

VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS AND RECREATION
Sports Management/City-Wide Athletics

Recreation Association Steering Committee (RASC)
Frequently Asked Questions

General

Can we have a meeting to be heard? (10/7/15)

- There will be several opportunities for Recreation Associations to be heard – both through upcoming RASC meetings, and various subcommittee meetings. In addition, questions can be sent to the RASC email address (VBPRRASC@vbgov.com) and the responses will be added to this list. It is likely that there will be another “all-associations” meeting scheduled prior to any program changes being implemented.

When will you post the PowerPoint presentation so that we can refer back to it? (10/8/15)

- The information that was presented at the October 7 meeting has been posted on the Youth Sports page of the City-Wide Athletics website (www.vbgov.com/sports) next to the links for RASC meeting minutes and the NAYS documents.

How do you get the parents to step up to be coaches? (10/7/15)

- Recruiting and retaining coaches is a challenge faced by all youth sports programs. With a focus on child development/recreation/instruction rather than competition, parents will be provided with curriculum guides and coaches will be permitted on the field/court (especially at the younger ages) where they can learn and work together with other coaches without the pressure of a win/loss. This will allow a “build from within” approach, encouraging both player and coach development, making it more likely parents will continue to coach as their children advance in the program. This approach is consistent with the National Standards For Youth Sports and Recommendations For Communities – initiatives of the National Alliance For Youth Sports (NAYS), which the RASC committee voted to adopt. Both documents are posted on the Youth Sports page of the City-Wide Athletics website (www.vbgov.com/sports).

Will U10 have refs? (10/7/15)

- Whether a specific age group has officials, and how many there will be, is still to be determined. This is discussion that will take place in upcoming RASC and/or subcommittee meetings.

Will you get rid of tackle for all ages and require flag? (10/7/15)

- The type of football that will be offered at specific ages is still to be determined. However, it is important to note that tackle football must be offered at a higher service level than flag, due to the fact that tackle requires additional staffing, additional officials, presence of EMT and police/security. In addition, it is increasingly difficult to field a tackle football program due to decreasing participation numbers.

What are other options? (10/7/15)

- As was stated in the October 7 meeting, allocated resources must be utilized to maximum community benefit. Currently that is not being done citywide. This is why efficiencies in all programs are being examined. Options are still being explored and subcommittee volunteers are being sought to help in this process. If you would like to serve on a subcommittee, please e-mail VBPRRASC@vbgov.com.

Are you planning on building more rec centers if you're adding membership cost? (10/7/15)

- The building of rec centers and rec center membership costs are not tied to athletic leagues. Membership cost is not being added; a discount to rec center membership holders is being considered.

How will this affect Cheerleading? Why can't cheer be under the city so there can be standard rules for safety? (10/7/15)

- The current focus is the four "core sports" offered by City-Wide Athletics – Football/Volleyball (fall), Basketball (winter), and Softball (spring). This is not to say that Cheerleading would not come under the City at some point in the future, but the other areas need to be worked out first.

Will the city do all field maintenance? (10/7/15)

- Mowing frequency at schools and parks is facilitated by Landscape Services on a cycle determined by their budget – currently it's every 16 to 18 days. Crews also currently drag/line infields for Preteen and Junior Softball, and spring 10 & up Baseball games. What Associations are/are not currently permitted to do to supplement this service is outlined in the Field Allocation Policies and Procedures. There are no anticipated changes.

How do we market better and get more flyers up? (10/7/15)

- Marketing programs has historically been a challenge. This is one of the potential benefits of a centralized registration – being able to market all programs throughout the city, providing consistent registration times/locations/rates, and being able to cross-promote athletic offerings in other city-sponsored programs and events.

Why is a non-competitive sports environment being considered for age 10 & under? Will it actually save money or will this create other expenses that we have not accounted for? (10/8/15)

- The focus on non-competitive programs at the under 10 age groups will allow the use of allocated resources to provide consistent and equal opportunities to all Virginia Beach youth.

For clarification, can you confirm that you expect these changes to take place prior to registration for fall 2016 Football and Volleyball? However, winter (2016) Basketball and spring (2016) Softball will be unchanged? (10/8/15)

- Correct – the target date for implementation of any changes is FY 16-17 (which begins July 1, 2016, just prior to fall 2016 Football/Volleyball). FY 15-16 budget has already been approved and there will be no major changes to winter 2016 Basketball and spring 2016 Softball.

Could you provide more detail regarding the "mandate" that is driving this change? (10/8/15)

- Parks and Recreation programs must focus on youth development based upon age appropriate youth sports opportunities, to (1) provide equal and consistent opportunities to ALL children of Virginia Beach, and (2) utilize allocated resources to achieve maximum community benefit. The focus is to achieve the greatest good for the greatest numbers. Based on the current economic realities and the level of inconsistency that exists in program offerings on a citywide basis, a more efficient method of service delivery must be found in order to provide a recreational athletic experience for all children.

Is staying with the existing format but trying to cut cost even being considered as an option? (10/8/15)

- The feasibility of reducing staffing, officials, security, custodial OT, etc. is already being explored. However, current service levels are not sustainable based on 125% cost recovery expectations. Please see the chart that was part of the info shared on October 7 by clicking [HERE](#) (slide #10).

What is the timeline for developing a plan for the U14, U16 and U18 kids? (10/8/15)

- The timeline and target implementation date is still to be determined. If you would like to volunteer to serve on a subcommittee to explore this, please e-mail VBPRRASC@vbgov.com.

Would the City-Wide Athletics office provide a facility for a neighborhood recreation league only meeting sometime in the future so that we can discuss these changes independently? (10/8/15)

- Several Associations currently hold their monthly board meetings at recreation centers, and could facilitate additional meetings at these locations as deemed necessary.

Registration Process

Is the City handling registration and how will it be done? How are we going to handle live sign-ups? (10/7/15)

- The method by which registration will take place is still to be determined, but will likely combine in person and online signups. A centralized registration process will enable participants to take advantage of EZReg to register online, register in-person at their nearest recreation center (similar to Before School/After School/Summer Camp registration), and provide the opportunity for fee waivers. The possibility/feasibility of a GIS database (similar to schools) is also being explored, where citizens provide an address and are directed to the appropriate Association.

How is the central registration going to affect off-season or non-sponsored sports? (10/7/15)

- Central registration will allow for the creation of a large contact base to be able to market other programs (off-season leagues, non-sponsored leagues, and other city-sponsored activities). Cross-promotion has the potential to increase interest, awareness, and participation levels for all programs.

How will you allocate registration fees to rec. leagues? (10/7/15) How do the individual rec. leagues get money to buy/maintain sports equipment/utilities/uniforms? (10/7/15)

- It is anticipated that there will be a formula established to address this, with each association receiving a set amount per participant. The specific process by which this will occur is still to be determined. It is important to note that providing consistency in the program structure will result in more consistent equipment and uniform needs. This could benefit the Associations and the city by being able to take advantage of the potential buying power of purchasing items in bulk quantities. If you would like to serve on a subcommittee to help with this, please e-mail VBPRRASC@vbgov.com.

How will additional fees affect sign-ups? (10/7/15)

- The chart referencing what team fees would need to be charged to meet the 125% cost recovery target is based on current reality. It does not mean that will be the new fee charged. It does outline what expenditures will be should the current level of service be maintained. The goal is to find ways to make programs more efficient and as cost-effective a possible, so that fee increases are minimized.

Who will determine registration fees? (10/7/15)

- The fee structure for programs will be determined based on the level of service and amount of staffing, officials, equipment, etc. needed to operate the program and achieve the 125% cost recovery target.

Out-of-Season Sports

Are we not going to do off-season sports? (10/7/15) Can the City offer out-of-season sports (spring volleyball)? (10/7/15)

- Details are still being worked out. There is no reason that out-of-season sports (including spring volleyball) wouldn't continue to be offered.

If you are requiring the rec leagues to form our own association during off season, how are the rec leagues going to survive? (10/7/15)

- Rec Leagues have been working together successfully to offer out-of-season sports for many years. Spring Volleyball, spring and fall Baseball, fall softball, and farm (under-10) leagues are examples. Typically, a representative of each Association sits on a unified board, and the group develops bylaws, playing rules, schedules, officials, etc. The challenge for the future will be the potential requirement to align with a national sanctioning body. One benefit of such alignment is that national sanctioning bodies have well established rules, standards, and expectations.

What is the ripple effect from four core sports to non-core sports? (10/7/15)

- The four "core sports" are defined as the sports that the City currently operates (Football, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball). The plan is to continue to offer these four programs, although the structure and oversight of the programs will likely differ from what is currently offered. There is a possibility to partner with outside agencies to offer non-core sports such as golf instruction through City partnerships with private organizations.

Partnership Agreement

Will all associations be required to offer all sports and what happens if they don't? (10/7/15)

- It is expected that Associations will need to offer at minimum all four "core sports" offered by the City in order to continue to be a City-sanctioned organization. If an Association does not have enough participants to field a team, they would partner with a neighboring Association(s) to place the players. If an Association refuses to offer a sport, that would be considered a violation of the Partnership Agreement. This process will be solidified during the Partnership Agreement revision. All Associations will have input in the development of the new Partnership Agreement. If you would like to volunteer to serve on a subcommittee to assist in this matter, please e-mail VBPRRASC@vbgov.com.

Can you provide more information on Tier 2 participation? Where to find it? (10/7/15)

- Tier 2 organizations are community based leagues/organizations that serve specific geographic areas of the city. This includes the four Pony Leagues (Great Neck, Kempsville, Little Creek American, Lynnhaven), the four Little Leagues (Aragona/Pembroke, Green Run, Plaza, Virginia Beach), Southeastern Virginia Pop Warner and Hampton Roads AYF Football, Beach FC Soccer, Virginia Rush Soccer, and Hampton Roads Lacrosse. Contact information for each organization can be found by clicking on the "Independent Leagues" link on the City-Wide Athletics website (www.vbgov.com/sports).

When will the Partnership Agreement be ready? (10/7/15)

- As discussed in the October 7 meeting, the target implementation date is the 16-17 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2016 (Fall 2016 Football/Volleyball season). All Associations will be offered the opportunity to contribute in development of the revised Partnership Agreement. If you would like to volunteer to serve on a subcommittee to assist in this matter, please e-mail VBPRRASC@vbgov.com.

Why can't the Rec Leagues continue to operate the Farm Leagues and find optional ways to Fund Parks and Rec? For example: a. Centralize the Associations, b. Regionalize the Associations - instead of 14 Associations, why not combine them into 3 Regions, West, Central, East? (10/8/15)

- As stated in the October 7 meeting, the current level of Farm League operation shows vast inconsistencies in program offerings, rules, goals and objectives from area to area. This has caused gaps in service delivery. The request from the Associations was to have the City administer all age groups consistently. Centralizing/regionalizing the Associations is one idea that has been presented and may be considered to help remedy these gaps.

Specifically, what services will the neighborhood recreation leagues be providing? Will we be dividing teams, picking coaches, organizing practices, etc.? If any of the services that we are providing have cost associated with them (gym monitors) how will we be compensated? If these details have not been worked out what is the timeline for them to be? (10/8/15)

- All of these elements will be part of the revised Partnership Agreement to be developed in preparation for the FY 16-17 rollout. If you would like to volunteer to serve on a subcommittee to assist in this matter, please e-mail VBPRRASC@vbgov.com.

If a neighborhood recreation league declines to sign the new agreement will they be denied access to facilities and/or the resources for Criminal History Checks and Coach Certifications? (10/8/15)

- Since all Associations will be offered the opportunity to have input in the development of the new Partnership Agreement, this should not occur. However, should an Association refuse to sign or adhere to the new Partnership Agreement, they would not be recognized as a City-sponsored/City-sanctioned organization and would be considered an independent organization and only receive City support through the Field Allocation Policies and Procedures.

Retention

How do we intend to keep our numbers up and not lose more to independents? How can we stop kids/teams from going to competitive leagues? (10/7/15)

- Parks & Recreation will offer age appropriate youth development/recreational athletic programs. It is important to note the RASC Committee voted to adopt the National Alliance For Youth Sports (NAYS) initiatives, which are designed with the goal of what is best for the development of the child. The following excerpt is from the National Standards For Youth Sports: *"Historically, many programs have been modeled after adult-oriented programs using rules, skill expectations and competitive requirements replicated from high school, college and professional levels. Today, programs must be designed and administered so that every child, regardless of their abilities, has an opportunity to positively benefit from participation."* This will engage more youth and enable more youth to join leagues.

Parents want competition; how will you police rec leagues? (10/7/15)

- If the focus is on recreation, child development, and skill instruction, and not win/loss/championship, the need to "police" the program is minimized.

Since the Field House is under the City-Wide Athletics umbrella, shouldn't the participation numbers at the Field House be included in the current numbers that were presented in the PowerPoint? I'm of the opinion that the options that the Field House provides has played a major role in the reduced numbers of the youth sports leagues. I suspect that the timeline of its opening supports this. (10/8/15)

- The Field House is a privately owned and operated facility.

Cost

Are team fees going up? (10/7/15)

- As stated in the meeting on October 7, programs cannot continue to be operated at current service levels. Assessing programs and identifying where they can be more efficient and cost effective is the preferred approach, before fees are increased.

Where do you get needs form for child with free lunch? (10/7/15)

- The information regarding reduced fee requests for Parks & Recreation programs can be found on the city's website at the link below. Note that this application is different than the application that would be necessary to apply for a free or reduced price school lunch.
<http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/registration/Documents/reduced-pricing-app.pdf>

Rosters

Who does rosters if city does registration (draft system)? How will you prevent team stacking? If city does rosters, what is the limit per team? (10/7/15)

- The establishment of standard rules/bylaws/regulations will be part of upcoming RASC and subcommittee meetings. With a centralized registration, Associations would be provided with a list of players that register for their area, and then the Association would be responsible for formulating the teams. The specific draft procedures, roster size limits, etc. will also be standardized to provide equity City-wide. If you would like to volunteer to serve on a subcommittee to assist in this matter, please e-mail VBPRRASC@vbgov.com.

What System would the City use to administer/maintain the teams and would the Associations have access? (10/8/15)

- It is anticipated that should central registration be implemented, the program registration module used for other Department activities, such as Recreation Center memberships and Before School/After School/Summer Camp programs, will be utilized. Currently Parks & Recreation uses a system called CLASS, and is in the process of vetting a new registration system. The Associations themselves would not have access to the registration module/program, but City-Wide Athletics would provide information for all of the Association's registered participants.