

Serving the local Church, through American Sports Camps, to the Glory of God

So...you like to know what an American Sports Camp could look like in your location. Great!

Below is all info you'll need to get from first thoughts to the next steps after the camp. Remember, this isn't about the camp. It's about what the camp will help you achieve!

If you have any questions, please, just ask.

### **Why run a Camp?**

American Sports are gaining increasing popularity in the UK and other regions around the world. Young people love to learn how to play these sports! Parents love watching their kids learn to play this game. It is a powerful community-wide outreach tool for churches looking for creative ways to reach the unreached, gather people, create communities and help in the establishment of vision.

The purpose of a camp is to create a safe sports and recreational environment where young people can learn more about growing in a relationship with Jesus Christ, and see the love of God fleshed out through a community of believers serving the camp. It creates a focal point for people to gather and from which to grow.

The "bigger picture" of the camp model emanates from a long-term vision of strengthening and equipping and enabling the body of Christ by coming alongside of the local church in its unique missional context, assisting its outreach efforts to the community, and building relational bridgeheads in their community.

Lastly, they work! We have already seen people and communities positively affected by the camps and ministries created. Take a look at the brochure to find out more!

### **What's the process for running a camp?**

**There are 4 simple steps to follow if you want to run a camp in your location:**

1. Get in touch. We'll then set up a chat with you (either via Zoom or at your location) and discuss why you want to run and camp. We'll help your strategies and work out the how.
2. Second, meet up. Again this will happen via Zoom or at your location. This time we start putting the flesh on the bones. We'll work out all the practicalities to make the camp run. After this, we'll stay in regular contact, at least once a month, to see how things are progressing. We'll also be available as and when you need us.

3. We turn up and run the camp! (all you need to know about that is detailed below)
4. We stay in contact to see how things are going after the camp

Want to run a year 2 camp? Great...Get in touch and we'll repeat the process.

### Planning your camp

There is no perfect science to determining the logistics of a baseball camp (there is tremendous flexibility in how a camp can be facilitated), but here are some tips for planning the number of teams and venue for the camp.

### Things to consider as you're putting your camp together:

**Aims:** This is key! What's the purpose of your camp? This is as, if not more, important as the camp itself. Make sure that it's manageable and sustainable. Don't bite off more than you can chew but equally, don't be too conservative!

Your next steps should be ready to advertise from day one of the camp and the camp will be framed around it.

Running a course or an event works well but dream big!

Get them to sign up on the camp. Don't lose out on the momentum that the camp creates.

**Can I run other activities during the Camp?** Yes! Once you have your aims, we'll help you build a camp that will meet them. A camp is a gathering point...so what other activities could be happening around the camp? As parents as members of the public gather you could serve teas and coffees, promote your Church or event...get creative as there more than just the young people...it's an entire community.

Running events during the camp often works well. Could you put on a quiz night for example. What can you do to engage the wider community, giving opportunities to build relationships. Holding these events at your Church or the building you use, helps to build familiarity and break down barriers.

**Date of the Camp:** When in the year will your camp run? Summer camps are great, but they are one of many different options. These include:

- Half Term Camps
- Easter Camps
- Christmas Camps
- Weekend/Bank holiday weekend Camps
- After School Camps



There isn't a time in the year that won't work. It all depends on what suits your context, community and needs.

Your camp doesn't have to be split over 5 days either...We tailor the camp to best suit your needs. If a short 3 day camp works better than 5...lets do it!

**Venue:** Where are you going to hold your camp? How much space do you have? Don't worry. We can tailor all the sports to any space. Whether it's indoors or outdoors, we can make it work.

If you're running it outdoors do you have access to an indoor space for the Team Times or in case it rains? Is there access to toilets?

**The time of your camp:** How long will your camp be and when in the day? We suggest a good year one camp will run from 9:30-14:00 but you can choose anytime.

### **How many young people?**

Again, don't bite off more than you can chew but equally, don't be too conservative! It's about building past the camp. How many young people do you have the resources to accommodate? We can help you with this. It's about quality not quantity.

**Age Range:** What age ranges are you targeting? Don't get too broad here. Good examples of age ranges are:

Year 5-7

Year 6-8

Year 7-9

Year 9-11

**Cost:** Will your camp be free? If not, what will you charge and will it be per family or per child?

Free camps are great but remember you'll need a 'hook', something to ensure the young people turn up. Some ideas we have are:

- A refundable deposit (it gets refunded once the camp has ended)
- Some sort of gift
- You only get to keep your jersey if you attend the camp

But get creative here!

**Advertisement:** How will people hear about your camp? A general call (social media etc) or more specific targeting?

General calls are great but we find that specific targeting is better. Who do you know? What communities do you have access to? Who are the 'gate-keepers', people with access to pre-existing groups, in your community? Could you get specific with social media?

Will you create flyers that can be handed out? What about local school links?

**Sign-up:** How can parents sign up their young people for a camp? We advise having this in place before you start advertising.

We have used Eventbrite and find it works well. We also suggest QR codes as they can easily be shared.

**Team times:** These are the 'God-slots' that we build into all the camps. Think about a theme for the week and how best to present the gospel. Breakout can help but we believe it's better if the local church delivers these.

It's good to have a space for this where the young people can sit (in the summer a shady spot or a tent work well) and listen.

You don't need to create your own. Why not use either Youth Alpha or Christianity Explored. Both offer teaching that can be delivered by video or a speaker. The first 5 sessions of each will deliver the gospel and create space for discussion.

**People:** Do you have enough church vols to help run your camp? We'll let you know how many you'll need as a minimum and how many would be ideal.

### Camp-specific questions:

**Jerseys:** Are you going to get Team Jerseys? You can either buy official ones or get your own printed. We can provide Team logos. Here is a link to the Jersey Designs and logos that we have.

[jersey logos](#)

We work with a printers and can sort out getting the Jerseys printed and bring them up to the camp. They charge £10.20 for a Jersey and £7.38 for a cap. That means a unit costs £17.58.

However, if you'd like to get your own printed...go for it!

**How many Teams should I have?** Once we know the numbers you are aiming for we can help you work out what the best fit will be.

Would you like Breakout to be involved in the Sunday service before the Camp? We normally come the Sunday before to commission and prepare the camp.

### How many Volunteers will I need?

At an entry-level, you'll need enough volunteers to meet the safeguarding ratio requirements. We'd always say that the more you can have the better. This allows you more opportunities to mix with young people and parents.

The ratios we suggest are:

1: 10 aged 13-18

1:8 - aged 8-12



Ideally, you'll want a volunteer per team as this helps build relationships.

**What happens if it rains?** The camps will still work, and work well, even if it's raining. If you have access to an indoor space (even if smaller) we can utilize that. The Breakout team have wet weather contingencies and the schedule can be adapted to suit the weather.

**Can I run other activities during the Camp?**

### **What about the American coaches?**

The number of coaches needed, their recruitment, and travel are all taken care of by Breakout.

**Host Families:** The Americans typically stay in host homes provided by the local church. Host families will generally feed their guest's breakfast and an evening meal throughout the week, with lunch being provided for the staff at the camp venue.

Sometimes, if determined by the local church, host families may be responsible for providing transportation for the American team to and from the camp location, leader meetings, and church events. Host families are not always members of the primary host church; they may be other friends from the community or members of other churches who want to help with the camp by offering their partnership and hospitality.

All the American coaches are fully vetted and trained. However, as they aren't DBS'd in the UK they don't count toward ratios.

They are there to train the sports skills and to support you! We always pair the American Coaches with local volunteers.

**The Sunday before a Camp:** Would you like Breakout to be involved in the Sunday service before the Camp? We normally come the Sunday before to commission and prepare the camp.

Please see below the suggested camp itinerary. This will give you an idea of how a camp is run and help you start to build yours.

Theme: It's good to have an overall theme for the camp to direct the team times

**Day 1 (normally the Saturday before the camp)**

- Team Arrives – Meet and greet (this often works well with food).
- Time of prayer and commissioning of Camp

**Day 2 (Normally the Sunday before the Camp)**

- The team can take part in the Sunday service (preaching etc)
- Meeting to plan and prep camp. Normally all the team members are present and we run through the entire camp

**Monday – Thursday (Assuming 0930-1330)**

\*Times are an example only

<b>Team Roles:</b> Overseer: First Aid: DSL: Coaches: Breakout Team God Slot: Church Vols		You'll need enough team members to cover your safeguarding ratios. It's also helpful to have one person from the Church with every team to build relationships. The overseer should take a step back from proceeding to deal with questions/issues that might arise.
0830	Team arrives to set up	
0900	Prayer, daily briefing + Devotional	Breakout UK can lead devotionals
9:15 – 9:30	<b>START: Welcome young people</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• YP get their t-shirt, meet team members</li> <li>• Register</li> <li>• Testimony – Breakout Team</li> </ul>	
9:30	Warm-up: <i>Into to Baseball Camp/ Rules (Day 1 only)</i>	Breakout Team
09:45 – 11:45	<b>American Sports Training Drills</b> 2x 1-hour training stations led by Breakout Team	
11:45 – 12:15	Team Time – Can be run however you feel best. We suggest an icebreaker or visual illustration for each session	Ideally, run by host Church. Breakout is happy to support you.
12:15-12:45	<b>Lunch</b> Have lunch together – Carry on gospel discussions	All Team
12:00	<b>Monday and Tuesday – Continue learning the sports</b> 2x45 mins training session <b>Wednesday and Thursday – Games</b> Split into two teams and play against one another	Breakout Team
13:30	Ready for collection	All Team

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain about next day</li> <li>• Register Sign out</li> </ul>	
14:00	<b>Pack down</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debrief</li> </ul>	All Team

## Friday: Community/Tournament/Game Day

\*Times are an example only

8:30 am	Team arrives to set up	
9:00 am	Prayer, daily briefing + Devotional	Breakout UK can lead devotionals
9:15 – 9:30	<b>START: Welcome young people</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register</li> <li>• Testimony</li> </ul> Parents encouraged to stay. Ideally, they should know about this day in advance and have been invited	
9:30	Warm-up:	Breakout UK
09:45	<b>Team Time – Rest of Team setting up for games and welcoming any parents that arrive</b> It's ideal if extra vols can be on hand to greet the parents and help serve drinks etc	
10:15	<b>Games</b> This is the time when young people showcase their skills. They play each game and then parents are invited to give it a try. (Parents vs young people is always fun!)	Breakout UK Host Church to welcome Parents
12:00	<b>Awards Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you</li> <li>• Short talk on Camp</li> <li>• Awards</li> <li>• Youth Alpha</li> <li>• Invite to Church events etc</li> </ul>	Host Church
13:00	<b>Pack down</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debrief</li> </ul>	All Team

Breakout Staff will normally depart on Friday.

**Saturday – Team Day unless Breakout Team departs**

This is a great day to have a team day. Some examples are:

A BBQ

A day out

A trip to an iconic site

We look forward to hearing from you.

James Greene

Founding Director

Breakout Ministries

Tel: 07843247661

Email: [.greene@breakoutministries.co.uk](mailto:j.greene@breakoutministries.co.uk)

