

## **Directory of Baltimore Youth Sports Collaborative Organizations February 2026**

The following nonprofits make up the initial group of youth sports nonprofits that are part of the Baltimore Youth Sports Collaborative. These organizations create a youth sports nonprofit eco-system that consists of sports-based youth development programs for underserved youth in Baltimore and surrounding counties, special training of coaches at these youth sports nonprofits, and free sports equipment for the programs and the youth in these programs.

The nonprofits listed in this directory includes programs that are present only in Maryland as well as those being provided in other states and cities. All of the listed organizations are providing their programs and services to mentor youth to succeed in school and be good citizens.

The Youth Sports Collaborative Network ([www.youthsportscollaborative.org](http://www.youthsportscollaborative.org)) is a national member association for these types of organizations. YSCN, based in Silver Spring, Maryland, is providing administrative support for the Baltimore Youth Sports Collaborative and its advocacy efforts to obtain more local financial resources for these nonprofits to serve more youth in their programs.

### **10:12 Sports**

**Jeffrey Thompson**, Executive Director, [jeff@1012sports.com](mailto:jeff@1012sports.com)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Flag football, basketball mentoring program, weightlifting/nutrition

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities:** Mentoring, paid job training program, leadership development experience

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 13-18

**Gender of Youth Served:** Male

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Utilizing local men, churches, and organizations to help serve and love our teenage participants. Over 250 teens enrolled. Opportunity for teens to earn supplemental \$. Program brings together many teens from "rival" neighborhoods, helping them to connect and decrease the likelihood of future violent interactions.

## **Baltimore Community Rowing**

Karyn Shackelford, Executive Director, [karyn@baltimorerowing.org](mailto:karyn@baltimorerowing.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Rowing -- learn-to-row instruction for middle school, high school, and adult athletes; middle school development team; competitive rowing teams for high school and adults; adult rowing for fitness and recreation; community partnerships.

### **Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May**

**Provide:** Transportation to the boathouse, regional and national travel, summer job opportunities

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** Middle School and High School

**Gender of Youth Served:** All

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** BCR serves student athletes from Baltimore City through Reach High Baltimore, a program designed to provide access to high-level training and racing in the sport of rowing in addition to fee assistance, transportation assistance, summer job opportunities, and free community partnership programs.

## **Baltimore SquashWise**

Doug Fireside, Deputy Director, [doug@baltimoresquashwise.org](mailto:doug@baltimoresquashwise.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Squash/fitness to any Baltimore City Public School

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** - Academic support, tutoring, enrichment activities, SEL, college prep, post-secondary support

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** All Baltimore Middle and High School Students

**Gender of Youth Served:** All

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** At SquashWise, we make the previously exclusive and expensive sport of squash more accessible and welcoming for all, and foster a supportive team environment so students can reach their educational, athletic, and social goals. Few of our players had ever heard of squash before joining our program, but now they travel across the country to compete in tournaments and visit colleges to plan their futures. SquashWise is looking forward to our future growth when we open our youth and community center at the former Greyhound terminal on Howard Street in 2024.

## **Beat the Streets Baltimore**

Lydell Henry, Executive Director, [info@btsbalitmore.org](mailto:info@btsbalitmore.org)

**Sport(s) or Sport Related Services You Provide:** Amateur Wrestling -- We currently serve in school programs at Montebello Elementary/Middle School, Holabird Academy, Hazelwood Elementary/Middle School, Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys, City Springs Elementary/Middle School. We also serve at two community sites: Upton Boxing Center and Gilman School. In April, we started programming at Middle Branch Recreation Center and Rosemont Elementary/Middle School.

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** Academic Support, SAT Tutoring, Mentoring, SEL, Personal Finance, STEM Project Development

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 5-21

**Gender of Youth Served:** Boys and Girls

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** For the past 10 years, Beat the Streets has operated a hybrid STEM-Wrestling camp at Morgan State University where 99% of participants graduate high school in 4 years and 84% attend college. The program helped to steer in an endowment made to Morgan State University to reinstate its Division I Wrestling program and created \$270,000 annually in wrestling scholarships.

## **Coach Across America – Baltimore**

Alexis Bethea, 443-904-6584, [abethea@coachacrossamerica.org](mailto:abethea@coachacrossamerica.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Coach Across America Sports leverages the power of sports to support social emotional learning opportunities outside of the classroom so that youth can reach their full potential, on and off the court. Through Coach Across America Sports' AmeriCorps Coach and VISTA programs we aim to improve accessibility to high quality sports programming for youth in underserved communities.

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** Through Coach Across America Sports AmeriCorps **Coach program**, we help bridge the mentor gap by placing a highly trained coach in schools and community-based organizations to engage youth throughout the year in sport opportunities during the school day and/or in afterschool activities. Over 80% of youth served improve in one or more social emotional attributes while in our program. We attribute these gains to our evidenced based **Sports Based Youth Development training program**. Coach Across America

Sports trains coaches in the foundations of youth development including: how to coach for positive youth development outcomes, understanding how chronic stress can impact healthy brain development, and the importance of building vital connections. In addition to our coaches, Coach Across America Sports also supports the training of coaches with existing affiliations with schools, community centers and parks. Another way Coach Across America Sports improves accessibility is through our **VISTA program**. Specifically, we support the advancement of opportunity through the placement of young people that support schools and organizations with fundraising, marketing, volunteer engagement, and program operations for their sports programming.

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 4-18

**Gender of Youth Served:** All

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Over 70% of Coach Across America Sports AmeriCorps Coaches are from the communities in which they are serving. Being credible messengers of health, coupled with our Sports Based Youth Development training, our coaches know how to build positive relationships while helping youth translate sport skills into life skills. Annually, Coach Across America Sports partners with at least 10 organizations throughout Baltimore and places 20 coaches, who provide over 20,000 hours of direct service to youth.

**First Tee - Greater Baltimore**

March Klein, Program Director, [March@firstteebaltimore.org](mailto:March@firstteebaltimore.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Golf

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** Caddying, College Prep, Academic Tutoring, Life skill development, Volunteer opportunities, Leadership opportunities

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 4-18

**Gender of Youth Served:** All

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Caddie Academy - training our kids to have a summer job that makes them good money, keeps them in shape, and provides them with access to influential people in the Baltimore community.

Van - gives us the ability to fight the transportation crisis in Baltimore City.

Partnerships - helps us expand our program.

**Girls on the Run of the Greater Chesapeake**

Kelly Makimaa, Executive Director, 410.635.9313, [kelly.makimaa@girlsontherun.org](mailto:kelly.makimaa@girlsontherun.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Positive, youth development after-school program for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls teaching social, emotional, and physical well-being through a research-based curriculum. Incorporates running and physical activity to reinforce life skills, confidence, connection, and contribution.

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any:** SEL

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 3rd - 8th grade

**Gender of Youth Served:** Girls (*any child who identifies as “girl”, non-binary, or gender expansive*)

**Location Serve:** All of Baltimore

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Girls on the Run has recently been included in a guide of Top Research-Based Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Programs by a Harvard University & Wallace Foundation study and recognized as one of the National Afterschool Association’s Most Influential in Health and Wellness afterschool programs.

**Harlem Lacrosse – Baltimore**

Raamah Harcum, Executive Director, [raamah@harlemlacrosse.org](mailto:raamah@harlemlacrosse.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Lacrosse

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** Academic support, mentoring, SEL, college and career counseling, enrichment experiences

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 6th - 12th grade

**Gender of Youth Served:** boys and girls

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Retaining staff and participants during COVID through hybrid programming. We returned in person using a variety of safety protocols in July 2020 and have been programming in person since to ensure that youth have a safe outlet to engage and connect with their peers and mentors.

**Leader Breeders Inc**

Tiny Adams President, Co- Founder, 917-903-1410, [leaderbreeders@gmail.com](mailto:leaderbreeders@gmail.com)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** primarily basketball, but would like to tap into exposing the youth to all sports

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** Academic support, mentorship, entrepreneurship, mental health, college prep / tours, community service, career development

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 10-19

**Gender of Youth Served:** male and female

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** We are currently proud of forming a partnership with Senator Cory McCray to really make an impact on the 45th district and beyond. We've been able to serve 138 young people ages 6-14 by attracting them with basketball but also exposing them to other things like STEAM, Socioemotional Learning, and academic enrichments.

**Lee Lee Kiddz**

Kevin Ricks, Executive Director, [kevinricks@leeleeff.com](mailto:kevinricks@leeleeff.com)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Flag football. We will be expanding to other sports in the coming months.

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities:** High school student volunteering/mentorship opportunities, paid job training program for media students. We offer skills training camps and field days, and leadership development experience

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 7-14

**Gender of Youth Served:** All

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** We are dedicated to supporting and empowering youth through sports. We strongly believe in the transformative power of sports to create positive change in the lives of individuals and communities. Our mission is to remove barriers for youth by offering them a space to develop their athletic skills, teaching them how to express their emotions through positive outlets, and by creating a supportive network system for them to depend on both on and off the field. One of our main focuses is to expand opportunities and resources to increase young girls' interest in flag football. This past 2023 summer, we held a 4-week skills training camp specially for middle and high school girls. We are also incorporating youth that aged out of our program to come back and volunteer with

the elementary school students. Finally, we believe that for youth to be successful their communities and families also need to be supported. So, every month we offer free haircuts to students from the schools we serve; we recently provided back-to-school haircuts to 9 local schools. We also regularly donate bookbags, school supplies, food, and hygiene products to schools and other sports programs, give funding for domestic violence and cancer research programs, and donate sports equipment. Also, in the next few months, we are looking to offer life skills programs prior to the field day activities.

### **Leveling the Playing Field**

**Thea Grillo**, Regional Director of Operations, [thea@levelingtheplyingfield.org](mailto:thea@levelingtheplyingfield.org)

**Jamie King**, Baltimore Program Associate, [jamie@levelingtheplyingfield.org](mailto:jamie@levelingtheplyingfield.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Free sports equipment

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities:** LPF serves as a connective force between all levels of the youth sports community

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** All school-aged youth

**Gender of Youth Served:** All

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Since our establishment in Baltimore in 2018, LPF Baltimore has collected and redistributed over \$3.5 mil worth of gently used/excess sporting equipment to over 500 unique schools, sports leagues, and other youth programs in need. LPF is working to build a more equitable youth sports community in Baltimore through removing the barrier of costly sports equipment and ensuring that all kids have the chance to play.

### **PeacePlayers International**

**Myleana Beabs-Johnson**, PeacePlayers Baltimore Director, [mbeads-johnson@peaceplayers.org](mailto:mbeads-johnson@peaceplayers.org)

**Rashawn Martin**, Program Coordinator, PeacePlayers Baltimore, 443-635-3835, [rmarting@peaceplayers.org](mailto:rmarting@peaceplayers.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Basketball. Our program harnesses the power of basketball to help young people develop the skills, attitudes, and behaviors to face

conflict in positive ways and emerge from the program as leaders in their communities. Youth gain access to resources, equitable experiences, and safe spaces to find and grow their voices. The program empowers them to develop youth-led strategies to bridge societal divides and create structural change within the city.

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** Leadership Development, skills training and conflict resolution programming

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 8-18

**Gender of Youth Served:** Coed (boys, girls, non-binary, etc.)

**Locations Serve:** Sandtown-Winchester, Northwood, near Franklin Square & Hollins Market, near Penn North, Oliver community and near Hampden

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Our program harnesses the power of basketball to help young people develop the skills, attitudes and behaviors to face conflict in positive ways and emerge from the program as leaders in their communities. Youth gain access to resources, equitable experiences and safe spaces to find and grow their voices. The program empowers them to develop youth-led strategies to bridge societal divides and create structural change within the city.

#### **Positive Coaching Alliance**

**Brandon Whiting**, Senior Partnership & Development Manager – Mid Atlantic, 215-275-0048, [brandon\\_whiting@positivecoach.org](mailto:brandon_whiting@positivecoach.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** SEL training for coaches, parents, administrators, and athletes. Learning community models centered around increasing access to youth sports in underserved communities through resource sharing and volunteer coach recruitment.

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** All children up to the age of 18

**Gender of Youth Served:** All genders

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Our recent merger with Coaching Corps to ensure we are providing services that are directly related to all children having equitable access to youth health and wellness activities regardless of socio-economic status. Number of Registered Youth in Program: 6000 young people impacted in Baltimore, ~400 coaches trained, slightly more than before March 2020

#### **Soccer Without Borders Maryland**

**Carson McFadden**, Hub Director, 410-205-9792, [carson@soccerwithoutborders.org](mailto:carson@soccerwithoutborders.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Serving newcomer refugee and immigrant youth in Baltimore and Baltimore County since 2009 ([www.soccerwithoutborders.org/maryland](http://www.soccerwithoutborders.org/maryland)) Running co-ed soccer practices and Middle

School soccer leagues for 3 middle school teams (Vanguard, Dundalk, Lansdowne Middle Schools). Teams participate in a league that includes other local middle schools aged students living near Patterson Park who participate in Living Classrooms Sports Programs. Community Based High School Boys & Girls teams, with participants coming from various City and County schools. High school teams also participate in scrimmages with local club teams and indoor leagues. High school juniors and seniors work as paid referees for leagues and soccer-based fundraiser events. A school-based program at Patterson Park High School began in 2021, offering school-based afterschool programs and a midday Advisory Period taking place at school.

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** Academic support includes weekly tutoring and college access sessions, using staff and volunteers to support English Language Learners in academic needs. Enrichment activities include college visits/tours and community-based activities. Family Mentoring program recruits 10-20 volunteers that work with families through weekly at-home visits, providing supports to alleviate barriers faced by newcomer families.

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** Middle school & High school primary. Summer programming workings with elementary school English Language Learners, with high school students filling Youth Works positions.

**Gender of Youth Served:** Boys, Girls, Gender non-binary.

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** Global Goal 5 Accelerator - prioritizing increased access to girls in the game, tailored recruitment events and leadership opportunities geared towards girls. Recruiting more Family Mentors to support an entire family's needs. Retaining veteran coaches, elevating them into program manager position, and retaining successful Coach Across America coaches to fill program coordinator roles. This provided a better balance for supervision structure and kept coaches in their roles to continue growing meaningful relationships with participants.

**Southwest Sports and Fitness Alliance**

Anthony Hudgins II, Executive Director, [anthonyhudginsii@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyhudginsii@gmail.com)

Ivan Leshinsky, Co-Founder/Treasurer, [ivanleshinsky@gmail.com](mailto:ivanleshinsky@gmail.com)

Jeff Dugan, Team Leader, [dvathletics@gmail.com](mailto:dvathletics@gmail.com)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** In-school and neighborhood-based sports (baseball, basketball, soccer, track and cross country, tournaments, clinics and training).

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities, if any, You May Provide:** Technical assistance, civic engagement, resource development, special events (Sowebo Landmark 5K where children and youth run FREE)

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 6 -18

**Gender of Youth Served:** boys and girls

**What innovation(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why:** This winter (2023/24), SSFA is planning to re-open, operate and manage the Poppleton Recreation Center. The Recreation Center is in one of Baltimore's most disenfranchised communities and has been closed for nearly 20 years. In collaboration with the Southwest Partnership, \$2,650,000 has been raised from private, city and State sources for this project. Our monthly Youth Sports Roundtables (via Zoom) during COVID have helped build a network of sports-based youth development organizations and interested individuals sharing services and pooling resources.

**Volo Kids Foundation**

**Jen Rifkin**, Executive Director, [jen@volokids.org](mailto:jen@volokids.org)

**Sport(s) or Sports Related Services You Provide:** Soccer, Flag Football, Basketball, Volleyball, Tennis, Kickball, Sailing, and Pickleball.

**Describe Other Youth Development Activities:** Sports Equipment Distribution Events, Junior Volunteering / Mentorship Opportunities, Trauma-informed care training for all volunteers, coaches, and staff, Mindfulness components included in core sports curriculum, and Virtual sports programs

**Age Groups of Youth Served:** 5-13

**Gender of Youth Served:** All

**What innovations(s) is your nonprofit most proud about and why?** Volo Kids uses the power of play to build communities of active, resilient, and confident kids. Since its inception in 2015 we have served more than 12,000 kids across the city of Baltimore, with the support of community partners and over 2,500 volunteers. In 2020, faced with mandatory quarantines and a global pandemic, Volo Kids did not stop working to unlock the power of play for kids - instead, we quickly pivoted and developed a virtual sports model that included live virtual programs, printable curriculum, and equipment distributions. Through these innovations, we were able to continue our work in the community, keeping 2,715 kids [virtually] active between 2020 and 2021.