

Minimum Standards for Youth Sports in Dare County



COUNTY OF DARE

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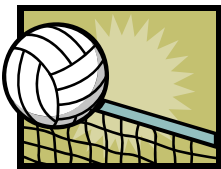


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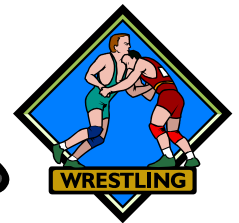
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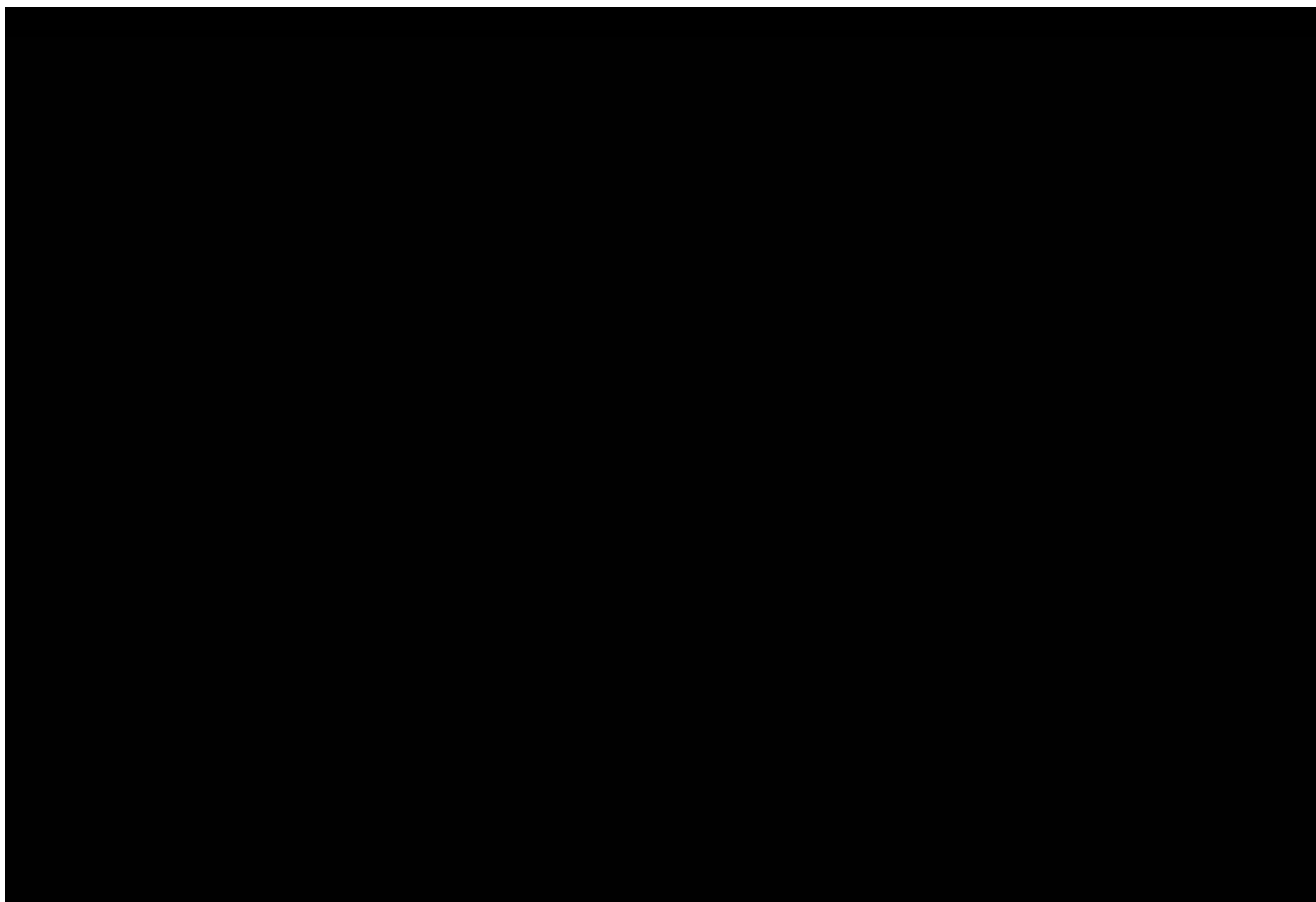
The Minimum Standards of Youth Sports in Dare County outlines the minimum that is needed to assure that our community offers children a safe, fun and positive sports environment.



WHAT CHILDREN ARE SAYING

The *Kid's Speak Out: Violence in Youth Sports* article that appeared in the August, 2001 issue of *Sports Illustrated For Kids* featured more than 3,000 reader responses to a youth sports violence survey. It found that:

- 57% of the respondents said there was too much violence in youth sports
- 74% said they have seen out-of-control adults at their games
- 36% said they have witnessed parents yelling at kids
- 27% said they have seen parents yelling at coaches or officials
- 25% said they have seen coaches yelling at officials or kids
- 4% said they have seen violent behavior by adults



A YOUTH SPORTS STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE MINNESOTA SPORTS COMMISSION FOUND THAT:

- 45.3% of the youngsters surveyed said they had been called names, yelled at, or insulted while participating in sports
- 21% said they had been pressured to play with an injury
- 17.5% said they had been hit, kicked or slapped while participating in sports
- 8.2% said they had been called names with sexual connotations while participating in sports
- 3.4% said they had been pressured into sex or sexual touching

Incidents

- Two women assaulted a mother following a youth baseball championship game in Utah that left her unconscious
- A youth baseball coach for children 12 and 13 was taken into custody in Wisconsin on accusations that he grabbed and wrestled an umpire to the ground
- More than 30 adults brawled at the conclusion of an under 14 soccer tournament game in Los Angeles that led to three parents being arrested
- In Tennessee a 16 year old was charged with attempted second murder after he used an aluminum bat to bash the head of a pitcher who struck him out during a youth baseball game
- A parent was arrested in Florida on charges he hit a Little League umpire and cut one of his truck tires after a game
- In Ohio a youth soccer player fractured a goalie's cheekbone with a kick to the face at the end of a game that left the player unconscious, along with injuries to his eyes, nose, jaw and teeth
- A soccer dad was arrested after taking a swing at the father of an opposing player at a game in Indiana
- A youth league baseball coach in Cleveland was thrown out of a game following a profane outburst that led sheriff's deputies to cite him for disorderly conduct

TOP 10 REASONS BOYS PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS

1. To have fun
2. To do something they are good at
3. To improve their skills
4. For the excitement of competition
5. To stay in shape
6. For the challenge of competition
7. To get exercise
8. To learn new skills
9. To play as part of a team
10. To go to a higher level of competition

TOP 10 REASONS GIRLS PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS

1. To have fun
2. To stay in shape
3. To get exercise
4. To improve their skills
5. To do something they're good at
6. To learn new skills
7. For the excitement of competition
8. To play as part of a team
9. To make new friends
10. For the challenge of competition

PURPOSE/GOALS/OBJECTIVES

WHY Minimum Standards for Youth Sports in Dare County?

- Promote Fun
- Promote respect for
 - the game
 - opponents
 - officials
 - coaches
- Assure safety for children



Anyone directly involved with coaching or supervising children in organized youth sports activities must:

- complete an educational certification program
- undergo a thorough background check



YOUNG ATHLETES BILL OF RIGHTS

- I. Right to participate in sports
- II. Right to participate at a level commensurate with each child's maturity and ability
- III. Right to have qualified adult leadership
- IV. Right to play as a child not as an adult
- V. Right to share in the leadership and decision making of their sport participation
- VI. Right to participate in a safe and healthy environment
- VII. Right to proper preparation for participation in sports
- VIII. Right to an equal opportunity to strive for success
- IX. Right to be treated with dignity
- X. Right to have fun in sports

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR YOUTH SPORTS IN DARE COUNTY

The goal of the Dare County Parks & Recreation Department is to establish minimum standards for youth sports throughout the County. The following minimum standards have been defined.

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



MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

BENEFITS: To protect young athletes



APPLICATION FORM: All persons directly involved in youth sports **MUST** complete an application.

CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS: must be done on all involved in youth sports

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR COACH EDUCATION

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

- Attend non-sports specific training course
- Knowledge of legal issues: state laws, attacking officials, car pooling, child abuse reporting
- Training in sport specific rules and regulations
- Parent meetings before and after season are encouraged.
- Sign and adhere to a Coach's Code of Conduct
- CPR and First Aid courses are encouraged



MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE YOUTH SPORTS PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

- Training standards for the professional administrator must include:
 - Understand and have authority to implement standards
 - Knowledge of hiring and firing practices
 - Authority to hire and fire coaches
 - Knowledge of risk management and insurance
 - Knowledge of evaluating, counseling, and disciplinary processes
 - Knowledgeable in accessing resources
 - Access to resources and educational tools
 - Knowledge of contractual agreements
 - Program specifics

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR YOUTH SPORTS VOLUNTEER ADMINISTRATORS

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

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR PARENT EDUCATION

BENEFITS: To help parents better understand and be aware of their roles and responsibilities creating a positive experience for all children. Each league/program must develop a program or use an existing program which includes:

- Questions parents should ask their child's coach
- Effective communication; how to work with coaches
- How to be a positive supporter
- Volunteering to help the team

Parent's should support their young athlete by:

- Attending all parent meetings with the coach
- Attending practices/games/social events
- Signing and adhering to a Code of Conduct
- Volunteering to help the team
- Being positive



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 courses that cover;
 - 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.





Goals for the Future

- Approved and adopted by Dare County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board-November 2005
- Approval and adoption of proposed resolution by Dare County Board of Commissioners
- Adoption and implementation by Region I Parks & Recreation Departments
- Adoption by North Carolina Recreation and Park Association-NCRPA
- Adoption and house bill by North Carolina Legislators

71st OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY--2001 Regular Session

Enrolled

House Bill 2781

Sponsored by Representative BACKLUND, Senator COURTNEY; Representative KAFOURY, MORRISETTE

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT

Relating to Youth Sports

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. {+ As used in sections 1 to 4 of this 2001 Act:

- (1) 'Subject individual' means any person who is or will be directly involved with the coaching or supervision of children participating in an organized youth sports activity.
- (2) 'Youth sports activity' does not include any activity operated by a school district or public charter school.
- (3) 'Youth sports provider' means any person, organization or agency that operates in Oregon and is directly involved with children participating in an organized youth sports activity. +}

SECTION 2. {+ Every youth sports provider is encouraged to:

- (1) Create and adopt a list of crimes that disqualify a subject individual from coaching or supervising a youth sports activity for the youth sports provider if the subject individual has been convicted of a crime or has been convicted of a substantially equivalent crime in another jurisdiction;
- (2) Complete a criminal records check on subject individuals who coach or supervise a youth sports activity for the youth sports provider; and
- (3) Require all subject individuals who coach or supervise a youth sports activity to complete a sports education program.+}

SECTION 3. {+ (1) Upon the request of a youth sports provider, and in compliance with procedures adopted by the Department of State Police under ORS 181.555, the Department of State Police shall furnish to the authorized staff of the youth sports provider such information on a subject individual as the Department of State Police may have in its possession from its central bureau of criminal identification, including but not limited to manual or computerized criminal offender information. With the approval of the Department of State Police, a local law enforcement agency may furnish the information described in this subsection to a youth sports provider.

- (2) (a) Subsequent to furnishing the information required under subsection (1) of this section, the Department of State Police shall conduct nationwide criminal records checks of the subject individual through the Federal Bureau of Investigation by use of the subject individual's fingerprints and shall report the results to the staff of the youth sports provider, who must be specifically authorized to receive the information. In accordance with the procedures of the Department of State Police, a local law enforcement agency may conduct the criminal records check described in this paragraph if the local law enforcement agency has received approval under subsection (1) of this section.
- (b) The Department of State Police or a local law enforcement agency may not transfer the fingerprint card used to conduct a criminal records check unless the public agency or person receiving the fingerprint card agrees to destroy the fingerprint card or return the fingerprint card to the Department of State Police or local law enforcement agency.
- (c) If a public agency or person returns a fingerprint card to the Department of State Police or local law enforcement agency, the Department of State Police or local law enforcement agency shall destroy the fingerprint card or return the fingerprint card to the subject individual. The Department of State Police or local law enforcement agency may not keep a record of the fingerprints.+}

SECTION 4. {+ Nothing in sections 1 to 4 of this 2001 Act imposes any additional duty or liability on any youth sports provider by reason of the youth sports provider not performing a duty that is encouraged by section 2 of this 2001 Act. +}

SECTION 5. {+Sections 1 to 4 of this 2001 Act first apply to youth sports providers on and after July 1, 2002.+}

Passed by House April 23, 2001
Repassed by House June 1, 2001

PROPOSED 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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County of Dare in a meeting duly assembled and by the authority thereof, recognize and require official implementation of this Minimum Standards in Youth Sports in Dare County to improve the culture of youth sports for all participants effective January 1, 2007.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____ 20_____

Signed: _____

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH SPORTS

The goal of the National Alliance for Youth Sports is to make sports safe and positive for America's youth. The Alliance believes that this can only happen if:

- We provide children with a positive introduction to youth sports.
- The administrators, coaches, and officials are well trained
- Parent's complete an orientation to understand the important impact sports has on their child's development and:
- Youth sports are implemented in accordance with the *National Standards for Youth Sports*.

The Alliance believes that (1) participation in youth sports develop important character traits and values, and (2) the lives of youths can be positively impacted if the adults caring for them have proper training and information.

With the realization that volunteer coaches are only one aspect of the youth sports equation. Today, the Alliance has become the nation's leading youth sports educator and advocate with nine national programs that educate volunteer coaches, parents, youth sport program administrators, and officials about their roles and responsibilities in the context of youth sports, in addition to offering youth development programs to children.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH SPORTS

Academy For Youth Sports Administrators

National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA)

National Youth Sports Administrators Association (NYSAA)

National Youth Sports Officials Association (NYSOA)

Parents Association For Youth Sports (PAYS)

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www.nays.org

OREGON ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH SPORTS

Minimum Standards for Youth Sports in Oregon

THANKS

The following individuals lent their time and expertise in the development of these minimum standards:

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