

## RECREATION ASSOCIATION STEERING COMMITTEE (RASC) SUMMARY STATEMENT

As a result of Recreation Association “All Call” meetings in July 2014 and January 2015, a proposal was brought forth for the city to assume administration of Farm (under-10) Leagues.

The Recreation Association Steering Committee (RASC) was formed in April 2015 to provide guidance and leadership to the Department of Parks and Recreation and youth athletic leagues during this proposed transition. The committee was comprised of dedicated volunteers in our Community Recreation Associations and staff from Sports Management/City-Wide Athletics (SM/CWA).

The goal of the RASC was to establish a youth sports program based on child/youth development, with a continuum of service for each sport/league based on the National Standards for Youth Sports and the Recommendations for Communities as established by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS). The aim was to provide a safe, positive and fun sports experience, with equal and consistent opportunities for all children regardless of ability, geographic area, or financial capacity.

The RASC developed a timeline for transition, a master implementation plan, and measures for success. Several subcommittees discussed critical program elements such as proposed player fees, registration procedures, drafting of teams, playing rules and bylaws.

A Youth Sports Survey was developed by Parks and Recreation (P&R)/Marketing and Resource Development and released for public response in the Spring of 2016. In addition, 8 public meetings were held in July and August of 2016 to discuss the results of that survey and gain additional public input.

Another “All Call” meeting occurred in October 2016, in which the General Recreation Association membership was brought up-to-date on the RASC’s progress. At that meeting, SM/CWA administration was given direction to compile all feedback from the RASC, RASC Subcommittees, Youth Sports Survey and 8 community meetings and prepare a proposal.

At its December 2016 meeting, RASC members were presented with a Draft of this proposal (General Program Structure for Future Youth Recreational Sports). Feedback was provided and a revised Draft sent to RASC members in January 2017 to be shared with their Association stakeholders. That additional feedback was presented and discussed during the RASC meeting on February 1, 2017. Using that feedback, a third and final Draft was sent on April 4, 2017 to be shared with those same stakeholders.

A final “All Call” meeting was held on July 26, 2017, where the updated National Standards for Youth Sports were shared, and the final Draft of the Proposed Program Structure document was voted upon by each Association. The result of that vote was that a clear majority of Area Recreation Associations elected to maintain the current system in operation (P&R, SM coordinates 10 and above age groups; Rec Associations coordinate under-10 age groups).

However, three Universal Standards were agreed upon by the RASC that will be critical elements of future SM offerings beginning with the 2018-19 budget year (as of July 1, 2018):

1. The National Standards for Youth Sports and Recommendations for Communities, as established by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) will be used as a guideline for all City of Virginia Beach, Parks and Recreation Youth Programs.
2. Age groups (when programmatically possible) will be in two-year increments using the “U” model (6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, 18U).
3. A standard birthdate will be used for all programs, which aligns with the standard birthdate used by Virginia Beach City Public Schools to determine school enrollment. League age for the season will be the child’s age based on September 30 of that calendar year. This standard date was implemented with the Winter 2017-18 Youth Basketball Program.