

## Welcome to Kootenai Thunder!!

### Who We Are

Kootenai Thunder is a Christian sports program that gives the opportunity for youth to participate in volleyball, soccer and basketball. While it is not required that the youth profess to be a Christian, the youth will be exposed to the teaching of Christ during the sports season.

### Goals

Kootenai Thunder is a member of the Mountain Christian League. The stated goal of the league and its members is:

“to put Christ first in our league activities, and to promote Christian character within our schools, teams, coaches, and athletes. Therefore, we wish to encourage sportsmanship, further the spirit of cooperation and Christian fellowship between our members, foster a common interest in sports, and submit to the authority of God in our relationships with one another.”

### Program Administration

Kootenai Thunder is run by a board of directors. The board gives direction to the athletic director (A.D.). The A.D. is responsible for coordinating the Kootenai Thunder program with other programs in the league, overseeing the operation of the various sports, directing the coaches and resolving conflicts that may arise. The treasurer is responsible for receiving player fees, fundraiser income, and paying out expenses.

Coaches and coach assistants are responsible for training the kids in the various sports in a manner that supports the program goals and ultimately glorifies Christ. Therefore, they must be professing Christians and have revealed a Christ-like lifestyle to the board and the A.D. over a period of time.

A team parent is a volunteer who usually has a child in a particular sport that is responsible for relaying communication to parents.

### Program Funding

In order for Kootenai Thunder to operate, the program must be able to pay for expenses such as referees, gym and field rental, buying and replacing uniforms and equipment, etc. We strive to keep expenses as low as possible, and as such, **all board members, administrators, and coaches are 100% volunteer.**

Our program is funded by player fees, fundraising, and contributions. Player fees only cover roughly one quarter of expenses. In order to keep the player fees reasonable, we depend **heavily** on fundraising, volunteers, and generous support from folks in the community. It is expected that the parents and the kids participate in fundraisers during their respective sport season.

Some of the fundraisers we run are: garage sales, concession stands for games at Camp Cocolalla, Krispy Kreme donut sales, car washes, sports tournaments open to the public, bucks for buckets, dessert and silent auctions, ice cream socials, dinners and breakfasts, baked goods raffles, and game nights.

### Volunteering

It is also expected that the parents and the kids participate in several of the activities that help the games run.

Opportunities include:

- Volleyball: gym setup, line referees, score books, game pictures, gym cleanup, bake sale raffles, concession stand help
- Soccer: stats, game pictures
- Basketball: gym setup, game clock, score books, game pictures, gym cleanup, bake sale raffles, concession stand help

It is understood that some families may have extenuating circumstances. Please discuss with the A.D. what your limitations may be and how you may help.

### Scheduling

Prior to a particular sports season, a preliminary schedule will be decided upon and posted on the Kootenai Thunder website (<http://kootenaithunder.com/calendar/>). However, there usually are many changes that occur during the season. The A.D. will send the team parent a revised schedule on a weekly basis, which will be emailed to the parents. **The weekly update sent to parents is the most up-to-date schedule.** In some cases, a change will occur in the middle of the week. If so, attempts will be made to contact all parents via email, Facebook, and the website calendar.

### Practices

The team parent will send out a weekly schedule which will identify where each practice will be held. Practice locations are usually as follows:

Volleyball- Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp gym

Soccer- Centennial Field in Sandpoint

Basketball- Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp gym, Kootenai Elementary School gym, or the Southside Youth Center

Prior to participating in any games, all paperwork must be turned in and all fees paid.

Each player is expected to show up and be ready to practice on time. Each player is also expected to show respect to the coach/assistant and their fellow team members. Please refer to the Standard of Conduct.

Practices may be cancelled due to coach/assistants not being able to make it, weather, or gym/field rental purposes. If the public schools cancel school, practices will automatically be cancelled. For any cancellation, an email will be sent out and there will be a post on the Thunder Facebook page.

### Games

Game locations are on the website calendar and will be announced in the weekly update distributed by the team parent. There are some away games that are 3-4 hours driving time.

The majority of the games will be played against teams that are members of the Mountain Christian League. There may be some games with non-MCL members, which give the players more experience but they will not be counted for the team standings. Team standings can be found on MCL's website <http://mountainchristianleague.com/sports.html>.

Tournaments will be held towards the end of a season. The team parent will send out tournament information as those details are finalized. League awards are available at the varsity level and are voted on by coaches throughout the league.

### Special Events

There are two Senior Nights, one during the fall volleyball/soccer season and one during the late winter basketball season. These nights present and honor the seniors.

The Awards Banquet is usually held in May. This is a semi-formal event with a sit-down meal. The coach of each team will give out three awards: Most Valuable Player, Most Improved, and Christian Character.