

A National Study on the Role of Municipal Recreation in Youth Sport Delivery

Total survey responses: $n=327$ (24% response rate out of 1,345 professionals contacted)

Number of staff currently employed with your agency:

Full-time staff: $Mdn=19$ full-time employees

Part-time staff: $Mdn=100$ part-time employees

How long have you served in your current position (in years):

$M=8.47$ years, $SD=7.47$ years

How long have you been involved with community youth sports programs

$M=17.77$ years, $SD=9.58$ years

Your position with the recreation agency is:

Full-time: $n=314$

Part-time: $n=3$

Size of community (population served):

Under 10,000 $n=23$, 7.2%

10,000-25,000 $n=81$, 25.3%

25,001-50,000 $n=79$, 24.7%

50,001-75,000 $n=47$, 14.7%

75,001-100,000 $n=24$, 7.5%

100,001-150,000 $n=21$, 6.6%

Over 150,000 $n=45$, 14.1%

Does your agency directly oversee or provide resources to support youth sport programs in your community?

Yes – all youth sport programs in our community $n=87$, 27.2%

Yes – some youth sport programs in our community $n=226$, 70.6%

No $n=7$, 2.2%

Which of the following describes the role that recreation department staff play in the oversight of youth sports programming taking place on public facilities:

Full-time, paid staff member primarily responsible $n=209$, 66.7%

Part-time, paid staff member primarily responsible $n=12$, 3.8%

Volunteer connected to agency primarily responsible $n=8$, 2.5%

No one who is primarily responsible $n=85$, 27.1%

Describe the nature of youth sport program delivery in your community: (check all that apply)

Youth sport programs are administered by recreation agency “in house” $n=228$, 71.5%

Parent voluntary organizations administer using some agency resources $n=219$, 68.7%

Parent voluntary organizations administer using no agency resources $n=87$, 27.3%

Indicate the total number of parent voluntary sport organizations affiliated with your agency:

Affiliated parent voluntary sport organizations: $Mdn=5$

Approximately how many individuals are serving as youth sport coaches (head and assistant) in your community?

Number of coaches per community: $Mdn=250$ youth sport coaches

Which age groups are served by youth sport programs (community-based, not interscholastic) in your community? (check all that apply)

Under 5 years old	<i>n</i> =187, 58.6%
5-6 years old	<i>n</i> =296, 92.8%
7-8 years old	<i>n</i> =308, 96.6%
9-10 years old	<i>n</i> =310, 97.2%
11-12 years old	<i>n</i> =307, 96.2%
13-14 years old	<i>n</i> =301, 94.4%
15-16 years old	<i>n</i> =251, 78.7%
17-18 years old	<i>n</i> =197, 61.8%

Rate the degree of influence that your agency has over the following aspects of youth sports delivery in your community: (5=strong influence, 3=some influence, 1=no influence)

Facility scheduling	<i>M</i> =4.57, <i>SD</i> =0.81
Facility maintenance	<i>M</i> =4.52, <i>SD</i> =0.82
Programmatic support	<i>M</i> =3.71, <i>SD</i> =1.32
Setting program philosophy	<i>M</i> =3.65, <i>SD</i> =1.36
Training sport coaches	<i>M</i> =3.58, <i>SD</i> =1.41
Controlling/enforcing parent behavior	<i>M</i> =3.55, <i>SD</i> =1.32
Financing and budgetary control	<i>M</i> =3.55, <i>SD</i> =1.40
Dismissing/terminating sport coaches	<i>M</i> =3.39, <i>SD</i> =1.52
Selecting youth sport program leaders	<i>M</i> =3.38, <i>SD</i> =1.48
Hiring sport officials	<i>M</i> =3.38, <i>SD</i> =1.57
Evaluating youth sport program leaders	<i>M</i> =3.32, <i>SD</i> =1.51
Selecting sport coaches	<i>M</i> =3.27, <i>SD</i> =1.56
Evaluating sport coaches	<i>M</i> =3.12, <i>SD</i> =1.58
Equipment/uniform procurement	<i>M</i> =3.11, <i>SD</i> =1.59
Evaluating sport officials	<i>M</i> =3.05, <i>SD</i> =1.55
Training sport officials	<i>M</i> =2.96, <i>SD</i> =1.54
Solicitation of sponsorship	<i>M</i> =2.86, <i>SD</i> =1.60

Does your agency require official background checks be conducted on volunteer coaches prior to coaching a sport in your community?

Yes – all coaches in all sports	<i>n</i> =131, 40.2%
Yes – at least one coach per team in all sports	<i>n</i> =32, 10.4%
Yes – all coaches in some sports	<i>n</i> =30, 9.7%
Yes – at least one coach per team in some sports	<i>n</i> =21, 6.8%
No – we do not require background checks	<i>n</i> =95, 30.7%

If your agency does not require background checks – do your affiliated leagues/parent associations require official background checks to be conducted on volunteer coaches prior to coaching a sport in your community?

Yes – all leagues require background checks	<i>n</i> =4, 4.3%
Yes – some leagues require background checks	<i>n</i> =27, 29.0%
No – none of our leagues require background checks	<i>n</i> =33, 35.5%
Not sure	<i>n</i> =29, 31.2%

Does your agency require youth sport coaches to go through a mandatory coaches' training program?

Yes – all coaches in all sports	<i>n</i> =76, 24.5%
Yes – at least one coach per team in all sports	<i>n</i> =61, 19.7%
Yes – all coaches in some sports	<i>n</i> =34, 11.0%
Yes – at least one coach per team in some sports	<i>n</i> =34, 11.0%
No – we do not require coaches' training	<i>n</i> =105, 33.9%

If your agency does not require coaches' training, do your affiliated leagues/parent youth sport associations require coaches to go through a mandatory coaches training program?

Yes – all leagues require coaches training	<i>n</i> =4, 3.8%
Yes – some leagues require coaches training	<i>n</i> =39, 36.8%
No – none of our leagues require coaches training	<i>n</i> =31, 29.2%
Not sure	<i>n</i> =32, 30.2%

Does your agency require youth sport parents/guardians to go through some type of a mandatory sportsmanship training program?

Yes – all parents/guardians are required to attend	<i>n</i> =11, 3.6%
Yes – at least one parent/guardian is required to attend	<i>n</i> =23, 7.4%
No – such training is offered but not required	<i>n</i> =78, 25.2%
No – we do not require such a program	<i>n</i> =197, 63.8%

If your agency does not require parent/guardian sportsmanship training, do your affiliated leagues/parent youth sport associations require parents/guardians to go through a sportsmanship training program?

Yes – all leagues require such a program	<i>n</i> =0, 0.0%
Yes – some leagues require such a program	<i>n</i> =47, 17.3%
No – none of our leagues require such a program	<i>n</i> =141, 29.2%
Not sure	<i>n</i> =84, 30.9%

Do you require youth sport parents/guardians required to sign a sportsmanship code of ethics?

Yes	<i>n</i> =122, 39.9%
No	<i>n</i> =184, 60.1%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Poor sportsmanship among coaches is a significant problem in my youth sports program.”

Strongly agree	<i>n</i> =26, 8.4%
Agree	<i>n</i> =57, 18.5%
Somewhat agree	<i>n</i> =112, 36.4%
Disagree	<i>n</i> =100, 32.5%
Strongly disagree	<i>n</i> =13, 4.2%

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Poor sportsmanship among youth sport parents/guardians is a significant problem in my youth sports program.”

Strongly agree	<i>n</i> =51, 16.5%
Agree	<i>n</i> =71, 22.9%
Somewhat agree	<i>n</i> =103, 33.2%
Disagree	<i>n</i> =76, 24.5%
Strongly disagree	<i>n</i> =9, 2.9%

Please indicate whether your community offers the following youth sport opportunities. For each sport, please indicate whether parent volunteers are required to receive some type of training prior to coaching the sport:

	<u>Sport Offered?</u>	<u>Required Coaches' Training? (<i>n</i> = Yes)</u>
Soccer	<i>n</i> =298, 91.4%	<i>n</i> =188, 63.0%
Basketball	<i>n</i> =295, 90.5%	<i>n</i> =168, 56.9%
Ice Hockey	<i>n</i> =97, 29.8%	<i>n</i> =53, 54.6%
Baseball	<i>n</i> =305, 93.8%	<i>n</i> =160, 52.4%
Football	<i>n</i> =276, 84.7%	<i>n</i> =144, 52.2%
Softball	<i>n</i> =299, 91.7%	<i>n</i> =152, 50.8%
Lacrosse	<i>n</i> =100, 35.3%	<i>n</i> =38, 38.0%
Cheerleading	<i>n</i> =207, 71.1%	<i>n</i> =76, 36.7%

How is the cost of youth sport coaches training covered in your community?

Recreation agency covers the cost	<i>n</i> =89, 28.5%
Affiliated leagues cover the cost	<i>n</i> =47, 15.1%
Coaches cover the cost	<i>n</i> =11, 3.5%
Some combination of the above	<i>n</i> =97, 31.1%
Other	<i>n</i> =13, 4.2%
Youth sport coaches' training is not required	<i>n</i> =55, 17.6%

If your agency does not require youth sport coaches training, please indicate your reasons by circling the responses below: (5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neither agree/disagree, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree)

<u>Reason</u>	<u><i>M</i></u>	<u><i>SD</i></u>
I do not have enough qualified personnel to serve as trainers	3.03	1.20
I don't have the support to administer, track, and enforce coaches training	3.02	1.32
I do not have difficulty with volunteer coaches	2.89	1.17
Current department finances prohibit me	2.80	1.28
My youth sport coaches would not agree to attend such training	2.72	1.14
I don't have the time to implement such training	2.49	1.18
I do not have the authority to implement such training	2.40	1.32
I feel that the annual coaches' certification fees are unreasonable	2.18	1.03
I do not think that available training programs are useful for my program	2.12	1.11
I do not know enough about available programs	1.79	0.99
My agency does not assist with any youth sport programs in any way	1.73	1.13
I do not perceive the need for coaches training	1.66	0.84

If your agency does not require youth sport parents/guardians sportsmanship training, please indicate your reasons by circling the responses below: (5=strongly agree, 4=agree, 3=neither agree/disagree, 2=disagree, 1=strongly disagree)

<u>Reason</u>	<u><i>M</i></u>	<u><i>SD</i></u>
My youth sport parents would not agree to attend	3.27	0.98
I don't have the support to administer, track, and enforce coaches training	3.12	1.28
I do not have enough qualified personnel to serve as trainers	3.04	1.22
Current department finances prohibit me	2.85	1.28
I don't have the time to implement such training	2.83	1.19
I do not have difficulty with youth sport parents	2.58	1.07
I do not have the authority to implement such training	2.27	1.26
I do not think that available training programs are useful for my program	2.20	0.94
I do not know enough about available programs	2.08	1.17
I do not perceive the need for coaches training	2.07	1.01
My agency does not assist with any youth sport programs in any way	1.70	1.08

Additional comments (*edited for confidentiality and readability*):

One of the current issues that I have is in regards to financial support of the independent athletic organizations. They will request of the town financial support as they feel that they're providing a service that the town is not. We just refused to pay for our annual donation of about \$1200 for portable toilets for this season and the local little league is extremely upset and can't understand why we don't want to use tax money to pay for this program which tax payers (or their kids) participate in. They have their own property, so we can't weigh the availability of or the use of our parks to against such a use. The whole idea of a public recreation agency charging these independent athletic leagues for use of our public parks (ball fields, soccer fields, gymnasiums, etc.) is of extreme interest to me.

We are currently investigating mandatory training programs for coaches and parents. We hope to implement both by the fall of 2005. We currently offer coaches training on a volunteer basis.

For our community, the Parks & Recreation Department that I am a part of offers youth sports instructional classes. At this time, we do not offer leagues or "competitive play" situations. Leagues and competitive play are offered by various community groups (██████████ Dad's Club, etc.)

In a perfect world, I would require all coaches/volunteers and parents to attend a training/educational seminar on youth sports. However, with limited staff & time, not to mention that parents & coaches would keep their child from participating, it is not a reality in my community. It is unfortunate that the parent has and potentially would keep a good kid from participating should they be required to attend and sign an agreement. In the past, we did require coaches to take part in the NYSCA, only to find out that it kept us from obtaining the necessary amount of coaches. I have submitted articles on what the real purpose of youth sports is, but little changed. Don't get me wrong, there are a lot of good coaches, but it's the few that make a game or season 'unforgettable' and has left a bad taste in a child's mouth as to what they were really participating for. I'm looking for answers and hope that this survey can point me in a direction that will alleviate some of the problems. Thanks for doing this.

We run some recreational sports leagues which require volunteer parent coaches. Due to the leagues being recreational, parent coaches would not attend any training programs. All the youth competitive associations do provide training related to coaching but not the sportsmanship portion. I don't believe any of the associations use a training like ASEP.

In our community, our recreation department provides youth sport activities primarily at a beginner, instructional level. Private clubs and associations offer a more competitive venue (including traveling, tournament teams) with parent volunteers serving as coaches. Our department coaches are paid employees (generally college age students) who are required to complete a training program.

Our youth athletic programs(Leagues)are run and administered by volunteer parent organizations. They are responsible for all aspects of their organizations. Our role is to provide facilities and assist with coordinating schedules at the various park and school sites.

Primarily our role is to provide facilities for the various youth sports groups to use. Generally we do not get into the leadership of the various organizations. However, if we have problems with either coaches and/or parents we go back to the specific organization & relay our concerns. If the concern(s) are not satisfactorily addressed, our primary recourse is to limit the sport group's use of our facilities until satisfactory steps are taken. Our staff is also available as a resource to assist the various sport groups as needed and within reason. We have found that most organizations do a pretty good job of policing themselves without our involvement.

We currently offer non-required training for coaches and written code of conduct guidelines for parents. It is very difficult to get compliance to attend 'required' programs, because they are all so busy. Parents really haven't been a big problem in our programs as they are heavily supervised. We also don't have the staff to monitor a 'required' program. We used to offer both ASEP and NYSCA training, but didn't require it. Both programs did not totally meet the needs of our sports programs and we felt that the certification fees were too high.

We offer coaches certification training, but it is not mandatory. The training we offer is WYSCO, Wisconsin Youth Sport coaches Organization training. We have a 1st and 2nd year program that we make available to our coaches.

We plan to get more involved with the NAYS program.

Our Department runs the youth basketball leagues and cheerleading programs in our community. All other leagues are run by parent run organizations. Our Department requires coaches and at least one parent of every child in our competitive programs to sign a Zero Tolerance Policy. It is not really a sportsmanship code of conduct, but a contract stating that they understand the penalties for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Current ASEP and NYSCA programs are good but cost a lot of \$ when multiplied by hundreds of coaches. We have found that mandatory training can only be enforced for paid coaches (i.e. swim team coaches) - otherwise, we can never reach 100% compliance. The ones who do attend aren't usually the ones who need it! We also have much more control over programs offered in-house (house lg. soccer) rather than those offered by affiliates (i.e. Little League.)

We are a large home owners association that owns and maintains many facilities for the community sports leagues/organizations, but we do not get involved at the coaching/parent level of those organizations. While there may be some call for us to do this in the future, at this point in time our involvement has neither been requested nor required.

Our department includes parents' code of conduct and players' code on the back of the season's schedule. We also include our sports philosophy on all brochures so parents can't complain as much during the season. All full time employees oversee department run sports programs, and talk to parents and coaches immediately when issues occur

Park District in-house programs have separate requirements than programs with affiliate athletic organizations. Coaches are required to attend training, we hire/evaluate officials, etc. for in-house programs. Affiliate organizations utilize our field space, however, we do not deal with the operations of their organizations. Unknown what type of training they require.

We run all of the youth sports in our area except Cal Ripken Baseball and Pop Warner Football. We desperately want to implement youth coach training, but we want to roll it out once and do it right the first time. We don't want to keep switching the program or implement a program that isn't very good. We're hoping that our state will assist with providing one universally accepted program that can be implemented statewide through the Recreation and Parks Association and maybe the scholastic athletic association. We just keep waiting and waiting for that to occur, but it seems to be taking forever.

We require youth sports board members to be trained. Boards determine requirements for coaches and parents.

Our agency oversees the youth basketball program in [REDACTED]. All other programs are supervised through a volunteer board, who we try to help as much as possible.

We directly organize and operate all youth sports programs except for soccer (AYSO, etc).

Over the past twenty years I have been associated with youth athletics as a coach, parent, and administrator. No one seems to want to step forward and be pro-active in implementing such strategies until there is a bad incident either in their program or one in a surrounding area. I feel that many parents and volunteer coaches do not fully understand their responsibilities towards sportsmanship, fair play and fun. I feel that with the available information from AYSO, NYSCA and others that programs should be getting stronger in their re-enforcement of good sportsmanship values. What I have noticed is that if there is no enforcement aspect to the program, then the voluntary course or classes are ignored for the most part.

Next fiscal year's operating budget includes full funding for criminal background checks of all Town employees. This will include officials, instructors, etc. It does not include volunteers such as coaches. This is our Town's 1st step in this process.

My department does not operate any youth sport leagues at this time, but does provide some practice and game fields. This topic is currently very important in our community as the leagues want to expand their playing areas on public lands, but want to remain untied to the public parks & rec. department. This is posing problems with overseeing scheduling of the fields and in particular, maintenance. Parks & rec. does all the maintenance but has no say over the actual leagues, but continues to get blamed for anything that might go wrong. Our problems are not so much in the area of poor sportsmanship or lack of training of coaches/parents, but in the administration of the actual leagues versus what parks & rec. is responsible for.

ASEP training is provided by the City in its Youth Sports Programs.

In-house we have a very small youth basketball program and do some informal training. Our Affiliate groups do some training within their groups. I am unaware of what types of training programs they utilize.

Recreation and parks departments are only a piece of the entire puzzle in a community. We don't have any binding control over Little Leagues and other incorporated, independent sports leagues.

The [REDACTED] Recreation Commission provides most youth sports within our 30 community centers on a limited basis, coaches are required to be trained here. Most of the community's youth sport programs are run through volunteer athletic organizations. They permit our facilities, fields & courts but are totally independent from the Rec Commission.

We have often offered in depth, voluntary training for parents, coaches and officials and have had very poor turn outs

There is a real need for this. That being said, we tried, some years back, to make the training mandatory...We found that the number of coaches that participated was so small that we could not keep it mandatory and still provide the service. Perhaps, it would be better to make it available and optional, but we have not pursued it further.

We co-sponsor the youth programs with half of the groups. This gives us some control because of our financial involvement. Other control with non sponsored groups comes because of field usage and our control over those fields. We plan on getting background checks done within the next year. We have offered coaches training in the past but with little participation.

All training programs for coaches need to be evaluated based on the benefit they provide to the coaches, players, and host organization. These programs need to incorporate coaches' clinics and a broader approach to training. Too many of these organizations have too narrow of a focus.

Have been offering NYSCA Coaches training for over 15 years---one of the best things we have done to assist our volunteer coaches. However, there are costs to the organization as far as financial as well as a time commitment from the coaches. Overall, a very positive experience. I would be interested in parents training but we lack a facility to host and facilitate such a program. Overall, we have had great parent support.

We directly offer three sports through the department. All the other sports are offered by youth non profit organizations. We are currently working to create a common policies and procedures across the agencies.

Our programs are designed for coaches to be certified before getting on to the field of play. If they don't have this certification they are not allowed to step foot on the field of play. All of our training classes are open to the public and mandatory for coaches to participate.

Background checks for coaches have worked great. Parents are very supportive of our department's effort in this area. Some parent run youth organizations in our community will not buy into the importance of making coaches training mandatory. We continue to fight that battle. Youth leagues directly supervised by our department have seen improvement in "sportsmanship" since the implementation of a code of conduct for players, parents and referees/officials. There are always one or two problems throughout the year, but things have improved.

We currently have a great deal of control over the youth sports programs we administer and minimal control over programs administered by volunteer based associations. We are moving towards requiring all youth sports users who use our facilities to require training of their coaches.

We use the NYSCA coaches' certification

City's have much more control over their own programs than programs provided by volunteer/non-profit who may utilize city facilities.

We are working towards parents training thru the NYSCA. I work for a government agency and sometimes you have to go through the politics to do what you feel is the right thing to do. I am pushing towards a mandatory parents training.

The Town programs include Basketball, Softball and Baseball Parent run programs are Soccer, Football and Cheerleading

We do provide training for our coaches, and we also provide training for our parents thru the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS), however our parents' training is not mandatory.

We are able to do it all. Politically it has not reached an overall requirement for Parents yet. We have volunteer Youth Organizations using our facilities in our setting. We control the fields and have agreements with the Youth organizations for using them. We have conditions for use including NYSCA Coaches Certification which we offer as a mandatory requirement.

It is my strong opinion that the only way to dictate philosophy, and insure that your philosophy is being adhered to is to totally control your entire youth sports program. You must have the authority to hire, and more importantly, fire coaches that do not do things the way the program intended to. We will not let "outside" groups use our fields or put their programs on in or on our facilities. Our youth sports programs are not about youth sports. It is using youth sports to teach necessary life skills. Having said all these nice things that sound nice on paper we are seriously into high level training and a competitive atmosphere. Competition is not bad, competition run and managed by misdirected idiots is bad. This philosophy takes a strong will and a lot of guts, but we have no choice. We must do it this way.

All of our sports are operated by pac clubs (parents and children's clubs. we maintain all facilities and provide fields, lighting and a concession stand for them to operate out of. It is up to the leagues what training they provide and how they operate their leagues and receive funding or sponsorships to operate however we will step in on complaints or problems of the operations of the leagues. The youth basketball program is offered through the upwards program which we are not responsible for but it is offered here. Our soccer club offers training to coaches and camps to our youth. Our other leagues have not established this for their leagues yet.

For over a decade, until 2004, we required at least one coach on every team we directly administered or viewed as part of a partnered program, to be certified through the NYSCA. For our directly administered teams, we covered these costs completely (initial certification and renewal). For our partnered teams, those coaches covered their own costs. Due to budget cuts, we will not be able to pay for the certifications this year, so we have made the certification optional. We are working on a city-wide partnership for all youth sports agencies to create mandatory (and universal) coach and parent training, as well as implement background checks. We are hopeful that we will be able to implement the training programs and background checks in 2006. The training programs would be unique to the city so that neither we nor our coaches or parents would have to pay any fees for certification. They would also be a maximum of one hour in duration.

I find that the programs that we control in-house we can require the coaches clinics. Those that are controlled by parent organizations in the community do not have that requirement. They just use our facilities.

We are in the process of developing a youth sportsmanship program that will help remedy some of the poor behavior seen by coaches and parents.

We are in the process of developing a code of conduct for all parents to sign.

I believe something is needed regarding sportsmanship by the coaches and parents, but I am unsure as to what really works. We talk to coaches until we are blue in the face and nothing seems to change. Even when they are running up the score on basketball games on purpose and are approached during the game, they nod their head and keep going. I know the solution would be to fire the coach, but it is difficult to find coaches....

I would like to see something similar on specialization of young people in youth sports. i.e.--soccer only kids.

We currently only have middle school and high school rec. basketball leagues sponsored by our department. The rest of our programs are offered to adults only. All other youth sports programs are offered by the Boys Club, Girls Inc., AYSO, SCOR, ORBA, etc. Many of these organizations use City facilities for their programs, however, which is how we provide support. We have very little say in the administration of any program other than our own. Some of the youth organizations in our City are very good about running background checks on coaches. Some are good about providing training for their coaches. As far as parent training, I have not heard of any in our community other than preseason letters that go to parents of participants. Generally parent behavior problems are dealt with on an individual basis. It is also easy for a parent to get a reputation in a community the size of ours, good and bad. Sharing of information among organizations can be very helpful...fewer surprises.

Our community is very youth sports oriented. The Recreation Department provides all soccer, baseball/softball and basketball to grades K thru 6. Our community has several other youth sports agencies providing travel opportunities in youth sports, too. Overall, we get along fine, though our community is growing by leaps and bounds and our facilities are not.. That's when difficulties come, trying to put the proverbial "10 pounds into a 5 pound sack".

Since I have been doing the training for the coaches, the amount of technicals have gone down. However, my parents are getting worse so I need to figure out a way to have parents behave.

The department has a facility use agreement that makes provision for training new coaches during their first year. Trained staff and some staff attrition have made training impossible in the past 2 years. Similarly, we recognize the benefit of parent sportsmanship training but are not requiring it at this time. We hope to create a training program - or at the very least get a signed document from each parent that emphasizes and defines preferred behaviors and outcomes - in the next year.

The District only has control over a portion of all the youth sports offered in our community. I feel that youth sport training for coaches and parents is very important. The problem we face is getting them to attend the training. If they attend then it is a problem with implementation, however all our youth sports officials are trained and we have a zero tolerance when it comes to parents and coaches.

Our community has city ran sports and non-profit organization ran sports. Non-profit groups are governed by their governing body and independent of City.

Training is offered in the areas of coaching & sportsmanship of volunteers/parents, and development for players. The response to these trainings isn't always large, mainly b/c of time constraints of volunteers.

All of the youth sports programs, except tennis lessons are administered by volunteer parent associations. The Parks and Recreation Department has very little contact with these groups. Some of these groups reserve city facilities (ball fields or grass areas for practice).

Training programs and clear program philosophies on participation, skill development and sportsmanship reduce the potential for negative behavior.

If our Department directly runs the program, we control all access to facilities coaches training and background checks. With the independent agencies, we can control the access to facilities but do not control officials and coaches' selection, certification and training.

There is a combination of athletic associations and agency leagues. Our agency youth leagues are recreational, I answered the questions based on those leagues. We have not had sportsmanship problems there. One night of coaches training. There certainly have been occasional sportsmanship issues in the athletic associations, and we do offer them the option of agency run NYSCA training. Only one group, a youth flag football league, currently uses the NYSCA training. Some coaches training requirements among the associations are not known.

We find that our worst sport for sportsmanship issues and poor coaching is in the baseball & softball program and yet this is the program we do the strongest training in. Our basketball program has some sportsmanship issues especially around boys travel teams. Soccer seems to have the least issues and I truly believe it is because the parents don't know the rules well enough to argue!!

Our community has both City run youth league sport programs as well as volunteer parent run organizations. We work hand in hand to provide the best youth sports experience, however changes in youth boards can make continuity or enforcement challenging.

We supplement ACEP coaches training with a District wide promotion and commitment to the Character Counts Program.

Our Recreation Program Supervisor in charge of overseeing youth sports, both agency programs and community programs, is a certified youth sports administrator through NAYS. We are working to establish youth sports standards throughout all organizations.

Most of the youth sports are administered by outside agencies with the exception of youth basketball. All other organizations conduct their own training and all the organizations use our facilities to conduct their leagues and practices.

We offer parents orientation for each youth sports program we offer in house. The purpose of the orientation is to give parents an idea of what the expectations are for the program, general policies and procedures, department philosophies, important dates, etc. In-house we program 5 youth sports programs and there are 5 youth sports programs that are programmed by a youth athletic association. In the 5 programs we run in-house we have total control over all operational aspects.

We do offer coaches training via the NYSCA program. It is optional for all independent community youth sports leagues. For our in-house leagues (tball and girl's softball) it is mandatory. I have just started a local youth sports alliance with the goal of getting more coaches trained, better intra-sport cooperation and problem solving, to adopt a universal code of ethics, etc. It has been well received so far. I strongly believe that coaches training should be mandatory. I am very concerned about the stress parents and coaches put on young children in youth sports programs. Year round schedules, travel/premier team selection as young as 5th gr., emphasis on winning and lack of professional oversight/administration of these programs to name just a few issues, is leading to negative outcomes for children. On the other hand, there are many good people who volunteer their time and do a great job, but often the intimidating parents and coaches overshadow them. Thank you for the opportunity and good luck with this very important study. If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The [REDACTED] Parks & Recreation Department offers 15 different youth sports leagues and events -- all are recreational in nature. We administer no elite or traveling teams and keep no standings or crown champions. None of our sports are duplicated in the course of the year (e.g. multiple basketball seasons). We play one sport for 7-8 weeks and then move on to another. Hopefully, it is our low-key approach that has contributed to the lack of problems with out-of-control coaches and parents. We have very few problems concerning that. There is enough time for pressure-filled situations later in life. Although we do not REQUIRE coaches to complete training, we do offer personal one-on-one help and training to coaches. Many coaches take advantage of that. We also constantly supervise the coaches at sites during games and practices. Consequently, we rarely have problems with coaches. [REDACTED] Parks & Recreation is a founding

member of the █████ Youth Sports Coalition -- providing standards for youth sports in our community. Each family in our programs receives a booklet describing what our focus is and what is expected of coaches, players and parents. We structure our fees based on the costs of the programs. We don't make money but we also don't lose any (one of the few city services that don't). We offer scholarships to youth based on need through generous donations from citizens in our "█████ Cares" program. We also keep our fees low (\$35-40 per sport) due to the contributions of vendors in our community who have bought in to our approach. Consequently, our equipment and jersey fees are quite low. I cannot speak for what private organizations in the community do.

The majority of our major sports programs in the community are run by volunteer organizations. Our agency does offer some introductory programs. We also provide all of the facility maintenance and booking of scheduled use among the various user groups.

Our youth sports programs are growing very quickly because our community is growing quickly. Because of the growth we are developing sports facilities that we have not had within our city in the past.

We are currently in the process of establishing some training with other community organizations for our coaches and parents. We have created a coaches, parents and program manuals for youth sports. We welcome any information that can be passed on to us and our community.

While we require FDLE Sexual Predator background checks, we do not require a complete background check of coaches, yet some of our organizations do that on their own. We require training, but allow the organizations to choose their own training program. Our role is mostly scheduling and maintenance of facilities. We also have several sports organizations in the City that are privately run and do not use City property.

All parents attend a pre-season meeting at which they receive the league rules, calendars involving dates of regular season games and all-star tournaments, meet coaches, representatives of officials' organizations, sporting goods dealers and the department's policy concerning disruptive parents. Each child that participates must have at least one parent/guardian to sign his/her registration form. I feel we can handle this in-house without the need for an outside person/organization to provide other ideas that they put in place as a money-making organization.

The City and the affiliated youth leagues (baseball) have a written agreement on a percentage of the cost of officials that the City will pay for

Our agency is a support to the Youth Sports Organizations in our community. We operate under the "facilitator model" of recreation in that we do not plan & implement youth sports programs. We provide the facility and the parents plan and implement the programs as non-profits. There is no charge to these organizations for said use as they are providing a service to the community that we are unable to do because of our size and resources. █████ has great support from these organizations and we proudly support youth sports opportunities as a priority here!

Parks & Recreation totally administers the soccer and softball programs for youth. Voluntary Boards administer the baseball leagues with assistance from Parks and Recreation in performing all the maintenance for the leagues. Soccer and softball programs require training for coaches, whereas baseball as of last year, does not.

We directly run a number of sports programs and require coaches training, parent training and background checks. Our volunteer affiliates are required to do background checks. We do not require coaches training, however, all do. We do not require parent training, but are currently working with them to include this in their programs.

In our town, many programs are run by a separate organization such as, █████ Soccer Club which is affiliated with █████ Junior Soccer. They handle insurance, official training etc. Our job is to provide them with appropriate field space. The Little League is run by a three town organization. Again, they look to me to provide field space. They select their own coaches and umpires. T-Ball, Softball feeder programs, softball, field hockey feeder programs, instructional basketball for younger players etc. are a function of my

department. I select coaches when a regular volunteer finds it timely to give up his/her coaching job. It is such a tiny town (2,400) that I have the luxury of knowing just about all involved. I grew up here and have resided here all my 61 years. I understand that this is not your typical recreation situation.

I believe that park districts should be selective in what sports to offer. I believe Associations do a better job. It is very costly (time) to hire one Athletic Manager and the turnover rate for Athletic Managers is getting worse. It is a tough job and requires many nights and weekends.

We enter into agreements with our private associations stipulating what we will provide in return requiring background checks and volunteer training.

Our department manages youth basketball and in-line hockey. Volunteer associations manage soccer, baseball, softball, football and swimming. Our city provides and maintains the facilities at no cost to the youth associations.

My agency runs our own leagues. For those, we DO require background checks, and suggest and offer coaches training. We also provide resources to affiliated organizations, and they do NOT require background checks.

The [REDACTED] Park and Recreation District partners with a variety of agencies in the community to delivery quality youth sports programming. These agencies include Kidsports, AYSO, high schools, private soccer clubs, track clubs, tennis clubs, swim clubs, and others. As a partner, we provide facilities and some promotion for activities. We do not program youth sports and we are not involved in the administration of these programs. We do not select or communicate with coaches, volunteers, officials, etc. However, my responses are based upon my knowledge and interaction with representatives from these agencies.

Our agency has strong influence when it comes to our programs offered through our department. We have little to no influence however when it comes to youth sports programs offered in our community by private organizations that are not administered by our department.

Our agency coordinates all of the school sports programs for the local school district k-8th grade. We facilitate baseball, softball, and soccer for youth organizations, so not all answers are totally correct because there is crossover. We highly encourage the youth groups that use our facilities to provide training and of course we have our own preservice and inservice training for staff.

I believe that the coaches trainings is a valuable tool, we are just not equipped to handle this at this time.

We do encourage the affiliated programs to do some level of parent education to help avoid potential problems and make sure there is communication between all involved. Usually this has worked to keep problems to a minimum.

The Department has requirements for our programs and associations that use our facilities. Other private organizations using non City - County owned facilities, we have no control.

As our town grows I foresee a strong need for a recreational programmer to organize baseball, soccer, and begin having adult softball.

We are currently in the process of developing a youth sport council. This is made up of all the youth organizations, parks & recreation staff, & commission members in our community and are addressing these particular issues. We have also been designated as a Magnet Center for Quality Sports by National Recreation and Parks Association and the NFL. There is only 32 communities nationwide designated with this honor. [REDACTED] is also going through a big initiative called "Sports Done Right" which is directed mainly to school sports.

We offered to pay for any volunteer coach to go to a generic youth sports coach training that included sportsmanship training. Of 150+ volunteer coaches in our community, we only had 5 attend. This was a local program and we could hardly get anyone to go!

We will be looking at implementing a parent training, code of ethics program in the future. I think it could/would be a valuable piece to our program.

We use NYSCA training and have for over 15 years. Our Park Board has a posted Sports Code of Ethics which they adopted as a result of our staff recommendation after the 2003 NRPA conference.

We use National Alliance for Youth Sports in our program I believe all sports program should have training for all coaches and parents.

The Recreation Department has a well attended youth sports program. We train our paid coaches in-house. I can not say what other youth sports providers do as far as training. At the start of all our programs we have a parent's meeting where we explain how the program will be run and what we expect from the kids and parents. They are given a sheet of expected behavior and this has worked very well for us with only one or two instances where we had to remind a parent.

Youth sports in general are directly controlled by their own Ex. Boards with own budgets(bigger than ours) We provide facility maintenance and input on field scheduling which covers Bd. of Ed and Town properties.

Please note that the youth sports programs offered by our department (youth flag football and youth basketball) requires coaching training. We do not require the parent managed groups (little league, AYSO, etc. to participate) but we are considering a more extensive program for coaches and may make it mandatory in our facility use agreements with the parent run organizations that their coaches attend as a condition of using a "reserved" city facility.

Our department and city is a major metro area. Our organization has a hand in some youth sports, but not all. We have discussed the need for both coach and parent training. In those sports that we oversee or provide, we do coaches training. 98% of our participants would be considered low-income inner-city children. Parental involvement is a problem. Most sports are provided at no or little charge.

We have had coach training the entire time that I have been here. We started the parent training 2yrs. ago. These trainings must be done to convey the agency's philosophy of youth sports, but do not totally alleviate conflicts. In my experience, there should be a league administrator at all games to handle conflicts as they arise in a civil manner.

I feel that youth in the community participating in sports have benefited a lot from coaches training (NYSCA) that we have provided in the past but budget cuts in recent years have made it difficult to provide a staff person certified to be a clinician for the training. Consequently training has become a hit or miss proposition.

Most competitive youth sport programs are offered by community groups with which we have minimal control. But where we control the facilities, we have been able to require coaching education. We don't have any gyms (the community uses school gyms), thus sports like basketball generally are not requiring coaching education. More and more groups are coming to us for sponsorship in the past four years.

We currently have developed our own coaches training classes and will be implementing a parents training within the next 18 months.

This information will be useful for all of us advocating for youth sports/parent training. We require all youth sports coaches who coach on city-managed facilities to attend training.

I believe that the pressure for youth sports to be so competitive is that the parents see an opportunity for the child to receive college scholarships. The cost of sending your child to a university is outrageous and I believe parents see it as an opportunity for them to get their kids through college. If only parents would spend as much time on reading and the academics, the kids would get scholarships for the skills they really need to get a scholarship!

Mostly youth sport leagues utilize our facilities. Organizations like Little League and community basketball and football leagues run the programs.

The City of [REDACTED] acts as the facilitator in 80% of the community's youth sports.

In a rural location, the implementation of coach and parent training meets some resistance. We are introducing a new phase of training with each succeeding sports season.

Some of the youth sports opportunities in our community (soccer, "competitive" baseball, softball, basketball, tackle football) are run by outside groups who do NOT require coach or parent training. All the programs I run require coach/parent training.

[REDACTED] City [REDACTED] is an urbanely dense very ethnically diverse community. This ethnic diversity has created added issues in coach and parent training, as a "worldwide" worth of values, conduct and definitions of sportsmanship are merged into our training.

Multiple service delivery agencies working together to provide quality sports experiences at variety of levels is a major plus in our community. The key is getting them to work together in a cooperative and not competitive way.

For the most part our parents are pretty we'll behaved at events and have bought into the ideal that our youth leagues are instructionally rather than competitively based. However, I highly support proactively of the emotional and physical safety of our children. Moreover, this will be the first year that background checks for our coaches will be instituted