



# Stake Sports Specialists Frequently Asked Questions

## **Purpose of church sports**

Physical activities in the Church are designed to help members focus on and accomplish the mission of the Church, which is to “invite all to come unto Christ” (D&C 20:59) and “be perfected in Him” (Moroni 10:32). Such activities offer many opportunities for fellowshiping, activating and sharing the gospel with others. When participants demonstrate Christlike behavior and attitudes, physical activities can help them grow spiritually. (*Purpose of Church Sports* page)

More information: *Church Handbook of Instructions, Bk.2, Sec.10(Activities), p.271*

## **Stake Sports Specialists Duties**

Help all participants understand the purpose of the sports program

Direct and promote stake competitive sports and other physical activities.

Supervise and train ward sports specialists.

Oversee that *Eligibility Declaration and Team Rosters* are complete and accurate prior to stake tournament.

Serve on the region sports committee to assist in formulating activity plans.

Work with the region sport committee to plan, organize and conduct tournaments.

Attend all region committee meetings and regional training.

Several months in advance, plan backward from the region tournament dates to determine what your schedule should be. Turn these dates in to the stake to be scheduled on the stake calendar as well as the region tournament dates to secure the building for stake and region activities.

More information: *Church Handbook of Instructions, Bk.2, Sec.10(Activities), p.274*

*Utah Area Sports Manual, p.7-8*

## **Information and Training:**

Resources found at [www.utahareasports.org](http://www.utahareasports.org)

For more help contact your Region Director.

## **Types of Play, Stake Sports Schedule**

Stake league play usually involves planning and scheduling round-robin play. Round-robin schedules are usually best because they maximize participation over a specified time period. (*Utah Area Sports Manual, p.15*)

More information: *How to make a round-robin schedule* page

## **Use of Area Sports Posters**

In an effort to establish a proper priesthood environment and improve overall sportsmanship during sports activities, the Area has produced large (32" x 40") sports posters for Young Women, Aaronic Priesthood, Relief Society and Melchizedek Priesthood and have made them available to all stakes.

We encourage each stake to use these posters in their sports programs by having the poster placed in a prominent location, i.e., on an easel by the score table, hanging on a wall, etc. so that it might be referred to during activities. Prior to the beginning of each contest, we suggest that participants and spectators recite or read the appropriate statement found on each poster that should be followed by a prayer.

## **Referees/Officials**

Being a sports official is a church calling. They are to be called and set apart by the Stake Presidency. More information: *Church Handbook of Instructions, Bk.2, Sec.10(Activities), p.274*

*Utah Area Sports Manual, p.8*

*The Church Sports Official video #53019*

## **Dress Standards**

Shorts should be modest, clean, neat, and worn properly. Immodest clothing includes short shorts, tight clothing, shirts that do not cover the stomach. Young women should wear shirts that cover the shoulder and is not low-cut in the front or the back. Young men should also maintain modesty in their appearance. (*For the Strength of Youth, p.15-16*)

## **Age Rule**

Players should play with the age group and class that they affiliate with during church attendance. More information: *Utah Area Sports Manual, p.15*

Youth that are in primary and turn 12 years old during a sports season can play in the stake sports program when they are advanced to the Young Men or Young Women organization.(Ref: *Church Handbook of Instructions Bk.2, Sec.2(Aaronic Priesthood), p.175; Sec. 4(Young Women), p.213*)

## **School Team Players**

Players in school programs under the jurisdiction of the High School Activities Association, or members of officially sponsored Junior College, College or University teams, will be asked to make a choice between that and the church sports program for that sport.

More information: *Church Handbook of Instructions, Bk.2, Sec.10(Activities), p.275-276*

*Utah Area Sports Manual, p.14*

## **Sports Equipment and Information**

The Area provides equipment and information for volleyball, basketball, softball, golf, futsal (indoor soccer), and flag football. You can purchase balls, rule books, whistles, lanyards, referee shirts, score sheets, line-up sheets, posters, and more, at training clinics or Corporate Express.