

# Recreation Association Steering Committee (RASC)

## Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2015

### Opening

The third meeting of the Recreation Association Steering Committee (RASC) was called to order at 6:36pm on Thursday, June 18, 2015 in the Landscape Management Building by Eddy Hendricks.

### Present

Renee Bradshaw (ACHR), Don Marcari (GNAA), Amber Wood-Bailey (KGLRA), Mike Kirby (WKYA), Sherray Gravely (WRL), Eddy Hendricks (SM/CWA), Sherry Hawkins (SM/CWA), Kevin Bennington (SM), Aaron McCoy (Finance)

### Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from May 21, 2015 were approved as amended.

### Old Business

RASC information, email address ([vbprasc@vbgov.com](mailto:vbprasc@vbgov.com)), and related documents (charter, National Standards for Youth Sports, Recommendations for Communities, meeting minutes) can be found on our Youth Sports League page at [www.vbgov.com/sports](http://www.vbgov.com/sports).

### Age Groups

Discussion: #U model (18U, 16U, 14U, 12U, 10U, 8U, 6U) will be used, with minimum age being 5 year-olds. Participants can play-up, but require an accommodation plan in order to play down (through Parks and Recreation Service Standards Unit). Consider "Start Smart" programs for 4 year-olds.

### Program Offerings

Discussion: core sports (football, basketball, volleyball, softball). Non-core sports (baseball, cheer). Wish list sports (field hockey, lacrosse, golf).

### New Business

#### Identify Resources

Discussion: P&R Department just completed a 1½ year strategic plan which analyzed the cost recovery of all programs/services. Youth Sports must be at 125% direct cost recovery. P&R doesn't have to be the provider, and instead, can partner with a service provider (i.e. golf with VBGM at Bow Creek, Redwing, Kempsville). However, #U model probably wouldn't apply to golf (VBGM supports

the U.S. Kids Golf Learning the Game program). Non-core partnerships are valuable relative to facilities. P&R may also have an influence in tennis. Establish “Start Smart” for younger ages then send participants to other partner agencies (i.e. lacrosse). Developmental focus may allow us to gain additional resources (i.e. community recreation centers). P&R registration would allow for combination of areas/children not normally served, as well as, fee waivers in cases of need.

Recommendations: Goal is to establish a consistent fee (per head) for each sport. Getting more children involved should be our focus, thus providing recreational opportunities to the masses at lowest fee possible. P&R needs each Recreation Association to provide operating budget in order to identify profit/loss for each sport.

### Structure of Programs

Discussion: Use of officials can be progressive. For younger ages, coaches can control play. Other possibilities in the progression are older players (HS age), P&R staff, and then perhaps contracted officials (however, we may need to reconsider the number of officials required for each sport/age level). Parents may not register their children if we don't keep score/standings. Competitive levels are possible (with an additional fee), but we should get developmental where it needs to be first. While we need to determine what parents desire from our programs, we also must understand that the children's best interest should be our main focus. We're Parks and Recreation, not Parks and Competition.

Recommendations: At July 2015 meeting, a vote will be taken to determine play-up eligibility. Current recommendation - child can play-up no more than one age level (i.e. a 5 year old can play 8U). Age eligibility will align with the VBCPS standard (September 30 of the current school year). Core sports: football, basketball, volleyball, softball. Others offered: baseball, cheer. Others to consider: field hockey, lacrosse, golf.

### **Agenda for Next Meeting**

Vote to determine play-up eligibility.

Address next concerns: coaches training and numbers, financials (cash flow and distribution), and partnership agreement.

### **Homework**

Begin survey development with P&R Marketing (Kevin)

Submit suggested survey questions to Kevin By June 26, 2015.

Provide operating budgets

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm by Aaron. The next general meeting will be at 6:30pm on Thursday, July 16, in the large conference room at Landscape Management.