

## CITY EDVANTAGE SESSION: GAME CHANGER- YOUTH SPORTS FACILITIES AS ANCHORS FOR NEW MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENTS



### **JAKE WHITTAKER** **SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

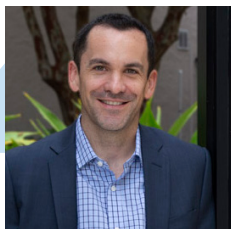
As Senior Vice President of Development Services, Jake is responsible for total project management including controlling budgets, negotiating subcontracts, and providing day-to-day communication with the project team to ensure the development remains on schedule and within budget. A skilled collaborator, Jake holds an excellent track record of strong working relationships with owners, architects, and engineers, resulting in successful construction experiences for some of the largest athletic facilities across the nation.

Jake has over fifteen years experience overseeing all phases of multimillion dollar construction projects, including parks, recreation, event centers, fitness, university, and sports tourism projects for both public and private sector clients. Over his career Jake has worked in key phases of project delivery including supply chain, manufacturing, sales, installation, design, and construction project management.

Prior to coming to Sports Facilities Companies, Jake was the director of sales operations for Porter Athletic where he oversaw a team of project managers, sales associates, and a national distributor network for over 500 projects per year. Jake is a proven innovator and solutions-finder as evidenced by his experience in a \$20 million+ custom construction division where he directed manufacturing, engineering, architecture, and construction teams for projects ranging from \$10 million - \$100 million.

A keystone of his success is his ability to leverage emerging technology to create process automation, on-line quoting tools, and 3D modeling to reduce project lead times, eliminate manufacturing errors, and equip partners with DIY tools to maximize communication.

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### **JIM ARNOLD** **NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Jim is widely recognized as one of the leading designers and developers of youth sports complexes in the nation. In his role as the national director of business development, Jim Arnold leads the expansion of the SF Network of sports and recreation destinations across the country. With over sixteen years of experience in the industry, Jim has overseen the planning, design, development, and operations of many of the most innovative and successful facilities in the country.

Jim thrived in his role in the development and growth of two of the largest brands in youth sports, Ripken Baseball and Sports Force Parks. With the addition of the Ripken Experience Myrtle Beach and the Ripken Experience Pigeon Forge, Jim was instrumental in developing the company's youth facilities from one park to three, with the additions of the Ripken Experience Myrtle Beach and the Ripken Experience Pigeon Forge. Jim's projects are highly regarded for their ability to drive profitability through creative design and self-operations.

While his career has been focused primarily on youth sports facility development, Jim has been involved in projects that touch all levels of sports across the world. From his role in the design of SRP Park (2018 Minor League Baseball Ballpark of the Year) to overseeing the development of a country-wide growth and development strategy for New Zealand Baseball. His experience across the sports landscape, plays an influential role in how he helps clients develop the most innovative, unique, and sustainable sports facilities in the industry.