

YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Following policies and procedures have been established in order to provide an enjoyable youth athletic program. We ask that you read these policies carefully and then review them with your team.

I. TEAM REQUIREMENTS

NUMBER OF PLAYERS: Soccer - 8 & under: Min.8 Max 10 and 9 & older Min. 13 Max 15
Basketball - Min. 8 Max 10
Baseball/Softball Min. 12 Max 14

DIVISIONS:	Soccer: 3-12yr	Age as of Sept 1
	Basketball: 5-14	Age as of Sept 1
	Fast Start Baseball: 3 & 4	Age as of March 1
	Youth Baseball: 5-12yr	Age as of April 30
	Lacrosse: 10-18yr	Age as of Sept 1
	Youth Volleyball	Age as of Sept 1

II. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

All parents/legal guardians of players must fill out a registration form and pay the registration fee in order to participate in the Youth Athletic Program. Parents shall sign a Parents Code of Ethics for children to participate in an IOP Recreation Youth Sports Programs.

Each child must have their birth date verified by Recreation Staff, by providing birth certificate at time of registration. The Recreation Department will keep a copy of certificate on file.

Each child must have proof of insurance to be submitted to the Recreation Staff at time of registration, by providing Policy number and Insurance carrier.

Accident insurance is not provided by the Recreation Department.

Parents will be allowed to request at the time of registration that their child move up to the next age division. At the end of registration the Recreation Staff will evaluate the needs of each league. If a division needs more players, the Staff will accommodate the needs at their own discretion.

Players may not participate in a lower age division.

If a player is found to be ineligible, all games in which that player participated will be declared forfeits.

No players will be allowed to play J.V. or Varsity ball in any high school league and play in the Isle of Palms Recreation League at the same time. They may play on another Recreation league team but will not be eligible for All Stars.

III. FEES

RESIDENTS - A registration fee, established by the recreation staff will be charged for participation in all sports.

NON - RESIDENTS - A nominal non-resident fee will be added.

LATE FEES - A \$5.00 late fee will be charged for registrations after deadline.

REFUNDS - NO REFUNDS, except in the event of injury or relocation.

IV. COACH SELECTION

Candidates for volunteer coaching positions must first complete a background search form.

All candidates approved as a volunteer coach must sign the "Coaches Code of Ethics Pledge".

The Recreation Staff reserves the right to reject a candidate for the position of volunteer coach for an individual who has displayed any form of unsportsman like conduct, profanity, or who has threatened physical harm to umpires, players, managers, coaches or league officials or in the opinion of the recreation staff believe this individual does not fit the desired attitude, departmental goals and end results expected of our residents and the Department.

The Recreation Director reserves the right to reject an individual who has been the subject of complaints from parents, players, spectators and/or other recreation department employees in a previous season , current season or any other activity which they have participated.

A coach that is or has been suspended shall not be allowed to participate in any IOP Recreation Programs, in any way to include participating and or coaching for, at least, but not limited to One (1) year from date of suspension.

V. PLAYER SELECTION

Team assignments will be made after registration has ended.

Request for a particular team, player or coach will not be accepted, except under extenuating circumstances. Recreation staff will make the final decision.

5 & 6 year old teams will be randomly selected by the Recreation Staff.

7 & 8 year old teams will be randomly selected by the Recreation Staff, if staff feels necessary may require a skill evaluation.

Co-ed Division Policy requires, at least, two (2) girls on each team, whenever possible.

Players required to participate in skill evaluations will receive an average based on the combined rating of each coach and staff member.

Actual pairing will be determined by Recreation Staff with the assistance of the coaches.

Coach's children will be exempt and placed on teams at the end of the procedure.

Siblings in same age division will be paired together unless instructed otherwise by the parents.

Team assignments for ages 9 & older will be conducted through a draft procedure developed by the Recreation Staff with the assistance of volunteer coaches.

VI. GAMES & SCHEDULES

In the event a player does not want to play at game time due to an injury or sickness and the infliction is confirmed by the parent or guardian, the coach must notify the scores table and will not be required to fulfill the "playing requirements" of that player for that game.

If a player misses consecutive practices without a valid excuse, the coach will notify the player's parents and recreation supervisor of reduced playing time. Reduced time will be determined by coach and approved by recreation supervisor.

If a player misses 50% of scheduled practices within the week preceding their scheduled game without a valid excuse, the coach will notify the player's parents and recreation supervisor and may only reduce the playing time as follows:
Youth Basketball – 4 minutes, Soccer – 5 minutes and Baseball – 6 minutes.

Coaches may not prevent a player from participation in a game or portion thereof, without the City of Isle of Palms Recreation Director's prior approval. While the City of Isle of Palms recognizes that discipline is a key ingredient to a successful team, any coach who experiences difficulties in this area with one or more players on his/her team, should notify and discuss the matter with the Recreation Supervisor responsible for athletics.

Schedules will be made by the Isle of Palms Recreation Staff.

All games must be played at the time, day and location specified on schedule.

Games that are canceled or postponed, due to weather or acts of God will be rescheduled by Recreation Staff, if and only if time permits at the end of the season.

Team pictures will be scheduled by the Recreation staff. It is required that all players and coaches adhere to this schedule. An attempt will be made to schedule make up days, however, make up days for photos is not guaranteed.

Coaches are responsible for contacting players for scheduled practices and/or any cancellations.

All scrimmages held on any field other than IOP Recreation Department involving out of town teams not affiliated with IOP Recreation Department must be approved by the Recreation Director or Recreation Designee before they can be played.

It is the responsibility of the coach or assistant coach to see that all players have been picked up before leaving the playing /practicing field. Players are NOT to be left unattended after practices and/or games

Teams may be asked to share playing fields and courts during practice.

Equipment borrowed from the Recreation Center for a specific practice day must be returned to the facility before closing. Coaches leaving equipment outside of Recreation Center after hours will be held responsible for damages and/or disappearance of said equipment.

Recreation Restrooms will be open during play of games.

VII. PRACTICES

Practice schedules will be established prior to team assignments and announced at Parent/Player Orientation.

All practices shall be conducted on designated fields and begin and end as scheduled, making fields available for next team. Practices shall be scheduled in one hour increments. After which time, field/courts must be vacated for next team

Practice schedules will be strictly followed. Field time is valuable and in an attempt to give all teams in all age divisions ample time to practice, the cooperation of coaches is required.

The Isle of Palms Recreation Department will not support, defend or be responsible for allegations, incidents, accidents and/or situations that may occur while practicing any place other than IOP Recreation Fields.

VIII. EQUIPMENT

Game Jerseys will be issued to each member of the team, two (2) Coaches and one (1) sponsor.

All players must wear appropriate shorts, shoes, shin guards and other protective equipment respective to their game.

Each coach will be assigned proper equipment for his/her team. The Coach will also be responsible for the return of all equipment at the end of the season.

IX. GAME SEASON FORMAT AND POST SEASON TOURNAMENT

Each league will play a round robin format where each team will play a designated minimum number of games.

Leagues with 9 yr. and older players will have a post season tournament. Length of season and number of teams may dictate single or double elimination.

Tiebreakers: 1) Head to head, 2) Goal differential between tied teams 3) Least number of goals allowed, 4) coin toss.

X. PROTEST

Protest must be entered into the score book at the time the protest or it may not be recognized. Coaches must notify score keeper immediately.

Protests must be submitted the next day at the Recreation Center office on protest form provided by the Recreation Supervisor or available in Recreation Office and must include: Game date, Teams and age division, rule protested, application of rule and point of game the rule is protested.

XI. AWARDS

Team trophies will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place teams in leagues where score is used and score books are kept.

Certificates of participation will be given to any and all children not awarded trophies.

Individual trophies may be awarded to individual season champions.

XII. ALL STARS - PLAYERS AND COACH SELECTION

The Recreation Staff along with input from league coaches will determine whether an All Star team will be formed. The Recreation Department has the final decision.

The All Star coach will be the person whose team has the best won/lost record at the time the team is selected or after regular season. If the coach declines, the second place team coach will have the opportunity to coach the team.

The head coach will choose their assistants with the prior approval of the Recreation Director or their designee.

Players must reside within boundaries recognized by SC Athletic Programs to be eligible for All Stars. These boundaries include IOP and Sullivan's Island.

All Star players will be selected by a vote from the Head Coaches in the league. The meeting will be conducted by Recreation Staff and only Head Coaches will be present.

XIII. CONDUCT

All players must remain on the bench during the game except when substituting and time outs.

At no time during or after a game shall a coach or player argue a call of a referee or umpire.

At no time before, during, or after a game shall a coach or player(s) yell or raise his or her voice at a referee, scorekeeper or recreation department staff.

No smoking or use of any type of tobacco products will be permitted by coaches, players or other parties while at practice.

Absolutely no fighting will be tolerated by any player or coaches. Violators will automatically be suspended from further league participation.

Any player or coach ejected from a game must leave the playing area immediate. The games will not be allowed to continue until the offender has left the area.

Referees, umpires and Recreation Staff have the right to eject a coach, players, parent or spectator from the recreation facility, if in their opinion, their actions are in violation of Recreation Policy and/or City Ordinance. If an individual refuses to comply, local law enforcement will be notified and appropriate actions will be taken.

Any coach who pulls his or her team from the court or field before the contest has ended will be suspended for at least, but not limited to the end of the season.

Coaches and team members are responsible for the conduct of their spectators. Any spectator who is asked to leave the playing area must do so, immediately. Refusal to leave may result in a penalty for the team.

Alcohol is not permitted on Recreation Property. Players, coaches or spectators under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs will be asked to leave the area immediately. Violators shall be subject to extended suspension from the property.

All coaches shall conduct themselves according to socially accepted standards and the Coaches code of Ethics Pledge. Violators will be suspended by the Recreation Department.