**Youth Sports FAQ’s**

**What are the eligibility requirements?**

The JBLE - Langley AFB Youth Sports program is open to dependents of active duty, reservist, retirees, and DoD / NAF civilian employees of
all the armed forces / military branches of service in accordance with
AFI 34-262 *Services Programs and Use Eligibility* and AFI 34-144 *Child and Youth Programs*, regardless of race, creed, gender, economic status, or ability. Youth must be at least five (5) years of age prior to participating in league sports. In addition, youth must be currently in grades kindergarten through twelve (12) to be eligible.

**How are age divisions determined?**



**What do I need to bring to register?**

A current favorable medical clearance (sports physical) from a physician. Medical clearances are only good for one year from the date that they were performed by a physician, and must be current through the completion of the specific sport event
or season in order for a youth to be allowed to participate. A current immunization records also must be presented prior to a child registering for any Youth Sports activity. All Center for Disease Control recommended shots are required, including the current influenza vaccination.

***What does the registration fee include?*** For most sports your child’s team jersey and in some cases an accessory (hat, flags, or socks). Cheerleading registration fee covers pompoms and practice shirt.

**Does my child have to be a Youth Programs member to participate?**
No, your child does not have to be a member to participate in youth sports.

**What is your typical sports league schedule?**

Sport League seasons typically run:



**When are the games/practices?**
Each team typically has two (2) practices per week throughout the entire season. Game schedules are finalized about two (2) weeks before the start of the season. Each team normally has at minimum ten (10) games per season. Youth Sports events primarily are conducted on Saturdays, with a few weeknight games. Number of weeknight games will vary, especially if games have been cancelled / postponed earlier in the season.

**Where are the practices/games?**
Practices are usually held our soccer/baseball fields on JBLE-Langley and the youth center.

Baseball Fields: Located in the Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) section of base.
*Tee Ball Field* – On Gray Ave at far end of soccer field.
*Minor, Major, & Rookie Field (# 1)* – On Clarke Ave to the far left of Baseball Complex bldg.
*Junior, Intermediate, & Senior Field (# 2)* – On Clarke Ave behind Baseball Complex bldg.

Basketball Court:
*Bethel Manor Youth Center* – On Big Bethel Road near The Landing housing area.

Flag Football Field:
On Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) By Pass near the traffic circle.

Soccer Fields: Located in the Lighter-Than-Air (LTA) section of base.
*U7 Field* – On LTA By Pass near the traffic circle.
*U9 & U11 Field* – Near LTA By Pass/Emmonds Rd and Clarke Ave intersection.
*U13, U16, & U19 Field* – Near Gray Ave and Clarke Ave intersection.

Away games are held at local fields in your community. You will receive practice and game times and locations once the schedules are set prior to the start of the season.

**Will we have to travel to different for games?**
Travel for games is dependent on the sport. We make every effort to keep travel to a minimum if it's needed.

**What equipment will I need?**

The minimum equipment items your child will require and or will be given during her/his sport experience are listed below by sport.

Baseball – Needed: *glove, cleats, baseball pants, and athletic cup*.
 Included: *jersey and hat.*

Basketball – Needed: *shorts (without pockets) and sneakers (with non-marking soles).*
 Included: *jersey.*

Cheerleading – Needed: *bloomers, shorts (without pockets), and sneakers.* Included: *practice tee shirt and pompoms.*

Flag Football – Needed: *mouth guard, cleats, and shorts (without pockets).*  Included: *jersey and flag belt.*

Soccer – Needed: *shin guards, cleats (without toe cleat) and shorts (without pockets).* Included: *jersey and socks.*

**How will I know if a practice or game is cancelled? Are cancelled games made up?**
Some events may be cancelled / postponed because of weather conditions which make participating unsafe. It is the coaches’ responsibility to determine if practices should be cancelled / postponed. However, the YS&FD (or other YP staff member) will make the determination whether or not games will be cancelled or postponed. This determination normally is made by three o’clock (3 pm) for evening events or by five o’clock (5 pm) the night before for morning events. If you have not been informed an event is cancelled / postponed, then the event is as scheduled and will be held at the official’s discretion. We display cancellation information on <https://www.facebook.com/JBLEYouthSports/> . We do our best to reschedule cancelled games; however rescheduling is dependent on the weather and facility/field availability.

**Who will my coach be?**
Your child’s coach is a volunteer, who has completed an comprehensive background/fingerprint check, completed NYSCA coaches certification training in the sport in which they are coaching and agreed to adhere to the NAYS Coaches Code of Ethics.

***How will I be notified which team my child has been assigned to or when they will begin practices?***

Your child’s coach will contact you. This contact may come in the form of a call and/or email, so please check your email junk and spam folders.

**Who should I notify if my child cannot make a practice or game?**
Notify your coach as soon as possible.

**How do you determine who plays on which teams?**
The Youth Sports and Fitness Director (YS&FD) will randomly assign youth to teams based on their age, size (height and / or weight), playing experience, and / or skill level. Prior to team assignments however, youth may be asked to attend a skill evaluation clinic. The purpose of these evaluations is to assess the skill level
of participants in an attempt to distribute talent equally to each team. These evaluations are extremely important and each child needs to be present.

Youth are encouraged to play in their assigned age division whenever possible. However, a parent may request their child move up to the next age division, if the child is within one year of that age division and it is in the child’s best interest. The child’s maturity, size, and skill level will be considered before placement into an older age division. It will not be based on convenience, as this could be detrimental to the child and the other children on the team. The child’s past and present coach may be consulted before being moved up in age division. Should the child be moved up, the parent assumes all responsibility for the risks and may be required to sign a waiver. Only youth diagnosed with a Special Need requiring accommodations may be placed in a younger age division from their “true” age division.

***Can my child wear jewelry, head decoration, or other headwear?***

Officials will enforce the Virginia State High School rule regarding jewelry. All players must remove all jewelry during games including: rings, watches, bracelets (including friendship & memorial), earrings of any kind (including starter studs), chains or necklaces. Any player who fails to remove his or her jewelry may not participate until it is removed. Hard items worn on the head such as beads, barrettes and bobby pins also are not prohibited. It is advised to delay any new piercings until after the conclusion of the sport season. Head coverings may be allowed on an individual basis if it meets the following criteria: For medical or cosmetic reasons – In the event a participant is required by a licensed medical physician to cover his/her head with a covering or wrap, a physician’s statement is required before the MPRB can approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely that it will come off during play. For religious reasons – In the event there is documented evidence provided that a participant may not expose his/her uncovered head, the MPRB may approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely it will come off during play.

**What is the Refund Policy?**

Prior to the scheduled first practice, refunds (minus a $10 non-refundable fee) may be requested. Thereafter only refunds (minus expenses – jerseys, etc.) will be approved for Permanent Change of Station (PCS) or medical reasons. Supporting documentation may be required depending on the circumstances surrounding the request. The method of refund payment will vary depending on original type of registration fee payment. If fees were paid via credit or club card, then your account will be credited. If fees were paid via cash or check, then you will be given cash. Refunds cannot be processed after the completion of that sport event or season.

**How can I volunteer to help out?**
JBLE - Langley AFB Youth Sports encourages all parents to volunteer. Parents may volunteer to be a head coach, assistant coach, team mom, help with field maintenance. All volunteers are subject to fill out a volunteer application and submit a background check to volunteer.

***Can I coach my child’s team?*** Yes. You will be required to complete a Youth Sports Volunteer Application, background checks, fingerprinting, and NYSCA coaches certification program which includes training in youth sports, sports specifics, concussion management, positive guidance, and more.

***How can I find out more information about the Youth Sports program?***

Call or visit Youth Programs at 225-2605; or visit our JBLE Youth Sports Facebook group.