



## **PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE YOUTH SPORTS DEPARTMENT EARNS NATIONAL DESIGNATION**

*Recognized as a Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider*

**Peterson Air Force Base Youth Sports Department** has been designated a **Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider** by the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS).

This honor, like the Good Housekeeping Seal given to household products that meet high standards, recognizes organizations that have met an equally high standard when it comes to administering youth sports programming.

“The Better Sports Designation means that our program is currently in line with the latest standards and guidelines in order to properly train coaches, officials and parents on sports knowledge while developing our youth on the importance of physical, mental and social behaviors that allow them to be a productive part of society,” said Carlos Wade, Youth Sports and Fitness Director at Peterson Air Force Base. “I am most proud of our program because we function as an interdependent family. Parents, coaches, staff and officials work together to not only discuss sports but life skills as a group.”

Today’s youth sports climate overflows with programming, making it challenging for organizations to stand out among the crowd, and difficult for parents to gauge which ones can deliver high-quality experiences for young athletes. To help organizations and families, NAYS introduced the **Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider** designation. Any organization can apply to be evaluated for the designation, and no cost is involved.

“Parents typically have lots of questions and valid concerns when deciding where to enroll their child,” said John Engh, executive director of NAYS. “We have taken the guesswork out of this important time in a young person’s life. When parents see that a program has the Quality Program Provider designation they will know that we have already asked all the tough questions that they may not have even considered or perhaps were afraid of bringing up.”

Additionally, the designation enables organizations to showcase the quality of their programs and highlight the benefits of children being involved in their offerings.

To earn the **Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider** designation a youth sports program must fulfill all the components associated with these five key requirements:

- Written Policies and Procedures
- Volunteer Screening
- Coach Training
- Parent Education
- Accountability

Within each of these five areas are important details that can sabotage experiences and ruin young lives that organizations must prove they address in order to earn the designation, such as if written policies exist regarding playing time; if concussion awareness information is disseminated to coaches; if volunteers are subject to background checks and social security number verification; if the organization has a system for receiving and responding to complaints; if the organization solicits feedback to evaluate programs; and more.

“Organizations that earn this designation will stand out within their community for demonstrating that they have taken a proactive approach on some tough issues and are providing youth sports programs of the highest standard,” Engh said. “Parents have a lot of genuine concerns these days and when they see the **Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider** designation they can take comfort knowing their child is in the best place possible to learn and compete in sports.”

Anyone interested in having their organization evaluated for the **Better Sports for Kids Quality Program Provider** designation can visit [nays.org/quality](https://nays.org/quality); email [nays@nays.org](mailto:nays@nays.org); or call (800) 729-2057.