner David Stern called the Sounders "the most successful expansion team in the history of sports."<sup>24</sup>
    - ii. The [Review Journal](#) reported when UFC fighter Jon Jones was taken off the main event at UFC 200 for a doping violation, the organization offered fans an opportunity to receive a refund for their tickets
  - b. Many sports and entertainment organizations proactively solicit feedback to help improve anything from customer relations and fan experience to the product itself
    - i. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver encouraged fans to email him directly ([Adam@NBA.com](mailto:Adam@NBA.com)) with any ideas they had to improve the quality of the NBA All-Star Game
      - (a) Fans were also encouraged to share ideas through Facebook and Twitter
    - ii. When the NLL announced in 2019 that the city of New York would be getting a new franchise, the front office decided to let fans determine the new team name
      - (i) The team asked fans to vote on the franchise website, and overwhelmingly the community [selected](#) "Riptide" as the new name for the team
    - iii. When the Minor League Baseball Kannapolis Intimidators sought to rebrand the franchise in 2019 as part of its "Branded by You" campaign, the team penned an open letter to fans requesting feedback on a new name
      - (a) Click [here](#) to read the letter in its entirety
    - iv. When developing a branding strategy and determining a nickname for its expansion NHL franchise, the Seattle Kraken leaned heavily on feedback from fans
      - (a) Said Tod Leiweke, the team's CEO, in a [statement](#): "*The Kraken is a name born of the fans. It was suggested and championed by the fans.*"
    - v. To add more perceived value for season ticket holders, the NHL's Ottawa Senators' solicited the opinions of its season ticket customers on a potential change to the team's logo
      - (a) Click [here](#) to see some of the new logo ideas shared with ticket holders from Chris Creamer's SportsLogos.Net website.
    - vi. In 2019, the Baltimore Ravens added 16 new escalators in the stadium in response to fans who had been [complaining](#) for years about the challenges in reaching the venue's 500 level
- F. According to a "State of the Industry" poll conducted by the *Sports Business Journal*, 20% of sports business executives think the sports industry is behind the rest of the business world when it comes to customer service. So how can organizations improve levels of customer service?<sup>25</sup>
  1. Create and maintain an open line of communication with fans
    - a. [Turnkey](#) Sports & Entertainment published a report (and subsequent infographic) suggesting a season ticket holder's overall satisfaction was negatively impacted by a simple lack of knowing who to contact when they had a concern

- i. Click [here](#) to view the infographic
2. *Meet and exceed* levels of customer expectation
  - a. To improve their level of customer satisfaction, Michigan International Speedway front office staff attended customer service training at the Disney Institute, according to a [Sports Business Journal](#) report <sup>26</sup>
  - b. One young football fan from Oklahoma (where no NFL team currently calls home) sent a letter to every NFL team asking why he should root for them...click [here](#) to read how the Carolina Panthers (as the only NFL team to respond) probably earned a loyal fan for life
3. Provide a comfortable environment for fans
  - a. Venues and facilities should be clean, music volume should not be too loud, and temperature should be comfortable (indoor events)
4. *Listen* and respond to customer feedback (includes suggestions, criticism, compliments and complaints)
  - a. The owner of the Washington Capitals, Ted Leonsis, took a proactive approach to encouraging valuable fan feedback. To engage the consumer to maximize the organization's level of customer service, he turned to the web and used an online message board. He asked, "If you could change one thing about your experience with the Caps, what would it be?" His staff reviewed the fan input and created a response forum called "You Asked for It." The most popular suggestions were listed with the team's response which included the Caps' plans for changes, new developments and ideas for new programs. <sup>27</sup>
  - b. In its latest "Ultimate Standings" (in which ESPN the Magazine ranks the best franchises in sports) report, ESPN crowned the Nashville Predators as the best team in all of sports, a decision that was heavily influenced by the team's approach to customer service and willingness to give the fans a voice
    - i. The formula used to determine the ranking includes factors like fan relations (described as courtesy by players, coaches and front offices toward fans) and honesty from ownership (loyalty to core players and the community). <sup>28</sup>
    - ii. Click [here](#) to see the entire rankings from espn.com
  - c. Major League Soccer's expansion Portland Timbers took the league by storm in 2011 from an attendance perspective, selling out every single home game (and every game since then), in large part because the organization worked closely with the team's loyal group of fan supporters (the Timbers Army) in the development of the critical early stages of a marketing campaign <sup>29</sup>
    - i. In 2020, to help celebrate the franchise's 10<sup>th</sup> year as a MLS club, the team brought back the marketing campaign they used in the league's first season which celebrates the Timbers' relationship with its fans
    - ii. The team hosted a photo shoot with fans holding an axe (20,000 photos were taken of 3,000 people, some of whom [reportedly](#) lined up for four hours to participate) and the "[winning](#)" photos were placed on billboards throughout the city
      - (a) As part of the 10-year anniversary promotion, the team partnered with the Oregon Historical Society, establishing a Timbers exhibit that would highlight team artifacts sourced from fans, former coaches and players
  - d. The Executive Chef at Miller Park (home of the Milwaukee Brewers) took to the [Brewers' blog page](#) to interact with fans and address questions and concerns on the message board relating to concessions items after a review of the stadium food was posted online

- e. According to the [Oregonian](#), the Oregon State Beavers basketball program ranked first in overall season ticket holder satisfaction and by polling fans to find out what suggestions they had to improve the overall game experience, they are sure to maintain high levels of brand loyalty and customer retention
  - i. According to the news story, the most common suggestions for the program were a better sound system, improved concessions and cheaper parking. As a result, the Beavers contracted a new concessionaire to offer new food items and more concession locations for home games next season.
- f. Soliciting fan feedback isn't only important in the context of season ticket and sponsorship renewal, but also every other aspect of running a successful organization
  - i. According to [Sports Business Journal](#), in 2019, Major League Soccer conducted market research to study the characteristics and consumer behavior of soccer fans in the U.S.
  - ii. The data collected helped the league to create "internal report card(s)" for each individual franchise to measure how well the team is meeting the needs of its fanbase
5. Incorporate the customer service element into the organization's mission statement
  - a. For example, the Chicago Bulls place an emphasis on service in their mission statement as part of their organizational philosophy
    - i. "The Chicago Bulls organization is a sports entertainment company dedicated to winning NBA Championships, growing new basketball fans, and providing superior entertainment, value and **service**."
      - (a) Click [here](#) to read the team's mission statement in its entirety
6. Respond quickly to customer complaints
7. Take a proactive approach in making sure the stakeholders (ticket holders, sponsors, donors etc.) know the organization appreciates their support
  - a. Many athletic programs, the California Men's Basketball team, make annual [phone calls](#) to personally thank ticket holders for their support
  - b. When student-athletes representing all 20 of the University of California, Santa Barbara intercollegiate athletics teams called donors to the Gaucho Fund during the annual Thank-a-Thon, raising \$2.2 million, the second highest single year of funds since the launch of the Campaign for UC Santa Barbara in 2005.
    - i. The University also received a record single gift to athletics of over \$2 million for scholarship support for both tennis programs that year <sup>30</sup>
  - c. One of the biggest challenges facing sports and entertainment marketing professionals during the pandemic was determining ways to "make good" on relationships with team partners when seasons were canceled and postponed
    - i. Without games being played in front of fans or on television, sponsors were not receiving the exposure and connection with fans that they had paid for and teams were forced to consider "make good" strategies to keep partners happy
8. Determine appropriate staff size dedicated to customer service
  - a. [Sports Business Journal](#) reports the Philadelphia Union set records in renewal percentage and revenue after beefing up their customer service staff last season
    - i. The staff increase meant instead of just 1 service rep available per 1,400 ticketholders, the team would provide 1 rep for every 500 ticketholders
    - ii. In large part to the increased attention to service, the team's 86% renewal rate far exceeded the league average of 80%

9. Utilize technology
  - a. The Atlanta Braves integrated a customer service “bot” into their ballpark app, allowing the team to collect fan feedback and provide answers to basic questions about parking, concessions, ticketing and other stadium-related topics
  - b. Last season, Minor League Baseball signed a deal to create bilingual chatbots that will provide in-venue, real-time customer service for its partner ballclubs
    - i. According to Kurt Hunzeker, former MiLB vice president of marketing strategy and research, in an interview with the [\*New York Business Journal\*](#): *“It’s all about using technology to help our clubs be more responsive and better serve our fans and allow them to have a more personalized experience at the ballpark.”*

## Lesson 7.5

### Sales Professionals

#### A. What makes a good salesperson? <sup>31</sup>

##### 1. Criteria

- a. Belief in the product
- b. Good listener
- c. Sense of humor
- d. Self-motivated and self-disciplined
- e. Strong work ethic
- f. Personable
- g. Knowledgeable
- h. Someone who asks questions and listens
- i. Self confident (not to be confused with arrogant!)
- j. Ability to build relationships
- k. "Thick skinned" (ability to handle the inevitable frequent rejection)
- l. Effective time management skills

#### B. Skills

- a. Good salespeople will never lose contact with prospective customers
  - i. This technique is often referred to as "knocking on old doors"
- b. Successful salespeople consistently ask everyone to buy
- c. Effective salespeople follow up with customers after the sale with the same dedication they demonstrated before the sale

#### C. "Game plan"

- a. Good salespeople will devise a sales strategy that best caters to their strengths
- b. A quality game plan includes gaining knowledge not only of company products and services, but of the backgrounds of prospective customers
- c. Effective salespeople devise and implement effective time management plans

#### D. What characteristics do employers look for in sales professionals?

1. Rick Campbell, former Vice-President of Premium Seating for Comcast-Spectacor (Philadelphia Flyers and Philadelphia 76ers), offers insight on characteristics that shape an effective sales professional
  - a. *"We look for sales people who are self-driven with a desire to learn, along with a sense of self confidence, knowledgeable about the industry, and a likeable personality. Building, maintaining and nurturing relationships are incredibly important to the sales cycle, so we want someone we know can be effective in that area. Finally, we want someone who can display a track record of excellence and can show how a strong work ethic led to those previous successes."* <sup>32</sup>

## Lesson 7.6

### Promotion

#### \* DISCUSSION IDEA \*



*What role do you think promotions play in sports and entertainment organization's marketing strategies? Can you think of an example of a promotion for a sports or entertainment event you recently attended (movie, game, play etc.)?*

#### A. Promotion

1. **Promotion** is any form of communication used to inform, persuade, or remind people about company products or services <sup>33</sup>
2. Promotion plays a significant role in the creation and maintenance of the levels of commitment and emotional involvement customers have in an organization <sup>34</sup>
3. Promotions exist as a tool to help generate sales and retain existing customers
4. Sports and entertainment promotion can be described as creative events providing maximum exposure for an organization, including the creation and implementation of sponsorship and event marketing activities to attract an audience <sup>30</sup>
  - a. Critical elements of sports promotion <sup>35</sup>
    - i. Athlete representation
    - ii. Marketing consulting
    - iii. Integrated event management
    - iv. Sponsorship fulfillment
5. The goals of sports and entertainment promotion <sup>36</sup>
  - a. Generating sales
  - b. Attracting a targeted audience
  - c. Helping to create a positive image

#### B. Promotion mix

1. The **promotion mix** consists of any combination of advertising, sales promotion, publicity, direct marketing, and personal selling <sup>37</sup>
  - a. Could include trade shows and other exhibition events
2. Key factors that affect decisions regarding the promotions mix <sup>38</sup>
  - a. Stage of product life cycle
  - b. Distribution channels
  - c. Competitor strategies
  - d. The product or service being promoted
  - e. Organization resources
  - f. Accessibility of various promotional methods

#### C. Forms of promotion <sup>39</sup>

1. Sales promotions
  - a. Sales promotion involves activities or communications that encourage consumers to purchase products or services <sup>40</sup>
  - b. Sales promotions are usually short term, encouraging consumers to act quickly

- i. For example, a local health or fitness club may run a sales promotion offering “limited-time” membership opportunities <sup>41</sup>
- ii. Another popular example of sales promotion includes the offer of “limited” or “special” edition products (or “for a limited time only”)
  - (a) For last year’s Boston Marathon, a number of brands offered special edition versions of running shoes (such as Adidas’ customizable sneaker that let runners print up to 10 characters — or their personal record post-race — on the side of the shoe) <sup>42</sup>
  - (b) Brooks Running Company introduced a limited edition Boston-themed variation of one of its popular running shoes featuring a [lobster](#) design while New Balance made a few thousand special edition pairs of running shoes available with the word “[Fastah](#)” emblazoned on the sole and the city’s skyline printed on the insole
  - (c) In 2019, Dunkin’ and Saucony, two iconic Boston-based brands, collaborated on a limited-edition shoe release to celebrate the Boston Marathon that came in a shoe box that resembled a Dunkin’ doughnut box
    - (i) The shoes quickly sold out, generating not only sales but publicity and brand awareness for two companies that were not official sponsors of the race
- c. Sales promotion activities could include:
  - i. Premium item give-aways
    - (a) Examples of premium giveaways include free bats to the first 2000 fans through the gate at Yankee Stadium, or “swag bag” giveaways containing cosmetics and other gifts given out to attendees at the Cannes Film Festival
    - (b) [Promotions](#) range from traditional (like the aforementioned “bat day” promotion) to the whacky and bizarre (such as the 2014 Charleston River Dogs’ “[Disco Demolition 2: You better believ it](#)” event where fans were offered \$1 tickets for bringing in Miley Cyrus or Justin Bieber music and merchandise to be blown up after the game)
  - ii. Contests and sweepstakes
    - (a) In keeping with the trend of creating unique fan experiences for consumers, Jack’s Links rolled out a Major League Fishing “[Ultimate Dream](#)” sweepstakes providing a chance for 30 fans to go fishing with a MLF pro <sup>43</sup>
    - (b) Denny’s launched a sweepstakes as part of a “Solo: A Star Wars Story” movie tie-in promotion that encouraged Star Wars fans to come to a local restaurant and play a virtual dice game for a chance to win prizes including movie tickets and autographed movie posters
    - (c) Nestle Waters teamed up with WWE for a co-branded “Choose Water” campaign that featured a sweepstakes offering a a trip for four to the WWE SummerSlam event in Toronto in 2019
      - (i) According to [Media Post](#), fans just needed to follow WWE on Twitter or Instagram and post using a branded hashtag about how they were making healthier beverage, food or lifestyle decisions to enter the sweepstakes
    - (d) In 2020, the Pringles and Cheez-It teamed up with the Overwatch League for a sweepstakes promotion to reach the rapidly growing esports fan base despite the cancelation of live esports events during the pandemic
      - (i) Fans who entered the sweepstakes had a chance to win a trip for two to the 2020 Overwatch Grand Finals and 250 jerseys from Overwatch League teams were given away at random to participating consumers

- iii. Sampling
  - (a) RockTape, a brand of athletic tape, sponsored the 2017 Reebok CrossFit Games and one of the components of the sponsorship enables the brand to distribute samples at CrossFit events
  - (b) As part of their three-year deal with U.S. Ski & Snowboarding, Clif Bar (the energy bar), will not only be available to athletes in abundance, but samples will be provided to fans attending the various USSA events <sup>44</sup>
  - (c) Every year during the college football season, Texas Pete Hot Sauce sponsors a tailgate tour, providing tailgating fans at ACC, Big Ten, Big 12 and Pac-10 schools with samples of its products <sup>45</sup>
  - (d) As presenting sponsor of the Dew Tour, Mountain Dew provides product samples at all participating event venues <sup>46</sup>
  - (e) As part of La Roche-Posay's sponsorship of the 2020 Australian Open as the official sunscreen [partner](#) of the event, the company set up Sunscreen Stations at the venue offering free samples for tennis fans in attendance
- iv. Point-of-purchase displays (also known as "POP" displays)
  - (a) Each year, grocery stores around the country often feature creative POP displays featuring a Super Bowl or March Madness theme
  - (b) According to [Hollywood Reporter](#), Mtime (*Warcraft's* exclusive merchandising partner in China) credited their use of POP displays for helping them sell over \$10 million in merchandise prior to the *Warcraft* film's release
    - (i) In addition to 20 large-scale interactive exhibitions in upscale shopping malls, Mtime created 130 movie specialty stores in Chinese cinemas and then brought in another 150 pop-up stands during the movie's first week
    - (ii) Moviegoers were given a 15% discount if they presented a *Warcraft* ticket stub
- v. Discounts and Couponing
  - (a) The latest fan engagement study (conducted by Catalyst) revealed that 44% of soccer fans "liked" or "followed" a brand on social media as a result of the brand posting a coupon or discount offer online <sup>47</sup>
  - (b) In 2019, the Minnesota Twins experienced one of the biggest attendance drops in Major League Baseball, according to [USA Today](#)
    - (i) To combat the attendance issue, the Twins launched a discounted ticket program, reducing ticket prices to \$5 for select tickets to all the team's home games in May
    - (ii) The team quickly sold 20,000 tickets as a result of the promotion, ultimately deciding to release even more tickets at that price point <sup>48</sup>
  - (c) After Damian Lillard dropped 61 points in the bubble during the 2020 NBA season restart, adidas [offered](#) a one-day only sales promotion by dropping the price of the "Dame 6" sneakers to \$61, a discount of nearly 50%
- vi. Special events
  - (a) In an effort to boost attendance at a men's basketball game, the New Mexico State Athletics Department staged a "[pajama party](#)" which later erupted into a pillow fight. The event generated a lot of excitement among students, ultimately resulting in over 1800 students attending, a 125% increase over the per game average. <sup>49</sup>



**\* ACTIVITY IDEA \***

*To have some fun teaching the concept of promotion, consider sharing the “Promotion – The MiLB Name Game” lesson plan bundle, complete with a lesson plan guide, PPT and activity rubric. The activity will allow for the re-introduction of concepts you have covered in previous units, including industry trends, branding, licensing, and merchandising. You can find the bundle in the lesson 7.6 folder.*



**\* ACTIVITY IDEA \***

*Challenge students to bring an example of at least four of the sales promotions above to class, whether it is a picture they snap at the local grocery store of a point-of-purchase display, a coupon they clip from a magazine, or a give-away item they received at an event.*

2. On-Field promotions
  - a. Promotions that take place on the playing field occur between game breaks
  - b. Many sports organizations consider the on-field promotions to be one of their most valuable and profitable pieces of sponsorship inventory
  - c. Promotions could include
    - i. Fan engagement promotions
      - (a) The New York Mets host a “Family Sundays” promotion which allows fans 12 and under to run the bases following the conclusion of the game
      - (b) Half-court shot promotions
        - (i) A VCU student once made a half-court shot at half time of a VCU home basketball game to win a free Papa John’s pizza for every fan in attendance that night (the retail value of the 7,248 pizzas was around \$100,000) <sup>50</sup>
    - ii. Races
      - (a) The Milwaukee Brewers feature a wildly popular “Sausage Race” at Miller Park home games. Four people in sausage costumes race around the infield warning track between the sixth and seventh innings at Brewers’ games to entertain fans. <sup>51</sup>
      - (b) After a video of the Atlanta Braves’ popular “Beat the Freeze” race promotion went viral, it quickly became one of the most talked about (and popular) promotions in sports
        - (i) Click [here](#) for an ESPN story describing how the Braves landed the “hottest promotion in sports”

- (c) The Atlanta Hawks found success with a similar promotion
  - (i) While it wasn't a "race", the concept was the same when the team challenged a fan pulled from the audience to try to stop local And1 Mixtape streetball legend 'Hot Sauce' from scoring for 24 seconds
  - (ii) According to the [Atlanta Business Journal](#), the premise was simple: stop Hot Sauce from scoring, and the fan would win a set of tires from team sponsor, Kumho Tire Co. Inc. However, it took nearly the entire season before someone did score, but the team enjoyed tons of publicity locally and nationally from the promotion.
- iii. After fans were kept from attending Minor League Baseball games in 2020 because of the pandemic, the Saint Paul Saints re-created all their popular on-field promotions virtually from the homes of the team's staff as part of their "[Nopening Day](#)" promotion
- iv. In-Venue promotions
  - (a) Promotions taking place at areas within a facility not directly associated with the playing field
  - (b) Example
    - (i) MasterCard might have a booth set up somewhere on the concourse of an NBA arena offering a free t-shirt bearing the name of the home team for those willing to sign up for a credit card
    - (ii) The Bridgeport Bluefish minor league baseball team partnered with Citibank on a special ticket promotion where all purchases made at a pre-determined game at the ballpark using a Citi credit or debit card received a \$2.00 ticket discount. Fans were also eligible to receive the same discount on advance tickets purchased that day for any remaining home games this season by using their Citi card.<sup>52</sup>
  - (c) Other promotions could include
    - (i) Contest giveaways
    - (ii) Lucky game program or lucky seat
    - (iii) Giveaways at the door
      - 1. According to [Custom Ink](#), there were 801 giveaway promotions at MLB ballparks scheduled for the 2018 season
      - 2. Like any other promotions, giveaways range from the traditional (such as bobblehead nights) to the bizarre (the San Antonio Missions once gave away a dozen used cars to randomly selected fans including a 1991 Jaguar and a 1990 Cadillac during a "Used Car Night" promotion)<sup>53</sup>
      - 3. From team jerseys and replica championship rings to garden gnomes and bobbleheads, finding the next "hot" giveaway item can have a significant impact on game day attendance.
        - a. 2012 marked the revival of the bobblehead craze as Major League Baseball teams offered bobblehead giveaways more than any other promotional giveaways for the first time since 2005.<sup>54</sup>
        - b. The trend continued in 2018 with Major League Baseball teams hosting 140 different bobblehead nights throughout the season (which is close to double the number of bobblehead promotions the MLB offered in 2010), according to Custom Ink's 2018 MLB [promotions study](#)
        - c. Bobblehead promotions have run the gamut on traditional giveaways featuring the likeness of popular players to more unconventional variations like the Lake Elsinore Storm's

- promotion of an Arnold Schwarzenegger bobble-biceps and Washington National's Jayson Werth bobble beard
  - i. Click [here](#) for an ESPN story, "How the Sharks Reinvented the Hockey Bobblehead" with their creative twist on the popular stadium giveaway promotion in 2018
  - d. A garden gnome giveaway that resembled the New York Mets' star pitcher, Noah Syndergaard, helped the team attract the largest crowd in Citi Field history
- 4. According to a story that appeared in the [Sports Business Journal](#), Major League Soccer's NYCFC club invested a "mid-six figures" for promotional giveaways for the 2020 season, representing a significant emphasis in creating ways to attract more fans to the stadium
  - a. Prior to the pandemic, the team planned a series of giveaways that would give fans the opportunity to collect five posters as part of the first-ever NYCFC Poster Series. Each poster in the collection reimagined an iconic NYC movie, blending together matches, moments and players from the Club's past, present and future.
- 3. Event promotions
  - a. Event promotions focus on a single event, as opposed to multiple events
    - i. Fireworks displays, film sneak previews, entertainment acts and special appearances
  - b. Event promotions have the potential for an enormous impact on attendance
    - i. According to a presentation on the Lake County Captains' website, the team's "Fireworks night" game promotions attract the largest crowds of the season, typically resulting in a sellout <sup>55</sup>
      - (a) Many teams offer extravagant event promotions in celebration of 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, one of the reasons minor league baseball has enjoyed so much success from an attendance perspective over the last few years
        - (i) 2017 marked the second time in three years that MiLB teams drew more than one million fans over the two-day span surrounding July 4<sup>th</sup>. In 2017, 10% of MiLB teams set franchise records for single-game attendance during the holiday.
          - 1. Click [here](#) to read more from ballparkdigest.com.
        - (ii) Last season, MiLB teams drew just shy of 1 million fans, with 994,983 baseball fans going to the park, not a bad draw considering the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fell on a Wednesday
          - 1. Additionally, MiLB teams attracted nearly 2.4 million fans for the week, marking the third-highest attendance total for a single week in the last 11 seasons
        - (iii) MiLB's Fort Wayne TinCaps broke the franchise attendance [record](#) at their 4<sup>th</sup> of July game in 2019, surpassing the mark set on July 4<sup>th</sup> five years earlier
      - ii. MiLB's Akron RubberDucks typically stack their promotional schedule to help attract more fans to their games, including fireworks event dates, pop culture themed bobblehead giveaways (like Shooter McGavin from the film 'Happy Gilmore' or Willie Mays Hayes "bobble-legs" from the film 'Major League'), theme nights for kids (super hero nights and princess nights), a 5K event at the ballpark and national entertainment acts like the popular ZOOperstars and Myron Noodleman

- iii. Two years ago, the Bowie Baysox drew 2,000 fans to the ballpark for their popular Star Wars night promotion even though the game was canceled due to rain <sup>56</sup>
    - iv. According to [Custom Ink](#), there were over 1,800 special event promos across Major League Baseball in 2018, with the San Diego Padres leading the league with 166 different special event promotions
      - (a) Click [here](#) for a graphic illustrating which MLB teams offered the most special event promos during the 2018 season
      - (b) Following a May home game in 2019, the Baltimore Orioles hosted a “League of Their Own” movie night at the ballpark, including a [giveaway](#) that featured “There’s no crying in baseball” t-shirts to the first 20,000 fans
    - v. According to [wtop.com](#), the West Michigan Whitecaps typically draw between 5,500 and 5,800 fans per game over the last four seasons. That figure increases by about 60% when the team hosts their annual “Star Wars Night” promotion, when they average more than 9,000 fans per game.
- 4. Off-Site promotions
  - a. Any promotional activities that occur away from an organization’s facility, venue or offices
    - i. Clinics and camps
    - ii. School functions (assemblies, etc.)
    - iii. Exhibition games
      - (a) An exhibition game between global soccer powers Manchester United and Real Madrid in 2014 at the University of Michigan’s football stadium sold out in less than a day and set a U.S. soccer attendance record with 109,318 fans, providing exposure for the growing sport of soccer and two global European soccer franchises looking to expand a fan base in new markets <sup>57</sup>
      - (b) In 2017, the city of Miami played host to “El Clasico”, an exhibition match between two of the most popular soccer clubs in the World (Real Madrid vs. FC Barcelona)
        - (i) The event not only attracted a sell-out crowd at Hard Rock Stadium (with upper level seats selling for over \$500 on the secondary market), but also drew thousands of fans in the days leading up to the game just to watch the team’s practice
      - (c) In 2018, a sold-out [NBA exhibition](#) game in Africa was broadcast live in the U.S. and in Africa in an effort to build excitement for the league throughout the country (and promoted through a number of social channels like [nba.com/africa](#); [Facebook.com/Africa](#) and Twitter [@NBA\\_Africa](#) using the hashtag [#NBAAfricaGame](#))
      - (d) Recognizing an opportunity to gain out-of-market fans on the heels of one of the most improbable seasons in sports history, the Las Vegas Golden Knights [hosted](#) a hockey camp for children in Boise, Idaho
    - iv. Off-site promotions help build relationships between properties and sponsors by helping to drive traffic to a sponsor’s place of business
      - (a) When the Minnesota Vikings and sponsor Buffalo Wild Wings teamed for a [“Back to Football Week at Buffalo Wings Wings”](#) promotion, they scheduled a number of player and “street team” appearances at BWW locations throughout the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area
  - b. Research indicates off-site promotions enhance fan identification
    - i. Fan identification is the emotional attachment an individual fan has toward a particular team or athlete

5. Full season promotions
  - a. Unlike event promotions, full season promotions take place at every game, match or event throughout an entire season
  - b. Full season promotions are effective because of the increase in the number of impressions and an elevated level of fan/consumer awareness
    - i. Higher frequency equates to increased exposure, resulting in an increased likelihood of the message having an impact with fans
    - ii. Washington Wizards home games featured a “Fowl Shot” promotion where, if a player on the opposing team misses two free throws in a row, the crowd would win a free sandwich compliments of Chick-fil-A (team sponsor) <sup>58</sup>
  - c. One popular sports promotion features a restaurant partnership with a team or league that offers a free food item if its partner team reaches a certain milestone at any point during the season
    - i. For example, as part of its “Bloomin’ Monday” promotion, NASCAR fans could visit any Outback Steakhouse for a free bloomin’ onion appetizer whenever Kevin Harvick finished in the top 10 in a race during the 2018 season
    - ii. In 2019, a Taco Bell promised fans a free Doritos Locos tacos as part of their “Steal a Game, Steal a Taco” and “Steal a Base, Steal a Taco” promotions that coincided with the NBA Finals and MLB World Series
      - (a) According to [QSR Magazine](#), the World Series promotion helped provide a 12% increase to its restaurants
    - iii. Last college basketball season, the upstart burger chain “Burgers Grilled Right” [launched](#) a “Bricks for Burgers” full season promotion with a unique spin. Rather than celebrating a highlight or milestone for the home team, they wanted to create a disadvantage for the opponent. Thus, “Bricks for Burgers” was born, where every fan in attendance would win a free burger if a player on the visiting team missed two free throws in a row at any point in the last eight minutes of the game.
6. Media promotions
  - a. Promotional activities that involve a media sponsor or tie-in
    - i. The presence of media promotion allows an organization to maximize attendance and event support throughout the community, ultimately helping the organization meet its goals and objectives
      - (a) Portland, Oregon’s annual Blues Festival is sponsored by the local newspaper (*Oregonian*), local radio stations (Kink FM and KBOO), local television station (KOIN 6) and a local online news provider (OregonLive.com)
      - (b) Every year, Blues Festival attendees donate thousands of pounds of food (translating to more than 2 million meals) while typically raising \$1 million or more to benefit the homeless <sup>59</sup>

## Unit 7 Key Terms Defined:

**Business-to-business** (also known as B2B) **marketing:** Involves activities one business makes in effort to sell their products and services to another business, rather than to the individual consumer

**Customer Service:** The action taken by the seller to make the relationship between the organization and its customers satisfactory

**Feature-Benefit Selling:** Involves matching specific product attributes to a customer's needs and wants

**Objections:** A prospective customer's concerns or hesitations in making a purchase decision

**Personal Selling:** Any person-to-person communication in which the seller has an opportunity to influence the consumer's buying decisions

**Promotion:** Any form of communication used to inform, persuade, or remind people about company products or services

**Promotion Mix:** Any combination of advertising, sales promotion, publicity, direct marketing, and personal selling

**Proposal:** A written recommendation of products or services his or her organization may offer to meet those customer needs uncovered in the needs analysis

**Sales:** The process of determining customer needs and wants through planned, personalized communication intended to influence purchase decisions and ensure satisfaction

**Up selling:** The process of selling additional products to a customer at the time of the order

## Unit 7 References & Resources:

- 1) NC Education Center, *Sports & Entertainment Marketing I*, ME 6670, Objective 4.01
- 2) <http://myespn.go.com/blogs/ncfnation/0-9-296/Western-Kentucky-goes-door-to-door----again.html>
- 3) *Sports Marketing: A Strategic Perspective*, M. Shank, p. 249
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## TEACHER NOTES

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