



**MAHOMET PARKS  
& RECREATION**

# FAQ'S

## **Why does Mahomet Parks and Recreation have registration deadlines?**

Mahomet Recreation Department programs service a community of approximately 14,000 people on a fee base cost system due to the lack of a tax-supported Park District. The acceptance of late registrations right up to the start of the season has proven to be an unfair practice to staff, coaches, and players who were trying to organize not only a recreational, but an educational experience for our youth. Similar to recreation agencies across the state and nation, the department established registration deadlines that would allow our small staff adequate time to form teams, secure and train the appropriate number of qualified volunteers, and obtain adequate t-shirts and equipment in a timely and cost-efficient fashion. These deadlines have been strictly enforced for the past five years – a procedure that has proven to be beneficial to staff and coaches as they prepare for the teams. Any late registration will be added to a wait list (see "I missed a deadline" FAQ below for details on the wait list).

## **What is the difference between and parks and recreation department and a park district? And which is Mahomet?**

Although a parks and recreation department and park district perform the same function, how each is funded is very different. Mahomet operates as Parks and Recreation Department within the organization of the Village. As such, we rely heavily upon participant fees and donations from the community for our recreation department operations. Tax revenue collected in support of parks is received from only those that reside within the corporate limits of the Village of Mahomet. On the other hand, a Park District is a separate taxing body which receives tax dollars to support and fund programs. Often times, Park District fees are lower because of their ability to collect taxes and collect taxes from a more broad service area, including those that live outside the Village of Mahomet corporate boundaries. A complete listing of taxing bodies can be found on your property tax bill.

## **I missed the registration deadline, what can I do?**

Because programs require ordering uniforms, supplies, time to organize, assign field/court space and hiring additional staff based on enrollment, Registration Deadlines have been established.

If a program deadline has passed, please contact the MPRD office regarding late registration. In some cases, we are able to accommodate those still wishing to participate. A \$10 per person, per program late registration fee will apply. There are no prorating of program fees for late registration. MPRD reserves the right to waive late fees for programs that have not met the minimum number of participants required to operate the program. MPRD staff reserves the right to start a "wait list" at any point in time following a program deadline.

For core youth sport leagues (baseball/softball/tball, soccer, flag football and basketball), visit the online website and click on programs, find the appropriate age group program listing then click "wait list" button to be added to the waitlist. Payment is not due until the waitlisted participant is approved by MPRD.

For all other programs, a registration form must be filled out and submitted, without payment, to be placed on a wait list. When the registration is turned in, it is dated and time stamped. Players on the wait list will be used to fill team vacancies if and when they occur. Once teams are posted and league play has begun, placement off of the wait list is extremely rare. However, if a registered participant withdraws from the program, the wait list will be considered. Players will be taken in date order off of the wait list and a \$10.00 late fee will be assessed. There is no guarantee that a child will be accepted off the wait list. Register early to avoid disappointment. Registration is available 8-12 months in advance of any league program deadline. No exceptions to this policy will be made for late registrations.

## **I want a refund for a program that I've paid for, what is the refund policy?**

A refund application form must be filled out and submitted to the Mahomet Parks & Recreation Department office in order to receive consideration for a refund. We cannot accept telephone Refund Application Requests for ANY Parks & Recreation activity. All requests must be made by mail or in person during regular office hours. • NO refunds on "league" programs once teams are set up and posted on our website. • NO refunds will be given after the start of the program. • NO refunds for certain special events. (i.e.; recreation trips, camps, clinics, contracted classes, etc.) All refunds will not include any online convenience fees and are subject to a \$15 Administrative Service Fee (per registration). Except under the following circumstances: • Refund is initiated by the Park & Recreation Department • Doctor's note is submitted with Refund Application Form prior to the start of the program

## **I want to rent a facility, how can I reserve the space and how much will it cost?**

Go to "Forms", then click "Park Forms & Documents". There you will find a Park Use Agreement (field rentals) & Pavilion/Multipurpose Room Rental Agreement Forms.

## **Is there a process for coach selection, or can just anybody do it?**

Anyone can do it, and there is a process. We ask all of our volunteers to submit a Background Information Form, which can be downloaded from this website (under forms) or can be picked up from the office. Once a form has been completed, we'll forward the information to Mahomet Police Department for review. Once approved, our volunteer coaches are selected based upon several factors, including past experience, department evaluations, and parent evaluations. Coaches are also asked to attend a pre season coaches meeting to communicate our philosophy and goals for the program.

## **I would like to work for Mahomet Parks and Recreation, what opportunities are available?**

Throughout the entire year there are always employment opportunities. From officiating to site supervisors to groundskeeping we have a number of opportunities available. All openings are announced right here on the website or you can give us a call anytime throughout the year to find out what needs we have! We are an equal opportunity employer and our wages are very competitive, apply today! Applications and Current Job Openings can be found under "Jobs" on this website.

## **Why are scholarships available for some programs but not all?**

Due to limited funding, scholarships are available for our 5 core youth programs: volleyball, baseball/softball, soccer, flag football and basketball. Participants eligible for consideration for scholarship are those that are currently participating in M-S School District's reduced lunch program. Every registration will be verified with the School District to confirm eligibility. Because of limited amount of funding that is available for scholarships, all registrations will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Mahomet Recreation grants two scholarships per child per MPRD calendar year, which consists of our volleyball - basketball seasons.

## **How do you know if you're a resident or non-resident of the Village?**

Resident is defined as anyone living within the corporate boundaries limits of the Village of Mahomet. Village of Mahomet residents, via property, utility, and other taxes, make financial contributions to the operation of the park and recreation department beyond normal user fees for programs. A "Fair-Share" policy has been adopted to apportion an equalizing user fee to our non-resident participants so they contribute to the overall financing of the park and recreation system. Non-resident program fees are listed with the program fee information.

A Mahomet address or being in the Mahomet-Seymour School District does not automatically make you a Village of Mahomet resident. There are many unincorporated areas of Champaign County with Mahomet addresses. The quickest way to determine your residency status is to check your property tax bill or you can check the Champaign County website for tax inquiries at <https://champaignil.devnetwedge.com/> Residents will have the "Mahomet Village" tax listed on their County tax bill.

## **How can I contact my coach?**

The current season's coaches contact information is available right here on the website under "Schedules & Rosters". Find your team and you'll find your coach!

## **I haven't heard from my coach yet and I signed up a long time ago; I see other kids out practicing.**

Coaches will contact their players after they have had a coached meeting with the Recreation Manager. This meeting is typically 2-3 weeks after the deadline. Occasionally, a team may still be in need of a coach and practices would be on hold until a parent or volunteer steps forward.

## **Are practices scheduled by Mahomet Parks and Recreation or the coach?**

Outdoor sports(soccer, flag football, t-ball, softball, and baseball), practices are scheduled by the coach. Mahomet Parks and Recreation reserves School District and Village Facilities for practices and / or games. This information is passed onto the coach and they are allowed to schedule their teams practices as they see fit.

## **Can my child play up a grade? I need them to a) because of carpooling, b) so they can play with their friends/sibling, c) because they're too good for their age group, etc.**

Our goal is to position participation for success. Mahomet Parks and Recreation youth sports leagues are organized by grades and not ages except 4 year old and 5 year old leagues. Age breaks downs can be confusing as to what day/month/year they have to be a certain age. Playing by grades ensures a similar level of physical and mental maturity among participants and allows kids to play with their classmates. Playing by grades allows kids to play with classmates that may not be able to otherwise. When a child plays up a grade, they are participating against more mature, experienced, bigger, and stronger kids. Although some kids may be ready for this challenge of playing up a grade, once an exception is made it is hard to justify saying no to another. Not every child is ready to play up and this is unfair to the child who may not be able to keep up with the older player's.

While we all recognize that children develop at different rates and that some players are more skilled or have had advanced training and experiences, MPRD does not allow players to play out of their age/grade divisions. First, we believe that children are best served by playing with their peers and classmates. There is no evidence that "playing up" increases a player's chance of success in post-puberty athletics. Secondly, there are practical considerations regarding liability and insurance concerns. Lastly, having an array of talent and ability on a team adds to the overall youth sports experience for all of the players.

In instances when grade cannot be determined by Mahomet-Seymour Community Unit School District #3, participants will be placed in league based on their birth date.

## **My child is young for their grade/ skipped a grade/ is small for their age, can they play down a year?**

Mahomet Parks and Recreation sets up sports leagues by grades not ages, except for some 4 year old and 5 year old leagues in certain sports. Age break downs can be confusing as to what day/month/year they have to be a certain age. Playing by grades allows kids to play with classmates that they may not be able to otherwise. Unfortunately, Mahomet Parks and Recreation does not make any exception for kids to play down a grade.

While we all recognize that children develop at different rates and that some players are less skilled or have had various training and experiences, MPRD does not allow players to play out of their age/grade divisions. First, we believe that children are best served by playing with their peers and classmates. There are practical considerations regarding liability and insurance concerns. Also, having an array of talent and ability on a team adds to the overall youth sports experience for all of the players.

In instances when grade cannot be determined by Mahomet-Seymour Community Unit School District #3, participants will be placed in league based on their birth date.

## **Can I request a certain coach/team/buddy pairing? Or I requested to be with a certain coach/team/buddy and you did not honor that, I want you to make the change...**

No requests are guaranteed. To help ensure balanced teams, the only pairing requests that are honored are those of the children of 1 head coach with 1 assistant coach. Furthermore, consistent with our philosophy, we want to encourage social development (i.e. make some new friends). Finally, often times when such requests are made the coach/child requested may not be coaching/participating or is in a different age group. Any Requests made at registration for certain teammates, coaches, etc. are discouraged and NEVER guaranteed.

# What is the MPRD Registration Policy?

Please read the information below carefully before filling out registration form:

\* Programs will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

\* All programs will have a minimum and a maximum enrollment. MPRD reserves the right to cancel or combine programs with low enrollment.

\* All payments must be PAID-IN-FULL at time of registration.

\* Registrations can be made online, by mail, or in person during regular office hours. There is an after hours drop box by the front door of the MPRD Office or the white drop box on the drive just east of the Village Admin. Building. They are available 24/7. Place in an envelope and write: Attention Parks & Rec. (Scholarships are available for volleyball, baseball/softball, soccer, flag football and basketball. Please see our Scholarship Policy on page 5 for additional information.)

\* Mail in registrations with registration form and full payment made out to MPRD. Mail them to: Mahomet Parks & Recreation Department, PO Box 259, Mahomet, IL 61853

\* Online registrations - there is a convenience fee of approx. 3% + 30¢ per transaction that our PayPal payment provider charges.

\* Participants will not be allowed to "play-up" or "play down". MPRD recognizes that children come in all sizes and skill levels, but it is our policy to always place participants on teams with children of their same grade.

\* In most cases, Non-residents will pay an additional fee for each program for which they register.

\* Waiting lists will be formed after a program is filled or deadline has past. There is a \$10.00 late fee/participant assessed to those participants taken off the waiting list and have registered after the deadline date.

\* If the program is full, your check will be returned to you and you will automatically be placed on a waiting list.

\* We cannot accept telephone registrations for ANY Parks & Recreation activity.

\* The Parks & Recreation Department works hard to schedule programs at your convenience, however, under extreme conditions reserves the right to change facilities, time, dates or instructors. We do our best to notify participants of changes in advance.

\* If a Parks & Recreation program is scheduled at a school facility, school programs have priority.

\* The Park & Recreation Department reserves the right to adjust any incorrect program fees that were due to printing errors.

\* A \$10.00 service charge will be assessed for any returned check and any future registrations will need to be paid in cash.

\* Attendance in our programs is limited to registered participants only.

\* Recreation programs are designed for specific age or grade groups. Participants must be the age or grade designated on the registration form. Birth certificates may be requested.

\* For league programs, no outside scheduling or travel is allowed unless authorized by the department.

\* The Village of Mahomet and the Parks & Recreation Department assumes no responsibility for personal injury or loss of personal property for anyone attending or participating in a Parks and Recreation Department sponsored event or activity.