

BREC ATHLETIC COUNCIL



BREC LEADERSHIP

Commission > Superintendent > Recreation Advisory Committee

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

SPORTS LEAGUE COUNCIL

STAKEHOLDERS Pickleball + Football + Disc Golf + Basketball + Volleyball + Softball + Baseball + Flag Football + Soccer + Rugby + Wrestling + Swimming + Dance + Cheer + Gymnastics

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

STAKEHOLDERS Public, Private & Charter Schools + Higher Education Institutions + Youth-Serving Nonprofit & For-Profit Organizations + Community & Faith-Based Leagues + Tourism & Economic Development Organizations + Health Care Providers + Transportation Partners + Corporate & Business Partners + Recreation & Sports Organizations + Foundations & Philanthropic Partners

COMMITTEES + INDIVIDUAL COUNCILS



ATHLETIC COUNCIL

The Athletic Council serves as the overarching, collaborative governing body for youth league sports in East Baton Rouge Parish, convened under BREC leadership (with support from the Athletic Director) to provide strategic guidance, foster coordination across public, private, school, and community entities, and drive parish-wide improvements in access, quality, and impact of organized youth athletics. Unlike the more operationally focused Sports League Council (which handles day-to-day league coordination, scheduling, and sport-specific program delivery) and the high-level Community Partnership Council (which emphasizes broad policy, partnerships, equity, and long-term visioning from diverse stakeholders), the Athletic Council acts as the central hub that integrates inputs from both, makes final recommendations to BREC on key priorities, and ensures alignment toward restoring BREC as the primary driver of equitable, high-quality youth sports opportunities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL

- Convene and facilitate collaboration among all major youth sports stakeholders (BREC, leagues, schools, private providers, nonprofits, and community groups) to address system-wide challenges and opportunities.
- Provide overarching strategic recommendations to BREC leadership on parish-wide youth sports priorities, including facility investments, program enhancements, and economic development through sports tourism.
- Oversee integration of recommendations from the Sports League Council (operational league matters) and Community Partnership Council (policy and partnership focus) into cohesive action plans.
- Guide efforts to restore and strengthen community-based recreational pathways, reducing drop-off after age 10.
- Advise on major initiatives to create or improve existing properties and facilities.
- Promote equity, access, and inclusion by addressing barriers (e.g., cost, transportation, heat/climate impacts, gender gaps) across the parish.
- Monitor progress on youth sports outcomes (participation, retention, physical activity levels) and advocate for sustained resources, funding, and policy support to achieve long-term goals.

SPORTS LEAGUE COUNCIL

The Sports League Council serves as the operational and programmatic arm focused specifically on league-based youth sports delivery across the parish. It acts as a collaborative forum where league commissioners, operators, and providers come together to address day-to-day coordination, scheduling conflicts, rule alignment, and program improvements for recreational and competitive play. This council ensures that league activities remain practical, equitable, and responsive to community needs while feeding recommendations upward to the broader Athletic Council for strategic decisions.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPORTS LEAGUE COUNCIL

- Coordinate seasonal scheduling and field/court usage to minimize conflicts among various leagues and sports.
- Develop and recommend standardized rules, safety protocols, and best practices for league play across sports.
- Gather and share input from league commissioners on participation trends, facility needs, and barriers to access.
- Facilitate communication between BREC staff and league operators for permits, maintenance requests, and program logistics.
- Advise on pathways for player progression and ways to reduce drop-off after age 10.
- Identify opportunities for joint events, all-star games, tournaments or shared resources among leagues.
- Provide ongoing feedback and data to the Athletic Council on league effectiveness, equity, and community impact.

SUGGESTED INITIAL COMMITTEES

PICKLEBALL Oversees league scheduling, court maintenance needs, rule standardization, and growth strategies for adult/youth pickleball programs.

SOCCER Coordinates recreational and competitive league pathways, field allocation, referee training, and efforts to extend play beyond age 10.

FOOTBALL (including Flag & 7v7) — Manages practice/game scheduling, equipment/safety protocols, conflict resolution, and youth progression from flag to tackle.

BASKETBALL Handles gym/court usage, seasonal league formats, skill development clinics, and alignment between rec and travel play.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL Focuses on diamond maintenance, tournament coordination, age-group divisions, and joint events for baseball/softball leagues.

VOLLEYBALL Addresses indoor/outdoor court scheduling, league rules variations, coaching certifications, and participation growth.

DISC GOLF Advises on course upkeep, tournament hosting, beginner programs, and strategies to elevate Baton Rouge as a regional destination.

TENNIS Coordinates court access, league formats, junior development pathways, and integration with public facility improvements.

CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK Manages trail/course usage, meet scheduling, safety standards, and support for local school/club events.

MULTI-SPORT/YOUTH DEVELOPMENT Covers emerging or hybrid sports (e.g., cheer, dance, swimming, wrestling), general youth clinics, and cross-sport pathways to reduce drop-off.



For More Info:

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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

The Community Partnership Council functions as the strategic, high-level advisory body to BREC leadership (including the Superintendent, Recreation Advisory Committee, Athletic Director, and Commissioners), focusing on long-term vision, policy, facility investments, partnerships, and parish-wide youth sports priorities. It draws from a broader set of stakeholders in the community to provide data-driven recommendations that guide BREC's master plans, budgets, and initiatives without direct operational control. This council emphasizes equity, economic development through sports tourism, and alignment with community goals.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

- Assess parish-wide youth sports needs through data collection, surveys, and participation trends to prioritize programs and facilities.
- Advise on major capital investments, facility development, and equitable scheduling policies.
- Recommend strategies for partnerships, sponsorships, and funding (e.g., with corporations, foundations, schools) to support youth sports growth.
- Guide efforts to promote equity, access, and inclusion, including reducing barriers for underserved areas and demographics.
- Support tournament and sports tourism initiatives to boost economic impact while balancing local recreational priorities.
- Monitor and evaluate overall program effectiveness, retention rates, and outcomes to inform policy adjustments.
- Shape a 5–10 year vision for organized youth sports, including advocacy for resources and succession planning for sustained focus.

SUGGESTED INITIAL COMMITTEES

These are strategic, cross-cutting sub-groups populated by Board-approved Community Partnership Council members drawing from schools, nonprofits, businesses, health organizations, recreation and sports organizations, etc. They focus on high-level policy, planning, equity, and partnerships to advise BREC leadership on parish-wide youth sports priorities.

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT + CAPITAL PROJECTS Prioritizes investments in fields, courts, trails, and hubs. Maintenance, Building Projects

LEAGUE PLAY + PATHWAYS Advises on seamless progression from rec to competitive play, reducing drop-off, and integrating league input from the Sports League Council.

EQUITY, ACCESS + INCLUSION Develops policies to reduce barriers (cost, transportation, underserved areas) and promote diversity in participation. Girls play, Transportation

PARTNERSHIPS + SPONSORSHIPS Cultivates corporate/foundation relationships for funding, equipment, and health initiatives.

TOURNAMENT + SPORTS TOURISM Guides strategies to attract regional/state events for economic impact while supporting local access.

PROGRAM EVALUATION + DATA Monitors participation trends, retention rates, surveys, and outcomes to recommend improvements.

SAFETY + RISK MANAGEMENT Recommends parish-wide protocols, insurance standards, concussion policies, and facility safety audits.

POLICY + GOVERNANCE Provides input on BREC fees, permits, partnership agreements, and alignment with community/state priorities. Heat & Climate, Coach Development

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + ADVOCACY Builds bridges with parents, coaches, schools, and leagues; advocates for funding (e.g., millages, grants).

LONG-TERM VISION + STRATEGIC PLANNING Shapes 5–10 year goals for youth sports, including succession planning and master plan updates (e.g., IYP3).



BREC ATHLETIC COUNCIL AT A GLANCE



	ATHLETIC COUNCIL Overarching Governing Body	SPORTS LEAGUE COUNCIL Operational Arm	COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL Strategic Advisory Body
OVERVIEW/PRIMARY ROLE	Central hub integrating all stakeholders under BREC leadership; bridges operational & advisory inputs for cohesive parish-wide recommendations to BREC.	Day-to-day league operations and sport-specific coordination; executes programs and feeds practical input upward.	High-level, cross-cutting advice from diverse stakeholders (schools, nonprofits, businesses, health orgs); focuses on policy, partnerships and long-term vision.
CONVENE/FACILITATE COLLABORATION	Convene major stakeholders for system-wide collaboration	Coordinate seasonal scheduling and field usage	Assess needs and prioritize programs/facilities
STRATEGIC GUIDANCE + RECOMMENDATIONS	Provide strategic guidance on priorities and investments	Standardize rules, safety and best practices	Advise on capital investments and scheduling
INTEGRATION OF INPUTS	Integrate League and Community Partnership Council recommendations	Gather league data on trends and barriers	Cultivate partnerships and sponsorships
PATHWAYS + COMMUNITY FOCUS	Restore community-based pathways and reduce drop-off	Facilitate BREC-league communication and logistics	Promote equity, access and inclusion policies
MAJOR INITIATIVES	Guide major initiatives	Advise on player pathways and retention	Guide tournament/sports tourism strategies
EQUITY + ACCESS + INCLUSION	Promote equity, access and inclusion parish-wide	Support joint events and shared resources	Evaluate program outcomes and data
MONITORING + ADVOCACY	Monitor outcomes and advocate for resources/funding	Provide feedback on league effectiveness and equity	Shape 5–10 year vision and succession planning

BREC ATHLETIC COUNCIL



ASSESS + PRIORITIZE YOUTH SPORTS NEEDS Conduct ongoing needs assessments (participation rates, facility gaps, underserved demographics, emerging sports like pickleball/esports) and advise BREC on which programs/facilities to prioritize in master plans (e.g., IYP3 updates) and budget allocations.

ADVISE ON FACILITY DEVELOPMENT + SCHEDULING Provide recommendations on capital investments, equitable scheduling of fields/courts/gyms, and conflict resolution between sports/leagues to maximize usage and minimize barriers.

COORDINATE PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT Advise on creating seamless progression from recreational to competitive play (e.g., middle-school-to-high-school pathways in soccer/football), including partnerships with schools and private leagues to reduce drop-off after age 10.

SUPPORT TOURNAMENT + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY Guide BREC on attracting and hosting regional/state tournaments (soccer, disc golf, tennis/pickleball, cross-country) to drive sports tourism, economic impact, and sponsorship revenue, including facility standards and marketing.

FACILITATE PARTNERSHIPS + SPONSORSHIPS Recommend and help cultivate partnerships with corporations, foundations, and leagues for naming rights, funding, and in-kind support (e.g., health screenings, equipment donations).

PROMOTE EQUITY + ACCESS Advise on policies/programs to reduce barriers (cost, transportation, diversity/inclusion) and ensure underserved areas/neighborhoods have equitable access to quality facilities and programming.

MONITOR + EVALUATE PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS Review participation data, feedback surveys, and outcomes (retention rates, health metrics, player development) and provide recommendations to improve quality, safety, and long-term impact of BREC's sports offerings.

ADVISE ON POLICY + GOVERNANCE Offer input on BREC policies related to youth sports (fees, permits, safety standards, partnership agreements) and help ensure alignment with community needs and state/local priorities.

BUILD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT + ADVOCACY Serve as a bridge between BREC, parents, coaches, schools, and leagues to gather input, build support for initiatives, and advocate for funding (e.g., millages, grants) for youth sports.

LONG-TERM VISION + SUCCESSION PLANNING Help shape a 5-10 year vision for organized play in the parish, including succession of leadership within BREC and the council to ensure sustained focus beyond current administration.



What the Council Would Actually Do?

The Athletic Council will function as a standing body that meets monthly or quarterly to provide strategic recommendations, data-driven input, and community perspective to guide BREC's decisions on facilities, programming, partnerships, and resource allocation. The council will not have direct operational authority, but will help restore BREC as the driving force for organized youth sports in the parish, reversing the early-2000's shift toward "acreage awards" and under-maintenance.

Interested in GETTING INVOLVED?

BREC invites leagues, schools, community organizations and partners to collaborate to strengthen youth athletics across the parish.

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