



Municipal Athletics Roster Verification

Municipal Athletics offers a variety of athletic leagues for youth throughout Saint Paul including basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, tackle football, flag football, soccer and lacrosse. Each sport is offered for various age levels. Below is an overview of how Saint Paul Parks & Recreation manages rosters to ensure that all youth participants are playing sports at the appropriate age level.

Current Roster Verification Process:

- Using a participant's birthdate, Saint Paul Parks & Recreation's Activenet registration system ensures that participants are only able to register for youth sports that are appropriate for their age level.
- Participants are required to verify their birthdate with the Recreation Center staff at the time of registration. Birth certificates, SPPS or other school student summary sheets are acceptable forms of verification.
- Recreation Center staff review each youth sports roster before submitting it to Municipal Athletics to ensure that all participants are playing at the appropriate age level.
- Non Recreation Center teams (Boys & Girls Club, CHOF, Sanneh) are required to verify participant birthdates prior to submitting rosters. Similar to Recreation Centers, affiliate groups verify birthdates using a participant's birth certificate, SPPS or other school student summary sheet.
- Municipal Athletics staff double check and review all of the participant's birth dates on each youth sports roster that is submitted to ensure that all participants are playing at the appropriate age level.

Process for Use of Ineligible Players - this pertains to both Rec Center and Non-Rec Center teams:

- If there is reason to believe that a participant is not playing at the appropriate age level, Recreation Staff reach out to the participant and require them to verify their age with a birth certificate, SPPS or other school student summary sheet.
- If a coach believes that a participant is not playing at the appropriate age level, they would inform Municipal Athletics and file a protest. Muni would check with the participant to verify their age.
- In the event a team uses an ineligible player; both the individual and the team are subject to forfeiture of all games the individual(s) played in. In tournament or playoffs, the team would be removed from competition and could be subject to a one year suspension from all Muni programs.

For Discussion - Future Roster Verification for both Rec Center and Non-Rec Center teams:

The current process that Saint Paul Parks & Recreation follows is similar to that of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Saint Paul Parks & Recreation will continue to verify participant birthdates to ensure that youth are playing at the appropriate age level and also address ineligible players when necessary.

In addition to these current processes that we are using to verify participant birthdates, here are 2 other measures for discussion that we're considering to enhance roster integrity:

- 1) Host a session and require non-Recreation Center team coaches and players to come to Muni in-person and provide verification of their birthdates and a copy of their roster. Acceptable age verification documents will include a birth certificate or student summary form from the participant's school. Both the team's head coach and Muni staff will sign off on each non-Recreation Center team's roster.
- 2) Work with Sprockets and the Wilder Foundation to verify participant birthdates by matching our participant data from Activenet against SPPS student data. This could create a more streamlined approach if successful and would eliminate the need for SPPS parents and families to verify their child's birthdate with Parks & Rec staff during registration.

Our goal would be to pilot these new measures this summer for the Municipal Athletics youth baseball and softball leagues.