

Youth Sports League Philosophy – Clayton Parks and Recreation

The City of Clayton strongly believes in the benefits of participation in organized sports. Participation in sports has proven to build self-esteem, promote teamwork, develop the body as well as the mind, and is an integral part of the maturation process.

- I. To have FUN!!!
 - A. Every child should have an enjoyable and positive experience.
 - B. According to the American Youth & Sports participation survey:
 1. The number one reason children participate in sports is to “have fun.”
 2. The number two reason why children stop playing sports is “I stopped having fun.”
- II. Recreational League
 - A. The Clayton Parks and Recreation youth sports league is not a competitive league.
 - B. The Clayton Parks and Recreation youth sports league allows every child a chance to play no matter what abilities the child possesses.
 - C. Standings are not kept and scores are de-emphasized.
 - D. The Clayton Parks and Recreation youth sports league tries to provide as evenly skilled teams as possible.
- III. Every Child receives equal playing time.
 - A. Our goal is for children to learn to play the game, which they can not do without participation.
 - B. Every child should receive an equal amount of attention during practices.
- IV. Open Registration
 - A. Our programs are open to anyone who wants to play.
 - B. Clayton Parks and Recreation will accommodate every child that signs up before the deadline.
 - C. Every child who enrolls before the determined deadline is guaranteed a place in the league.
 - D. Waitlist
- V. Community Involvement
 - A. The Clayton youth sports program is dependent on volunteers.
 1. Our leagues can not run successfully without the time and effort of our volunteer coaches, officials, and parental support.
 2. Volunteer coaches will be trained and encouraged to make the extra effort to:
 - a. understand children’s needs
 - b. give positive help rather than negative criticism
 - c. be positive role models to the children
 - d. teach the respective sport to the best of their ability
 - e. follow the philosophy and standards as outlined by the Clayton Youth Sports League
 - B. The Clayton Parks and Recreation youth sports league encourage our participant’s parents or guardians to become positively involved with their child’s respective league.
- VI. Good Sportsmanship
 - A. Athletic contests naturally involve competition
 1. The Clayton Youth Sports League desires to create an atmosphere in which the game is played with constructive orientation, rather than a win at all costs attitude.
 2. Respect towards teammates, coaches, and referees must be instilled in all participants.
 3. No matter what the outcome of the game, everyone gains a positive experience if they are treated respectfully and congratulated for giving their best effort.