

# DeSoto Parks and Recreation

## PARENTS MANUAL



City of DeSoto  
Parks and Recreation Department  
211 E. Pleasant Run Road  
DeSoto, Texas 75115  
Phone: 972-230-9655  
[www.quickscores.com/desoto](http://www.quickscores.com/desoto)

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the DeSoto Parks and Recreation Department Youth Basketball League. We sincerely hope that you will find your participation in our league to be rewarding and, most of all, a positive experience for all of the kids.

Youth sports programs present a unique opportunity for adults to help shape life-long skills and attitudes about sports. We all remember coaches that stand out as good teachers, supportive friends, and positive role models. On the other hand, most of us can think of a few that fell short in these areas.

This manual was created to help ensure that our young people remember our program as a positive experience in their life. We want them to have fun as we continue to reinforce such values as teamwork, sportsmanship, fitness, cooperation, and respect. While we recognize that competition is a key component of sports, our programs are designed to be about much more than winning a game, making an all-star team, or having an undefeated season.

We thank you for giving your time and energy to help make the DeSoto Parks and Recreation Youth Basketball League a success. The success of the program depends on the commitment of parents, coaches, officials and others to cooperate in creating a positive experience for each player. This manual creates the framework for that commitment.

Please note that we want to hear back from you about things we can do to improve the program. Your input is very valuable to the continued success of this program. We want to make sure that you have as much information as possible to assist you in making this a fun and meaningful experience for the participants and for you.

## **MISSION**

To enrich the quality of life in DeSoto, provide World Class customer service, premier parks and dynamic recreational experiences.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

This is local recreational basketball league for ages 4 through 14. Our goal is to teach basketball fundamentals, rules and skills. We emphasize on sportsmanship, team play and clean/fair competition. Age is determined on September 1 of the current school year.

## **PARENT SECTION**

### **Reminder**

Children who participate in youth sports can experience life-long positive benefits. The DeSoto Parks and Recreation Department offers youth sports to help promote these positive gains for its youth. Your role as the parent is critical to the success of the program.

Please remember that these programs are offered for kids, and not the adults.

### **Playing Time**

Each player will play a minimum amount of each game as specified in the league rules. Substitutions may be called for the sole purpose of meeting the minimum play rule. There are exceptions to this rule. At the discretion of the coach and approval by the Athletics Manager, your child may not be allowed to participate if he/she has not been attending practices, is ill and/or contagious, has displayed a poor attitude, etc.

**Parents/Spectators Policy**

Spectators are a vital part of the youth sports program. We highly encourage parent and spectator support, however, NEGATIVE comments will not be tolerated. Spectators may be asked to leave the play area for verbal abuse towards the players, coaches, or officials. Continued abuse will result in possible suspension from attending any other games. All parents are required to sign a Parent's Pledge.

**VOLUNTEER COACHES**

All coaches are VOLUNTEERS who take time to instruct your child. Without their efforts, sports programs would not be possible. Staff will do our best to find knowledgeable, caring, responsible adults with the time and commitment level to provide the best experience for the team.

**Background checks**

All volunteers must fill out a complete a criminal background checks. Links are available online at [www.quickscores.com/desoto](http://www.quickscores.com/desoto). If you know of a possible volunteer or would like to volunteer yourself please contact the DeSoto Parks and Recreation Department at 972-230-4288.

**What if there is no coach**

The DeSoto Parks and Recreation Department makes every effort to find coaches for teams. In the event that a coach cannot be found for a team by the first scheduled practice, a staff member will run the first practice with the parents. If a coach is not found at this time or parents are not willing to work together to coach the team, the team will be disbanded and participants will be placed on other teams or refunded fee.

**Concerns with coaches**

If during the season you begin to have concerns regarding your coach, please do not hesitate to call the Athletics Manager at 972-230-4288 to let us know. We do appreciate your feedback on coaches and will use your feedback to help coaches create the best experience possible for all participants.

**LEAGUE EVALUATIONS**

League evaluations will be conducted the last two weeks of that sports season. A link will be sent to parents and coaches via email. It is extremely important that we receive feedback from the league in order to make improvements for the upcoming seasons.

Survey questions will deal with quality issues such as: general league organization, facilities, coaching, staffing, officials, customer service, registration, communication, etc.

**Parents' Pledge**

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents' Code of Sports Ethics Pledge:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth not for adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation.
- I will read the NAYS National Standards for Youth Sports and do what I can to help all youth sports organizations implement and enforce them.

## PLAYER SECTION

### Reminder

By participating in youth sports you have the opportunity to not only learn fundamental sports skills, but also life lessons. Appropriate behaviors and choices are important to the success of your growth. Please remember that these programs are offered to develop your skills, practice good sportsmanship, and to have fun.

### Players' Pledge

I hereby pledge to be positive about my youth sports experience and accept responsibility for my participation by following this Players' Code of Ethics:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials and parents at every game and practice by demonstrating good sportsmanship.
- I will attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coaches if I cannot.
- Except when a different rule applies, as in the case of a travel team, I will expect to receive a fair and equal amount of playing time.
- I will do my very best to listen and learn from my coaches.
- I will treat my coaches, other players, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or abilities and I will expect to be treated accordingly.
- I deserve to have fun during my sports experience and will alert parents or coaches if it stops being fun.
- I deserve to play in an environment that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and expect adults to refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will encourage my parents to be involved with my team in some capacity because it's important to me.
- I will do my very best in school.
- I will remember that sports are an opportunity to learn and have fun.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q. Where can I register for the basketball league?

A. Registrations are accepted online at [www.desototexas.gov/basketball](http://www.desototexas.gov/basketball), [quickscores.com/desoto](http://quickscores.com/desoto) or in person at the DeSoto Recreation Center, 211 E. Pleasant Run, DeSoto, Texas 75115 during hours of operation.

#### *Recreation Center Hours of Operation*

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Monday - Thursday | 5:00 am – 10:00 pm |
| Friday            | 5:00 am – 6:00 pm  |
| Saturday          | 6:45 am – 6:00 pm  |
| Sunday            | 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  |

### Q. How much is registration?

A. Registration Fees:

#### **Early Registration (October 1 – October 31)**

|                 |                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| \$75 per player | DeSoto/Glenn Heights Residents |
| \$95 per player | Non-Residents                  |

#### **Regular Registration (November 1 – December 18)**

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$95 per player  | DeSoto/Glenn Heights Residents |
| \$115 per player | Non-Residents                  |

### Q. When will I be contacted regarding my child(s) practice?

A. Your child will be assigned to a team and contacted by a coach once the practice time and day has been selected.

### Q: How do I know when my first practice is? Are practices scheduled by the League?

A: All practice locations and times are scheduled by the League. Your coach will make you aware of your first practice when he/she contacts you to introduce themselves. After that, he/she will provide you with a practice schedule.

### Q. What if I have registered and a coach has not contacted me?

A. If you have not heard from your coach please contact Steve Moore at 972-230-4288 or [youthsports@desototexas.gov](mailto:youthsports@desototexas.gov)

### Q. What days are practices?

A. Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday

### Q. What times are practices?

A. 6:15pm-7:15pm, 7:15pm-8:15pm, 8:15pm-9:15pm

### Q: How often do we practice? How long is practice?

A: Teams generally practice two nights per week for one hour each practice.

### Q. Where do practices take place?

A. DeSoto Recreation Center, Cockrell Hill Elementary, Moates Elementary, Ruby Young Elementary, the Meadows, and Woodridge.

### Q: How long is the season?

A: Teams start practicing in late Nov. Games Start the first Sat in January and go through the last Sat in February finishing with a single elimination tournament. No practice or games over break.

**Q. When is the first game?**

*A. Saturday, January 7, 2023*

**Q: What days and times are the games?**

*A: All games are played on Saturdays with exception to the tournament, some games may be played on a weeknight. Saturday game time may vary from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.*

**Q. Where will games be played?**

*A. Games will be played at DeSoto Recreation Center, McCowan Middle School, DeSoto West Middle School, and DeSoto East Middle School. However, some games may be played in Waxahachie, Cedar Hill or Duncanville if City decides to interlock in order to have enough teams in a division.*

**Q: If I have more questions, who do I contact?**

*A. If you have any further questions, you can contact the Manager of Athletics and Aquatics at 972-230-4288, or via email [youthsports@desototexas.gov](mailto:youthsports@desototexas.gov).*

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Recreation Center Hours of Operation

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**Early Registration**

- October 1 – October 31, 2022

**Regular Registration**

- November 1, 2022 – December 18, 2022

**Practices Begin**

- November 28, 2022

**Season Begins**

- January 7, 2023

**Regular Season Ends**

- February 25, 2023

**End of Season Tournaments**

- February 28- March 5, 2022

**School Breaks and Testing**

- November 21 – November 25, 2022 (Thanksgiving Holiday)
- December 6 -16, 2022 (Testing)
- December 21, 2022 – January 3, 2023 (Winter Break)
- January 16, 2023 (Schools Closed)
- February 20, 2023 (Schools Closed)

**FACILITY INFORMATION**

| <b>Facility</b>           | <b>Address</b>                                       |
|---------------------------|--|
| Ruby Young Elementary     | 707 Young Blvd, DeSoto, Texas 75115                  |
| Woodridge Elementary      | 1001 Woodridge Drive, DeSoto, Texas 75115            |
| The Meadows Elementary    | 1016 The Meadows Pkwy, DeSoto, Texas 75115           |
| Cockrell Hill Elementary  | 425 S. Cockrell Hill Rd., DeSoto, Texas 75115        |
| Moates Elementary School  | 1500 Heritage Blvd, Glenn Heights, Texas 75154       |
| DeSoto West Middle School | 800 N. Westmoreland Rd., DeSoto, Texas 75115         |
| DeSoto East Middle School | 601 Belt Line Rd., DeSoto, Texas 75115               |
| DeSoto Recreation Center  | 211 E. Pleasant Run Rd., DeSoto, Texas 75115         |
| McCowan Middle School     | 1500 Majestic Meadows Drive, Glenn Heights, Tx 75154 |