

Youth Sports Recreational League Philosophy

O'Fallon Parks and Recreation

The City of O'Fallon 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. O'Fallon Parks and Recreation youth sport recreational leagues are NOT competitive leagues.
 - B. Youth sport recreational leagues run by O'Fallon Parks & Recreation and allow every child the chance to play, no matter what abilities the child possesses.
 - C. Standings are not kept and scores are de-emphasized.
 - D. O'Fallon Parks and Recreation tries to provide as evenly skilled teams as possible.
- III. Every Child Receives Equal Playing Time
 - A. Our programs are open to anyone who wants to play.
 - 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. O'Fallon 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. An active waitlist will be maintained for leagues that are full.
- V. Community Involvement
 - A. The O'Fallon 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
 - d. teach the respective sport to the best of their abilities
 - e. follow the philosophy and standards as outlined
 - B. The O'Fallon youth sports program encourage our participant's parents and guardians to become positively involved with their child's respective league.
- VI. Good Sportsmanship
 - A. Athletic contests naturally involve competition
 1. O'Fallon Parks and Recreation 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.
 4. “If you lose, don't lose the lesson.”