



Youth Sports Policies and Procedures

Mission Statement

Maintaining and promoting programs offered in a fun and safe environment within a well-structured, positive setting for young athletes to take part. Where good sportsmanship, respect and honoring the game is endorsed and expected by all who participate.

Program Philosophy

All Aurora Parks and Recreation youth sports programs are designed and administered so that every child, regardless of their abilities, has an opportunity to have a positive youth sports experience from their participation. The coaches, the parents, and the players play critical roles in contributing and supporting this philosophy.

- The coaches are directly responsible for instilling values, good sportsmanship, developing and refining sports skills and sharing their knowledge of the game.
- The parents play a role both on and off the field. On the field, they support and entrust the coaches with their children, offer a strong and positive interaction with the team, and “Honor the Game” while spectating. Off the field, parents continue their support by developing their children’s skills and love of the game outside of team practices while continuing to stress the need to “Honor the Game”.
- The players are challenged to keep their focus on fun, good sportsmanship, Honoring the Game, and to continue to develop and refine their sports skills outside of team practices.

Guidelines

Aurora Parks and Recreation utilizes the National Standards for Youth Sports. Aurora Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Programs are implemented using the following guidelines:

Developmental Programs for children 7 years old and under: Focus - Motor skill development, concentration on fundamentals, no offensive or defensive plays initiated, an introduction of team sports and teamwork, no scores or standings are kept.

Instructional Programs for children 7 - 9 years old: Focus - Continue motor skill development along with sport specific skill development, continue concentration on fundamentals, continued emphasis on teamwork, introduce basic concepts of rules and basic offensive and/or defensive plays, scores/standings are kept but not emphasized.

Organizational Programs for children 9 - 11 years old: Focus - Continue sport specific skill development, concentration on fundamentals, progressive introduction to simple offensive and/or defensive plays and an introduction of internal competition among teammates scores/standings are kept but not emphasized.

Skill Enhancement Programs for children 11 years old and above: Focus - Continue sport specific skill development, continued concentration on fundamentals with progressive introduction of offensive and/or defensive plays and an introduction of more competitive play with other teams.

League Summary

Aurora Parks and Recreation offers programs to children ages 3 to 18. The programs are recreational and place the emphasis fun, sportsmanship and participation. All programs are based upon the National Standards for Youth Sports and Positive Coaching Alliance standards. The standards are designed to create a youth sports environment that is a fun and memorable experience for all involved. The core sports offered by Aurora Parks and Recreation are youth basketball, soccer, softball, indoor soccer, running, and volleyball. Camps and clinics are also offered.

Annual Schedule

(subject to change)

Winter

Travel Basketball Tournament (Grades 4-6)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ October
- ❖ Games ~ February

Girls Basketball (Grades K-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ October
- ❖ Practices ~ January
- ❖ Games ~ February – March

Boys/Girls Indoor Soccer (Grades Pre-k-2)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ October
- ❖ Clinic ~ February – March

Boys/Girls Indoor Soccer (Grades 3-5)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ October
- ❖ Clinic ~ February – March

Spring

Boys/Girls Spring Basketball (Grades 4-12)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ January
- ❖ Games ~ April – May

Boys/Girls Spring Running Club (Grades 3-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ January
- ❖ Program ~ April – May

Boys/Girls Spring Soccer (Grades Pre-k-8)

- ❖ Registration ~ January
- ❖ Practices ~ May
- ❖ Games ~ May – June

Girls Instructional Softball (Grades 1-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ January
- ❖ Practices ~ May
- ❖ Games ~ May – July

Girls Volleyball Clinic (Grades 1-5)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ January
- ❖ Clinic ~ April – May

Boys/Girls Youth Track Meet (Ages 2-12)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ January
- ❖ Meet ~ May

Fall

Boys/Girls Fall Soccer (Grades Pre-k-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ July
- ❖ Practices ~ August
- ❖ Games ~ September – October

Boys/Girls Spring Running Club (Grades 3-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ July
- ❖ Program ~ September – October

Boys Basketball (Grades K-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ July
- ❖ Practices ~ November
- ❖ Games ~ December – January

Girls Volleyball (Grades 1-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ July
- ❖ Practices ~ September
- ❖ Games ~ September – November

Summer

Tennis Camps (Ages 5 and up)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ April
- ❖ Camps ~ May – July

Track and Field Camps (Ages 8 and 18)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ April
- ❖ Camps ~ June

Jump Start Sports Camps (Grades 1-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ April
- ❖ Camps ~ June – July

Challenger Sports' British Soccer Camp (Ages 3-16)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ April
- ❖ Camps ~ June

Volleyball Camps (Grades K-5)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ April
- ❖ Camps ~ June

High School Sports Camps (Grades K-8)

- ❖ Registration Begins ~ Various
- ❖ Camps ~ Various

Registration Process

Registration for all youth sports programs may be completed online at <https://www.auroraoh.com/489/Youth-Sports>, in person or by mail at Aurora Parks and Recreation 129 West Pioneer Tr. Aurora Ohio 44202.

- Registration Requests - You are able to request a coach, player(s) and practice days that work best for you at the time of registration. Aurora Parks and Recreation take all requests into consideration when creating team rosters but **cannot guarantee** all requests will be honored. Any medical conditions should also be listed at time of registration so the coach is informed should necessary attention be needed.
- Late Registration - If you missed the deadline, you will need to contact Aurora Parks and Recreation to be placed on the waitlist for the requested program. Waitlisted participants will be placed on teams that have available spots. There is no guarantee that your child will be placed on a team or that any coach/friend requests will be honored. If there is room you will be contacted to register your child and then they will be placed on a team. A \$20 late fee applies for late registration.
- Refund Policy - Participants may request a full refund minus a \$15 processing fee, should they drop from the league prior to the second scheduled game. After the second game, no refunds or credits will be given. The processing fee will be waived if a credit to the families Aurora Parks and Recreation account is requested instead of a refund to a credit card or as a check. All fees paid will be refunded in full when Aurora Parks and Recreation cancels a program.

Rosters selection

Aurora Parks and Recreation will form all teams. Aurora Parks and Recreation does take all requests into consideration when creating team rosters and participants are placed on teams accordingly. Siblings are always placed on the same team unless otherwise requested. For all leagues 4th grade and up the rosters are reviewed at the coaches meetings and adjustments are made as needed to try and keep teams as competitive as possible. Teams are permitted to have one head coach and one assistant coach when assigning rosters. More assistant coaches are permitted but not used to help assign players to teams. Coach requests may be granted if skill level remains balanced among players.

Rules and Regulations

All youth sports programs have separate rules and regulations specific to that particular sport. The rules and regulations are reviewed at all pre-season coaches meetings and available on the Aurora Parks and Recreation youth sports web page.

Inclement Weather

No practice on days in which school is closed due to inclement weather. **Coaches** will make decisions on cancelling weekday practices for outdoor sports. On game days, participants should call the Parks and Recreation Hotline (330-655-6410) after 2:00 p.m. on weekdays and 8:15 a.m. on Saturdays for game status.

The “on the field” officials have the authority to start, delay or cancel any game due to field/weather conditions. Whenever thunder or lightning occurs, no game will resume or start until 30 minutes of the last incident of thunder or lightning. Specific rules regarding hazardous weather are provided to coaches and available on the Aurora Parks and Recreation youth sports web page.

Emergency Procedures

Emergencies and accidents are a reality of youth sports. Injuries will occur and some are serious enough to require an emergency treatment. Coaches are also responsible for recognizing any existing medical conditions of their players. Medical conditions presented at time of registration will be listed on the rosters provided to all coaches by Aurora Parks and Recreation. In the event of an emergency, coaches must use the following steps:

1. Assess the situation. Administer first aid only if qualified.
2. Have an adult stay with the injured person at all time.
3. If additional assistance is needed, Call 911
4. Meet the emergency vehicle if necessary.
5. If parents/guardians are not available, make contact and inform them of the circumstances.
6. Report to the youth sports coordinator and/or Parks and Recreation director immediately.
7. Complete the accident report form and submit to youth sports coordinator.

Emergency numbers for Aurora Parks and Recreation contacts, local first responders, and parents are available in the binder issued to every coach at the pre-season coaches meeting. An emergency protocol sheet as well as an accident report are also provided in the coach’s binder.

Equipment Issue and Return

Each coach is provided an equipment bag with all the equipment he/she will need to conduct practices/games. In certain instances additional balls are kept on site for team practices. It is up to the coaches to return those balls to the storage area for other teams to have access to the additional equipment. At the end of the season each coach is responsible to return their equipment bag to Aurora Parks and Recreation 129 West Pioneer Tr. Aurora Oh 44202. A deck box is located by the first set of doors for drop off after hours.

Equipment bags issued at the pre-season coaches meeting include first aid kits. It is up to each individual coach to inform the youth sports coordinator if additional first aid or equipment is needed.

Facility Usage Rules

The fields and gymnasium are owned and operated by either the city of Aurora or Aurora city schools. While visiting any of the city or school facilities please observe the following expectations:

- Parents are responsible for siblings attending games and/or practices and must keep them confined to the appropriate areas. Roaming hallways, jumping on tables, entering classrooms or any other actions that are inappropriate and disrespectful to the facility and staff are prohibited.
- All fields and gymnasiums are alcohol, drug, and tobacco free zones – NO exceptions.
- Coaches will hold players responsible for cleaning up the bench or sidelines after games and practices.
- Spectators are responsible to pick up their trash place it in the proper receptacles or take with them.
- Parking lots are full of pedestrians PLEASE use caution when accessing the parking lots.

Aurora Parks and Recreation Code of Conduct Policy

By participating in or attending any programs through Aurora Parks and Recreation, you are agreeing to abide by the following Code of Conduct Policy outlined below.

1. I will follow the rules and regulations set by Aurora Parks and Recreation.
2. I will encourage sportsmanship and show respect and courtesy at all times.
3. I will not engage in any form of disrespectful conduct toward officials, coaches, players, fans, recreation center staff, league representatives or city officials at any time.
4. I will not engage in any form of harassment, taunting, use profane language or gestures, toward coaches, players, fans, officials or city officials either directly or indirectly, before, during or at any time after a sporting event.
5. I understand that any physical violence, intimidation or threat thereof will result in immediate expulsion from the league and may result in a permanent ban from all activities.
6. I will not post any derogatory remarks or commentary about the league, coaches, parents, players, staff, officials or city officials on any social media or distribute any derogatory remarks or commentary in the form of a mass email to a team, group of coaches, parents, or any third party nor will I encourage others to do so.
7. I will respect the officials and their authority during games. I will not verbally or through gestures, directly or indirectly criticize an official, their calls or their decisions even though I may disagree with it.
8. I will never approach an official, coach, parent or player for the purpose of criticizing or expressing any discontent before, during or after an event.
9. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that could endanger the health and well-being of the players.

Zero Tolerance

Our Code of Conduct Policy has been put in place to encourage good sportsmanship and enhance the overall experience for everyone involved in the Aurora Parks and Recreation youth sports programs. Prior to participating in any of our programs we expect parents, participants and coaches to read these documents and familiarize themselves with what is expected of them. On occasion, it may become necessary to take action should the Code of Conduct Policy be violated.

Aurora Parks and Recreation reserves the right to take the following actions if necessary:

1. If an official (referee, umpire, league representative) observes behavior from a coach, parent, fan or player before or during a sporting event that violates our conduct policy, that official may warn the individual or individuals that such behavior is unacceptable and must stop immediately. Failure to stop the behavior will result in an ejection from the event and the individual must leave the field or building immediately.
2. If in the opinion of the official, the behavior is significantly inappropriate, the official may demand that the individual leave the event without issuing a warning.
3. Failure by the individual to leave the event as instructed will result in a stoppage of play until the individual has left. Continued failure to comply will result in the authorities being called to remove the individual who may at that point face arrest.
4. Any instance where a coach, parent, fan or player is ejected from a sporting event it will be reviewed by the Recreation Director and selected league officials and may, depending upon the individual circumstances, result in additional action including being banned from attending or participating in future events for a length of time to be determined.
5. Any activity violating our conduct policies that takes place after a sporting event, during team practices or outside of the sports facilities will also be subject to the above review and potential suspension. Examples may include confronting an official, coach or player in the parking lot after a game, harassment of players at school or online, offensive, abusive or harassing emails sent to another parent, coach, league representative or city official or sending of a mass email to a team, group of coaches, parents, or any third party, etc.

Honoring the Game

The Positive Coaching Alliance stresses all players, coaches and parents need to honor the game in which they participate. To help remember exactly what that means the ROOTS acronym is used. Each letter in ROOTS stands for an important part of the sport that we must respect.

Rules - Rules keep the game fair. Participants and coaches are expected to play by the rules set by the league administrators.

Opponents - Without opponents, there would be no games. A good opponent pushes us to do our best, so we should be grateful for our opponents. Participants, coaches and spectators promise to show respect for opposing coaches and teams, and expect opponents to do the same.

Officials - Respecting officials can be the most difficult part of Honoring the Game. Officials have a very hard job, keeping the game safe and fair for both teams. Officials are not perfect (just like coaches, athletes and parents!) and sometimes they will make calls that are not in our favor, but participants, coaches and spectators are expected to show respect for officials, no matter the outcome of any call.

Teammates - A big part of playing a sport is being part of a team. Later in life you will often be part of a team, and it is important to learn to work together. When you are on a team, your words and actions – before, during and after practices and games reflect not only on you, but also on your teammates and coaches. So treat them as you would want them to treat you. Participants should encourage and support each other on and off the playing field.

Self - Some people only Honor the Game when their opponents do, but Aurora Parks and Recreation expects players coaches and parents to Honor the Game no matter what the other team or its fans do. Each person sets their own internal standards, and strive to live up to them no matter what.

If these five things are communicated by parents and coaches to their young athletes and the players then concentrate on these points, you can be assured that they are Honoring the Game. The players and their teammates will get the most out of their season, and will help advance the great traditions of the sport they love to play.

Child Abuse In Youth Sports Children participate in the Aurora Parks and Recreation youth sports programs to be with friends and learn many of the life skills that will help them become productive members of society. When adults involved in the youth sports experience lose perspective potentially abusive situations may occur.

Our goal is to provide safe, fun and enjoyable program for our young athletes.

Any forms of abuse or maltreatment of children will not be tolerated. Appropriate action to protect participants from any form of abuse or maltreatment will be dealt with immediately when made aware of.

Aurora Parks and Recreation uses all reasonable efforts to screen all employees and volunteers in order to avoid instances that put young athletes in harm's way.

Aurora Parks and Recreation will continue to take the steps needed to assure all participants are provided a fun and safe environment within a well-structured, positive setting, where good sportsmanship, respect and honoring the game is endorsed and expected by all who participate.

At times, adults are unaware that they are being abusive to the children participating in youth sports. Below is a list of common inappropriate behaviors taking place in youth sports programs nationwide (adapted from National Alliance for Youth Sports):

Benching less skilled athletes

Wrapping athletes in plastic wrap to force weight loss to make a weight limit

Cursing, yelling or using 'put-downs' that demean a child

Using excessive physical training techniques to punish/discipline young athletes

Name calling

Not allowing a young athlete to take a break or to use the restroom when needed

Depriving young athletes of water

Throwing equipment at players

Grabbing or shaking players

Using racial slurs

Using sexual put-downs

Making cruel comments about body type

Stereotyping athletes

Paying attention to only the best players, casting aside the less talented

Hurtful comments and/or participation denial to persons with disabilities

Demanding unrealistic expectations, perfect performances, etc.

Inappropriate sexual contact between adult and child

Teaching and/or expecting players to taunt, cheat, intimidate, fight, or trash talk

Insurance

Aurora Parks and Recreation maintains a general liability insurance policy for all of its programs, it is however recommended that all participants be covered under a personal medical /accident insurance policy.

Protests

No protests of games will be permitted. The decisions of the officials in charge of the game will stand.

Grievances

All participants, parents, or volunteers may file a grievance when a violation of the Code of Conduct policy is observed. All grievances should be written and directed to the Aurora Parks and Recreation Youth Sports Coordinator. Grievances will be brought to the attention of the Parks and Recreation Director and if necessary the Mayor will be contacted. The procedure for filing a grievance:

- Provide the Youth Sports Coordinator with written documentation of the grievance including: date of the violation, names of those implicated, names of eyewitnesses, and a brief description of the incident.
- A meeting with Youth Sports Coordinator and/or Parks and Recreation Director will be scheduled to resolve the grievance.
- If needed the Mayor will be asked to get involved to resolve the grievance.

Volunteer Recruitment

Aurora Parks and Recreation relies heavily on volunteers to facilitate its programs. Aurora Parks and Recreation maintains a database of active volunteer coaches and is constantly striving to expand this database. Current and past coaches are given priority for special requests made at time of registration. The Youth Sports Coordinator selects each coach for every program. Volunteers must successfully complete a background check, read and sign a volunteer youth coaching contract, as well as complete the volunteer application prior to coaching. These forms are available through Aurora Parks and Recreation upon request.

Volunteer Coach Assignment

Volunteer coaches are assigned according to the date of request, completion of all of the necessary paperwork and training, and years' experience. The coach's child(ren) will be assigned to the coach's team unless requested otherwise. Requests by coaches to work with two teams within a specific age group will not be honored. Requests by coaches to work with two teams in separate age groups will be honored if additional coaches are needed. However, if there are enough coaches in any one age group it is preferred that a coach coaches only one team. This helps expand our coach's database and gives other parents a chance to be involved in their child's youth sports experience.

Volunteer Coach Expectations

All volunteer coaches must attend a pre-season coaches meeting, regularly attend scheduled practices and games, communicate program information and player evaluations to parents and participants, hold a pre-season parent meeting and complete any required training as assigned and provided by Aurora Parks and Recreation. Coaches are also expected to abide by and enforce all Aurora Parks and Recreation Department policies and rules as stated in this document.

Parks and Recreation

129 West Pioneer Trail

Aurora, OH 44202

(330) 562-4333

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

auroraoh.com/489/Youth-Sports