



COUNTY OF DARE

**PARKS & RECREATION**

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**MINIMUM  
STANDARDS  
for  
YOUTH SPORTS  
in  
Dare County**

# **PURPOSE/GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

## ***WHY Minimum Standards of Youth Sports in Dare County?***

To enhance the quality of life for Dare County youth by providing education and support for profit and non-profit sports organizations, and to provide a positive and safe environment where everyone can excel, be encouraged and have fun.

Youth sports are one of the greatest tools to help children develop positive character traits and life values. Unfortunately, the climate surrounding many of today's programs has become less than ideal. Reports of physical altercations and verbal sparring among volunteer coaches, parents and officials have dramatically increased. This volatility that has emerged across the youth sports landscape has sent a disturbing message to countless youngsters, as well as diluted the many wonderful things youth sports participation can provide when conducted in an appropriate fashion.

Children simply want to learn, make friends and enjoy the relatively short period of time they have to participate in organized youth sports. Dare County Parks and Recreation is dedicated to raising the standards of service to youth participating in sports. We need to be pro-active and take logical and effective steps to ensure a safe, positive and fun-filled experience for the children. Professional and volunteer administrators have lent their time and expertise in the development of the ***Minimum Standards of Youth Sports in Dare County***.

Our local leaders have passed a resolution of ***Minimum Standards of Youth Sports in Dare County*** which is a guide on how youth sports should operate in our community. All public entities or volunteer user groups using community facilities are required to meet the ***Minimum Standards of Youth Sports in Dare County***; ensuring every child has a positive and safe experience. Administrators must strictly monitor and enforce standards equally for everyone. We need to hold ***EVERYONE*** associated with youth sports accountable for their behavior.

The ***Minimum Standards of Youth Sports in Dare County*** outlines the minimum that is needed to assure communities offer children a safe, fun and stress-free sports environment. Volunteer coaches will complete a coaching certification program and be held accountable. Parents learn the role and responsibilities of supporting their child, the program and the coach. With the ***Minimum Standards of Youth Sports in Dare County*** our hopes are that the minimums are what are needed to keep kids coming back to play sports.

## **Dare County Parks and Recreation**

**PURPOSE:** To help improve the sport experience for youth by providing quality instructional resources, workshops, and courses for coaches, administrators, officials and parents.

**MOTTO:** Where kids have fun and learn the importance of team work & cooperation

**PHILOSOPHY:** Dare County Parks and Recreation is committed to providing a safe, healthy and fun learning environment to youth by educating parents, coaches and officials of their responsibilities.

# **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS**

The following minimum standards have been defined:

- Criminal Background Checks
- Coaches Education
- Education of Professional & Volunteer Administrators and Independent Groups
- Parent Education
- Education of Officials



# **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

## **BENEFITS**

To protect young athletes from individuals preying on children.

1. **APPLICATION FORM:** All persons directly involved in coaching or supervising an organized youth sports activity **MUST** complete an application. The application contains the following:
  - a. Name
  - b. Address
  - c. Date of birth
  - d. Social Security Number
  - e. Driver's license number
  - f. Criminal history check consent form
  - g. List of states resided in
  - h. Questions regarding convictions of a felony/misdemeanor?
  - i. Youth sports experience
  - j. Youth sports related references
  - k. References other than relatives
  
2. **CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS**
  - a. All applicants must have address verification prior to conducting criminal history check. Address verification must go back a minimum of seven years.
  - b. Types of crimes that disqualify a person from coaching/supervising organized youth sports activity:
    1. All felonies.
    2. Misdemeanor violent crimes against another person.
    3. Misdemeanor sex related crimes.
    4. Misdemeanor drug/alcohol related crimes
  - c. Overseeing supervisors will have the authority to evaluate each "red flag" situation on a case-by-case basis (utilizing a great deal of consistency) and a determination will be made as to whether the applicant's services will be retained.
  - d. Local authorities will have the right to establish additional criteria.
  - e. Criminal history checks must be done on a yearly basis.
  - f. All addresses appearing on the address verification report should be checked in all jurisdictions corresponding with address verification.
  - g. The following methods may be used to complete criminal history checks:
    1. State Police
    2. Local Law Enforcement Agency
    3. Federal Bureau of Investigations
    4. Commercial Information Systems
    5. National Alliance for Youth Sports
  - h. Check sex offender registry.
  - i. All efforts to comply with the State of Oregon confidentiality laws must be applied.

# **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR COACH'S EDUCATION**

## **BENEFITS**

Coach's education helps volunteers understand the psychology of coaching children, and gives coaches practical skills to help all kids have fun and maximizes their athletic skills.

1. Coaches will attend a non-sports specific training course that covers:
  - a. Knowledge of program philosophy
  - b. Program policies and procedures
  - c. Effective communication
  - d. Practice organization and planning
  - e. Sign a Coach's Code of Conduct
2. Knowledge of legal issues: state laws, attacking officials, car-pooling, child abuse reporting.
3. Training in sport specific rules and regulations.
4. Hold parent meetings before and after season.
5. Sign a Coach's Code of Conduct.
6. CPR and First Aid courses are encouraged.

# **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR OFFICIALS EDUCATION**

**BENEFITS** Training provides officials with detailed information on the skills, fundamentals, and common problem areas for officials.

1. Attend sports specific official training course that covers:
  - a. Knowledge of program philosophy
  - b. Policies and procedures of officiating
  - c. Effective communication
  - d. Rules and their enforcement
2. All officials will read, sign and adhere to a Code of Conduct

# **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE PROFESSIONAL and VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATOR**

## **BENEFITS**

Professional and volunteer administrators who use public and private facilities will attend trainings on how to properly run their programs prior to being granted use of facilities and they will be held accountable for their actions. Programs serve as a preventative measure and can ensure that adult volunteers using public facilities have the appropriate training, thereby reducing risk for facility owners.

### **1. YOUTH SPORTS PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

2. Training standards for the professional administrator include:

- a. Understand and have the authority to implement standards
- b. Knowledge of hiring and firing practices
- c. Authority to hire and fire coaches
- d. Knowledge of risk management and insurance
- e. Knowledge of evaluating, counseling, and disciplinary process
- f. Knowledgeable in accessing resources
- g. Access to resources and educational tools
- h. Knowledge of contractual agreements
- i. Program specifics

### **3. YOUTH SPORTS VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATOR**

- a. All sports leagues need to designate a representative for completing a training session which includes:
  - i. Developing and enforcing the league philosophy, policies and procedures
  - ii. Recruitment of coaches and volunteers
  - iii. Risk management and insurance
  - iv. Fundraising
  - v. Parent involvement
- b. Each organized youth sports league must designate a representative with the authority to identify the responsible party and oversee the coaches within the program.
- c. Independent groups will work with local community administrator to assure all requirements are met.

# **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR INDEPENDENT TEAMS/LEAGUES**

**BENEFITS** To assure that programs are for the children and the top priority is to have fun while providing a safe & positive environment.

1. All Independent teams/leagues must submit the following to the local Parks and Recreation office:
  - a. Proof of Liability Insurance, naming the agency as additional insured, to the league administrator.
  - b. Statement of financial review
  - c. Attend meetings
  - d. Coach's must attend DCPR non-sport specific training session (good for 2 years)
  - e. Parents must attend DCPR parent orientation (good for 2 years)
2. Parks and Recreation, School District or private facilities must:
  - a. Be willing to be a liaison
  - b. To assist independent teams /leagues with meeting all minimum standards
  - c. To provide "Stamp of approval" so teams can participate at other locations.
  - d. Develop contract/agreement that list the understandings between parties
3. All coaches, officials, scorekeepers and parents will read, sign and adhere to a Code of Conduct

# **MINIMUM STANDARDS OF PARENT EDUCATION**

**BENEFITS** To help parents better understand and be aware of their roles and responsibilities creating a positive experience for all children.

1. Parents must attend a parent orientation provided by the Dare County Parks and Recreation Department. This orientation will be good for two years.
2. Attend an orientation program that includes:
  - a. Questions parents should ask their child's coach
  - b. Effective communication: how to work with coaches
  - c. How to be a positive supporter
  - d. Volunteering to help the team
3. Parents learn to support their young athlete by:
  - a. Attending all parent meetings with coach
  - b. Making sure child attends all practices/games/social events
  - c. Signing and adhering to a Code of Conduct
  - d. Volunteering to help team

# **RESOLUTION**

Total buy-in at all levels is necessary to change the culture in youth sports. To ensure that the entire community operates consistently with regard to children's sports, it is necessary for the public entity to adopt a resolution.

**WHEREAS**, the County of Dare recognizes the need to inspire changes in youth sports to make the experience safe, positive and fun for everyone involved; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe in the benefits and attraction of youth sports as a means to teach the children of this community values and skills that will be of benefit to them throughout life; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that in order to realize the true value of youth sports participation and to provide a safe, positive and fun environment for youth and their families to participate, we must raise the standards among the users of our community's youth sports facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Recommendations For Communities that were derived from the National Summit on Raising Community Standards in Children's Sports outlines a comprehensive community strategy to assist us in meeting these objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that league organizers and administrators must be educated on how to provide a safe, positive and fun youth sports environment before being granted permits to use facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe volunteer coaches and parents must receive orientation and education as to their individual roles and responsibilities in our community's effort to raise the standards of youth sports programs and that volunteer coaches and parents be held accountable for their behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary and desirable to establish requirements and procedures for youth sports organizations utilizing the public facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, we believe young children must be given the opportunity to develop motor skills and sports specific knowledge with their parents in structured programs before they enter organized sports.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the County of Dare in a meeting duly assembled and by the authority thereof, recognize and encourage official implementation of this Minimum Standards in Youth Sports in Dare County to improve the culture of youth sports for all participants.

PASSED AND APPROVED FEBRUARY 2006  
BY THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2007.