

MISSION STATEMENT:

The philosophy of Crookston Parks & Recreation is to provide activities and amenities that contribute to the physical, social, and emotional wellness of the youth and adults in our community.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of Crookston Parks & Recreation in Youth Recreation are as follows:

- To offer recreation programs that fulfill the needs and wants as a service to our community.
- To offer an equal amount of opportunity to both young men and women regardless of, race, religion, etc.
- To make all programs a safe and enjoyable atmosphere that promotes learning, participation, and competition.
- To expect that good sportsmanship is a standard behavior.
- To demand parents, respect our coaches and officials by being supportive of their coaching strategies and philosophies.
- To ensure that all participants in our activities have a fun, positive, and worthwhile experience.

PHILOSOPY OF YOUTH SPORTS

The Crookston Parks & Recreation Department truly believes in the benefits of participation in organized youth sports. Participation in sports has been proven to build self-esteem, promote teamwork, develops the mind, body, and is an essential part of the maturation process. Therefore, it is the goal of Crookston Parks & Recreation Department to provide programs and services to the young people in our community that will build the foundation for them to grow up to be healthy, competent, and caring individuals. To operate successful youth programs; we will enforce the following philosophies:

- **Everyone plays:** Our program goal is for kids to play. We ask that all players play an equal amount of the season of the sport they are playing in.
- **Balanced Teams:** Each year we form new teams as evenly as possible to provide fairness and equal ability to play.
- **Open Registration:** Our programs are open to ALL children between the ages of pre-k through 12th grades.
- **Positive Coaching:** Encouraging players provides for great enjoyment and ultimately leads to better skilled and better motivated players.
- **Good Sportsmanship:** We encourage all our participants and parents to treat one another with respect and exhibit appropriate behavior. Be fair and ethical to those you're playing with – both teammates and the opponents.

FAIR PLAY CONCEPTS

Playing sports can be fun, exciting, enjoyable, and sometimes a struggle for both you and others. The feeling you may have of being excited and having fun closely ties to your attitude, how you think and feel about the game, other team, and yourself. Athletes have a set of attitudes that we call “fair play”. What is fair play, you ask? Here are some key points.

Respect for the Other Team

To play a game, you need an opposing team; without that team, you can't play, so you need to show respect to the other players. When you play against a good, strong team that you respect, you usually play a better game.

Respect for Yourself

We understand that how people look at things influences what they do. So, if you think of yourself as a good player, as an important part of the team, you are more likely to play like one-to-set goals for yourself, practice on your own, and perform well in games. Fair play means you believe in yourself and see yourself as important in some things, not everything.

Cooperation with Officials

The rules of the game help you to play the game better and safely. Fair play means you go along with the rules and respect the game officials, who are there make sure the game is played fair and safe. If you are honest with yourself and officials, you'll get more out of the game.

Getting Involved

A good player wants to get into the game but also wants others to play. Fair play means you defend the right to play both for yourself and for others.

Building the Team

To be a good team member, you need to get to know all your teammates and the coach and let them get to know you. We all have different abilities and skills. Fair play is about listening to each other, sharing ideas, and helping each other increase strengths and reach goals.

GENERAL POLICIES

Participation

- Most Crookston Parks & Recreation Youth Sports programs are participatory in nature and do not require participants to try-out to participate.
- All sports programs will emphasize the importance of skill development, teamwork, and discipline.
- Girls and boys will have an equal opportunity to participate.

Registration

- All our programs we offer have a 5-week period to register, any registration after that 5-week period is a \$50 late fee. Registration for spring/summer programs opens the first Monday in April and for fall/winter programs will open the first Monday in September.

Practice and Game Schedule

- Practice and game schedules are prepared by the following criteria:
 - A. Facility availability – there may be times where, with limited notice, that regularly scheduled activities may be cancelled or relocated to a different facility.
 - B. Coaches' availability – For some programs coaches can choose a time that they want to practice. Most times we do not know who is coaching until registration has been completed and coaching applications are accepted.
 - C. Games & practices have the potential to be cancelled or rescheduled. CPRD will provide that information to you via email, Facebook, and KROX.

Game Cancellation and Rescheduling

- If a game is cancelled due to weather or other unforeseeable circumstances, all efforts will be made to reschedule.
- It will be the decision of the Crookston Parks & Recreation Department and head coaches of some of the programs to decide if and when the games will be made up.

Locations

- Field and facility locations will be indicated on the schedules of each sport.

League Rules

- League rules will be posted on the team page of each sport. Parents are encouraged to read the rules and become familiar with the sport.

Payments and Refunds

- Payments are due for all programs at the time of registration or according to deadlines listed with the individual activities.
- If the program is cancelled, the participant is entitled to a full refund or a credit to the individual's household account for the use within the fiscal year.
- **No refunds will be granted unless a program is cancelled.**

Insurance

- Crookston Parks & Recreation does not provide accident insurance for participants in any programs. Participation in recreations programs is voluntary in nature and activities that are offered are optional choices of the individual. Participants assume all inherent risk of injury resulting from their involvement in programs or activities outlined in the brochure. The City of Crookston will not be liable for any claim, demand, injury, demand actions or cause for actions while participating in a recreation program.

Medical Emergencies

- For any injury or accident that requires more than cleaning and covering with a bandage, coaches and parents are required to seek professional medical assistance through 911 calls.
- If a child is taken out of an activity and not allowed to come back due to injury the “Return to Play” form must be filled out by a doctor and emailed to CPRD.
- If medical transportation is required, the charges incurred will be billed to the parent’s and/or guardian’s insurance policy.
- Please notify the Parks & Recreation Department if your child has a pre-existing condition. Parks and Rec will notify the person in charge of the situation. This is essential to determine the severity of an accident and assist the medical personnel who respond to the scene.

Photo Release & Team Photos

- Photographs and videos are occasionally taken of program participants during various recreational activities. These photos/videos are used to promote the Crookston Parks & Recreation Department Fun finder, Facebook page, and website. If you prefer that you or your child, not be photographed or videotaped, please call us at 218-281-1242.
- CPRD will schedule team photos for all youth sports. Photos are optional and participants do not need to purchase.

Weather

- The safety of participants, officials, and spectators is the primary concern in cases of inclement weather.
- Once the game has started officials and coaches are responsible for calling the game and to remove players from the field.
- In the event of lightning or thunder the activity will be on hold for 30 minutes per strike or sound of thunder prior to resuming activity.
- Park and Recreation staff have final call on all cancellations for any activity.

Parent Code of Conduct

Parents are vital to the development of young athletes. Whether sitting in the stands or helping as a volunteer, parents must set a positive example. Parents, and adults involved in youth sports, should be models of good sportsmanship and lead by example on and off the playing area.

1. Parents will never place the value of winning above instilling the highest desirable ideals and character traits in their children.
2. Give constructive criticism during a private moment, never in front of other parents, players, officials, spectators, etc.
3. Support your coach, and refrain from excessive “sideline coaching” from the stands.
4. Parents will abide by the 24-hour rule.
5. Parents will not use social media in any negative way towards a coach, parent, official, player etc.
6. Parents will treat all Crookston team members and opposing team members with respect at all times.
7. Parents will cheer for the team, not just your child.
8. Refrain from using profanity.
9. Abide by doctor’s decision in all matters of players health and injuries, and physical ability to play.
10. Accept the decisions of officials on the playing area as being fair and called to the best ability of the officials. Parents must stay off the playing area and remain under control to set a good example for players and other spectators.
11. Do not criticize an opposing team, its players, fans, coaches, or team, by words or gestures.
12. Support the coaches, players and officials and help teach the value of commitment to the teams, sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play.
13. Inappropriate behavior is the cause for immediate ejection from the stands. Repeat offenses will result in being barred from future games.
14. Parents will recognize the value, authority, and importance of our coaches and officials.
15. No competitive contest can be played without officials. Regardless of if you feel the officials are not impartial or competent. Officials will receive respect and support from the parents.
16. Parents will not encourage their child, or any other person, to engage in sportsmanship conduct with any coach, parent, player, participant, officials, or any other attendee.

Participant Code of Conduct

Youth activities play a vital role in encouraging physical, social, and emotional growth of children. It is therefore essential for parents, coaches, and officials to encourage participants to embrace the values of good sportsmanship, discipline, and character development.

I pledge to...

- Have fun!
- Be a good sport (win or lose), be honest, fair, and always show good sportsmanship to all coaches, players, officials, and fans.
- Encourage teammates.
- Learn the value of commitment to the team.
- Put personal goals aside for the betterment of the team.
- Show courtesy and respect to teammates, opponents, and coaches.
- Realize that athletic contests, including practice sessions, are educational experiences and opportunities.
- Not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Not engage in rude behavior.
- Not use or possess alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or drug paraphernalia.
- Treat everyone, including coaches, parents, players, officials, with respect regardless of race, creed, color, nationality, or gender.

Zero Tolerance Policy

Zero Tolerance Policy Parks and Recreation will not tolerate inappropriate behavior of its players, coaches, officials, parents, or fans. To reinforce this fact each of the above is required to follow the “code of conduct” and its “Zero Tolerance Policy”. Anyone unwilling to follow the policy statement WILL NOT be permitted to be present at any practices or games. All players, coaches, officials, parents, and fans are expected to conduct themselves in a sportsman-like manner. CPRD will NOT tolerate threatening language, angry outbursts, or other offensive, unnecessary conduct directed toward game officials, coaches, parents, fans and/or players. An individual’s inappropriate behavior may result in immediate ejection from any facility and subsequent investigation. Following the investigation, the individual may be suspended from attending future events sponsored by Parks and Recreation. This includes practices, scrimmages, games, and tournaments.

1st offense - 3 game suspension,
2nd offense - 2-week suspension,
3rd offense - Out for the rest of the season

Procedure for Player Discipline

1) Player > Coach

2) Player>Coach>Parent

3)Coach>Parks & Rec Director> Park Board Committee