



# MT. PROSPECT PARK DISTRICT

## YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE

### PARENT MANUAL

*If you have any specific league questions, please reach out to:*

**Joe Franzen (Athletic Coordinator)** - assists in all youth athletics leagues

**Adam Trzaska (Athletic Supervisor)** - Youth & Patriots Basketball Leagues & Outdoor and Indoor Soccer Leagues

**Brad Wessel (Athletic Manager)** - House Baseball & Softball & Patriots Baseball

## I. REGISTRATION PROCESS

League registration information will be listed in the Mt. Prospect Park District's seasonal brochure and on [Team Sideline](#). Each league will have a specific registration deadline date. Any registrations received after this date will be waitlisted and no guarantee to be enrolled into the program.

For league registrations, the player should be registered for the age/grade level that the child will be in during the season.

Each league registration requires additional registration questions to be completed to finalize the registration process. In order for staff to place players accordingly, questions must be answered accurately and answers can be updated up until the registration deadline. ***Volunteer coaches are REQUIRED for all Youth Athletic Leagues!***

Please be aware that some leagues do have drafts where coaches select players and staff recommends to coaches to avoid any listed conflicts on the registration but it cannot always be avoided. Due to the number of participants in our leagues, roster changes after rosters are posted are not guaranteed.

### A. REFUND POLICY

Any withdrawal/refund request sent:

- Prior to the registration deadline will receive a 100% refund.
- Between the registration deadline and Friday before practices begin will receive at least a 50% refund at the League Coordinator's discretion. Once uniforms have been ordered, refunds will be (at least) less the amount of the uniform that was ordered.
- After the Friday before practices begin are not eligible for a refund.

*All withdrawal/refund requests must be submitted with the League Supervisor for approval.*

### B. FRIEND REQUEST POLICY (FOR PRE-K THROUGH 2ND GRADE LEAGUES):

Due to the number of participants in our youth leagues, the Mt. Prospect Park District Athletics Department allows only one friend request per participant, noted on the registration form, to be guaranteed for Pre-K through 2nd grade leagues. The request must be reciprocal with another player's request. Same grade level siblings will be placed on a team together unless otherwise requested. Requests after the registration deadline are not guaranteed. Teams for 3rd grade and up will be selected by MPPD Athletic Staff or an evaluation/draft will be held. Some baseball & softball leagues are drafted leagues, where requests are not honored.

### C. UNIFORMS

For Youth Baseball (fall & spring), Youth Basketball and Youth Softball (fall & spring), uniform fees are included in your registration fee. ***PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU CORRECTLY INDICATE YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM SIZES ON THEIR REGISTRATION!*** Uniforms are typically ordered before or right after the league registration deadline. If you need to exchange a uniform size for your child, there may be an additional cost depending on if the item needs to be reordered.

For Outdoor Soccer (fall & spring) and Indoor Soccer, uniforms **MUST** be purchased separately by using the appropriate seasonal registration code. Soccer uniforms can be reused each season and do not need to be repurchased.

## II. PARENT EXPECTATIONS

In order for a program to be truly successful, it takes the cooperation of everyone involved: players, coaches, officials, league administrators, and especially parents.

**Parents need to be responsible for their children and NOT let them go unsupervised around MPPD facilities or partnering schools. Please be respectful of specific rules while programs take place in any facility or schools.**

Parents have the following responsibilities and expectations when their child is participating in the Mt. Prospect Park District Youth Athletic Leagues:

### **Parents Code of Conduct**

**Parents have a responsibility to their children:** To make sure that your child gets the most out of his or her playing experience, parents should show their unwavering support, including positive reinforcement of your child's performance and effort. This is absolutely essential, especially at an early age, to ensure their healthy development. Parents should also be positive role models, including, but not limited to, showing proper sportsmanship at all times and refraining from negativity of any kind.

**Parents have a responsibility to the coaches:** Coaches volunteer their personal time to spend it with your child. They need you to be supportive of their decisions and not undermine their efforts. If you don't agree with a coach, you are expected to tell that coach, but make certain it is done at the right time and place and not in front of the children. Parents are also expected to drop off and pick up their children on time for games and practice, and it is highly encouraged for parents to stay and participate in order to maintain control of the group and to assist the coach as needed. *Most importantly, parents need to communicate in a timely manner with their child's coach when their child will not be attending. This could help prevent your team from forfeiting a game, if they do not have enough players to field a team.*

**Parents have a responsibility to the league:** League administrators cannot be at all games and practices of all teams. Therefore, in order to maintain the protective shell around these leagues, it is essential for parents to report abusive behavior or any other situation that needs to be addressed to the league administrator. This is the only way that these leagues can achieve their intended goals.

**Parents have a responsibility to other parents:** Personal gain and satisfaction should not be derived from your child's performance. Competition and taunting between parents is never acceptable, and no parent should ever feel embarrassed or disappointed by their team or child's performance. Good plays should always be cheered, and disappointments should always be consoled, no matter whose team it affects.

**Parents have a responsibility to themselves:** It is your responsibility to enjoy watching your child and other children participate and learn. The joy and pride associated with watching children participate in sports should be experienced to the fullest, because a lifetime of memories are being created before your very eyes.

(See next page for Parent Code of Ethics)

## Parents Code of Ethics

**I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parents' Code of Ethics Pledge:**

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from their use at all youth sports events.
- I will remember that the game is for youth – not adults.
- I will do my very best to make youth sports fun for my child.
- I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
- I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach and that the coach upholds the Coaches' Code of Ethics.

### III. TEAM SIDELINE INFORMATION

- A. Team Assignments - once rosters are finalized, parents can expect to receive an email notification from Team Sideline with their child's team assignment approximately 1 week prior to the start of practices. Parents can login to Team Sideline to view the team's team site with roster & practice information listed. Game schedules will be added to the team site once they are finalized.
- B. [Team Sideline public site](#) - all Youth Athletic Leagues have designated web pages on Team Sideline where parents can find valuable information regarding the season/league.
  - a. League Home Page - generic league information can be found here along with the league's Player Equipment List and Important League Dates for the upcoming season
  - b. Seasonal Registration Information
  - c. League Rules
  - d. Game Schedules for the entire league

### IV. WEATHER POLICY

- A. Heat/Cold Temperature Policy (for outdoor leagues):
  - 1. **HEAT:** Games and practices will be canceled if the heat index reaches 103 degrees or above. Practices can be canceled at the coaches discretion at any time.
  - 2. **COLD:** Air temperature shall be a minimum of 45 degrees Fahrenheit for games. Wind chill factor is a valid reason in determining the actual temperature. Coaches can decide to cancel or host practice when temperature is below threshold.
- B. Inclement weather - Depending on the timing of both the weather and the decision to cancel games, information will be posted on the Team Sideline website and managers will be notified by the League Coordinator. Rescheduling of canceled games will be determined by the MPPD Athletic Department and communicated accordingly.
- C. When a lightning strike has been seen and/or thunder is heard, stop the game / practice regardless of the weather forecast. Clear the area in a timely manner.