

# Who Are Those People Behind the Desks?

*Written by S.P.O.R.T.S. Staff*



You've all been there. At some point you've wandered through the doors of the S.P.O.R.T.S Office at Billerica Park, found yourself with a captive audience and wondered, who are those people behind the desks? We're the administrative office staff and we're here to support our member leagues.

**We like to relate what we do to those water tables that provide your kids endless hours of fun.** There's always a funnel and when you pour the water into the funnel it hits the wheel and makes everything else in the table move forward. In a nutshell, this is how the S.P.O.R.T.S. office works. We are the top of the funnel. We filter and communicate key information, along with providing administrative and marketing support, so each of our leagues can float forward.



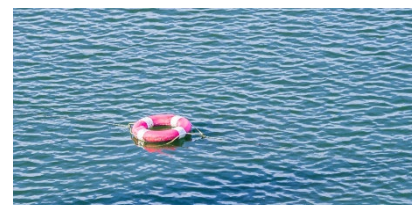
**This allows our volunteers to focus on what they do best, grow a passion for sports in youth, without ending up underwater from juggling busywork.** Our volunteers handle heavy loads (we're amazed every day by their dedication) and our S.P.O.R.T.S. staff (there are seven of us) works to lighten the load. Many times, we are the data inputters, finance handlers, question answerers, schedule makers, dilemma solvers and overall cheerleaders for the leagues.

**So, how big is our community? Hint: It's huge.** We have 12 unique and dynamic sports leagues each with its own elected board, 2,000 amazing volunteers and 6,500 courageous athletes (many in multiple sports) under the S.P.O.R.T.S. umbrella.

Our athletes, mostly between the ages of pre-k through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, utilize 32 facilities throughout the community and our leagues hosted a whopping 25,000 events last year as a group. WOW.

Now you can image the logistics, man power and collaboration that goes on behind the scenes. We keep the wheels turning between our leagues and representatives from the city and schools whose fields and gyms we play on. And while we strive not to have overlap among the events, as you can imagine, sometimes it's unavoidable.

**We don't underestimate our responsibility in providing a healthy and safe environment for every athlete.** Here's a few ways we strive to keep thousands of kids active (and floating in a positive direction!) within the HSE School District.





**Scholarships:** We awarded 321 scholarships last year to kids who otherwise would not have an opportunity to participate in our programs. This is a big deal. It directly supports the city's priority to tackle mental health initiatives and we will continue to make sure that EVERY CHILD CAN PLAY. **Coaches:** In the beginning of every season our team gathers background checks, works to educate volunteers about child abuse prevention programs like Safe Sport and makes sure first aid kits are available for all leagues. **Maintenance efforts:** Last year we contributed approximately \$80,000 at the S.P.O.R.T.S. level to support the city's field upkeep efforts – and, many of our leagues give more.

**We are happiest being a community player** and we love collaborating with other non-profits. Soon you will see “Free Play” boxes on city fields with sports equipment to inspire pick up games. We also take your feedback seriously. Do you have a new or non-traditional sport you think we should offer? Talk us. After all, we launched the first girl's field hockey recreational league in the state of Indiana this fall!!

**So next time you find yourself with questions, trust the S.P.O.R.T.S. office funnel to get you where you need to be.**