



**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**



# **YOUTH SPORTS PARENT HANDBOOK**

## **Clay County YMCA**

Clay County YMCA  
225 E. Kruzan Street  
Brazil, IN. 47834  
P 812-442-6761 [www.ymcaswv.org](http://www.ymcaswv.org)

“Our Mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.”

Dear Parent:

You have chosen a sports program where the staff is dedicated to the development and well-being of your children. We will provide your children with compassion, patience, learning opportunities and love. In turn, we ask that you, as the parent, help us by letting us know of any questions, concerns or ideas at any time. In this way, staff and parents can function as a team that is oriented toward helping children. The YMCA is a place for families and it is our intent to do everything possible to help strengthen and support your family. Thank you for choosing Y sports and welcome!

Sincerely,  
Kaley Pettiford, Sports Director

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## YMCA Mission

“Our Mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body for all.”

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## YMCA Sports

**Our goal** is to ensure youth are prepared for life by helping them achieve, build relationships and feel like they belong.

**Our focus** at practice and games is to encourage players to meet their potential by demonstrating five key character traits: caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and faith.

**Our purpose** is to provide a quality, Christian-oriented experience that is safe, convenient and affordable. Our programs present age appropriate opportunities to participate in sports while having fun, making new friends and building good character.

**Our prayer:** Win or lose, I pledge before God to do the best I can, to be a team player, and to respect my teammates, opponents, and officials and to improve myself in spirit, mind and body. In Jesus name, Amen.

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## YMCA Sports Branch Leadership Staff

Kaley Pettiford  
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Sidney Linton  
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## **Pre-Season**

### **How to Register**

You can register online at our website [www.quickscores.com/claycounty](http://www.quickscores.com/claycounty), by phone or in person at the membership desk. Full payment is expected at the time of your registration. Early registration, as well as membership to the YMCA, often provides a discounted rate. Financial assistance is available for families who qualify. If interested, please reach out to membership services at [claymembership@ymcaswv.org](mailto:claymembership@ymcaswv.org). Please allow 7-10 business days for financial assistance approval.

### **Age of Registrant**

Your son or daughters' age on the opening day of the league indicates the division in which he/she will fall. In other words, do not base it on the age your child is at registration, but on the age they will be when the season you are registering for begins.

If your child is an exceptional athlete or is perhaps taller for their age you may prefer that they "play up" an age division. This is acceptable, but requires special permission from the Sports Director and an over-the-phone or in-person registration. Children are not allowed to "play down" an age division.

### **Refunds**

Full refunds will be granted if the YMCA cancels a program. Otherwise, a request for a refund must be made in writing before the coaches meeting and submitted to the Sports Director at [sports@ymcaswv.org](mailto:sports@ymcaswv.org). Refunds can be made as a system credit good toward YMCA membership or other programs or in the form of a check. Checks will take up to 10 days to process. Refunds typically aren't granted after the coaches' meeting but will be handled on a case by case basis.

## **Coaches**

### **Parent & Community Volunteers**

Our coaches are parent and community volunteers. This means they are not paid. It is one of the many ways we keep our prices low and maintain a clear focus on character development. All coaches undergo a criminal background check and are cross referenced with the registry of known sex offenders. We are always in need of coaches. If you would like to learn more about what it means to be a coach or would like to apply to be a coach, please email [sports@ymcaswv.org](mailto:sports@ymcaswv.org).

### **Coaches as Mentors**

Your coach is just like you, a parent or caring member of the community, who wants to help kids thrive. We ask that our coaches serve not just a coach, but as a leader and mentor for their team. We entrust them to help pass on valuable life lessons and build good character.

### **Team without a Coach**

If your team has no coach your child's season will not be cancelled and the team will not be disbanded. By the time the season begins, please know that we have made every effort to find a parent on your team to serve as head coach, but that no one has made the formal commitment, yet. In this rare occurrence, a YMCA employee will attend the first practice and run it for your team while we continue searching for a coach. In this circumstance, our hope is that a single parent will take on the role of head coach and that another will serve as their assistant to fill in when they are unable to.

## **Team Formation Guidelines**

Every league at the YMCA is run by a draft. All participants will be divided initially by age. Each of the coaches in their respective age groups will choose teams based on the child's registration information

(number of seasons, played, height and so on). It is our goal at the YMCA to create balanced teams. While we do our best to honor your requests, the only requests that will be guaranteed to be approved are siblings in the same age group. Requests to be on a friend's team or a certain coaches' team are not guaranteed to be approved. Refunds will not be given on account of a request not being granted or any other circumstance such as practice time or location.

\*Team Formation Guidelines are subject to change.

**\*Questions, Concerns, Special Circumstances? Please contact your local Sports Leadership Staff using the contact information on page 2.**

## **Team Reduction Guidelines**

Each sport has a required number of players to form a team. If a team is below the minimum number of players nearing the end of registration ALL members of that team will be moved to another team if there is space for all the players. We do this to provide every registered child the opportunity to play as well as to provide ample time to recruit coaches. We will try our best to keep those who signed up together on the same team. If your new team has a practice day and time that is not convenient for your family, please call the Sports Office and we will work with you to find a better option or you may request a refund.

## **Communication**

### **Pre-Season**

Our hope is that you will hear from your coach the week of the coaches' meeting, which is typically the week before practices are set to start. There are reasons why this may not occur so do not panic. To view your child's team details, please go to our website [Find My Team - QuickScores.com](http://Find My Team - QuickScores.com). There you will be able to type in your child's name and see which team they are on, their coach and their practice time. The night of your first practice, please be sure that your coach has your correct phone number.

### **In-Season**

Please check Facebook regularly for updates about the league, including rainouts and weather cancellations. Your child's coach will be the first one to find out about cancellations, so again, please be sure they have your correct contact information. Our sports website is also a very good resource to find out about upcoming registrations and to see your child's game and practice schedule.

## **Season Logistics & Details**

### **Locations**

All youth sports leagues will take place at the Clay County YMCA campus. Please note that pets and smoking are not allowed on our campus for any leagues. Seasons offered include:

Soccer (2 Seasons): Spring/Summer Season and Fall Season

Basketball (2 seasons): Fall Season and Winter Season

Volleyball (2 seasons): Spring Season and Summer Season

### **Drop Off / Pick Up**

It is our expectation that you will stay on campus during both practice and games. No one is able to take on the individual responsibility of your child, so for the safety and well-being of your child, please stay nearby. You are permitted to have another adult chaperone your son or daughter. This can be a sibling or other relative as well as caregivers over the age of 16. If your child is 12 or older, they can attend practice and games without individual adult supervision.

### **Staffing**

A YMCA director or coordinator supervises all of our sports. All staff members are required to be First Aid and CPR certified.

### **Jerseys & Equipment**

All athletes will receive a t-shirt jersey, which will be handed out before the first game. Please make sure to indicate on the registration form what size shirt your child will need. If it turns out they need a bigger or smaller size than indicated on their registration form, it will be your decision whether you would like to buy your child a new shirt. Everyone should be dressed in comfortable athletic or play attire and should bring a water bottle to stay hydrated and cool. All personal items need to be clearly labeled with the child's first and last name. We recommend the following equipment for each sport:

Soccer: shin guards, socks that cover the shin guards, and cleats.

Volleyball: knee pads and tennis shoes

Basketball: tennis shoes

### **Lost Items**

In the event that a personal item becomes misplaced a sports employee will take it to the membership desk where it will be placed in the lost and found. Please note lost and found items are donated after 30 days.

### **Game Days**

Please arrive 10 to 15 minutes early to allow ample time for parking, finding the correct field or court and seeing to any last minute needs prior to the beginning of the game.

### **Playing Time**

All children are guaranteed 50 percent playing time regardless of team size or personal ability. If you believe that your coach is not adhering to this policy, please respectfully address it with your child's coach during one of your scheduled practice times. Please do not address your child's coach for any playing time concerns after a game. If you feel this situation has still not been handled appropriately, please reach out to our Sports Director, Kaley at [sports@ymcaswv.org](mailto:sports@ymcaswv.org). Mistakes do happen, but we will work with you to be sure that they do not become a regular part of your sport experience.

### **Behavioral Expectations & Guidelines**

It is our expectation that children and adults will treat one another with respect and kindness. If a child or adult partakes in bullying, name calling, teasing and other unsportsmanlike conduct they will receive one warning. Following that warning they may be asked to leave the field or court. It is at the discretion of the sports coordinator on duty at the time to determine the severity of the issue. If the problem continues past a single practice or game, it will be at the discretion of the

Sports Director to determine a proper course of action which may include ending the season early for a child or prohibiting an adult for further game and practice attendance.

### **Inclement Weather & Cancellations**

It is our intent to get every practice and game in as scheduled, however the safety and well-being of our participants, volunteers, staff and officials is our top priority. Any practice that is cancelled will not be made up. We will do our best to try and make up any game cancellations, but due to schedule conflicts, game cancellations due to weather are not guaranteed to be made up.

### **Sunscreen & Bug Spray**

In order to comply with our child abuse prevention guidelines, the application of topical products will need to be completed by a parent.

### **Emergencies**

In the event of an emergency, trained YMCA staff will initiate emergency care by activating our Emergency Action Plan, which includes calling 911. Emergency care and transportation will be handled by 911 and local emergency services.

## **Youth Sports Parent Code of Conduct**

Our philosophy is simple: EVERYONE PLAYS EVERYONE WINS. The YMCA encourages having a healthy spirit, mind, and body, meaning the development of the whole person. The YMCA also emphasizes fundamentals, teamwork, fair play, cooperation, and respect for the officials, one's self, one's teammates, and the other team. Every decision you make and every behavior you display is based first on what you think is best for your athletes, and second, on what can be accomplished to have everyone become a winner. Anyone who does not adhere to the Parent Code of Conduct may be asked to leave and not come back.

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in the Youth Sports Program by following this Parent Code of Conduct:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all participants, coaches, and officials.
- I will do my best to make this program fun for my child.
- I will keep winning in perspective. A child usually forgets the outcome of the game: it is the adults that have a tendency to stress the win/loss record.
- I will ask my child to treat other participants, coaches, officials, parents, and spectators with respect regardless, of race, age, sex, creed, or ability.
- I will treat officials and coaches with respect. They are there to provide children with a safe and healthy learning environment. Officials and coaches deserve the same type of environment from the parents and spectators.
- I will strive to be a good role model for my child and the other children in the program. I will encourage my child to learn to lose with dignity and win with grace.
- I will respect my child's coach and do my best to have my child at all practices and games on time.
- I will recognize the importance of volunteer coaches. I realize they are important to the development of my child and the program. I will communicate with them and support their decisions.