

YOUTH SPORTS HANDBOOK



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by text please text YOUTHSPO RTS TO 33733

Vandenberg Youth Sports Mission Statement

To assist DoD military and civilian personnel in balancing the competing demands of the accomplishment of the DoD mission and family life by managing and delivering a system of quality, available, and affordable programs and services for eligible children and youth birth through 18 years of age.

Vandenberg Youth Sports Philosophy

The Vandenberg Youth Sports philosophy is simple and 3-fold: Participants should have fun, learn something about the sport, and form lasting friendships with teammates and coaches alike.

This youth sports philosophy is achieved through three key components: The coaches, the parents, and the players. The coaches are directly responsible for instilling values, good sportsmanship, developing and refining sports skills and transferring their knowledge of the game to the players. 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 foundation of communication throughout the team and provide nutritious snacks and drinks. Off the field, parents continue their support by developing their children's skills and love of the game. The players are challenged to keep their focus on good sportsmanship, fair play, camaraderie, and to continue to develop and refine their sports skills.

The Vandenberg Youth Sports Program is built upon Air Force Instruction (AFI) 34-249 and Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 34-804. 100% compliance with the regulations outlined in each of these publications is mandatory. This handbook offers a more refined clarification of many of the regulations found within AFI 34-249 and AFMAN 34-804. It also institutes local base policies unique to the Vandenberg AFB environment.

GUIDELINES: Air Force Youth Sports utilizes the National Standards for Youth Sports. Leagues under these standards are operated using specific guidelines as follows:

5 yrs or Kindergarten:

- ☐ There are no regular competitive teams
- ☐ Scores or standings are not kept
- ☐ Rules, equipment, and the field are modified to match the abilities of the players.
- ☐ Limited uniforms are provided
- ☐ There are no scheduled tournaments or all-star competitions
- ☐ Leagues and coaches are not permitted to require sports specialization
- ☐ Play is co-recreational
- ☐ No travel is involved
- ☐ Coaches are permitted on the playing surfaces
- ☐ Coaches' work together to set up, chalk, and keep the playing areas clean.
- ☐ Co-recreational play is encouraged.

Grades 1st & 2nd:

- ☐ Informal teams are used
- ☐ Scores or standings are not kept
- ☐ Rules, equipment, and the field are modified to match the abilities of the players
- ☐ Limited uniforms are provided
- ☐ There are no tournaments or all-star competitions

- ☐ Co-recreational play is encouraged
- ☐ No travel is involved
- ☐ Leagues and coaches are not permitted to require sports specialization
- ☐ Coaches work together to set up, chalk, and keep the playing areas clean
- ☐ Co-recreational play is encouraged

Grades 3rd-5th and 6th-8th:

- ☐ Scores are kept but standings are not
- ☐ Rules, equipment, and the field are modified, where necessary, to match the abilities of the players and the size of the league
- ☐ Expenditures on uniforms for appearance reasons are minimized
- ☐ There is no out-of-community post season play
- ☐ There is no national tournament participation
- ☐ Leagues and coaches are not permitted to require sports specialization
- ☐ Limited ability groupings are used following proper grouping procedures
- ☐ A variety of positions and situational plays are encouraged
- ☐ Coaches' work together to set up, chalk, and keep the playing areas clean.



League Summary

The Youth Sports Program is open to children grades K-8th affiliated with VAFB and dependents of active duty, retired military, department of defense civilians, and base contractors (with the ability to bring their children on base). Our programs are fully inclusive please let the program Director know if your child has special needs.

The programs are recreational in nature, place the emphasis on participation, and are based upon the National Standards for Youth Sports and AFI 34-801 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 Vandenberg are soccer, basketball, baseball, and track. Dates are subject to change so please call the Youth Center to verify.

Soccer Co-ed

Registration: July
Practices: Mid-August
Games Begin: September
Season Ends: End of October

Baseball Co-ed

Registration: February
Practices: Mid-March
Games Begin: April
Season Ends: May

Basketball Co-ed

Registration: Sep
Practices: Mid-November
Games Begin: December
Season Ends: February

Track Co-ed

Registration: March
Practices: Mid-April
Meets Begin: May
Season Ends: June

Registration Process

Registration Requirements

- ☐ A current physical exam (within the last year) - The exam must approve the participant for participation in a youth sports activity and must not expire during the sports season.
- ☐ Completion of Registration Form and payment of Sports Registration Fee.

Registration Periods: Registration periods will generally last at least four weeks and will cover no less than two pay periods.

Registration Fees:

- ☐ Members \$50 (Yearly Youth Center Membership fee is \$60)
- ☐ Non-Member Fee \$65

Membership Vs Non-Membership

The Vandenberg Youth Center is affiliated with the Boys & Girls Club of America and encourages its patrons to hold a membership at their club. The Sports Program offers patrons a choice concerning membership, however, members enjoy a price break in the registration fees and are eligible to participate in any/all membership activities. Dependent youth up to 18yrs and still in high school are eligible to hold a membership, but must be 10yrs to visit the Youth Center Recreation side alone.

Age Requirements

Eligibility to participate in the Sports Program encompasses players (ages 5) K-8th. The age cutoff is based upon the child's age as of the first day of practice for each given season.

What does my Sports Registration fee cover?

The question "What does my sports registration fee cover?" is extremely common in any youth sports program. Typical expenses with any given sports season could include uniform of the season, coaches' certifications, and any additional supplies equipment needed for the league during the season. Expenses may vary a little depending on the sport, however, for the most part, these expenses are found in every sport offered at Vandenberg AFB. Youth Sports is a non-profit entity with all profits going back into improving the program.

Late Registration & Waiting Lists

A registration is considered late when initiated after the advertised registration period. Late registrations do not guarantee your child(ren) a slot in the given sports season. The only exception to this policy is if a family PCSs in after the advertised registration period, before the start of the games, and slots/uniforms are still available. In this case, the family is permitted to register their child (ren). A copy of PCS orders is required to validate registration.

At times, registration may be limited due to the max number of teams able to use the program facilities or the lack of volunteers or lack of participation. This means that even though registration may still be opened, registration may be halted in a particular age division or the sport. Any further registrations will be put on a waiting list and no payment will be taken. If openings develop within the program these registrations will be taken off the waiting list and parents can then make their payment, regular rates will be used. If program remains full at the close of the advertised registration period, the registrants will remain on the waiting list.

The waiting list is the location where registrations are placed when slots are not available. Registrations are drawn off the waiting list as slots become available and are offered to registrants in the order they were received. Once contact has been made with the parent(s) on the waiting list, a 24-hour period will be granted to the parent to make the payment. Once the 24-hour period has expired, the next individual on the waiting list will be contacted and offered the slot.

Financial Need Scholarships

The Vandenberg Spouses Club offers sports scholarships for those in need, when funds are available. An application can be picked up at the beginning of registration or through the spouses club. Deadlines do apply so please turn in early. If applicant is not granted a scholarship, a payment still needs to be paid in full before player can participate in season.

Termination and Refund Policies

It's requested that you complete a termination form when removing your child(ren) from any program. You may use Vandenberg AFB Youth Programs Termination/Change Notification form. Completing the termination form officially removes your child(ren) from the program, which creates open slots for those on the waiting list. It also makes you eligible for a refund, provided you meet the criteria.

The refund policy is as follows:

Prior to the start of the season, Refunds will only be granted for PCS and medical reasons minus the cost of the uniform if ordered. Documentation must be provided. Withdrawal from the program with less than one week of practice will result in an additional \$15.00 service charge deducted from the refund. Refunds will not be granted after one week of practice.

Sports Season Timeline

Each sports season offered by Vandenberg Youth Sports virtually runs the same way with some subtle differences in each sport. This section illustrates the timeline and explains each benchmark within the season.

General Timeline

- ☐ Advertising: Two weeks prior to registrations
- ☐ Registration: Four weeks
- ☐ Coaches Meeting: Two weeks after registration starts
- ☐ Skills day: First Saturday after registrations closes
- ☐ Parent Meeting: Three weeks before opening day
- ☐ Practice: One week after parent meeting (two weeks of practice)
- ☐ Games/Meets start: Two weeks after practices start (8 weeks of games/meets)

Advertising

Broad advertising is a necessity for successful participant numbers. Advertising utilizes the base paper, the Service Events, the 30FSS web page, fliers placed at key locations across the base, schools, electronic marquees, and word of mouth.

Registration

All children must be age 5 by the first day of practice to be eligible to play. A current annual physical must be submitted or already on file upon registration (physical must not expire during the season); without a physical, players will be placed on a waiting list and a slot will not be guaranteed until physical is on file. Registration generally last two weeks then closes.

During registration, parents may not make a request for a specific team or coach. All fees must be paid in full by close of registration. If any portion of the registration requirements is not met, the player is ineligible to participate and their uniform will be withheld until requirements are met.

Coach Recruitment/Selection/Training

Coaches are recruited on an on-going basis. A majority of the coaches are recruited during the registration process as many parents volunteer to coach their own children. The Youth Sports Administrator selects and places the coaches for the season. Coaches are interviewed; Coaches must complete a volunteer application, and successfully complete a local background check. Coaches must also complete the National Youth Sports Coaches Association training (NYSCA), along with all training within the coaches' packet. All forms must be turned in to the Sports Administrator before being assigned a team.

Coaches' Meeting

The coaches' meeting is held after registration has closed. Several tasks are accomplished during the coaches meeting and include such items as appointing coaches to teams, reviewing rules and by-laws, issuing equipment, etc. The coaches' meeting is the most important step in starting the season, because it creates the foundation for the season.

Parent Orientation

The Parent Orientation is where coaches, players, and parents meet. The event gives parents and players a chance to meet their coach and receive important season information before practices start. Parents also have an opportunity to view the team rosters to determine what team their child(ren) is on and also to make correction to name spelling, phone numbers, and mailing and email addresses. Parents are reminded of their role throughout the season. The event concludes with coaches conducting their first coaches meeting. Parents may also receive player's uniform if the shipment has been received and possessed. Due to space we request parent only attend. Attendance to this event is mandatory.

Opening Ceremonies

This event will kick off game day. All teams and parents are expected to attend this event. Coaches and teams will be announced as an official start of a new season. Games will follow the ceremony in most cases.

Practices

Practices are held Monday through Friday beginning as early as 1700 and ending as late as 2000. Every attempt is made to provide two practices per week for teams 3rd-8th grade; however, court or field availability sometimes limits each team to only one practice per week. Practices times are set in one hour intervals, but may vary for the players on the upper divisions. Prior to games beginning, teams usually receive two to four weeks of practices. Coaches can excuse participants from practices as the need arises.

Pictures

Parents will have an opportunity to purchase pictures through a contracted photographer. Individual and team photos in a variety of formats and packages will be available. Parents wishing to purchase pictures must be prepared to pay on the day of pictures with payments being made payable to the photographer. Any question or concerns about the photos are directed to the photographer.

Post Season Survey

A post season survey is administered at the conclusion of each major sport season. The survey gives parents, coaches, and players an opportunity to provide feedback. Questions range from the cost being reasonable to practice/game schedule quality.

Administrative Policies & Procedures

Volunteer Coach Assignment

Volunteer coaches are prioritized by a desire to coach their own child(ren), completion of all the necessary paperwork and training, and, finally, years' experience. Requests by coaches to work with a specific age group may be honored.

- ☐ The primary focus is to ensure each team has a head coach. Each team is limited to one official coach. Parents may assist the coaches if coaches feel it's needed.
- ☐ There will be no switching of teams to coach for another team. This pertains to all.
- ☐ Head Coach may not pick up an assistant coach prior to the selection of teams. Assistant Coaches and Team Parents will come from the parents already on the Roster or from applicants that have applied through the youth center. (This is to avoid pre-selection of players)

If no Head Coach has volunteered, then the youth center will call all parents on the roster to ask for volunteers. In the case that no one volunteers then the team will be unable to start with the rest of the league until coach is found and trained. As a last option than the following will be offered; A credit for the upcoming sport or a refund will be offered to the team without a coach.

Player Placement Team Formations/Special Requests

AFI 34-249 and AFMAN 34-804 state that when sufficient numbers are available, leagues will be formed using three-age groups, i.e., 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, etc. When sufficient numbers are not available, no more than a three-age grouping may be used. AFSPC MAJCOM must approve anything beyond the three-age grouping and must be accomplished prior to the beginning of the season.

Requests for a specific coach, team, or practice time cannot be honored.

The following exceptions apply: Parents wishing to coach their own children, siblings in the same age division, families with three or more children registered in a sport at one time, and commuters living in the same neighborhood with a commuting time of 30 minutes or greater. Special consideration enables parents of different families to have their children on the same team. Requests to move a child from one team to another at any point in the process cannot be honored.

Special Needs

Children with special needs and/or disabilities will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Vandenberg Youth Sports will make every reasonable effort to have children with special needs and/or disabilities participate in all of its programs. Accommodations include, but are not limited to, moving to a lower age group(s), adjusting rules of the game, adjusting the playing facility, and/or adjusting game play equipment.

Excused Absences

Excused absences from practice(s) are permitted when family obligations conflict with practice schedules. Coaches will not penalize players who are unable to attend practice(s). Parents are able to report schedule conflicts on the registration form, all effort will be made to accommodate at the time the teams are being formed, but once teams are formed players will not be moved.

Rulebooks

The following rulebook is used with each sport offered:

Basketball - Parks and Rec League, Soccer – AYSO, Baseball - Little League, Track - Hershey

Practice/Game Schedules - Cancellations/Rescheduling

Practice/Game cancellations are usually made as a result of inclement weather. Practice cancellations will always be made prior to 3 PM for that day by the coach of the team. If inclement weather arises after 3 PM, practice cancellations will be made on the spot.

Game cancellations are made by 0800 on game day, giving the weather a chance to clear and games to be played. If games are cancelled, every attempt will be made to reschedule the games. This is not guaranteed, as field/court space/time or game officials may not be available. As a general rule games will be rescheduled throughout the week during the last week of the regular season and/or a week will be added to the season depending on the number of cancelled game days.

The process for issuing cancellations begins with the Youth Center reaching the head coaches. If the head coach cannot be reached, then a team parent is informed. If neither are available then after all head coaches are called, the Youth Sports Administrator will call the players on the team. In each case, once a notice has been issued, it is the responsibility of the individual receiving the notice to inform the remainder of the team.

Hazardous Weather

Sudden severe weather and extreme weather conditions are a reality and will, in some way, affect both practices and games. Sudden severe weather, such as lightning storms, strong winds, hail, torrential downpours, etc., will require the coach and adults to take appropriate action. In most cases, seeking safe shelter, such as vehicles and/or buildings, or seek safe shelter at the Youth Center or the closest secure structure.

Extreme weather conditions

Extreme weather conditions such as extreme cold or heat require appropriate responses. In cases of extreme heat, the base weather warnings/recommendations will be followed. Appropriate actions includes, at a minimum, limiting physical exertion, drinking plenty of fluids, such as water and/or Gatorade, and taking frequent rest breaks. In cases of extremely cold temperatures and/or wind chills sports activities will be cancelled.

Emergency Procedures

Emergencies and accidents are a reality of youth sports. Injuries will occur and some are serious enough to require an emergency treatment. In the event of an emergency, coaches must use the following steps:

- ☐ Assess the situation. Do not panic. Administer first aid only if qualified.
- ☐ Have an adult stay with the injured person at all times.
- ☐ If additional assistance is needed, call 911
- ☐ Meet the emergency vehicle if necessary.
- ☐ If parents/guardians are not available, call the emergency contact and advise them of the circumstances.
- ☐ Report to the youth sports Administrator and/or director immediately.
- ☐ Follow up with parents/guardians to ensure everything is okay with the child.
- ☐ Complete the accident report form and submit to youth sports Administrator.

REMEMBER:

- ☐ At no time should an unqualified person offer a diagnosis or express personal opinion as to the extent of the injury.
- ☐ Coaches are responsible for keeping emergency phone numbers and medical release forms for their players at all times.
- ☐ Coaches are responsible for having a first aid kit at all practices and games.
- ☐ Regularly check supplies in the first aid kit and contact the youth sports director when supplies are low.
- ☐ Coaches will supply the Youth Sports Administrator with a copy of their First aid and CPR cards for the files

Equipment Issue and Return

Coaches are provided all the equipment needed for practices and games and it is stored in a common use shed for all to share. In some cases, this equipment is kept on site, while in other cases individual equipment bags are prepared for each coach.

Facility Usage Rules

The fields and gymnasium are owned and operated by Vandenberg Youth Programs. All activities are limited to Vandenberg Youth Programs. The facilities may be available for individuals, groups, or organizations; however, requests must meet the procedures specified under "Facility Reservations/Usage."

While visiting any of the Youth Programs facilities, please observe the following expectations:

- ☐ All pets are prohibited.
- ☐ This is an alcohol, drug, and tobacco free zone.
- ☐ Trash must be picked up and placed in the proper receptacles or taken with you.
- ☐ Please report safety hazards, i.e., broken or missing equipment, harmful insects, etc., to Vandenberg Youth Programs.
- ☐ Please report accidents or injuries resulting in a hospital visit to Vandenberg Youth Programs.

Facility Reservations/Usage

Individuals/organizations wishing to use any youth sports facility must coordinate with the Youth Sports Administrator. Facilities are not available for use to non-youth center related functions during the given season. Requests for use of a facility is for temporary use only and must be in writing and include the date of the request, the name of the party using the facility, the type of event being held, the dates/times the event will run, the desired facility, and a POC with a phone number. Upon completion, the sports Administrator will approve/disapprove the request.

Acceptable/Unacceptable Behavior - Coach/Player/Parent/Spectator

Establishing and maintaining the highest standard of conduct must typify all behavior in the youth sports program. Inappropriate behavior for programs serving youth by coaches, managers, players, parents, and administrators will not be tolerated. Poor sportsmanship, cursing, vulgarity, or obscene gestures are not permitted on the part of any individual. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any function or activity sponsored by the youth sports program. The youth sports Administrator should solicit help from coaches and parents to provide a smoke free environment at all youth sports events. Youth participating in youth sports activities should not be exposed to second hand smoke. Smoking by staff, coaches, parents, and youth during any practices or competitions is not permitted. Misuse or abuse of playing equipment; negative comments about coaches, players, or officials; prolonged disputes with officials; and throwing objects onto or into the playing area will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

Volunteers must demonstrate the use of positive guidance techniques and require that parents assisting them in the conduct of practices and games also use positive guidance techniques. Positive guidance techniques help the youth develop self-control, self-esteem, and respect for the rights and property of others. Techniques include talking with the youth, helping the youth use negotiation to resolve conflicts, temporarily removing the youth from the situation for a few minutes, and limiting the youth's participation in the activity.

Over-coaching (yelling, criticizing and providing extensive direction) during games or practices is not permitted. Spanking, slapping, shaking, intimidating, humiliating, or damaging a youth's self-esteem/self-confidence will not be tolerated. Under no circumstances will coaches or players attempt to inflict punishment (physical, psychological, or emotional) by excessive physical contact or by purposely running up a score to humiliate the other team. In addition, no coach will punish a player by forcing him or her to run, exercises, or do physically exerting activities as means of punishment.

Coach

The youth sports coach has a very important and serious role. He or she is looked upon as a mentor, authority figure, and expert in the particular sport played by your child. The coach is an extension of the youth center staff and should support the philosophy and goals of the program. A coach may only transport his/her child in his/her own POV. The coach must uphold the highest standards of ethics and morals and should be someone that each child respects.

The coach's job is to teach sport specific skills, teach the concept of teamwork, and encourage all players to participate fully and have fun. More importantly, a coach must teach that participating in sports is a privilege and teach the important things in life, such as obeying parents, doing chores, doing homework, and doing the right thing.

Coaches, as part of their responsibilities, must ensure their players are following proper principles of conditioning and nutrition. The coach's manual, available at the youth center sports office, has several conditioning and exercise routines that can be followed for young athletes. In addition, all coaches should be encouraging their player's to eat nutritiously at home. Snacks provided for games and practices should be nutritious. Fruit slices, oranges, fruit juice, water, nutri-grain bars, etc are acceptable snack foods. Parents and coaches should stay away from "junk" foods such as cakes, candy bars, chips, and other high-fat foods as well as drinks high in sugar such as "Kool-Aid" or sodas.

Players

Players are expected to respect the rights of others, which include teammates, opponents, coaches, officials, scorekeepers, and parents. Wearing the right clothing/bring the required personal equipment to practices and games, listening to the coach, and following the golden rule are a few examples of acceptable behavior. Parents must ensure the players personal equipment has been marked with a safety approved logo for the league sport they are attended for us in.

Creating distractions, causing disruptions, and getting into conflicts, vulgar/derogatory language, fighting, stealing, vandalizing, etc., will not result in a positive youth sports experience.

Parents

Parents are expected to abide by the highest standards of sportsmanship at all times. Cheering for and encouraging players to do their best and making encouraging comments to players is desired and acceptable. Negative comments about players, coaches, officials or administrators are not acceptable under any circumstances. Parents are expected to abide by the Parents Code of Ethics throughout the season by practicing good sportsmanship at all times. Please see **Attachment 1** for a copy of the pledge. The sports staff will also ensure all parents are acting appropriately by issuing “warning” cards to parents who are acting inappropriately at games. In extreme cases, an “ejection” card is issued that warns the parent to leave the facility or have the police called to escort them from the facility. Parents are vital to the success of any youth sports program. Your role is to become familiar with the program philosophy and to understand the importance of your role as a youth sports parent. Be sure to get your child to practices and games on time. Ensure you meet the coach and lend your support to him or her by offering to help with various aspects of the team. You should cheer for good efforts by all players and give praise often. Show respect for the officials, administrators, and coaches by showing good sportsmanship at all times.

Providing Positive Reinforcement

Children thrive under positive reinforcement. The best thing parents can do to ensure a fun and enjoyable sports experience is to praise their child’s efforts, point out the positive, and keep criticism to a minimum. The attitude displayed by you will go a long way towards how your child feels about his or her participation in youth sports.

Role Modeling

All parents are role models to their children and they generally learn to act by watching adults, parents in particular. By showing support for the coach, the program, the officials, and by displaying a positive attitude, your child will learn to act the same way. Be a positive role model so your child will grow up showing positive characteristics and acquire healthy attitudes about sports. Players, especially younger ones, participate to have fun, learn skills, and build relationships with their peers. They see adults as role models and will generally act according to how their coaches and other adults act.

Discussing Concerns

All concerns about the youth sports program are taken seriously and should be discussed as soon as they occur. The youth program has a desire to offer the best quality program it can; therefore, concerns that you may have, especially those that will improve our program, are welcomed. Criticism can be helpful if it is constructive and especially if it is followed up with recommendations for solution. To address your concerns, start with your coach. If unresolved, contact the youth sports director to continue the resolution process. A solution will be timely and fair to everyone. Please contact Kristi Bonneau 606-5357 or Karen Cook, Director Youth Programs

Providing Assistance

The Youth Center staff always welcomes assistance in any way. There are many ways in which a parent can assist in their child's sports experience. Volunteer to be a coach, assistant coach, manager, equipment manager, team parent, official, driver/chaperone, phone tree coordinator, program commissioner, field maintenance worker, administrative support, etc. No offer for assistance will be turned down. Please contact the coach, youth sports administrator, or youth center administrator if you wish to assist in any way.

Spectator

Spectators of any Vandenberg Youth Programs sporting event are expected to abide by the highest standards of sportsmanship at all times. Cheering for and encouraging players to do their best and making encouraging comments to players is acceptable; however, negative comments, of any kind, directed to players, coaches, or officials are not acceptable under any circumstances.

Players, especially younger ones, participate to have fun, learn skills, and build relationships with their peers. They see all adults as role models and will generally act according to how they see their coaches and other adults act.

Scores are not kept at younger age groups, and no standings are kept in any division below age 13; therefore, arguing with officials about calls does nothing but embarrass you, your child, and those spectators around you. Officials are not going to change their calls no matter what you say. The best policy is to gracefully accept the decisions of officials and sports staff and set a positive example for your child by focusing on his/her efforts and not specific incidents or game outcomes.

If the sports staff, officials, or other youth center employees observe negative behavior, a yellow "warning" card will be issued to the offender reminding him/her of their behavior. If it continues a red card will be issued that will tell the offender to remove him/herself from the facility.

Games should be viewed as an opportunity for players to showcase their skills and show their improvements. The self-esteem and self-worth of all players is greatly enhanced when spectators and parents cheer for all participants and show appreciation for their efforts and do not openly criticize officials, coaches, or other players.

Poor sportsmanship and negative behavior have no place in youth sports and will not be tolerated.

Officials

The referee will, at all times, put great emphasis on the welfare and safety of the players and will call the game in a manner promoting good sportsmanship. The league is a recreation league and the main goals are for the players to have fun, learn the rules of the game, and develop a long lasting love of the game. The referee, at his/her discretion, may stop play to ensure safety, health, and welfare of players.

Disciplinary Actions - Coach/Player/Parent/Spectator**Coach**

In an effort to ensure all staff and volunteers are operating within the established objectives and goals of the program; a disciplinary procedure has been implemented. Volunteers must work within these established rules for the protection of our youth. Any violation of the established rules will result in various disciplinary actions depending on severity. All violations will be recorded and kept on file and proposed disciplinary action may range from a warning and additional training, or may be as extreme as expulsion. In cases of suspected child abuse or injury to a child, the individual will be reported to authorities for appropriate legal action. Youth sports program volunteers who are under investigation for child abuse or neglect are to be restricted from contact with youth until the investigation of the allegation is completed. Volunteers who are found to have been involved in a substantiated allegation of child abuse or neglect may not participate in the youth sports program in any position, which involves contact with youth.

Player

Positive and acceptable behavior is expected at all times from the players. Failure to live up to these expectations will have consequences. In almost every case of negative behavior, consequences will be determined on severity; however, community service hours and suspension from practices/games will be most common.

Parent

Parents are expected to abide by the Parents Code of Ethics throughout the season by practicing good sportsmanship at all times. The sports staff will also ensure all parents are acting appropriately by issuing "warning" cards to parents who are acting inappropriately at games. In extreme cases, an "ejection" card is issued that warns the parent to leave the facility or have the police called to escort them from the facility.

Spectator

The sports staff will also ensure all spectators are acting appropriately by issuing "warning" cards to those who are acting inappropriately at games. In extreme cases, an "ejection" card is issued that warns the individual to leave the facility or have the police called to escort them from the facility.

Official

An official who does not place the emphasis on the safety and well-being of the players or who does not conform to the recreational philosophy established through the National Standards for Youth Sports will be reported to the contractor. An attempt will be made to reeducate the official in regards to the philosophy of the program. If further issues arise with the official, the sports director will request a ban on the individual from further youth sporting events.

Substance Use/Abuse

Substance use/abuse (drugs, to include performance enhancing drugs, alcohol, or tobacco) discovered at any point in the season will result in immediate dismissal and will be reported to law enforcement officials.

Preventing and Reporting Child Abuse/Neglect

Child abuse and neglect are an unfortunate reality. Physical, sexual, and emotional abuse are the main categories of abuse. Neglect is the failure of a parent or guardian to adequately provide for a child's basic needs of life. Volunteer coaches are required to report suspected cases of child abuse and/or neglect. In addition, AFI 40-301 states "All active duty members and civilian employees of the Air Force are mandated to report all reasonable suspicions of child abuse to the DoD Child Abuse and Safety Violation Hotline at 1-877-790. Individuals may also report to the youth sports director, the youth director, or Family Advocacy.

Youth Program Advisory Council

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to improve the services offered by Vandenberg Youth Programs. Please call 606-2152 for more information on where and when the council will be meeting next.

I have received an Orientation and a Youth Sports Handbook

Parent Signature

Date

