

# Emerald Youth SPORTS



## SPORTS PHILOSOPHY

### PURPOSE STATEMENT

Emerald Youth Foundation has the mission to raise up a large number of urban youth to love Jesus Christ and become effective leaders who help renew their communities. Emerald Youth Sports has been developed to (1) mobilize athletes to become Christian leaders in their sport and communities, including their school campus, (2) give athletes fun, skills, and competitive sport opportunities, and (3) equip coaches to teach sport and life skills. A tiered model has been developed for, but not limited to, the following priority sports: soccer, basketball, volleyball, baseball, swimming, wrestling, track and performance training. Emerald Youth Sports is implemented as a community ministry partner with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

### GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

**Christian Faith:** A setting and environment will be set that encourages and challenges athletes and their families to grow in their faith and service with others and to compete according to biblical principles. Team huddles will be organized for weekly devotions and prayer opportunities along with game-day chapels. Athletes and families will be encouraged to engage with a local church and other discipleship opportunities.

#### Participation:

- Athletes will be encouraged to participate in multiple recreational and sport offerings and opportunities for ample game time minutes is the expectation.
- While the majority of teams should be comprised by youth living in the city, youth living outside the city can join teams for two-way relational experiences. Families not living in the primary targeted area are to be first motivated by this opportunity for their child as a participant of Emerald Youth Sports.
- The cost of participation with Emerald Youth Sports, including travel, must be considered and managed so not to exclude any child from playing.
- Athletes and Parents are to engage in leadership and supportive roles with the program.

**Schedule:** Space is to be created for an athlete to enjoy life and family opportunities outside of sports, as well as, to ensure ample time to participate in church discipleship and to achieve academically. Practice hours, amount of games, and travel must be reasonable and efficient.

**Development:** Athletes will learn and engage in skill training, physical development, and competing in their chosen Emerald Youth sport. Coaches will be trained and committed to growing as a 3 Dimensional leader - (1) coaching players to learn the fundamentals, (2) motivating the athletes, and (3) capturing and developing their hearts.