

# *Athletics Division FAQ's*

## *Youth Athletics*



### **Operating Philosophy**

The Athletics Division philosophy is to provide enjoyable and safe athletics programs for the population in Castle Rock and the surrounding area. Within the program environment it is essential that we provide participants with supervision, instructional coaching and officiating that is knowledgeable and demonstrates a positive and professional attitude. We provide athletic programs within an environment that promote fundamental skill development, sportsmanship, teamwork and FUN.

### **1. How are teams formed?** (Listed below by priority)

- Academic/ Scholastic Grade (at the time of registration)
- Team Balance/ Skill Level - beginning at 3rd or 4th grade (depending on the sport) we hold skill evaluations to ensure teams are equal and competition is fair.
- School/Neighborhood - Why is this important?
  - a. To bring together communities and familiarize families that attend the same school.
  - b. Provide participants with an opportunity to know more schoolmates.
  - c. Assist families with car pooling and transportation.

### **2. What are skill evaluations?**

- As recreation (compared to competitive) providers, we want to ensure families that teams are equitably balanced.
- At 3rd or 4th grade (depending on the sport) we conduct sport specific skill evaluations to assess each player's skill level.
- 3rd & 4th grade is when players begin displaying sound fundamentals and separation of playing talent is observable.
- Our goal is not to break up teams that have been playing together, our priority is to "level the playing field" to create balance in all programs.
- Balanced teams are able to play together until 6th grade.
- Exception: Hockey - evaluations are conducted every season due to the wide range of grade levels playing together.

### **3. Can my child play up?**

- Play-ups are not allowed for Pre-K through 2nd grade - Why?
  - a. Children rarely display exceptional fundamentals, listening skills, or patience at this time which is not fair for the kids they are trying to play up with and puts them in a safety issue.
  - b. Focus should be on fun, sportsmanship, teamwork, and basic fundamentals.
- Occasionally, play-ups are permitted (3rd grade and above) Only if/when a player displays exceptional skills or physical development that they can compete at an above average level in the age group ABOVE their present level/grade.... Why?
  - a. Our goal is to build self-esteem & leadership qualities in all players.
  - b. If a safety issue is present due to physical development.

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### **4. What is the waitlist?**

- It is a list of participants who are waiting for a spot in a particular program and division.
- They require payment at the time of registration and are totally refundable if unable to get in.
- We cannot guarantee a spot in a neighborhood/school division or program but make every effort to not turn away a child that wants to participate.

### **5. How do I volunteer to coach?**

- Contact the coordinator of your program to be placed on the coaches list.
- Attend the coaches meeting.
- Pass the background check.

### **6. Do I get a discount when I register my child if I volunteer to coach?**

- No, all coaches are volunteer - Why?
  - a. We encourage coaches to come forward because they are vested in the program and committed to helping the youth.
  - b. As a recreational provider we strive to keep the cost to a minimum to ensure that cost is not the reason a child cannot come out to play.

### **7. Is there a limit to the number of players on a team?**

- Yes! It varies by sport; however the younger the team, the fewer the players.
- We strongly believe by keeping the player per coach ratio low, it will help all players receive the attention they need to succeed in every sport.
- We encourage all coaches to put aside time for all players to receive one-on-one time to develop player success and to build self-esteem.

### **8. What equipment is provided?**

- Each league provides the basic equipment and league shirts.
- All shirts are pre-ordered in bulk to save on cost.
- For specific equipment questions, contact your league coordinator and attend parent meetings.

### **9. Why do I need to attend the parent meetings?**

- We believe in order to keep our "small-town" feel, it is important for you to know who we are and what we are about.
- We enjoy being able to put a face with a name and believe you do too.
- To receive all the season information: dates, times, locations, rules, etc.
- Ability to make a request for a friend or coach (Within the guidelines of FAQ #1).
- Ability for families to meet other families that are in the program.
- Enables the coordinator to answer a majority of parent questions so that our focus can be on developing teams and practice/game schedules in a timely manner.
- To understand our "Program Philosophy".
- To learn about Volunteer Opportunities.

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### 10. Is there a refund policy?

- Yes, to create a fair and consistent standard by which the Town of Castle Rock Athletic Department will issue refunds we have provided the following structure:
  - a. Any parent requesting a refund may receive a full refund in the form of an egift card or a monetary refund in the form of a check or credit card minus a \$5 processing fee for the following circumstances:
    - i. Request refund before rosters are released to coaches.
    - ii. Request refund after rosters are released and a child on the waitlist is able to replace their position on the team they are leaving.
  - b. Any parent requesting a refund for the following circumstances may receive a partial refund in the form of an egift card or monetary refund in the form of check or credit card. The amount indicated below would be the cost of the program minus the designated administrative fee:
    - i. Requesting a refund after rosters were released and there is not a child on the waitlist to replace their position on the team they are leaving would be subject to a \$20 administrative fee.
    - ii. Requesting a refund after games start would be subject to a \$30 administrative fee.
  - c. Any parent requesting a refund due to an injury that prevents them from playing would be allowed the following options:
    - i. Egift card for 100% of the cost of the program for an injury occurring during the first half of season.
    - ii. Egift card for 50% of the cost of the program for an injury occurring in the second half of the season.
  - d. No refunds will be issued once a season reaches the halfway mark unless the participant suffers from an injury that would prevent them from participating.
  - e. This policy doesn't encompass facility rentals, adult leagues or those that are contracted through the Town of Castle Rock.