

It's the middle of August. Kids are back in school and more importantly they are back on the fields, courts, and course. I hope you and your family had a great summer and you were able to squeeze in all of the activities you wanted to do or accomplish.

A big thank you to everyone who visited our tables at the Farmers Market (at the IU Health Fishers tent), the great Before the Bell event held by our friends at Hamilton Southeastern Education Foundation and of course, the event of the summer, Spark! Fishers. We had a blast connecting with you, talking about our new league offerings and getting kids active with our Free Play Challenge Card. We were impressed by how many kids completed the entire card this summer.

If you've been reading these letters for a while now, you know that the August newsletter usually wraps up the summer and sets the stage for fall sports. As always, the amazing team here at the Mudsock Youth Athletics office has been working with volunteer league boards all summer to get everything ready for a successful fall and we're so proud of all of the work being done.

However, we'd be remiss if we didn't announce that over the summer, we were selected by ESPN as one of 10 grant recipients as part of the Take Back Sports Innovation Challenge! Let that sink in for a moment. Hundreds of millions of kids in our country, hundreds of thousands of youth sports programs and ESPN picked Mudsock Youth Athletics, one of the ones who is doing it the right way. As part of our selection, we've committed to bolstering our Youth Action Board and hosting a summit next spring about youth sports and the intersection of mental health. As far as we can tell, we will be the first youth sports organization in the country to have a volunteer board of high school students plan, organize, and present a summit of this magnitude.

We consider this accomplishment a victory for all of us, the volunteers of Mudsock Youth Athletics leagues, the families who participate with us, our partners at the city of Fishers and HSE Schools and the staff who work in our office. So, hats off to all of us! Let's make this the best school year yet.

Best regards,

Scott Spillman **Executive Director** 

Mudsock Youth Athletics

