

TERRITORIAL SPORTS PROGRAM

COACHES HANDBOOK

2026 Edition

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1. WELCOME TO TERRITORIAL SPORTS PROGRAM

Thank you for volunteering to coach with Territorial Sports Program (TSP).

Our coaches are the heart of our organization. Whether you have years of experience or are coaching for the very first time, your willingness to invest in our athletes helps create a positive experience that lasts far beyond a single season.

Every decision should support our core mission:

- Develop young athletes
- Teach teamwork and sportsmanship
- Build confidence
- Create a fun and safe environment
- Help every athlete improve

Winning games is exciting—but developing young people is our greatest success.

2. TSP MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

Territorial Sports Program is a non-profit organization devoted to providing recreational and semi-competitive sports opportunities to youth throughout western Lane County.

Programs include:

- K–6 Soccer
- 3–6 Volleyball
- 2–6 Basketball
- K–6 Baseball / Softball / T-Ball
- Middle School Volleyball
- Middle School Basketball
- Middle School Track

Our goal is to provide every athlete with a positive, educational, and enjoyable experience regardless of skill level.

TSP believes:

- Every child deserves an opportunity to play.
 - Sportsmanship is more important than winning.
 - Coaches should model respect and integrity.
 - Positive coaching builds confident athletes.
 - Athletics should be fun.
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3. CHAIN OF COMMAND

To ensure questions are resolved quickly and consistently, TSP follows the following chain of communication:

Coach



Area Representative



Sport Director



TSP President



TSP Board of Directors

Parents should always begin by speaking with their coach whenever possible.

4. COACH EXPECTATIONS

Every TSP coach is expected to:

- Put athlete development ahead of winning.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship.
- Treat players, parents, officials, and opponents with respect.
- Know both the TSP General Rules and sport-specific rules.
- Create a safe, positive, and inclusive environment.
- Encourage teamwork and effort.
- Communicate regularly with families.
- Promote fair play and integrity.
- Cooperate with opposing coaches and officials.
- Represent TSP in a professional manner at all times.

5. TSP GENERAL RULES

Players

Players compete within the school area they attend or the area in which they reside when a team is available.

Homeschooled athletes participate in the attendance area where they live.

Kindergarten athletes must be at least five years old and enrolled in Kindergarten.

Coaches

Coaches are selected by Area Representatives with approval from the Sport Director.

Preference may be given to parents with athletes participating during that season.

Sport Directors reserve the right to approve or deny coaching assignments.

Team Meetings

To encourage balanced participation in multiple activities, practice and game limits apply.

A meeting is defined as either a practice or a game.

No practices or games may occur when schools are closed due to holidays or weather.

Equipment

TSP provides uniforms and equipment for all in-area teams.

Coaches are responsible for the care, collection, and return of all issued equipment immediately following the season.

Game-Day Player Shortages

TSP's goal is for athletes to play whenever reasonably possible.

If a team does not have enough players to safely or reasonably compete:

- Teams may borrow players **only from the opposing team** they are playing that day.
 - Borrowed players are for that game only.
 - Teams may **not** use players from another team, school, division, or outside pickup players.
 - Borrowed players remain members of their original team.
 - Coaches should work together in good faith to ensure the game can be played safely and fairly.
 - Whenever possible, games should be played rather than forfeited.
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Alcohol, Drugs & Tobacco

Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited before and during all TSP activities.

Smoking, chewing tobacco, vaping, or other tobacco use is discouraged at all TSP functions.

Profanity & Behavior

Profanity, violence, intimidation, bullying, harassment, or inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated from coaches, players, or spectators.

6. TEAM FORMATION & ROSTERS

For divisions requiring team selections:

- Athletes will attend evaluations when applicable.
- Team divisions will be conducted fairly.
- Athletes will not be present during team selection.
- Coaches may not recruit players before drafts, or after teams have been formed.
- Late registrations will be assigned by the Area Representative or Registrar.

Balanced teams take priority over:

- Previous teammates
- Carpool requests
- Friend requests

TSP strives to create competitive balance across every division.

7. GAME DAY EXPECTATIONS

Coaches should:

- Arrive at least 20 minutes before game time.
- Verify athlete attendance.
- Ensure athletes have proper equipment.
- Review sportsmanship expectations before every game.
- Introduce themselves to the opposing coach.
- Respect officials and their decisions.
- Keep players engaged and positive.
- Clean up the bench and sideline after the game.
- Return borrowed equipment.

Remember:

Your athletes are watching how you respond to adversity.

Model the behavior you expect from them.

8. COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

Every coach is responsible for:

Safety

Maintain a safe environment for every athlete.

Rules

Know all TSP and sport-specific rules before the season begins.

Communication

Communicate schedules, changes, expectations, and important information promptly with families.

Equipment

Maintain and return all issued equipment.

Playing Time

Follow TSP playing time requirements and ensure athletes receive meaningful opportunities to participate.

Sportsmanship

Promote respect for:

- Officials
 - Opponents
 - Teammates
 - Parents
 - Volunteers
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Parent Meetings

Before the first practice or game, coaches are encouraged to hold a short parent meeting covering:

- Practice schedule
- Game schedule
- Communication methods
- Team expectations
- Playing time philosophy
- Volunteer needs
- Sportsmanship expectations

Clear communication early helps prevent misunderstandings later.

9. COACH CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaches shall:

- Treat every athlete fairly and respectfully.
- Never strike, shake, threaten, or verbally abuse an athlete.
- Maintain emotional control during practices and games.
- Respect game officials.
- Remain within the designated coaching area.
- Address officials respectfully and only when appropriate.
- Never argue with opposing coaches.
- Demonstrate integrity and professionalism.

Coaches represent Territorial Sports Program at all times.

Unsportsmanlike conduct may result in penalties, removal from the game, suspension, or removal from coaching.

10. PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parents are partners in creating a successful season.

Coaches should encourage parents to:

- Notify coaches as early as possible when an athlete will miss practice or games.
- Support all athletes.
- Demonstrate positive sportsmanship.
- Respect officials.
- Allow coaches to coach.
- Bring concerns directly to the coach first.

If concerns cannot be resolved:

Coach



Area Representative



Sport Director



TSP Board of Directors

11. SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

TSP encourages positive use of social media.

Coaches should:

- Represent TSP positively.
- Celebrate athletes appropriately.
- Avoid negative comments about officials, opponents, players, or families.
- Protect athlete privacy.
- Use respectful language at all times.

Remember:

Anything posted online reflects on both you and Territorial Sports Program.

Violations may result in disciplinary action.

12. DISCIPLINE

Coach Performance

When concerns arise regarding coaching behavior, TSP will generally follow this process:

1. Conversation with the Area Representative or Sport Director.
2. Coaching and corrective guidance.
3. Written expectations if necessary.
4. Removal from coaching if behavior does not improve.

Gross misconduct may result in immediate removal.

Player Discipline

Coaches should establish Team Rules before the season begins.

Recommended topics include:

- Attendance
- Effort
- Respect
- Sportsmanship
- Practice behavior
- Equipment care

Discipline should always:

- Be reasonable.
- Be consistent.
- Be communicated in advance.

- Focus on teaching rather than punishment.

Parents should be informed before significant disciplinary action affecting game participation.

13. BILL OF RIGHTS FOR YOUNG ATHLETES

Every athlete has the right to:

- Participate in sports.
- Play in a safe environment.
- Have qualified adult leadership.
- Learn and improve.
- Be treated with dignity and respect.
- Participate regardless of skill level.
- Enjoy equal opportunities for success.
- Have fun.

Above all...

Every child deserves a positive experience in youth sports.

THANK YOU

Thank you for volunteering your time and talents to Territorial Sports Program.

The impact you make extends far beyond wins and losses.

The lessons your athletes learn—teamwork, perseverance, accountability, and confidence—will stay with them long after the season ends.

Thank you for helping build a positive experience for every TSP athlete.