

# FAQ

# YOUTH SPORT PROGRAMS



## REGISTRATION

### **How do I register for a youth sport program at the CORE?**

- Registrations must be done in person at the CORE. We currently do not offer online registration. Payment can be made in cash, by check, or with a credit/debit card.

### **Do I need to provide a birth certificate during registration?**

- No. The CORE currently does not require a birth certificate or any other form of identification as proof of age. You will be asked to provide a birthdate, grade level, and the school that your child is currently attending to assist us in forming teams and ensuring that they are registered in the appropriate age group.

### **What is included with a youth sport program?**

- The registration fee includes 8 weeks of play including a weekly practice at the CORE. The first week is an organization day and skills clinic instructed by CORE staff. The remaining 7 weeks is game play officiated by CORE staff.

### **Are all sports by gender?**

- No. Currently, basketball is the only sport that is separated by gender. All other sports are coed.
- All programs are subject to change based on participation levels.

### **My child is advanced for their age. Do they have to play in their current grade or can they play up?**

- Yes. You are able to register your child one grade level above their current grade level. Please understand that most age groups are combined (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>). By playing up a grade your child may potentially be playing with and against children that are 2-3 years older than them (7 year old 2<sup>nd</sup> grader playing with a 9 year old 4<sup>th</sup> grader).

### **My child is brand new and may not play as well as kids their own age or my child would like to play with their sibling who is in a lower grade. Can my child play down a grade?**

- Unfortunately no. Children are only allowed to play up a grade but not down.
- There may be unique situations where a child with developmental delays may be allowed to play down a grade but approval must be given by the CORE Sports Coordinator prior to registering for a program.

### **Once I am registered, how will I know who my coach is or when the first day is?**

- During registration, an email and phone number is required. This information will be shared with your coach who will be contacting you with game and practice information.
- You should receive a phone call or email from your coach at least one (1) week prior to your first game.
- All information shared by the CORE will be via email. Often our emails get sent into the Junk or Spam folders so please be sure to check there often.

Your coach will be your main point of contact regarding the league, but if you have any questions that they are not able to answer, please contact the CORE during regular business hours at 575-393-2673.

### **If I would like to play with a certain player or coach, can I?**

- Yes. While registering, there is a section where you can list the players or coach that you would like to play with.



# LEAGUE FORMAT

## **What makes the CORE youth recreational leagues different from other leagues offered in town?**

- CORE Youth Programs are recreational, non-competitive leagues. Kids will be introduced to various sports in a safe and fun environment.
- They are intended for beginners or those who are not part of a competitive team. Our hope is that our recreational programs will be seen as “feeder” programs for the more competitive clubs and school teams in the community, giving youth more opportunities to improve their skill and get involved with sports.
- Our goal is to provide opportunities for kids to learn the basic skills and rules of various sports in a safe and fun environment, learn how to play in a team setting and hone in on their skills, and to enjoy the game; encouraging a healthy lifestyle and a lifelong interest or hobby.

## **Are your programs games or camps?**

- Our seasonal youth sports programs are intended to be played in a league format. Kids will be placed on teams with volunteer coaches and each team will play a different teams within the CORE league each week. Games will be officiated by CORE staff. Our goal is to provide game play with officials to teach participants the game as much as possible.

## **Are there winners at the end of leagues? Are there awards?**

- Our leagues are strictly recreational and will consist of game play.
- Although we do not offer awards or trophies, all participants will receive a certificate of participation and a treat on the last day of the league. Coaches are encouraged, but not required, to hold post season parties or gatherings to celebrate the season and their players.

## **Are practices included in the league?**

- Yes. As part of the league a weekly practice at the CORE is included.

## **How are teams formed?**

- Leagues are separated by age group. Then, teams are formed based on player or coach requests. Next, players are grouped by school or general area. Having fun while playing sports is important to the players. We want to make sure that kids have a chance to play with their friends or fellow classmates and potentially make new friends.

## **Why are the rules different from leagues run by other leagues in town?**

- The CORE is not currently affiliated with any outside organization that govern the rules or the format by which we play. Our rules have been structured in a way to:
  - First, provide a safe environment for your child to learn and grow
  - Second, provide a program that is fun, recreational, and encourages participation and learning
  - Third, provide skills and knowledge that will teach them the basic structures of sports to prepare them for more competitive play in the future
- As our programs continue to grow and evolve, so will our formats and rules. The CORE will always do its best to provide what is best for the community at the highest level of quality that is available.

## **If my child plays in another city league, will the schedules conflict? Are there any rules prohibiting city league play and CORE play?**

- The CORE leagues are separate from other leagues offered in the city and there may be scheduling conflicts.
- There are no rules that prohibit players from participating in multiple leagues at one time.

## **What happens on organization day?**

- Organization day gives volunteer coaches an opportunity to meet their team and their parents. They can hand out schedules, discuss practices, exchange contact information, and delegate parent responsibilities like treat assignments or how information is going to be shared amongst the team. While the parents and coaches are meeting, the players will be participating in a skills clinic instructed by CORE staff. We will be going over basic skills and various drills to get the kids excited to play and get them started off on the right foot.



# BENEFITS OF COACHING

## Who are the coaches?

- All coaches of CORE Youth Sports are volunteers usually consisting of parents, close family members, or adult siblings. The success of our programs relies heavily on committed volunteers.

## Why would I want to become a volunteer coach?

- Volunteers play an essential and valuable role in the lives of the youth in our community. You will serve as a leader, mentor, teacher, and a friend for the children you come in contact with. Lessons taught will help foster self confidence, sportsmanship, and responsibility.
- Dedicated and caring volunteers are important in the success of CORE Youth Sports Programs. Besides helping us keep the cost of sports low to participants, you help represent the CORE, its values and are a driving force in participation in future programs.
- All CORE Volunteer Coaches will receive:
  - A CORE Coach's t-shirt
  - A whistle and CORE lanyard
  - Upon completion of the league, a certificate for a 50% discount on their child's registration for an upcoming league.

## If I become a coach, what is expected of me?

- A coaches meeting will be held one week prior to the start of the league. At this meeting, coaches will:
  - Be introduced to the CORE staff
  - Receive a Volunteer Coaches Packet filled with helpful coaching resources as well as forms to be completed
  - Sign a Coaches Code of Ethics
  - Complete Background Consent Form. All volunteers must clear a background check through the City of Hobbs prior to any interaction with players.
  - Receive Heads Up Concussion training
  - Receive league rosters
  - Receive handouts and instructions for parents (spectator cards, schedules, Parents Code of Ethics)
  - Set up a practice time for your team
  - Participate in a Q&A session regarding the league
- Contact all players on your roster and notify them of upcoming games
- Hold a weekly practice. The league includes a practice time at the CORE but you are welcome to practice outside of the CORE as much as you would like.
- Delegate responsibilities to parents.
- Commit to attend all games and encourage players to do also. It is always a good idea to assign an assistant coach to help in times when you are not available.

## How do I become a volunteer coach?

- While registering your child, there is a section on the registration form where you can choose to be a head or assistant volunteer coach. Those who volunteer will always be coaches to their own children.

## I can't play on certain days or at certain times. As a volunteer coach, can I pick what times I play?

- Maybe. All games will be played on Saturdays. In certain circumstances, a game time request may be made to the Sports Coordinator and we will do our best to accommodate. Due to the number of teams and programs offered at the CORE, requests are not always guaranteed.



## EQUIPMENT

### Do I have to have a jersey?

- Yes. Program registration fees do not include a jersey. In order to keep the cost of the programs low, the CORE has reversible, black/white, universal-use jerseys available at the front desk for \$15. This jersey, in either a tank or t-shirt style, can be used for any sport as long as it comfortably fits your child. The style of your choosing is based on your child's comfort. The savings to the parent is \$8-\$10 per league.

### How do I know what color to wear?

- If your team is listed first on the schedule for that day, they will wear white, signifying that they are the home team. If they are listed second, they will wear black, signifying that they are the away team.

### Is there any specialized equipment for turf play?

- No, non-metal cleats and shin guards are not required but are highly recommended.
- All equipment is provided for game play but you are welcomed to bring your own such as: T-ball helmets and t-ball mitt. Please ensure that all personal equipment is clearly marked with your child's name.



## PROGRAM OFFERINGS

### Do you have to pay to watch the games or attend practices?

- No. Each participant will receive a Spectator Card from their coach. This card will need to be shown and scanned each time you come for practice or games for each individual person in your group.
- The Spectator Card may only be used for CORE scheduled practices and games and does not give access to the whole facility. If you would like to enjoy other amenities of the CORE you will need to check in as a member or pay for a day pass.

### What sports can my child play and how old do they have to be?

- Coed Volleyball: 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Boys & Girls Basketball: 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Coed Flag Football: 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Coed Soccer: 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Coed Tee-Ball: 3-6 years old

### If my child is signed up for multiple sports, will the schedules conflict?

- Possibly. If your child is signed up for multiple turf sports they will not conflict and the same is for gym sports. If your child is signed up for a turf sport and a gym sport, the schedules may conflict but we will do everything we can to ensure that a specific age group does not play at the same time in both areas. It is all based on registrations and the number of teams in each sport.
- If your child plays a sport with a non-CORE organization such as the Boys & Girls Club, we cannot guarantee that schedules will conflict.

### Why don't you offer sports for all age groups? Example: soccer is only up to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Due to limited space and the multiple sports that are held in each area, the CORE needs to be selective in what sports and age groups to offer while at the same time balancing the space between program use and open public use to ensure that the athletic areas aren't overbooked. Our programs are new and as we continue to grow and change we will do our best to offer programs based on the needs of the community.

### How often will sports be offered?

- The CORE will be providing opportunities to play organized recreational sports all year round. With our indoor facilities, we are able to continually offer our programs despite the heat or cold weather. There will be 3 seasons: Fall (September – November), Winter (December – February), and Spring (March – May). During the month of August, there will be very little programming at the CORE in order to help parents and students prepare on returning to school mid-August. Programming may change based on the needs of the community.



Center Of Recreational Excellence

If you have any additional questions regarding CORE Youth Sports Programs, please contact Lyndsey Henderson, Sports Coordinator, at 575-391-6912 or [Lhenderson@hobbsnm.org](mailto:Lhenderson@hobbsnm.org).