



City of Ellensburg Youth Sports Programs

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Youth Sports FAQs will answer many common questions about the various Youth Sports programs. Click on a question to jump directly to the answer, or scroll through the document to read all of the questions and answers.

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Program Philosophy

The City of Ellensburg Youth Sports programs are recreation based programs, and are focused on teaching the proper fundamentals of sports in a positive environment. The City's Youth Sports programs focus on the social and athletic development of youth. There leagues do not have standings, playoffs, nor all-star teams.

1. Question: What Youth Sports programs does the City coordinate?

A: The City coordinates the following Youth Sports programs:

1. **Tiny Tot Soccer** – 3 to 5 year old youth
 - a. Registration beginning at the end of August
 - b. Camps beginning the 3rd full week of September
2. **Coed Kinder and Girls Youth Basketball Leagues** – Kinder to 8th grade youth
 - a. Registration beginning the 1st week of September
 - b. Leagues beginning the 3rd full week of October
3. **Coed Youth Indoor Soccer** – 1st to 8th grade youth
 - a. Registration beginning the 3rd full week of September
 - b. Leagues beginning the 1st week of November
4. **Boys Youth Basketball** – 1st to 8th grade youth
 - a. Registration beginning the 2nd week of November
 - b. Leagues beginning the 2nd week of January
5. **Coed Youth Volleyball** – 3rd to 8th grade youth
 - a. Registration beginning the 2nd week of February
 - b. Leagues beginning the last week of March
6. **Tiny Tot T-Ball** – 3 to 5 year old youth
 - a. Registration beginning the 3rd full week of March
 - b. Camps beginning the 3rd full week of April

2. Question: Who coordinates the Outdoor Youth Soccer and Youth Softball/Baseball programs?

A: These programs are coordinated by volunteer groups. The [Kittitas Valley Junior Soccer Association \(KVJSA\)](#) coordinates the outdoor soccer leagues. The [Ellensburg Youth Baseball Softball \(EYBS\)](#) program coordinates the softball and baseball programs. Both programs have Facebook pages and websites with information on their programs, game schedules, etc.

3. Question: Where can I find information about Ellensburg Youth Sports Programs?

A: The [Ellensburg Youth Sports Facebook](#) page as well as the [Ellensburg Parks and Recreation website](#) contains up-to-date information on all youth sports programs.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EllensburgYouthSports/>
<http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/index.aspx?nid=156>

4. Question: Can I register online?

A: YES! [Online registration](#) is currently available for swimming lessons, community recreation programs, and Youth Center trips, and sports leagues. Credit and debit payments are now accepted onsite and online!

https://www.activityreg.com/ClientPage_t1.wcs?clientid=ELLNSBRG&siteid=1

5. Question: Are Youth Scholarships available?

A: Sports scholarships are available through Hope Source. You can visit their office at 700 E. Mountain View Road, Suite 501 to apply if your child is eligible.

6. Question: Aside from the league registration cost, are there other uniform or equipment costs of which participants need to be aware?

A: There are no additional league fees or required equipment costs. It is recommended that each youth have a good pair of court shoes, a bottle of water, and wear a pair of shorts or sweatpants during games and practices.

1. Youth Basketball and Coed Youth Volleyball:

As part of the league registration fee, participants will receive a jersey, each team will have its own color, and each jersey will have a number.

2. Tiny Tot Sports:

Youth participating in the Tiny Tot Sports programs will receive a sports specific shirt that is the same color as the rest of the participants.

3. Coed Indoor Soccer:

Due to the low fee of the program, youth will not receive team jerseys. Practice pinnies/jerseys will be available for teams to use during games. Many teams coordinate on team shirt colors to wear during games.

7. Question: What ages are eligible to participate in the Ellensburg Youth Sports Programs?

A: Ages and grade eligibility differs among the programs:

- 1. Tiny Tot Soccer** – 3 to 5 year old youth
- 2. Coed Kinder and Girls Youth Basketball Leagues** – Kinder to 8th grade youth
- 3. Coed Youth Indoor Soccer** – 1st to 8th grade youth
- 4. Boys Youth Basketball** – 1st to 8th grade youth
- 5. Coed Youth Volleyball** – 3rd to 8th grade youth
- 6. Tiny Tot T-Ball** – 3 to 5 year old youth

8. Question: What are the league divisions?

A: Divisions will be formed as listed below; however, registration numbers will dictate if a specific grade has enough children to form its own league, or if two or more grades must be combined.

1. Youth Basketball:

- a. Coed Kindergarten
- b. 1st Grade
- c. 2nd Grade
- d. 3rd Grade
- e. Combined 4th & 5th grade
- f. Combined 6th, 7th, & 8th grade

2. Coed Youth Indoor Soccer:

- a. Combined 1st and 2nd grade
- b. Combined 3rd and 4th grade
- c. Combined 5th and 6th grade
- d. Combined 7th and 8th grade

3. Coed Youth Volleyball:

- a. Coed 3rd & 4th grade
- b. Coed 5th and 6th grade
- c. Coed 7th and 8th grade

4. Tiny Tots Soccer and T-Ball:

The programs are camp based, with all youth participating in various drills in small groups. There are no games scheduled against “other teams” in this program.

9. Question: How are the teams formed?

A: Each sports program is formatted differently:

1. Tiny Tots Soccer and T-Ball:

Tiny Tots Sports are camp based programs and do not have teams. Youth participate in sports centered drills and mini games to gain exposure to sports, teams, and coaches.

2. Youth Basketball:

Teams in the K-1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade leagues are formed using information compiled from registration forms, coaches’ evaluation forms from the previous season, previous basketball playing experience, as well as staff observations. Teams in the 4th & 5th as well as the 6th, 7th, & 8th grade league are formed by a draft.

3. Coed Youth Indoor Soccer:

All teams are formed using information compiled from registration forms, coaches’ evaluation forms from the previous season, previous basketball playing experience, as well as staff observations.

4. Coed Youth Volleyball:

All teams are formed using a player draft.

10. Question: Why do the Youth Basketball and Youth Volleyball Leagues use drafts to form teams?

A: Utilizing a draft to form teams, helps to create the most equitable teams possible. Participants will be evaluated by coaches, and ALL PLAYERS will be placed onto teams during a skills clinic. All players are expected to participate; however, players will be placed on a team even if they do not attend. Players will not return to the same team each year, however, the same coach may draft them again.

11. Question: Can I request that my child be placed on a specific team with a friend?

A: Unfortunately due to the high volume of requests, specific requests for team placement will not be honored. Coaches will always coach their children. Siblings in the same division will be placed on the same team.

12. Question: Do all youth use the same size basket, net, courts, and ball sizes for all leagues?

A: Youth in each sport will play utilizing age appropriate equipment and play on age appropriate courts, with specifications for each sport below:

1. Tiny Tots Soccer and T-Ball:

Tiny Tots Sports are camp based programs will use a variety of balls and ball substitutes (balloons, beach balls, foam balls, etc.) to aid youth in their motor skill development and to alleviate fear and injury concerns.

2. Coed Youth Volleyball:

a. 3rd & 4th grade division

- i. Youth will play on 6'6" nets using a Baden 450-Lite Volleyball
- ii. Each player is allowed to serve from the 10-foot line. A line will be used to mark the distance in front of each baseline.

b. 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Division

- i. Youth will play on 7' nets using Baden 450, regulation size and weight volleyball.
- ii. Each player will serve from the regulation serving distance.

3. Youth Basketball:

Youth in each division will play utilizing age appropriate equipment and play on age appropriate courts. Divisions will be formed as listed below; however, grades may be combined as necessary.

a. Youth in Kindergarten through 3rd grade will play 4 on 4, which will provide increased playing time, help improve fundamentals, and build a better appreciation of basketball and sports.

b. Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 2nd Grade

- i. This division will play 4 on 4 on 8 foot baskets. Both Boys and Girls divisions will play using a junior size basketball (27.5").

c. 3rd Grade:

- i. This division will play 4 on 4 on 9 foot baskets. Girls will play using a Junior size basketball. Boys will play using an Intermediate size basketball (28.5").

- d. **4th and 5th Grade:**
 - i. This division will play 5 on 5 on 10 foot hoops. Both Boys and Girls divisions will play using an Intermediate size basketball.
- e. **6th, 7th, and 8th Grade:**
 - i. This division will play 5 on 5 on 10 foot baskets. Girls will play using an Intermediate size basketball. Boys will play using an Official size basketball (29.5”).

13. Question: When and where are practices?

A: Practices days, times, and locations are set by each individual coach and league coordinators. Teams in the kinder to 2nd grade teams practice one day per week for one hour. Teams in the 3rd to 8th grade divisions may practice up to two times per week, for one hour per practice, depending on gym availability.

Due to limited field space, the Coed Youth Indoor Soccer Leagues to not have practice sessions, teams will only participate in games.

14. Question: When are the games played?

A: Each sports program is plays games on different days:

1. **Tiny Tots Soccer and T-Ball:**

Tiny Tots Sports are camp based programs and do not play formal games. Youth participate in sports centered drills and games to gain exposure to sports, teams, and coaches.

2. **Youth Basketball and Coed Youth Volleyball Leagues:**

Teams will play one game per week on Saturdays, with games starting as early as 10:00 am. Exact game schedules are different for each league and sport. Gym conflicts may dictate that games are played during the week, but this is a rare.

3. **Coed Youth Indoor Soccer:**

Games are played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Select Saturday evening games may be played, based on the number of teams participating.

15. Question: Where are the games played?

A: Each sports programs takes place at different locations:

1. **Youth Basketball and Coed Youth Volleyball Leagues:**

- i. Games are played at [Valley View Elementary School](#), [Mt. Stuart Elementary School](#), or [Ellensburg High School](#)

2. **Coed Youth Indoor Soccer:**

- i. Games take place at the [Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center](#)

3. **Tiny Tot Soccer and T-Ball:**

- i. Camps take place at the [Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center](#)

16. Question: Our team cannot make a game, can reschedule this game?

A: Unfortunately due to limited gym availability, we are unable to reschedule games. We encourage players to arrive for their game even if they know that they will be short players, as it is still possible to scrimmage using players borrowed from other teams.

17. Question: How do I volunteer to coach?

A: If you have a love for sports and enjoy working with youth, the Ellensburg Parks and Recreation department encourages you to volunteer. Coaching resources are available to volunteer coaches and can provide assistance to all coaches when forming practice plans. These coaching materials are a good resource for individuals who are interested in coaching, but are unsure if you are “qualified” to coach.

All individuals interested in coaching should contact David Hurn – Youth Center and Athletics Programs Coordinator and are required to complete a Washington State Patrol Background Check prior to coaching.

Tiny Tot Soccer and T-Ball do not utilize coaches; the activities are led by Parks and Recreation staff. Parents are strongly encouraged to join their children on the field to help with activities.

18. Question: Do the Ellensburg Youth Sports Leagues conduct background checks on volunteers and staff?

A: Yes, all volunteers and staff must complete a Washington State Patrol Background check yearly, even if they have completed a background check to volunteer at school, to volunteer as a coach for another sports league, or for work requirements.

19. Question: I have previously had background checks completed for other local sports leagues, volunteering experiences, or my job. Do I need to complete another background check?

A: Yes. We are required to complete a background check yearly on all volunteers. Without a current background check, individuals will not be allowed to coach, even in an informal manner.

20. Question: If I coach, will I be able to coach my child(ren)?

A: Yes. Coaches with youth participating in the league will automatically coach their child(ren)’s team.

21. Question: What is the time commitment involved with being a coach?

A: Coach's time commitment consists of one practice per week (approximately 1 hour) as well as one game (approximately 1 hour). Practice days, times, and locations are requested by the coach, and will be scheduled/approved by league coordinators.

Due to limited field space, the Coed Youth Indoor Soccer Leagues do not have practice sessions, teams will only participate in games.

22. Question: How can parents and other family members support my child's sport experience?

A: Lots of love! Your child needs to know that you support him/her no matter the outcome of their performance or the final score of the game. Your child needs to see good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior on the sidelines. Ask your coach how you can follow through with the skills taught during practice at home, without the pressure of performance. Youth sports are skills (both social and athletic) development programs, not a precursor to college scholarships. Study after study shows that kids simply want to hear their parents say that they "love to watch them play", tell them this when they get into the car after a practice or game.

23. Question: I am interested in becoming a referee, who do I contact?

A: Individuals interested in refereeing, please contact David Hurn – Youth Programs and Athletics phone: (509) 925-8604 and may apply directly for a position by visiting the link below, and turn the application into City of Ellensburg Human Resources located at Ellensburg City Hall.

<http://www.ci.ellensburg.wa.us/jobs.aspx>

24. Question: Who do I contact if I have any questions regarding Ellensburg Youth Sports Programs?

A: For additional information, please contact David Hurn – Youth Programs and Athletics Coordinator

- phone: (509) 925-8604
- email: hurnd@cityofellensburg.org
- visit us at: <http://ci.ellensburg.wa.us/parksandrec>
- visit us at: [Facebook: Ellensburg Youth Sports](#)
- visit us at: [Facebook: Ellensburg Youth Center](#)
- visit the Ellensburg Youth Center at 406 E. Capitol
- mailing address: Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department 501 N. Anderson Street Ellensburg, WA 98926