

Sports are one of the greatest tools that exist in today's society to help children develop positive character traits and life values. Under the right conditions, many youth sports experiences can be enormously beneficial, teaching the importance of teamwork, cooperation, and hard work, among many other qualities.

A model youth sports program is not something that anyone should just hope turns out well, because there is simply too much at stake when a child's emotional and physical well-being is involved. A top quality youth sports program is a positive reflection on the entire community and something that everyone can be proud of.



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**Board of County Commissioners for
St. Mary's County:**

Francis Jack Russell, President,
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COMMUNITY STANDARDS IN YOUTH SPORTS



"Education
in
Youth Sports
for a Positive Future"

Why they participate

Athletic Footwear Association Survey of over 20,000 kids nation-wide asked, "Why they participate in sports."

1. To have fun
2. To improve their skills
3. To stay in shape
4. To do something they are good at
5. The excitement of the competition
6. To get exercise
7. To play as part of a team
8. The challenge of the competition
9. To learn new skills
10. To win

Why was Community Standards in Youth Sports initiated?

The Recreation & Parks Department recognizes that youth sports are an integral part of the lives of many of the families in St. Mary's County where a safe, fun and enriching experience is the primary goal.

To insure a high standard for child safety and positive youth development within youth sports leagues, the Board of County Commissioners approved the Raising Community Standards in Youth Sports initiative in 2006.

What is included in the Standards?

BACKGROUND CHECKS

St. Mary's County funds the cost for up to 2 coaches per team for all youth sports leagues.



COACHING CERTIFICATION

St. Mary's County requires at least 2 coaches from every youth sports team to be trained and certified through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) or a comparable certification.



PARENTS CODE OF ETHICS

All parents are required to sign a Parents Code of Ethics statement prior to their child participating in any youth league.

NO SMOKING

Smoking is limited to beyond 150 feet of any playing field/surface.

Visit the Community Standards Webpage!

www.stmarysmd.com/recreate/communitystandards.asp

To complete your background check online click on the logo below on the Recreation & Parks homepage



An list of volunteer coaches approved by Recreation & Parks is published every season. Visit the webpage to see if your child's coach is on the list.

