## A Sports League for Special Needs Children & Young Adults









https://www.dropbox.com/s/csli60y2fmgrgho/Spirit%20League%20Video.mp4?dl=0







## Children with autism can't join the local team



Physical, emotional or social challenges limit their opportunities to participate

## 1 in 59 children in the U.S. have autism (1 in 37 boys)



Typical youth sports leagues are not equipped to accommodate autism and other special needs



## Spirit League is the place where a special needs athlete can participate in a "typical" sport in a realistic, nurturing environment that encourages building both skills and relationships.

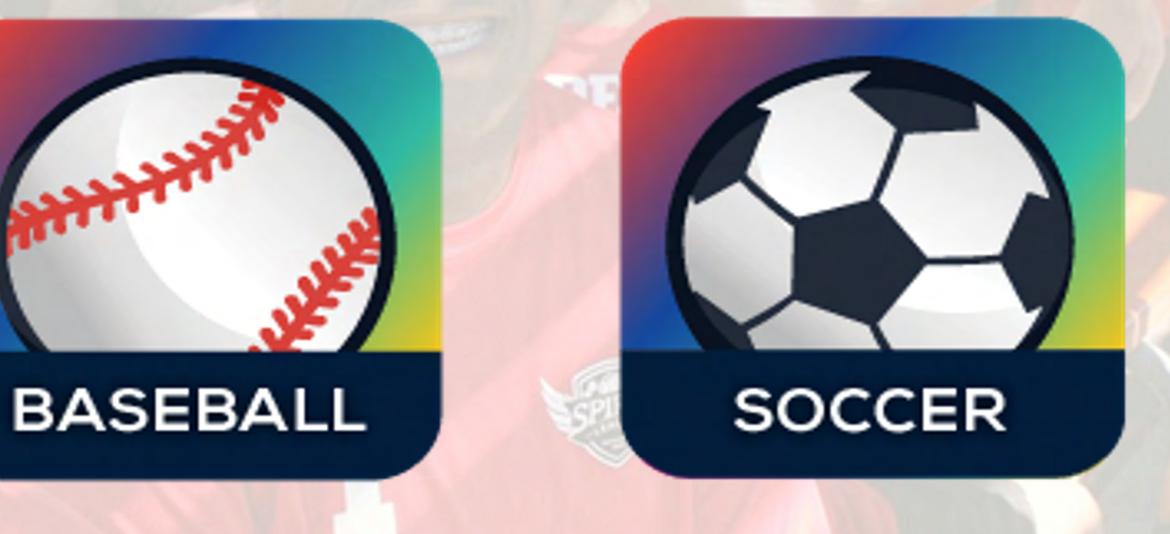


## Spirit League is the only special needs sports league in Orange County to offer year-round sports

## BASKETBALL











Most sports played in Mission Viejo.

Spring Basketball Clinics played in Laguna Niguel starting April 24 for 8-week session.



# Why Spirit League?



- Spirit League is different from other youth sports leagues
- We focus on the unique needs of young athletes with autism and other developmental disabilities
  - We teach basic sports skills, game play and teamwork





## Athletes learn that there's more to the game than just the score



## Parents can celebrate their child in a whole new way





## Each 10-week season includes:

• Structured skill development

• Team games

Spirit League What We Do

# Spirit League What We Do





Teamwork is demonstrated using specialized methods that the athletes can understand and implement



# **SPIRIT LEAGUE ATHLETES**

50% of athletes play more than one sport

Families drive from Orange, Los Angeles and Riverside Counties

85% of athletes have Autism Spectrum Disorder





# **SPIRIT LEAGUE ATHLETES**

## DIVISION 13-22 YEARS OLD







# 34%



23%





## **SPIRIT LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS**

- 40 to 60 volunteers each game day
- Coaches are trained and certified through Spirit League and work together with Team Mentors to provide the best experience for our athletes





## 2004

SPIRIT LEAGUE STARTED WITH FOUR FAMILIES

SPIRIT LEAGUE BECAMEA 501(C)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

2008



# MILESTONES

## 2014

## 2016

## 2017

## **FIRST STAFF** HIRED

311

**ONLINE COACH** TRAINING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED

NUMBER OF ATHLETES DOUBLED **SINCE 2009** 



# In 2019, over 450 athletes played sports with Spirit League



# Spirit League Future Goals

- Move athletes off waiting lists and onto the fields
- Build Adult Program
- young adults with special needs to: practice social skills play sports, and

— be celebrated for who they are!



# Spirit Center Sports Complex – A safe place for children and







THE PLACE TO SOAR

- Coach a team (90-minutes per week for 10-week season)
- **Be a Team Mentor**
- Volunteer at upcoming events
- Connect us with a Community Sponsor
- Consider helping on a Committee

# We Need Your Help To Do More







## Spirit League Supporters



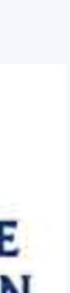














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