



**YOUTH SPORTS VOICE**

Official publication of the  
City of Litchfield Park's Youth Sports Programs  
Volume 1, Issue 1  
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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The City of Litchfield Park's Community and Recreation Services Department's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the Litchfield Park community by providing recreation, art and leisure activity in a safe and healthy environment, and to further provide a variety of wellness activities to assist our residents in gaining and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

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**Participation Includes**

- **GUARANTEED SEVEN GAME SEASON**
- **SATURDAY GAMES ONLY**  
Depending on the number of teams in a league, there may be a weekend when your child will be scheduled two games instead of just one. This is to ensure that every team in the league is scheduled a minimum of seven games.
- **GAME UNIFORM**  
Registration includes the cost of a uniform, there are no hidden fees. Basketball & Flag Football participants will receive a game jersey only. Tee Ball participants will receive a game jersey and a hat. Youth Soccer participants will receive a game jersey, shorts and socks.
- **END of the SEASON AWARDS**  
Every participant will receive a sport specific participation certificate and a participation ribbon. Tee Ball participants will receive a trophy.

# Youth Sports Voice

## Litchfield Park Youth Sports Makes Improvements to Game Scheduling for League Participants

The City of Litchfield Park's Youth & Sports programs have made some changes to the game scheduling for the 2013 Fall Sports Calendar in an effort to minimize the number of late afternoon game times, thus avoiding the Arizona heat in the fall and spring sports programs.

There are two major changes that have been implemented to attain our goal. The first change that will be noticeable is the last start date for our first games. All of the Fall Youth Sports programs will begin on Saturday, October 12, 2013. Previously, LP fall sports began on the last weekend of September. "Hopefully this later start date will allow for cooler temperatures throughout the entire fall sports season" says Franz Fuhrmann, Youth & Sports Coordinator. "Typically, our earlier start dates meant that our participants were playing very hot environments the first couple weeks of the season".

The second change that will occur is the addition of sports fields for Tee Ball and Flag Football. Again, this change will help reduce the later afternoon games that inevitably are played during the hottest part of the day. This addition of facilities will hopefully have a positive impact on our programs. Mr. Fuhrmann believes that they will be beneficial to the participants in our leagues. "Having multiple fields will allow our league games to end earlier in the day so that our participants can enjoy the majority of their weekend with their families".

The LP Tee Ball League games will be played at Litchfield Elementary School, as well as, Staggs Park. During the first two weeks of the season, both ages divisions (3 - 4 year olds & 5 - 6 year olds) will play their games at Litchfield Elementary School. Following the first two weeks, the 5 - 6 division will have their games moved to Staggs Park.

The Flag Football League games will be played at Scout Park. There will be two fields side-by-side at this park. Field 1 will be the west field and field 2 will be the east field.

Youth Basketball is also scheduled to start later than in previous seasons. Originally, all of our basketball games were to begin on Saturday, October 12, 2013. However, a gymnasium closure at Wigwam Creek Middle School forced us to move the start date for our Junior and Senior Divisions (10 to 14 year olds) to October 5, 2013; then schedule a bye week for these teams on October 12. Either way, the delayed start date has allowed for more pre-season practice time, which Mr. Fuhrmann believes enhances the quality of the program.

Scheduling is always a challenge for our recreation programs for a variety of reasons and this year is no different. However, we feel as though the changes made this season will provide a positive impact on our participants and their families. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our office at 623-935-9040.

**2013 FALL YOUTH SPORTS SCHEDULE**

- Saturday, October 5, 2013..... Wk 1 Basketball for 10 to 14 year olds only**
- Saturday, October 12, 2013..... Wk 1 Basketball for 4 to 9 year olds only**  
*No games for Basketball 10 to 14 year olds (Gym Closure)*
- Wk 1 Flag Football**
- Wk 1 Tee Ball**
- Saturday, October 19, 2013..... Wk 2 for ALL Youth Sports**  
*Youth Sports Voice Newsletter*  
*Picture Day for All Youth Sports*
- Saturday, October 26, 2013..... Wk 3 for ALL Youth Sports**
- Saturday, November 2, 2013..... Wk 4 for ALL Youth Sports**
- Saturday, November 9, 2013..... Wk 5 for ALL Youth Sports**  
*Team & Individual Photo's Delivered*
- Saturday, November 16, 2013..... Wk 6 for ALL Youth Sports**  
*Participation Certificates & Ribbons Delivered*
- Saturday, November 23, 2013..... Last Games for all Youth Sports**  
*Parent Survey*

## Litchfield Park Youth Sports Leadership Team

The dedicated LP Youth Sports Staff wishes to thank all of the Volunteer Coaches and participant families for support and loyalty to help our City achieve its goals.

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## Problems with Your Photos?

If you have any issues with your team or individual photos, please contact the photography company directly using the following contact information.



### YOUTH BASKETBALL

Love Story Sports Photography  
Phone: 623-742-7000  
<http://www.lovestoryphoto.net>



### FLAG FOOTBALL or TEE BALL

Lifetouch Sports Photography  
Phone: 480-275-1933  
<http://www.lifetouchsports.com>



CITY OF  
**Litchfield Park**

DISCOVER THE PARK

## FUTURE REGISTRATION DATES

### WINTER SPORTS

~ Youth Basketball Only

Registration Starts ..... October 14, 2013  
Early Bird Period Ends ..... November 18, 2013  
Late Period Ends ..... November 25, 2013  
First Game ..... January 11, 2014  
Last Game ..... February 22, 2013

### SPRING SPORTS

~ Youth Basketball and Youth Soccer

Registration Starts ..... January 13, 2013  
Early Bird Period Ends ..... February 18, 2013  
Late Period Ends ..... February 24, 2013  
First Game ..... March 29, 2013  
Last Game ..... May 10, 2013



## Adult Egos Trample Youth Sports - Again

by Linda Alberts, Public Relations Coordinator  
~ National Alliance for Youth Sports (N.Y.S.C.A.)

Here's another story of youth sports gone wrong. A youth baseball game in Greely, Colo., ended in tears for its 10-year-old players as they stood by and watched 20 adults in a brawl that resulted in a man getting kicked in the groin while other parents wrestled around on the ground. The spark that set this incident off was that one of the player's dads didn't like that the opposing team's coach told his son, who was on base, to quit his clapping in an effort to distract the other team. After the game, the dad went to confront that coach in the dugout. The coach ignored the dad's expletives, so the dad apparently started to walk away from the confrontation. At this point, the evening could have been saved.

However, someone started to record what was going on with their cell phone. I guess they were anticipating a brawl to post on YouTube – and that's what they got. Upon seeing this person recording the dad trying to provoke the coach, the dad's wife reportedly attacked the person with the cell phone. From there, the anarchy ensued. I don't know why youth sports events are seen as a free for all. Time after time we hear about the melees at games where the adults end up bleeding and the children are traumatized. Parents don't stand in the back of the classroom and cheer (or jeer) during a school exam. Co-workers don't expect to be attacked for disagreeing with each other. Why do people think it's okay to act out like this at sporting events? It comes down to a lack of respect from each other driven by ego. I can only connect the dots from what was reported by the news, but it seems this dad was so led by his ego he thought, "How dare that coach correct MY son...I HAVE to give him a piece of my mind!"

Five years from now, who won this game isn't going to matter. Who is going to care if the opposing coach told his son to stop clapping? By then these players will be entering high school and moving on to new opportunities and experiences and this game would have been just one detail in their collection of youth sports memories. Adults involved in youth sports (parents, coaches and administrators) need to keep in mind the bigger picture. They need to put their ego aside and stop turning the youth sports experience into something about themselves because it's not about them. It's about the kids.

The president of this youth baseball league told USA Today that the league needs to figure out a way to prevent an incident like this from happening again. This should be a lesson to the other leagues out there. They all need to find a way to help prevent this from happening *at all*. Leagues and recreation departments need to take proactive measures to protect their league's reputation from nightmares like what happened in Greely, but most importantly, they need to protect the safety (physical and emotional) of their youth participants. If your league is reactive to these kinds of incidents, then you are just too late.

## (Don't) Kill The Ref: How To Keep Your Cool About Youth Sports Officials

By Bob Cook, Writer / Contributor ~ Forbes

...Article excerpt from May 6, 2013...

However, parents and coaches would do themselves, their children, and their cardiologists a service by remembering a few simple things in order to not get caught up in the heat of the moment, that will help teach their children proper respect for the officials and keep themselves out of the police blotter and out of my blog. This is adapted from what I have told parents and my players when I'm coaching.

1. **The quality of officiating is directly proportional to the quality of play.** In other words, don't expect professional-caliber officiating at your 8-year-old's game. (Also, officials are sometimes instructed to call things differently at a youth game than they would at a college or pro game, for various reasons.)
2. **If you and your child are worried about the officials, then your child isn't going to be engaged in the game.** As a coach, I tell my players I'm the only one who gets to worry about the refs. (And I don't worry about them.) I also advise parents not to spend the car ride home blaming the officials. At all levels, there are games where you have to overcome officiating that isn't up to par, and the best way to do that is to concentrate on playing well. Control what you can control.
3. **If you're a coach, save your conflict with the officiating for a league meeting, or sometime that isn't in the heat of the moment.** The only times I've complained about officials is when they seem so disengaged that player safety is threatened. If that's the case, I'll place a call to whomever is running the league to mention it, and to ask that my concern be communicated to all concerned. I've had to do this, maybe, once. If you handle conflicts in this way, the conversations are more likely to be respectful and rational, and lead to far more progress than if you punched somebody.
4. **If you, as a parent or coach (or player), can't remember points one through three, remember this one: even though score is kept, in youth league games, who wins and loses does not matter.** What matters is the child's improvement. Is your child a better player on the last day than the first? How much better? Did your child learn what it means to be a good teammate? Did your child enjoy the experience? If those are the questions you ask as a parent and coach, then the umpire ARE YOU KIDDING ME YOU CALL THAT A STRIKE ARE YOU BLIND YOU STUPID IDIOT YOU'RE AN HONOR STUDENT REALLY I DON'T SEE HOW YOU HAVE THE BRAINPOWER TO REMEMBER TO BREATHE YOU MORON... suddenly doesn't matter.