

Youth Sports Team Policies and Guidelines

Registration

1. **MPRB Teams:** Team must be registered on an official MPRB youth sports roster form. Full time recreation center staff will create rosters and verify birth dates. Final roster approval is done by the Service Area Manager. The coach/parent must submit proof of age* to the center director before being added to the final roster.
2. **Non Resident Players:** The number of non-Minneapolis residents allowed per team varies by sport. Refer to the sport specific bulletin to find the number of non-residents allowed on the roster. (Number given is based on a full roster having 80% of the players living within the Minneapolis city limits)
3. **Outside Agency Teams:** Agencies may participate in Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board youth sports leagues. Agencies must submit an agency application form, roster and provide proof of age* and residency to the appropriate MPRB Staff in their agency's area of the city.
 - a. **Agency proof of residency:** In order to verify the home address, a school document must accompany each player on the roster. This document must be on school letterhead and include home address. These documents must be submitted to the appropriate MPRB Staff.

***Proof of Age:** Examples of accepted forms of birth date verification: birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization card, certificate from school administration or hospital birth record

4. **Age Waivers:** Coaches and/or parents wishing to up-waive a player must contact their park director for information on this policy.
5. **Roster size:** Please see specific sport rules for roster size limit. Any deviation from this rule must be approved by the League Director.

Eligibility, Protest & Suspensions

1. **Eligibility**
 - a. **Age:** All participants listed on the roster must fall within the correct age division or have a completed and approved age waiver on file.
 - b. **Assumed Name:** A player must register under their legal birth name.
 - c. **Multiple Teams:** Players are eligible to register with one MPRB youth team. Transfer from one team to another will not be permitted after a player has played in a scheduled game. Exceptions must be approved by the League Directors.
 - d. **High School:** Check with the high school to confirm eligibility.
 - e. **Multiple Leagues:** MPRB League rules do not prohibit teams or players from participating in non-MPRB leagues during the season. However when playing restrictions are listed for specific sports they must be followed or teams/players will be subjected to disciplinary actions.
2. **Jewelry, Head Decoration and Headwear**
 - a. Officials will enforce the Minnesota State High School rule regarding jewelry. All players must remove all jewelry during games and practices including: rings, watches, bracelets (including friendship), earrings of any kind (including starters), chains or necklaces. Any player who fails to remove his or her jewelry may not participate until it is removed.
 - b. Please note: hard items worn on the head such as beads, barrettes and bobby pins are prohibited. MPRB sports exceptions: Gymnastics, Track, Tennis & Volleyball
 - c. Please delay any new piercings until after the conclusion of the sports season.

Jewelry, Head Decoration and Headwear Cont'd

- d. The Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board may on an individual basis allow a player to participate while wearing a head covering if it meets the following criteria:
 - i. For medical or cosmetic reasons – In the event a participant is required by a licensed medical physician to cover his/her head with a covering or wrap, a physician's statement is required before the MPRB can approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely that it will come off during play.
 - ii. For religious reasons – In the event there is documented evidence provided to the MPRB that a participant may not expose his/her uncovered head, the MPRB may approve a covering or wrap which is not abrasive, hard or dangerous to any other player and which is attached in such a way it is highly unlikely it will come off during play.

3. Protests

- a. Only player eligibility protests will be allowed.
 - i. Examples: Player on 2 MPRB teams, using an assumed name, participating in the wrong age division and/or playing while under suspension.
- b. Coaches must submit an eligibility protest in writing to the League Director, no later than 48 hours after completion of the protested game.
- c. This procedure must be followed in order to move forward with the protest.
- d. **Penalty:** Teams found using an ineligible player will be given a loss for that game and any other previously participated games. The ineligible player will be removed from the roster and unable to participate for the remainder of the season. (exception: football player protested for not weighing in can play after being weighed at an official weigh-in)

4. Suspension

- a. Any player fighting will be suspended from that game and will be suspended for:
 - i. First Offense: Next three games
 - ii. Second Offense: The remainder of the season
- b. Please see specific sport rules for Game Disqualification details.
- c. Any player or coach who physically assaults an official will be suspended indefinitely. Further disciplinary action up to and possibly including a permanent suspension from MPRB coaching/playing shall be determined by the MPRB Youth Sports Department.
- d. A player that is ejected for unsportsmanlike behavior will also be suspended for the next regular season or tournament game.

5. Incident Report

- a. MPRB patrons who feel inappropriate behavior is being displayed at a MPRB youth athletic event, should complete a MPRB Incident Report. MPRB staff will have forms available.

6. Participation

- a. Coaches must play all participants the minimum number of time and/or points.
- b. Intentional disregard of this rule may result in forfeit or coach discipline (up to or including suspension). This decision will be at the discretion of the League Directors.

MPRB League Directors reserve the right to make additions and/or changes for the betterment of the program.

*The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is an Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. In accordance with the requirements of Title II with the **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)**, the MPRB will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities.*

Volunteer Coach Supervision and Certification

1. Volunteer Coaches are supervised by Recreation Center full time staff (Park Directors). Park Directors will ensure that volunteers complete the Volunteer Coach Certification process prior to volunteers' first contact with players. Certification includes but is not limited to:
 - passing a background check
 - completing and providing proof of Concussion Awareness training (as required by MN state law)
 - reviewing and agreeing to abide by the MPRB Coaches Code of Ethics
 - Specialized sports certification when applicable (i.e. USA Football)
2. Volunteers are responsible for completing these certification elements in a timely fashion and submitting them to the Park Director when requested. Failure to complete the Certification will disqualify volunteers from coaching with the MPRB. Background Checks and Coaches Code of Ethics agreements expire one year from their completion dates and Concussion Awareness training expires 3 years from its completion date. Upon expiration, coaches must complete and resubmit the certification elements. Park Directors will submit coach certification information to the Athletics Department for MPRB records.
3. Volunteers are responsible for wearing the Coach Badge that is issued to them by the Park Director at all games. Coaches will only be issued a badge once their Certification is complete.
4. Volunteers are responsible for alerting the Park Director of any issues that arise during the season with players, parents, games, practices, schedules, etc. Park Directors will provide assistance or guidance in resolving issues and provide information on any additional steps that should be taken if necessary.

MPRB Sportsmanship Code For Spectators

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board is working to ensure that youth participating in our athletic programs have a safe, healthy, and positive environment in which to play and develop their skills.

Please adhere to the following Sportsmanship Code while attending MPRB youth athletic events:

- Keep cheering positive
- Respect the opposing team and fans
- Learn and understand the rules of the game
- Respect the judgment of the officials (even if you disagree with them)
- Accept winning or losing with dignity

Examples of Unsportsmanlike Behavior

- Disrespectful and derogatory yells or gestures (such as pointing and chanting)
- Loud negative reaction to officials' calls
- Distracting players attempting free throws by yelling or stomping your feet
- Swearing
- Coming on the playing field/court at any time
- Chants or yells with inappropriate content (racial, sexual, or gender connotations)
- Degrading yells about a player's body size or shape
- Degrading yells about a player's lack of skill or ability
- Encouraging players to inflict injury on other players
- Throwing objects onto the field/court
- Arguing with coaches, officials or other fans

If a spectator exhibits behavior that is inappropriate or unsportsmanlike, a staff person will hand the spectator a yellow card. If a spectator consistently uses unacceptable behavior, MPRB staff can stop the game until the person leaves the premises. If a spectator refuses to leave the premises, the officials will declare the game to be over.