



SALEM PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES PROGRAM CHANGES FOR 2014

Youth Sports Fee Increase & New Flag Football League

***For Immediate Release
April 3, 2014***

The City of Salem Parks and Recreation Department's various sports leagues and numerous community events consistently provide outstanding athletic and entertainment opportunities for thousands of our citizens.

This year, the level of excellence that many have come to expect in Salem will continue, but our participation fees will increase for youth sports. Beginning in May 2014, residents in Salem will be required to pay \$40 per participant while non-resident tuition paying students, who wish to play youth sports in Salem, will now have to pay \$90 per person.

These modest increases are necessary to help offset the rising costs of player uniforms and online registration transaction fees. Even with this \$5 across-the-board change, Salem's fees will remain the lowest in the valley.

We also are excited to announce the formation of a brand new football league for our youngest participants. Beginning with our 2014 Fall Sports registrations, Salem will be offering NFL Youth Flag Football for children ages 6-7 years-old.

This new league will replace that same age group's current Biddy Football League that has experienced declining participation numbers in the last few years. Our aim in developing this program is to introduce kids to the joys of the sport without the contact of traditional football at this young age.

An emphasis will be placed on having fun, the basic skills necessary to play the game, teamwork and sportsmanship. Each participant will receive an NFL team-identified reversible jersey, official NFL Flag football belt and flags and a free USA Football player membership. Teams will practice twice per week prior to the start of the season. Once games start, teams will be limited to no more than two meetings per week with one being a game. No scores or standings will be kept in this league.

We appreciate your participation and continued support of the Salem Parks and Recreation Department's many programs. Should you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at 375-3057.

Contact:

John Shaner
Salem Parks and Rec. Director
City of Salem
(540) 375-3057
jshaner@salemva.gov

Mike Stevens
City of Salem Communications Director
(540) 375-4112 office
(540) 353-2041 cell
mstevens@salemva.gov