

**Proclamation**

WHEREAS, The Harrison County Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the need to inspire changes in youth sports to make the experience safe, positive and fun for everyone involved, provide an alternative sports venue; and

WHEREAS, we believe in the benefits and attraction of youth sports as a means to teach the children of this community values and skills that will be of benefit to them throughout life; and

WHEREAS, we believe that in order to realize the true value of youth sports participation and to provide a safe, positive and fun environment for youth and their families to participate, we must raise the standards among the adults and children participating in HCPRC leagues; and

WHEREAS, the Recommendations For Communities that were derived from the National Summit on Raising Community Standards in Children's Sports outlines a comprehensive community strategy to assist us in meeting these objectives; and

WHEREAS, we believe volunteer coaches and parents must receive orientation and education as to their individual roles and responsibilities in our community's effort to raise the standards of youth sports programs and that volunteer coaches and parents be held accountable for their behaviors; and

WHEREAS, the safety of our children being paramount, youth sports coaches and league officials will be screened with background checks conducted; and

WHEREAS, we believe young children must be given the opportunity to develop motor skills and sports specific knowledge with their parents in a structured program before they enter organized sports, the Start Smart™ program will be incorporated in the early ages of the HCPRC youth sports; and

WHEREAS, the pressures of the "win at all costs" attitude is negative, all elementary school age HCPRC leagues will have no official score or standing kept; and

WHEREAS, noting the importance of participation in the satisfaction of children in sports, all HCPRC elementary school age sports will provide a minimum playing time of one half of each game.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Harrison County Parks and Recreation Commission in a meeting duly assembled and by the authority thereof, and adopts this Community Strategy to improve the culture of youth sports for all participants in all HCPRC programs and encourages the implementation of strategies based on the National Summit on Raising Community Standards in Children's Sports in all youth sports in Harrison County.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Harrison County Parks and Recreation Commission President