

Youth Sports Philosophy and Code of Ethics



Established September 1, 2021

The City of Greeley sports and programs team understands there are several different approaches to how youth sports are managed and conducted. We have developed our youth sport philosophy so you can better understand our intentions with our leagues and our purpose in our programs so that you can decide what makes sense for your young athlete and if this is the right program for you.

Participants, guardians, coaches and spectators are expected to support this philosophy should they choose to participate in our leagues and programs. While we understand this may not answer all your questions we hope it will set the foundation to our work and provide a framework we can all work towards achieving.

The ABC's of the City of Greeley Youth Sports Philosophy

Atttempt: We believe that in youth recreational sports the **attempt** is much more significant than the performance results. The City of Greeley Recreational leagues are built for participants to have multiple attempts to learn and practice new skills. We believe every attempt should be rewarded with positivity and encouragement.

Belonging: We believe one of the most important aspects in fostering your child's continued participation in youth recreational sports is the sense of **belonging**. To nurture this aspect we have been intentional about roster size capacities, we allow full team registrations, and we have a full-time coordinator devoted to adaptive and inclusive recreation.

Competition: We believe that fair and healthy **competition** is essential to developing and practicing the benefits associated with youth sport participation. Healthy competition provides a platform for participants to elevate themselves to meet a challenge, encourages self-motivation and recognizes the journey just as much as the outcome. Competition is not isolated to wins and losses and we believe this form of competition should only be introduced to the older age groups that have the mental capacity for this added challenge. For this reason, we will only record scores for specific age divisions and sports which will be listed upon registration.

Development: We believe in the **development** of the whole person along with the fundamentals inherent to the sport. We believe that talent development only comes from promoting continued participation through positivity, encouragement and engagement. We understand that all kids develop at a different pace and our leagues are meant to be an introduction to the sport and either a steppingstone to club play or continued participation at the recreational level.

Enjoyment: We believe above all else that youth sports should be fun! Participants should engage in our leagues and programs for **enjoyment** and recreation rather than serious competition, after all that is the true definition of play.

Code of Conduct

Respect of Officials

The City of Greeley Recreation Youth sports team will hire and train officials for some sports leagues. When officials are provided for your games, we ask that you show respect and care for these individuals. Good officials are hard to come by and are even harder to retain when they are constantly criticized and ridiculed. The City of Greeley Sports team is working to change the culture in how we as a society treat and interact with officials. Yelling at and criticizing officials models poor communication and redirects the focus of the game. To provide the best experiences for our young athletes, coaches and spectators should expend their energy on instruction and guiding players rather than getting hung up on poor calls. Youth sport participants learn and model behaviors they see from people they respect.

Guardians and Spectators

Guardians and spectators are expected to uphold the City of Greeley Youth Sport philosophy during scheduled programs including practices and games. Additionally, guardians and spectators will be held to the expectation that they:

- will not leave participant unattended at practices and games
- will respect the decisions of officials or coaches and bring discrepancies to the attention of the City of Greeley Staff
- will not engage in any violence or verbal threats or use any profanity
- will model good sportsmanship for all youth participants
- will not belittle or ridicule anyone involved in the city of Greeley youth sports program
- will do their part to keep the environment fun and positive for every youth participant
- agree with and support the City of Greeley Youth Sport Philosophy

Guardians and spectators could be asked to leave at any time for behavior that does not abide by this policy.

Participants- Behavior Expectations

To ensure the safety of all children and staff in our programs, participants are responsible for adhering to program rules and policies whenever at the program. This includes the use of appropriate language, respecting personal space, and maintaining professional boundaries. City of Greeley staff will use their best judgement when deciding what level of discipline is most appropriate for the circumstances should participants not abide by the participant expectations.

Participants in the City of Greeley youth leagues or programs:

- will show good sportsmanship to players, coaches, officials, opponents and parents during the program
- will encourage teammates and praise good efforts
- will be honest, fair and respectful to others
- will not bully or belittle fellow teammates or participants
- will follow the rules of the game in order to keep others safe

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Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read and understand our philosophy and code of ethics. We appreciate your support in furthering our mission to provide positive and impactful opportunities to our youth in Greeley. If you have any questions or want to better understand our stance on certain topics please contact Zachary Kilimann at zach.kilimann@greeleygov.com

*The City of Greeley Recreation staff has the right and authority to make changes to our policies, philosophy and code of ethics at any time. This document will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis or as we see fit.
