

Youth Athletics

Mission Statement: White County Parks & Recreation Department is committed to enhancing the services provided and enriching the lives of the residents of White County by providing safe and welcoming facilities and offering programming to help groups of all ages to play, learn, grow, and preserve it for future generations.

Vision Statement: Creating an active, healthy, and engaged community.

Objectives:

- To offer programs to fulfill the recreation needs and wants of the community
- To offer an equal amount of participations opportunities to youth, regardless of race, creed, religion, socio-economic status, or other characteristic.
- To make these programs safe and enjoyable in an atmosphere that promotes learning and participation first and competition second.
- To have the best possible volunteer coaches and to train them to do the best they can.
- To expect good sportsmanship and fair play from all of our volunteers, participants, and spectators.
- To ensure that each child that participates in WCPRD activities has a positive and meaningful experience.

Key Points:

- **Team selection:** Players are never cut from WCPRD teams. Every child that registers is placed on a team. We use evaluations and drafts in certain age groups to ensure fairness in the league by creating teams that are as equal in ability as possible. The draft process allows for greater league parity by evenly distributing talent levels across all teams.
- **Coaching selection:** Those interested in coaching must complete a coaching application for each season. A background check must be completed prior to coaching. Background checks must be completed each season. If more than one person applies for a head coaching position, interviews of those prospective coaches are conducted by the WCPRD Recreation Advisory Board. The WCPRD Recreation Advisory Board will have the final decision in the selection of a head coach from the interview pool.
- **Safety:** Coaches should remember to gradually develop your players' fitness levels so that they are physically in condition to play sports. It is important to constantly supervise practices and games so that you can keep players safe.
- **Character:** The goal of WCPRD is to provide a safe and productive environment that enables children to learn and apply the principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, character and dedication. Please remember to be a role model of sporting behavior and teach your players to do the same.
- **Playing for fun:** Let's remember not to take the fun out of youth sports. Always keep in mind that these athletic programs are for the children; let them have fun. We encourage healthy competition as long as it is kept in right perspective.
- **Play up policy:** Players are encouraged to play in the age group in which they are eligible. Some activities have league-specific by-laws that prohibit the playing-up by participants. In activities that do not have by-laws preventing players from playing up, players may only play up one age group.