



2025 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Friends and Supporters:

This past year has been an extraordinary one for 78 Youth Sports. It began with some self-examination. Covid reminded us of both the joy we get from being outside and the important role youth sports play in childhood development. Those axioms reinforce the duty we have to our families, our players and our community. Because of that, we performed a comprehensive assessment of what we do and how we do it so we can endeavor to do it all a little bit better.

All this circumspection began with an analysis of our organizational vision, the essence of which has not changed. *We envision a Brooklyn where every child can reach their full potential, surrounded by abundant play and game spaces, and supported by a strong volunteer network.* To fulfill that vision, *78 Youth Sports exists to provide exceptional and accessible sports experiences, where every Brooklyn family can belong.* We made great strides in Fiscal 2025. The year included over 3,100 individual program registrations, with over 50 scholarship athletes, the introduction of new programs and significant investments in field improvements and Prospect Park and DiMattina Field.

Our work last year reminded us that our volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. No kid should know the Executive Director, but every kid will remember a great coach and we succeed because of the generosity, commitment and passion of our volunteer coaches. So it is important that we do everything we can to build a network of great coaches. That means more training, superior resources and better communication so we are expanding our coaching seminars from just baseball to all sports and Fiscal 2026 begins with a new team of volunteer coordinators to help lead coaches and parents through background checks, registration and team rostering.

We have also introduced a new registration system, league management app and completely revamped website. These tools will provide coaches, family and staff with easily access to registration, schedule and roster information, as well as several tools for improved communication throughout the year. And, we have instituted year-end satisfaction surveys where families can provide direct feedback to our staff.

I am proud of the progress we have made and I am excited about what the future holds. 2026 is off to a great start. We are launching new pickleball and bowling programs, expanding spring football, adding more basketball leagues and clinics, introducing new facilities and offering more travel opportunities. It is going to be another great year and I hope to see you out there on the diamond, gridiron or hardwood sometime soon.

With gratitude,

Adam Fisher
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Founded by a group of passionate and enthusiastic parents seeking better experiences for their children, 78 Youth Sports was founded in 1988 and our commitment to deliver exceptional programming has never been stronger. Now covering multiple sports across all four seasons, 78 has grown into one of New York City's largest and most successful non-profit youth sports organizations.

We operate on the core belief in sports as a teaching and developmental tool. Beyond the obvious benefits of physical fitness, sports teach teamwork, discipline, accountability, confidence, how to deal with adversity while providing kids with a safe place to forge lifelong friendships. 78 exists to provide the children of Brooklyn with access to sports.

In the almost 40 years since we were founded, youth sports has changed. We survived the restrictions of a pandemic; we have seen private equity monetize tournaments, travel teams and facilities; we are only beginning to understand the impacts of amateur player licensing agreements; and now we are confronted with budget cuts that threaten the facilities where we play. It is tougher than ever before to provide high quality programming to the children of Brooklyn.

With costs constantly rising and the field and gym availability diminishing, we continue to find a way to keep kids playing. That is our ongoing commitment to the community, but we cannot succeed without the generosity of our volunteers, sponsors and donors.



Challenges notwithstanding, the future of youth sports remains bright. As we look ahead to 2026 and beyond, we see continued expansion. Scholastic sports programs are growing and with kids now playing on competitive teams as early as middle school, the demand for recreational and developmental programming grows. Coupled with the emergence of new sports like pickleball and the constant challenge to find opportunities for social and physical development, we have our work cut out for us. We welcome it with open arms because sports has taught us that we can accomplish anything if we work as a team.

To The 78 Youth Sports Community:

I didn't want to be a coach. Those that know me would not believe I said that, but it is true. Really. I never wanted to be a coach. I was content standing outside the fence and watching my son run around with his friends, but that didn't last. After our Rookies year, Coach Rob moved to Queens, our team was leaderless and in danger of dissolving. When I heard, "Dad, I want to play with my friends," I was conscripted into service.



How it started (2018)

Best decision I ever made. In the years that followed, I got to see the kids grow. They learned off-speed pitches and proper relay techniques, we executed a successful suicide squeeze and we even won a trophy or two along the way. We played in New York and New Jersey and Delaware and Maryland. Other places too. Honestly, I lost count. I saw the inside of some bad hotels and even worse restaurants. I don't regret one minute of it. There was cheering. And crying. Any yelling (lots of yelling). And love. Tons of love. It is the most rewarding thing I have ever done. Period.

The kids got older and everyone went their separate ways. I go watch their high school games now. In a few years they will all be playing in college and I plan to see a few of those too. They will forever be part of my baseball family and I am proud of them all.

My dear friend Jeremy (also our pitching coach) taught us, "Baseball is life." No truer statement was even spoken. Our kids learned so much more than how to hit and throw. We made friends for life.



How it ended (2024)

My days in the dugout are done and I miss it desperately. I am back to cheering from the other side of the fence, but it is not the same. I have old knees and a bad back and I still get excited when my son asks me to play catch. The practices and the road trips may be no more, but the memories remain forever.

Sign up and volunteer now. It will change lives, including your own.

Gratefully,

Ed Kohler
President



2025 AT A GLANCE

PURPOSE

78 Youth Sports exists to provide exceptional and accessible sports experiences, where every Brooklyn family can belong.

VISION

We envision a Brooklyn where every child can reach their full potential, surrounded by abundant play and game spaces, and supported by a strong volunteer network.

VALUES

Togetherness: Fostering unity and community spirit through shared sports experiences.

Excellence: Striving for the highest quality in all our programs and initiatives.

Accessibility: Ensuring sports experiences are open and affordable to all families in Brooklyn.

Mentorship: Cultivating personal growth and development through supportive guidance and coaching.

3,150 participants,
a 4.2% increase from FY 2024.

54 scholarship athletes,
including 2 baseball clinics where
participants received free gloves.

\$20,000 in improvements
to Prospect Park and DiMattina
baseball fields.

138 volunteer coaches,
including **73** who coached
more than one team.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

KIRK SEWARD

From June 1925 until May 1939, Lou Gehrig played 2,130 consecutive games for the New York Yankees. No one thought that record would ever be broken. Six decades later, Cal Ripken did the unthinkable and appeared in 2,632 games in a row.

We had our own hall of fame streak come to an unceremonious end this year when work took away one of our most revered coaches. Beginning in the fall of 2020, Kirk Seward began a streak where he coached 11 consecutive spring and fall baseball seasons, culminating with a championship this past spring.

We will miss Coach Kirk's dedication, passion, and friendship. On behalf of the families, players and staff,



we thank Kirk for generously giving his time and helping to advance our mission. We cannot deliver exceptional experiences without exceptional coaches like Kirk. We wish him nothing but success in all his future endeavors.



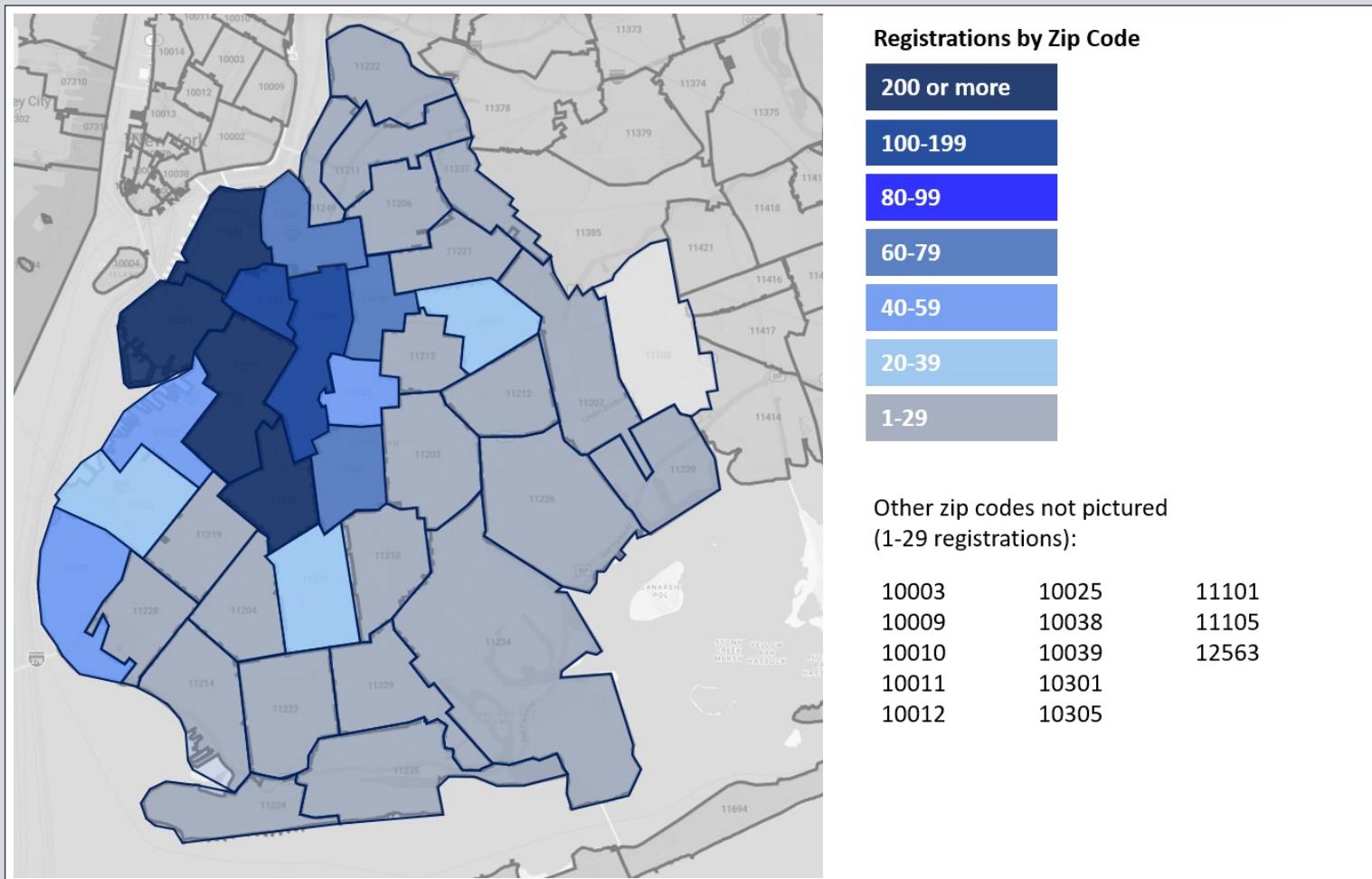
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

UNSUNG HEROES

Every day our community steps up and provides support for 78 programming. Typically, it is a parent coaching a team or manning a scoreboard. Sometimes it is a sponsor sending pizzas to a championship game and then there are times when the whole community shows up.

Last year was a difficult one for field conditions. Excessive rain and empty Parks Department coffers meant another year of deteriorating field conditions. At DiMatta, the mound collapsed and home plate washed away. We bought materials and fill but lacked the staff to make the improvements. One text message to the Bulldogs parents network and we had a crew of 30 volunteers digging, filling and grading. In a matter of hours, our people saved a field and an entire fall season.

WE'RE (ALMOST) EVERYWHERE IN BROOKLYN



Fiscal 2025 was a watershed year for our organization, as we expanded our footprint and made significant gains in new neighborhoods. As expected, we drew a large percentage of our families from Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Brooklyn Heights, but we also expanded our reach into new areas. In total, we drew from all but one Brooklyn zip code, and over 50 in total with participants coming from as far away as Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.



A LOOK AHEAD

We have some exciting new priorities for 2026. Building on our programming success in 2025, 78 Youth Sports plans the following:



Expanding basketball by adding a new season of league play in the spring and leveraging a new partnership with The Post that provides premium court time throughout the year.



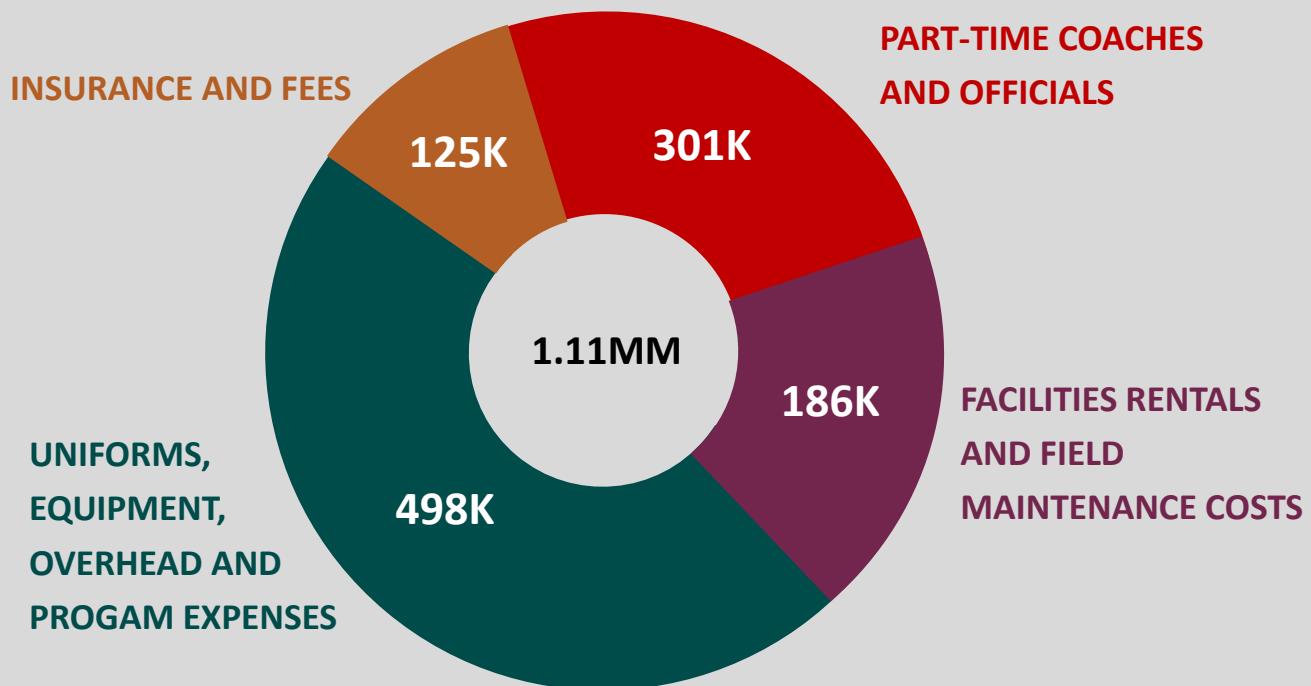
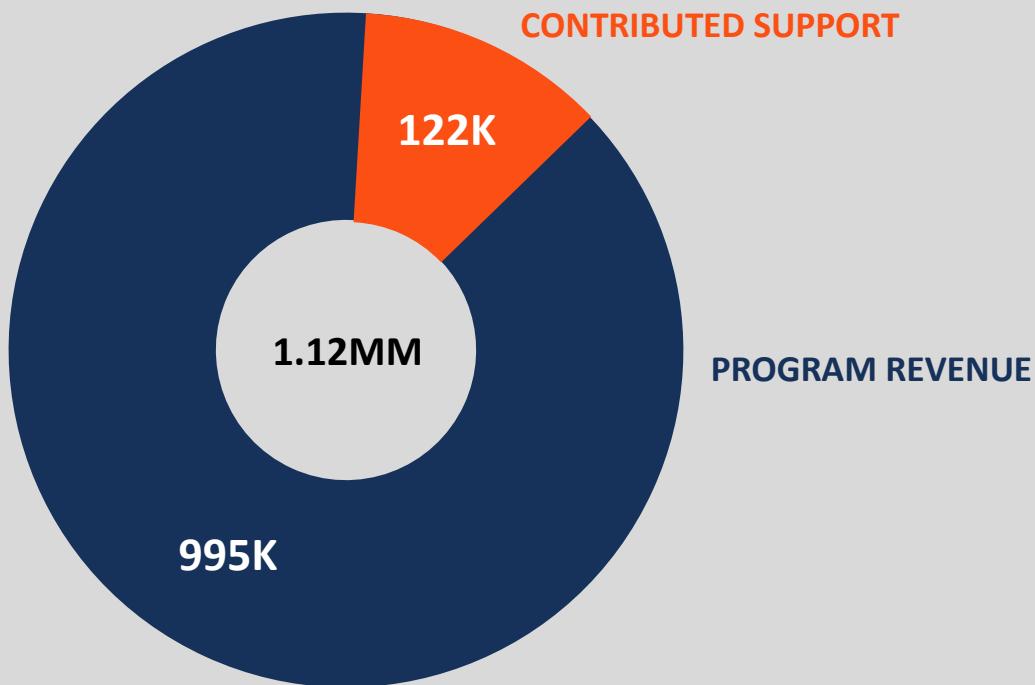
Growing pickleball from one-day clinics to camps and league play, and introducing a partnership with Pklyn that includes discounted affinity pricing for 78 families.



More flag football. Following the success of last year's inaugural season, spring flag football returns in 2026 with additional age divisions.



FY2025 FINANCIALS

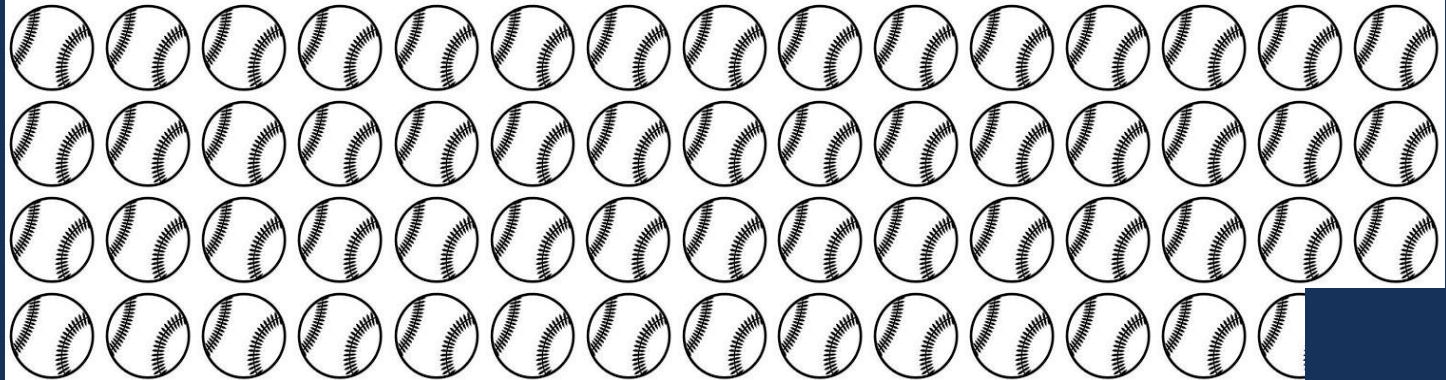




PROGRAM SUMMARY

(1 ball = 25 participants)

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL



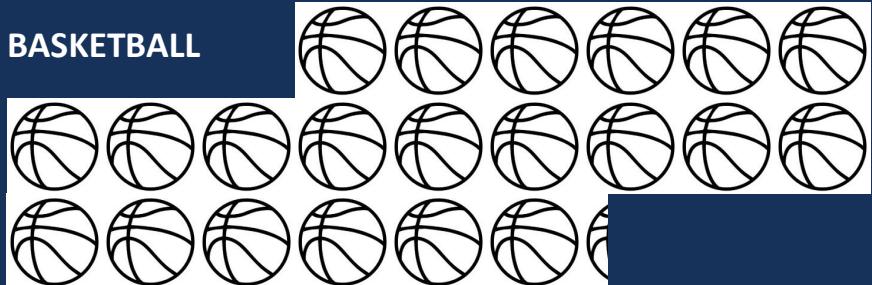
1,738 future Shoheis

FLAG FOOTBALL



412 gridiron stars

BASKETBALL



530 hoopers

PICKLEBALL



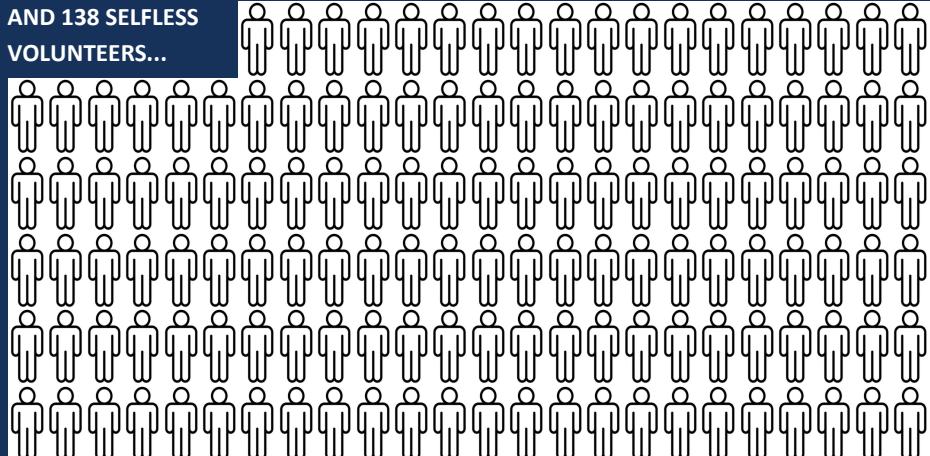
21 first timers

ADULT SOFTBALL



94 aches and pains

AND 138 SELFLESS
VOLUNTEERS...





THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

JULIA KOCH FAMILY FOUNDATION



CAFE *Spaghetti*

O W L
T R E E
kids' and maternity consignment

BABY  LUC'S



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 SpringForward
PHYSICAL THERAPY, P.C.



Jesse Parris-Lamb

Swoony's
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