



Boston Youth Sports News

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- [How will the Let's Move Initiative impact schools?](#)
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Upcoming Leader Convergence: The Future Vision and Impact of Playworks

Playworks, a national nonprofit organization, provides safe, healthy, and inclusive play and physical activity to schools all across the nation in order to support physical health and learning. Playworks has a presence in many communities, including the Boston metro area. By placing trained coaches at schools and supporting schools and other youth-serving organizations in their capacity-building, Playworks has made a positive impact on our students. Results from a teacher survey indicate Playworks' programming has led to an increase in student physical activity levels at recess, an increase in teaching time by shortening transition time from recess to the classroom, and a decrease in bullying incidents at school.

At the end of this month, on **April 28th**, Playworks is holding an informational lunch meeting with local leaders in the youth sports field. At this meeting Playworks will discuss their strategic vision at the national level as well as their ideas and goals for the Boston area. In fact, over the next year, Playworks is anticipating growing their Boston programming to reach 32 schools and over 12,000 students! Click [here](#) to learn more about Playworks and their goal to continue supporting physical activity and learning through creating positive learning environments.

[Learn more about Playworks!](#)

Breakfast Success: "Healthy, Fit, and Ready to Learn"

On April 6th the Massachusetts Action for Healthy Kids team hosted a physical activity-focused breakfast/conference at the Massachusetts State House. The conference, entitled, "Healthy, Fit and Ready to Learn", included speaking presentations from the following experts in the areas of health and wellness:

- John Passarini, EdD, C.A.P.E., highly experienced ex-APE teacher, and current Adjunct Professor at Boston University and Salem State University
- Dr. Lauren Smith, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The speaking program provided attendees with information on the role that quality physical education programs play in developing physical activity habits, as well as a look at the current state of health and wellness in Massachusetts public schools. The conference even included a physical activity demonstration by Playworks' Junior coaches to get the day going. It is essential to support quality physical education programming and playtime so as to help students thrive physically and foster their ability to achieve in the classroom. This conference was a great way to spread the message about the importance on incorporating physical activity into the school day!

Grant and Funding Listings

Highlights

[Beyond Sport Awards 2011](#), 5/1

Beyond Sport is a global organization that promotes, develops, and funds the use of sports to create positive social change. Beyond Sport has an annual Award competition for innovative sports programs, and the competition is open for entry until **May 1st, 2011**.

There are 12 categories that programs can fall into, covering the areas of health, social inclusion, corporate and social responsibility, and philanthropy. Winners from each category will receive an invitation and travel funding to attend the Beyond Sport Summit in December, 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa; access to Beyond Sport's global network of organizations, leaders, and political figures; and opportunities for business mentoring. Also, six programs will receive the Beyond Sport Community Award, which includes a minimum of \$15,000 in funding as well as a package of substantial business support to sustain current and future programming. Click [here](#) to

learn more about the different entry categories and how to apply.

Upcoming Deadlines

- > [Amelia Peabody Foundation](#), 4/20
- > [ING Run For Something Better School Award Program](#), 5/1
- > [Carol M. White PEP Grant](#), 5/13
- > [Equipment Grant Program, USA Football](#), 5/17
- > [Saucony Run for Good Foundation](#), 6/13

Rolling Deadlines

- > [Agnes M. Lindsay Trust](#)

To find these listings and nearly 200 others, go to the link below and scroll alphabetically or use the keyword search and type in the organization name.

[BYSI Funding Database](#)

Resource Highlight: “The Perils of Poverty: The Health Crisis Facing our Low-income Girls...And the Power of Sports to Help”

Young women living in low-income communities in the U.S. are at a higher risk for poor physical and mental health outcomes, and sadly this is a trend that has been increasing over the past decade. For many of these girls, participating in quality sports programming would create a positive path towards improving their health and can help in avoiding the potential perils of teenage years. However there is still much work to be done in order to provide equal sports opportunities to young women of lower socioeconomic status.

This 2011 [report](#) by Team Up For Youth documents the disparity in access and opportunity to high-quality sports programs for girls. With real-life examples of athletes, coaches, and programs, the report makes clear the power of sports to impact the lives of young women. The report also includes a set of recommendations for practical ways to get more of these young women into the game, such as by increasing the number of female coaches and volunteers, implementing youth

development models into sports programming, and considering cultural barriers to involvement.

[Read the full report!](#)

Double Dutch Tournament Rocks Boston!

Have you been wondering about the state of Double Dutch in Boston lately? This sport has been growing in popularity and has been a great outlet for many kids who are looking to get involved with youth sports and physical activity. Building on the success of the Jump Boston Double Dutch league and prior tournaments, the [Red Auerbach Foundation](#) and [Sport in Society](#) just recently hosted the 15th Annual Red Auerbach Invitational Double Dutch Tournament on Saturday, April 9th.

The tournament was the biggest in recent history – with over 70 teams and 200 participants it was a huge success! This tournament provided individuals and teams with an opportunity to showcase their skills and to test their hard work in a competitive setting. Individuals competed solo or on two-person teams all day Saturday in competition categories of compulsory, speed, and freestyle. Youth in the competition ranged in age from 3rd grade to high school.

Not only is Double Dutch a physically demanding sport, but it requires strong teamwork, communication skills, and a drive to succeed, which are all key components in developing Achieving, Connecting, and Thriving skills for a lifetime of success. The BPS Double Dutch league piloted last fall, “Jump Boston” provided low-cost, quality sports programming for many youth. The league – combined with the recent spring Double Dutch tournaments – is providing youth all across the state with the chance to reap the positive benefits from a truly unique and great sport.

[Learn more about Boston's Double Dutch league](#)

Jobs, Trainings and Events

* Free Advertising to over 800 Subscribers!*

Send us your job and board openings so we can

post them for FREE in our newsletter and on our website! Email [Janice M. Epstein](mailto:Janice.M.Epstein).

JOBS

YOUTH SPORT POSITIONS

- > Assistant Soccer Coach, America SCORES
- > Site Coordinator, America SCORES
- > Vice President for Outdoor Engagement, Appalachian Mountain Club
- > Outdoor Leadership Intern, Appalachian Mountain Club
- > Aquatics Director, Boys & Girls Clubs, Camp Harbor View
- > Sports Intern, Charity Partners, Inc.
- > Program Manager, Massachusetts Bicycle
- > Program Coordinator, Playworks
- > Director of Development, Sports Legacy Institute
- > Soccer Coach, Super Soccer Stars
- > Middle School Academy Director, Tenacity
- > VP of Advancement, Tenacity
- > Lifeguard, West Roxbury YMCA

VOLUNTEER

- > Little League Baseball Coaches, Hill House, Inc.
- > Lacrosse Coaches and General Volunteers, MetroLacrosse
- > Summer Tennis and Reading Program Intern, Tenacity

Click here for more details about the listed [Job Opportunities](#).

TRAINING/EVENTS

YOUTH SPORTS TRAININGS AND EVENTS

- > Boston Scholar Athlete Coaches Academy: Team Development, 4/26
- > Boston Scholar Athlete Program: Coaches Academy, 5/17

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- > PEAR's 7th Leadership Conference, 4/29
- > Financial Management 101, Boston Nonprofit Leadership Series, 5/12

Send us your upcoming trainings and events so we can post them for FREE in our newsletter and on our website! Email [Janice M. Epstein](mailto:Janice.M.Epstein)

[Detailed Training and Event Information](#)

The Boston Youth Sports Initiative (BYSI) promotes youth sports as a positive youth development and physical fitness approach. Working with and for Boston's urban youth sports programs and supporters, BYSI encourages, strengthens, and builds network connections, with the goals of improved information sharing, quality, scale, and sustainability in the sector. BYSI is a strategic initiative of Boston After School & Beyond, and is led by Youth Sports Coordinator Chris Lynch. A key part of the BYSI is the newsletter which is edited by Chris with Assistant Editor Janice M. Epstein.

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