Youth Sports Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Registration

1. **How do I register?**
   Contact your local Recreation Center directly for youth sport league registration information and details.

2. **What is included in the program fee?**
   Typically our sports registration fees cover all or part of the uniform cost and/or equipment supplies and upgrades.

3. **Will I need to purchase additional equipment in order for my child to participate?**
   Equipment needs vary by sport and/or Recreation Center. Please check with your Recreation Center prior to registration.

4. **What if I can’t afford the program fee?**
   Minneapolis residents who cannot afford instructional fees because of economic need may apply for fee assistance. Prior to registering contact your Recreation Center and ask to speak with someone regarding fee assistance.

5. **How is my child’s age division determined?**
   Age verification in the form of a birth certificate, baptismal certificate, immunization card, certification from school administration, etc. is required for participation.

Practice and Games

1. **How many days per week will my child practice?**
   On average, the team will practice 1-2 times per week.

2. **How many games will my child play?**
   On average, the team will play games 1-3 times per week, for a total of 8-12 games per season.

3. **Where will my child practice and play games?**
   Practices will take place at your Recreation Center or at a nearby field/court/rink. The majority of games will be played within the city limits of Minneapolis.

4. **How will I receive information about practices and games?**
   Information about practices and games will come from your Recreation Center. Game information will also be available online at MPRB Online Recreation Services.

5. **How will I know if a practice or game is cancelled?**
   Practice cancellation information will be provided by your Recreation Center. Game cancellation information varies by sport and is provided to Recreation Centers and Coaches prior to the start of the season.
6. Can my child wear jewelry, head decoration, or other headwear?
   - 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.
   - Please note: hard items worn on the head such as beads, barrettes and bobby pins are prohibited.
   - MPRB sports exceptions: Gymnastics, Track, Tennis & Volleyball
   - Please delay any new piercings until after the conclusion of the sports season.
   - 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:
     - 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.
     - 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.

Coaching

1. Who is my child’s coach?
   - Youth Sports teams are coached by volunteer coaches. Coaches are certified by the MPRB. All coaches and assistant coaches are required to pass a comprehensive Background Check and are expected to adhere to the MPRB Coaches Code of Ethics.

2. What if I witness a coach exhibiting unsportsmanlike behavior or violating the Code of Ethics?
   - If a situation arises where a coach violates the Code of Ethics an incident report will be filled out by the Park Director or person filing the concern/complaint. The report will be processed by the Park Director. Discipline will vary dependent on circumstances and could include probation, removal or other measures. Infractions will carry over from sport to sport and will be kept on file.

3. Can I coach my child’s team?
   - Yes. You will be required to complete the MPRB Coaches Certification which includes sports specific rules training, concussion management training, and a Background Check. More information about coaching can be found here: Youth Sports Coaching.

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.

Expectations for Spectators

1. **MPRB Sportsmanship Code for Spectators**

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is taking a serious approach to ensuring 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.

If a spectator exhibits behavior that is inappropriate or unsportsmanlike, a staff person will hand the spectator a card that reads:

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**We appreciate your attendance at this youth sports event.**

Our participants need your positive support and encouragement.

Abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior towards players, coaches or fans will not be tolerated.

If your behavior continues, we will stop the game until you leave the premises.

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2. **Tobacco Use Policy**

Effective Date: June 30, 2010

It is the policy of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board that no person shall:

- Smoke or use any tobacco product within any Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board owned or leased building, vehicle, or equipment.
- Smoke or use any tobacco product within one hundred (100) feet of the entrance to any Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board owned or leased building.
- Smoke or use any tobacco product inside the designated perimeter or within one hundred (100) feet of any playground, beach, wading pool, or water play area.
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS & FACILITIES
YOUTH SPORTS
Updated 12/14/2012

Youth Sports
2117 W. River Rd.\ Mpls., MN 55411

- Smoke or use any tobacco product within the bleachers or stands, or within fifty (50) feet of any youth athletic field or youth athletic contest
- Smoke or use any tobacco product at any permitted event; however the event may apply for a waiver to this policy.

If a spectator consistently uses unacceptable behavior, MPRB staff will 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.