



Welcome to the City of Chelan Youth Sports Program:

Participation in sports programs is very valuable to the development of children. Aspects of teamwork, dedication, discipline, physical fitness, self-esteem, and fair play all contribute to the overall growth and maturing of young people. Chelan Parks and Recreation takes this responsibility seriously and strives to offer quality programs that aid in the development of the youth of Chelan. Staff member Jane Farris has been a Certified Youth Sports Administrator since 2008 and staff member Mike Haerling has been a Youth Sports Coordinator since 1998. Parks staff feels that communication with parents, coaches, and participants makes for a more successful program.

It is staff's goal to continue to improve the quality of the youth sports programs and in the effort to do so, we are requiring a broader volunteer coaching application process. Volunteer coaches go through an application process that includes criminal background checks through the Washington State Patrol as well as the Inland Empire Amateur Athletic Union (AAU), one of the largest non-profit volunteer sports organizations in the United States. AAU is a multi-sport organization dedicated exclusively to the promotion and development of amateur sports and physical fitness programs. Coaches are also required to view a "Concussion in Youth Sports" video and complete a volunteer coaching application, Coaches Code of Ethics, and Concussion form. These requirements help to implement our philosophy of children's sports, injury prevention, practice organization, basic game rules, and much more.

Professional administrators, volunteer coaches, and parents sometimes forget why we do what we do. It is not to satisfy our egos or relive our past. It is to provide a positive, healthy experience for children and teaches the importance of teamwork, cooperation, ethics, playing by the rules, winning and losing with grace, respecting authority figures, and always striving to do your best. This above all else, is what we should be about and it must be a cooperative effort between our staff, our volunteer coaches, our officials, and our parents.

This handbook is to serve as a reference for parents and volunteer coaches, so they understand the philosophies and rules of the Chelan Parks and Recreation Department regarding youth athletics. This is one component in making the program a positive experience for your athlete. We believe that working together, through training and education, we can raise the standards for youth sports, and we can return to the age-old notion that children's participation in organized sports should be FUN!

Best Regards,

Jane Farris
Certified Youth Sports Administrator
Chelan Parks and Recreation Department



GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AND FAIR PLAY AGREEMENT

By participating as an Administrator, Coach, Official, Parent, Player or Spectator I hereby pledge to encourage youth sports in a positive manner by following the Good Sportsmanship and Fair Play Agreement:

- I will demonstrate *Good Sportsmanship and Fair Play*.
- I will promise to make youth sports *Fun* for everyone.
- I will become *Knowledgeable* in the rules of the game.
- I will *Attend and Participate* at every practice/game that I can.
- I will *Properly Maintain* uniforms, equipment and athletic facilities.
- I will demand a *Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Free* environment.
- I will encourage and promote a *Safe and Healthy* playing environment.
- I will *Respect* all administrators, coaches, officials, parents, players and spectators.
- I will place the emotional and physical *Well Being* of the kids ahead of myself.

I WILL REMEMBER THAT YOUTH SPORTS IS FOR THE KIDS

In order for Chelan Parks to offer the best youth sports programs possible, it is necessary to set forth certain policies, procedures, rules, regulations, codes of ethics and, in this case, a Good Sportsmanship and Fair Play Agreement. Our staff created and adopted this Agreement in order for all patrons to have a positive experience. Whatever your role with the program, as a coach, official, parent, player or even a spectator, you are expected to abide by this agreement.

Our staff has become accustomed to running a quality program, and this season will be no different. We will provide professional customer service, and in return, we ask that our patrons follow the rules set forth in order to maintain the integrity and spirit in youth sports...

PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

The Value of Sports

Sports are one of the greatest tools that exist in today's society to help children develop positive character traits and life values. Early adolescence is a time when children are looking for basic values that they can count on in their lives. Under the right conditions, many youth sports experiences can be enormously beneficial, teaching the importance of teamwork, cooperation, and hard work, among many other qualities. In spite of this enormous potential for good, many youth sports experiences, in which the focus on what's truly best for children strays, can be emotionally damaging and that damage can last a lifetime.

During the years in which most children are typically involved in organized sports they are learning about themselves psychologically, physically, emotionally, and socially. During this juncture their personalities are being molded, their bodies are going through all sorts of changes, and their minds are forming lasting impressions on the importance of sports in their lives. It is at this level that parents, coaches and administrators play the greatest role in making the sports experience positive, healthy, and safe. The results of a child's experiences during these years are crucial, especially when we consider the positive role sports can play in their overall development.

Children learn a multitude of important lessons through sports that are basic to leading productive adult lives in our society. Sports provide an ideal forum to teach such valuable fundamentals as ethics, abiding by the rules, winning and losing with grace, coping with success and failure, respecting authority figures, always striving to do your best, etc. These traits provide the building blocks that help young citizens of our communities become well-balanced adults, and which translate into leading productive lives. *A study conducted by Hardiness Research of Wyoming found that by a 2: 1 ratio for boys and a 3: 1 ratio for girls, those who participate in sports perform better in school, do not drop out, and have a better chance to attend and graduate from college.*

The foundation for human development occurs during the early years of life. Individuals are exposed to many different learning situations that contribute to their potential for successful development in future endeavors. Activities at home, schools and clubs, play a role in a child's growth and development. Organized sports are near the top of that list.

Regardless of which sports they choose to pursue, children will reap the positive benefits of participation, as regular physical activity is the basis for a healthy and active lifestyle. Sports and fitness activities promote a variety of healthy status.

*Acknowledgements:
Recommendations for Communities developed through the National Summit on Raising
Community Standards in Children's Sports*

Philosophy of Youth Sports

The City of Chelan has embraced the philosophies set forth in "National Standards for Youth Sports," a publication compiled by the National Alliance for Youth Sports based on an assembly of 48 of the nation's leading experts representing a vast variety of disciplines affecting youth sports. The following Standards were established:

Standard #1 - Proper Sports Environment

Parents must consider and carefully choose the proper environment for their child, including the appropriate age and development for participation, the type of sport, the rules in the sport, the age range of the participants, and the proper level of physical and emotional stress.

Standard #2 - Programs Based on Well-Being of Child

Parents must select youth sports programs that are developed and organized to enhance the emotional, physical, social and educational well-being of children and respect the child's decision to play or not play.

Standard #3 – Training and Accountability

All those involved in the youth sports programs must receive information about the program's philosophy, policies, and procedures to strive to make youth sports programs safe, positive and fun for all children, parents, and coaches.

Standard #4 –Screening Process

Consistent and comprehensive volunteer screening must be done to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in youth sports.

Standard #5 – Parents 'Active Role

Parents must make a serious effort to take an active role in the youth sports experience of their child providing positive support as a spectator, coach, and league administrator and/or caring parent.

Standard #6 – Sportsmanship

Parents must be a positive role model exhibiting sportsmanlike behavior at games, practices, and at all times while giving positive reinforcement to their child and support their child's coaches.

Standard #7 - Safe Playing Situations

Parents must insist on safe playing facilities, healthful playing situations and the application of proper first aid, should the need arise.

Standard #8 – Equal Play Opportunity

Parents, coaches, and league administrators must provide equal sports play opportunity for all youth regardless of race, creed, sex, economic status or ability.

Standard #9 - Drug, Tobacco & Alcohol-Free Adults

Parents as coaches, fans, and league administrators must be drug, tobacco and alcohol-free at youth sports activities.

Goals and Objectives

The Chelan Parks Department is designed to provide healthy activities and develop athletic, social and life skills under good leadership. This policy is aimed at meeting the spirit and intent of this goal.

The goals & objectives for the Chelan Parks Department Sports Programs are:

1. To Ensure The Safety of Our Participants
 - a. Consistent and comprehensive volunteer screening must be done to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in youth sports.
 - b. Complete routine and preventative maintenance of facilities and equipment
 - c. Provide quality equipment
 - d. Provide proper training to coaches and program staff
2. To Offer Participation Opportunities regardless of Race, Creed, Gender, Religion, Social or Economic Status or Ability
 - a. Provide reasonable accommodations
 - b. Provide scholarships
3. To Teach Basic Fundamentals, Skills and Rules of Play
 - a. Provide qualified volunteer coaching
 - b. Provide accessible rule books, training, manuals, videos, coaching clinics
4. To Demand Professionalism From Staff and Volunteers
 - a. Provide access to continued education opportunities
 - b. Complete program, coach and staff performance reviews
5. To Expect That Sportsmanship And Fair Play is the Standard
 - a. Enforce the “Good Sportsmanship and Fair Play Agreement”
 - b. Recognize and follow the National Alliance for Youth Sports Code of Ethics
6. To Maintain Financial Stability
 - a. Ensure registration fees are appropriate for the program
 - b. Utilize team sponsorship opportunities
 - c. Solicit donations to enhance scholarship fund