



## Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services T-Ball League Parent Information Policies and Procedures

### **League Philosophy**

*All children will have the opportunity to participate in a non-threatening, non-competitive, recreational league.*

*All children will be provided the opportunity to learn discipline, responsibility, commitment, teamwork, good sportsmanship and gain confidence. Children will be able to improve their skills and enhance their knowledge of the sport through quality coaching. Each child will receive equal playing time and coaching time during practices and games.*

### **Hello Coaches and Parents:**

We know that many of you not only choose to register your child(ren) with the Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department's Youth Leagues because of the well-organized program and fun recreational experience, but because of its affordability. During these tough economic times we find it necessary to ask everyone to look at how they are spending their money on our leagues throughout the season and be sensitive to others that are facing financial challenges. Although the sports culture shows that parents are spending a lot of money, we would like to see parents/coaches scale down the types of things they are spending their money on. For example:

1. Game only snacks, snacks are not necessary after practice. Share in the opportunity of bringing the game snacks. One family could bring the drink and another family could offer to bring the snack. Rotate among team members so everyone has a chance to contribute.
2. Opt to not put names on the backs of shirts.
3. Acknowledge your coaches with a fun and thoughtful home-made card, they will love it!

These are only suggestions with the intent to be sensitive to all families involved in our programs.

**Thank you for participating and have a great season!**

**LEAGUE COORDINATOR:** Fisher Basin Park, and Marshall Community Park, **Demetrius Brooks** 360-487-7014

There is always room for improvement, so please call anytime you have a suggestion or a concern.

**WHO IS IN CHARGE:** There will be a Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff person on sight who will supervise and referee games and answer questions. ***The referee has the final say on all calls; coaches/parents/spectators are not to approach them at any time with disagreements.*** Whenever you have a concern with a referee, coach, other players, rules, etc. call the league coordinator.

**TEAM MAKE-UP:** Children are placed on teams first according to their preference in coach, or wanting to play with a sibling or friend, then by age and gender. Secondly, they are placed according to their zip code. It's good to have kids from the same area on the same team especially if they are from the same school or in the event parents want to carpool.

**TEAM UNIFORMS:** T-shirts are included in the registration fees for the league. Each team's T-shirt color will vary. We strongly recommend that players tuck their shirts in.

**EQUIPMENT:** Each child **MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN BASEBALL GLOVE**. Please label your child's mitt. Vancouver Parks & Recreation will provide bats, balls, tee's if applicable, catcher's equipment, and batting helmets. Parents we encourage your child to wear a baseball cap under the batting helmet. If your child brings their own equipment to practices and games, please be sure the equipment is marked with their name and the bat is Little League approved! Parents are also encouraged to buy a "flex ball" for their child to practice with for t-ball. A flex ball looks just like a baseball, only it has a soft core.

**CLEATS:** Cleats are optional but are good for traction on the grass field. The soles must be molded and made of rubber or nylon. No metal is allowed.

**GAME SCHEDULES/GAMES:** Game schedules will be passed out at the parent/player/coaches meeting and are available online at [www.vanparksrecreports.org](http://www.vanparksrecreports.org) . Games will begin on time, no exceptions. Please obey all park rules when using parks for games (ex: dogs on leashes, clean up after pets, pick up garbage from the field.)

**PRACTICE TIMES:** Practice times are determined by the coaches and/or the parents on the first day at the parent/player/coaches meeting. Keeping in mind coaches may already have a designated day that they are available to run the practice. Teams are required to schedule at least one practice per week. We suggest going to local neighborhood/community parks for practices. Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services staff will not be present at practices. Please obey all park rules when using parks for practices (ex: dogs on leashes, clean up after pets, pick up garbage from the field.)

**TRASH IN/TRASH OUT:** It is the responsibility of the participants, parents, and coaches to make sure that all garbage is removed from practice and game fields.

**PARENTS:** Parents role at practices and games is to be a **cheerleader**. Please respect the role of the coaches and allow them to direct the children during games. Too many voices or directions are confusing to the children. Coaches may ask for assistance with encouragement or discipline if needed. If the coach has removed your child from the game or practice for a discipline reason, please follow through with reminders of the rules. Parents are not allowed on the field during games. Do not leave your child alone at practices or games. Do not drop them off and leave. This is not an individually supervised program, and it is not the responsibility of the coaches to baby-sit your child (ren). This is for your protection as well as the coaches. Because we make it a requirement for coaches to show up for games/practices, ***parents must contact the coach prior to the practice/game if your child will not be attending a practice/game.*** Parents are required to inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of your child or the safety of others.

**COACHES:** All coaches, both head coaches and assistants, must pass a Background check and a coaches screening before the first practice. The coaches are volunteers and may request your help during games and practices. Parents may help with a coach present but are not allowed to conduct practices or coach games on their own. If a coach is not at practice, the practice must be canceled. Young children need a lot of individual attention, help and encouragement. One coach from each team may be on the playing field during games but may not impede play or get in the way. All players' phone numbers are given to the coach. If you would like to be a volunteer coach during the season, please call the league coordinator.

**SPECTATORS:** Coaches and parents are responsible for other spectators. All spectators, adult, and youth that are in the game field area during games/practices, must sit in the designated seating area. Players will sit with their team. Please do not stand or coach from behind the stands.

**Profanity and or Negative behaviors on the sidelines by coaches/parents/spectators/players will not be tolerated and can result in dismissal of the game or of the league without a refund. Please remember how precious our children are and respect their right to have fun and learn the game of T-Ball. Thank you for your cooperation.**

**TOBACCO FREE POLICY:** All Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services youth leagues are smoke/tobacco free. Because secondhand smoke is dangerous to non-smokers as well as smokers, and tobacco debris may be harmful to toddlers, pets and the environment, the use of tobacco by spectators, players or coaches is not allowed near or in the stands, or in or around the fields. Please inform guests who may attend practices or games of this rule. Please contact a Vancouver Parks and Recreation staff person for a copy of the Tobacco Free Parks Policy, and the Tobacco Free Campus Policy.

**RULES/POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:** Each coach will be provided with a set of rules. A copy of the rules is available upon requests from the youth sports office. This program is designed to be a FUN, LEARNING EXPERIENCE!

**TEAM PICTURES:** Agency Pictures will be taking team pictures at the parent's expense. All orders are done on online, and Jen Robinett will be sending out an email to all parents the week prior to your scheduled picture day with ordering directions. If you need to reach Jen, her number is 360-513-2589. Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services is not affiliated with the photography agency. Pictures are mailed directly to you.

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** This is a recreational, learning league. Winning is not the primary goal. Coaches, parents, and spectators, please set a good example. Teach your children about good sportsmanship.

**NO JEWELRY:** No jewelry is allowed during play. **TAPE OVER EARRINGS will be allowed.**

**BLOOD RULE:** If there is any exposed blood, the player must be removed from play and cleaned up. If there is blood on the clothing, the clothing must be removed before that player will be allowed back into the game. The referee's have a first aid kit at the games.

**FIRST AID SUPPLIES:** First Aid supplies will not be available at practices; please have on hand, in case of an injury, the appropriate first aid supplies. i.e.: band-aids, ice pack.

**WEATHER/GAME CANCELLATIONS:** Games will be played rain or shine. Cancellations will only occur due to inclement weather such as lightning, snow, etc. Call league coordinator for a recording regarding game cancellations 2 hours before scheduled game on game day or call inclement weather line 360-487-7065 (Marshall/Bagley Westside) or 360-487-7040 (Firstenburg Eastside). **YOU WILL NOT BE CONTACTED INDIVIDUALLY WHEN CANCELED.** If there is no message saying that games have been canceled, then games are on as scheduled. Coaches are responsible for notifying parents and the Youth Sports office of practice cancellations.

**REFUND POLICY:** When the customer asks for a refund ten working days before the team meeting, the total fee will be credited to the customer's account. When the fee is greater than \$10.00, and the customer prefers a refund check for the total fee less a processing fee. Refund requests made after the **ten working day deadline** will only be issued in the case of a family or medical emergency. Refunds take about ten working days to process after applications are submitted.

**NOTE:** The Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Youth Sports Department does keep a waiting list and will call upon the **next person on the list** to replace them.

**THANK YOUR COACHES:** Thank your coaches at the end of the season with a small card that each player signs. They put in many volunteer hours.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Many parents want to help with the team but aren't sure how. Here are some suggestions for you to help your coach out:

1. Helpers at practice
2. Parent Coordinator
3. Phone tree
4. Schedule change coordinator
5. Team party

I'm sure that there are many other ways you can help support your child's team.

**The Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services T-Ball League is a recreational, learning league.** What does this mean? It means all children get equal playing time, no stats are taken, there are no try-outs and even though teams play to win, the emphasis is placed on learning to play the game well with good sportsmanship and having fun! Remember that coaches and parents' attitudes reflect on the children.

**The following is a list of appropriate questions that a parent can ask to help reinforce and support their child's youth sports experience:**

1. Did you have fun?
2. Did you learn something new?
3. Do you feel as though you improved a skill today?
4. Did you play well?
5. Is there anything you feel you need to work on, and if so, can I help you?
6. What did the coach say you should concentrate on?
7. Is there anything else you want to talk about?
8. What do you like most about the coach?
9. Is there anything you are having difficulty with?
10. What was your favorite part of the practice/game?
11. Were you a good sport?

### Players Code of Ethics

#### **IT IS THE PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO GO OVER THESE WITH YOUR CHILD (REN).**

Participation in youth sports programs can have a lasting and meaningful effect on children's lives. Therefore, it is the goal of Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services to provide the highest quality of athletic programs to ensure that a child's experience with sports is a positive one. It takes the cooperation of everyone involved, including the participant, to make this happen. The following responsibilities have been established for participants to adhere to.

**I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Players' Code of Ethics Pledge:**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can and will notify my coach if I cannot.
- I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials, and fans with respect, and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun!
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.
- I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun, not win at all costs.

The Players Corrective Action Policy, *which is in the Coaching Manual*, is also on File in the Youth Sports office and may be sent out if/when an infraction occurs.

**Imagine watching a father become incensed when his 10-year-old boy receives an elbow to the nose during a body check from another hockey player. Immediately, this irate parent screams at the coach to curtail the violence. When the coach skates off the ice, he is confronted by the enraged parent. After some verbal sparring, the agitated parent is asked to leave the premises. Later, the stressed father returns to the rink, challenges the coach again and begins beating him while young athletes yell helplessly for the crazed parent to stop. It's too late. Two days later, a spokesperson for the hospital announces that the coach has died. \*Help fight parental violence in youth sports\***

**(This is a true story reported by Dennis M. Docheff, Ed. D. and James H. Conn, Ph.D.)**

## **Parents Responsibilities and Expectations**

In order for a program to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of everyone involved: players, coaches, officials, league administrators, and especially parents. Parents have the following responsibilities and expectations when participating in Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Youth Sports Department Programs:

**Parents have a responsibility to their children:** To make sure that your child gets the most out of his or her playing experience, parents should show their unwavering support, including positive reinforcement of your child's performance and effort and commitment to attending practices and games. This is essential, especially at an early age, to ensure their healthy development. Parents should also be positive role models, including, but not limited to, always showing proper sportsmanship, and refraining from negativity of any kind. Parents are responsible for reading and discussing the Players Code of Ethics, Responsibilities and Expectations with their child.

**Parents have a responsibility to the coaches:** Coaches volunteer their personal time to spend it with your child. They need you to be supportive of their decisions and not undermine their efforts. If you don't agree with your coach or the opposing teams coach, you are expected to tell your coach, but make certain it is done at the right time and place and not in front of the children or during a game. Do not approach opposing team coaches with concerns. Parents are required to be at all games and practices and notify coaches if your child will not be attending a practice/game. Parents should be cheerleaders from the sidelines and allow the coach to direct the players. Parents who "coach" from the sidelines make it difficult for players to know who to listen to and take direction from. Please respect the role of the coach.

**Parents have a responsibility to other parents:** Personal gain and satisfaction should not be derived from your child's performance. Confrontation and taunting between parents is never acceptable. Good plays should always be cheered, and disappointments should always be consoled, no matter whose team it affects.

**Parents have a responsibility to the referees:** Referees are responsible for monitoring all players on the field/gym. All calls made by the referee are final. Parent's responsibility is to support the referee and not approach the referee, yell at or question calls made by the referee. If you have a concern, please address the situation with your coach.

**Parents have a responsibility to the league:** League administrators cannot be at all games and practices of all teams. In order to maintain a protective shell around these programs, it is essential for parents to report concerns regarding coaches, parents, players or staff/officials or any situations to the league administrator immediately. Do not wait until the league is over or until the situation gets out of control. This is the only way these programs can achieve their intended goals.

**Parents have a responsibility to all:** Parents must educate their family and friends that they bring to the game of the Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Youth Sports Parents Responsibilities and Expectations.

### **Parents Code of Ethics**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other sports events.
- I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth - not for adults.
- I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan or assisting with coaching if needed.
- I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Volunteer Coaches Responsibilities.

The Parents Corrective Action Policy, *which is in the Coaching Manual*, is also on File in the Youth Sports office and may be sent out if/when an infraction occurs.

**Please KEEP THIS COPY for your records. Thank you.**

“The City of Vancouver complies with Washington's Fair Play and Community Sports Act that prohibits discrimination against any person in a community athletics program on the basis of sex.” Any questions or comments, please contact the Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director at (360) 487-8311 or via email at [parksrec@cityofvancouver.us](mailto:parksrec@cityofvancouver.us)

## ***PARKING NOTICE AT FISHER BASIN PARK***

- Please Park in the Shahala Middle School and/or Fisher Basin parking spaces ONLY.
- Please do not block the garbage cans at Shahala Middle School or park in the Westridge neighborhood!
- It is illegal to OBSTRUCT FIRE LANES (red curbs in the parking lot at Fisher Basin Park), this is a \$100 violation.
- Please do not park in the grass or on the sidewalks at any time.

### ***OBSTRUCTION OF FIRE LANES***



**Every Second Counts**

*Your neighborhood, community park or complex has fire lanes that must be kept clear at all times. Fire lanes are marked with red curbs or signs.*

#### **What is the law?**

The Fire Code requires that "fire apparatus access roads (fire lanes) shall not be obstructed in any manner, including the parking of vehicles." (IFC 503.4)

Parking in a fire lane can result in a fine of \$100 per incident. If your vehicle interferes with emergency response, criminal and civil penalties can be assessed.

#### **Why does it matter if I park in a fire lane?**

Parking your vehicle in a fire lane may prevent a fire engine or ambulance from getting down a street or driveway in an emergency. Emergency responders do not have time to maneuver around illegally parked vehicles. The delay in response can mean life or death or significant loss to those requesting emergency assistance.

**Vancouver Fire Department**

**Fire Marshal's Office**

**360.487.7260**

**[www.vanfire.org](http://www.vanfire.org)**