

Marlton Recreation Council Standard Operating Procedure	
Section: Sport Specific Policies	Number: 104.02
Subject: Adult Level Sport Pilot Policy	
Effective Date: __/__/____	Page: 1 of 3
Last Revised:	Supersedes or replaces: None - New Policy
Issued by: MRC Executive Board	
Approved by: MRC Executive Board	
<p>The Written Policies developed by the Marlton Recreation Council are intended to provide a system for the orderly operation of youth sports, and do not enlarge any MRC member's civil or criminal liability in any way. They should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of Written Policies can only be the basis of an internal complaint against any member of the MRC, and then only in conjunction with disciplinary action.</p>	



Purpose:

To set a term and conditions for creation of an adult sports league as a pilot program to determine whether the MRC should allow adult sports programs.

Scope:

This policy shall apply to hockey and, if applicable, other sports as approved by the Executive Board.

Procedure:

A. General Policy Statement


Historically, the MRC has focused on providing sports opportunities for youth in the area. Recently, the MRC was approached by hockey regarding the possibility of creating an adult league. A review of the bylaws does not reveal any prohibition against the MRC providing the opportunity for adults to play sports. However, the Executive Board is sensitive to the following: (1) the focus of the MRC always has been on youth sports, (2) there are a finite number of resources (fields of play, employees and volunteer time among them), (3) adults playing sports raise some particular issues not associated with youth sports and (4) not all protections built into the MRC by-laws and policies are necessary for adults. With that in mind, the Executive Board has determined that a two-year test period will be put into place to evaluate how adult sports would work. Following this period, the Executive Board will evaluate whether to proceed with allowing adult sports leagues and, if so, what the parameters will be for any such league.

B. Duration of Policy

This policy shall be in effect from May __, 2025 through May __, 2027, at which time it shall automatically cease to be a policy of the MRC.

C. Youth Sports Have Preference

There are a finite number of fields, courts, decks and other playing areas in Marlton. No adult sport ever shall be given priority of field use over a youth sport. If there exists a conflict between youth athletes having access to Marlton facilities and adult athletes having access to Marlton facilities, the youth athletes shall be given use of the Marlton facilities.

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If an individual is of an age which would qualify to play in a youth sports league with the MRC for which there also is an adult league, in order to play in an adult league in the same sport, that athlete shall register and play in the youth league as well and shall play a minimum of 50% of the game in the youth league. Further, if there is any conflict between an adult league event and a youth league event, the youth league event shall take precedence.

D. Definition of Adult League

An adult league shall be defined as a league where all players are at least 18 years of age or older.

E. SUP Exemption

As of the date of this Policy, the Executive Board already had approved an adult program for the Sports Unity Program (“SUP”). The SUP program for adults shall be exempt from this Policy and shall continue as it has under the prior Executive Board Approval. The expiration of this Policy shall not impact the operation or authorization for the SUP adult program.

F. Creation of Adult Program under the Policy


The Executive Board, by a vote of at least 2/3 of the Executive Board has approved the hockey adult program for a year. Following the conclusion of the adult hockey season, the hockey program shall be subject to reauthorization under the terms of this Policy.

Any other sport which desires to create any adult program must submit a request, including the parameters of the proposed program, at least two months before the program would begin. Such a proposal must include, at a minimum, a description of: (1) how the proposed program will comply with all applicable safety and legal standards, (2) how the proposed adult program aligns with the MRC’s mission and values, (3) risk management and insurance coverage, (4) what athletic fields/facilities will be needed, how often and what days of the week/times and (5) the benefits and challenges of an Adult League integrated into the MRC operations.

Following submission of the proposal, the Executive Board will discuss the proposal and vote on whether to approve it. A vote of at least 2/3 of the Executive Board is necessary to approve the proposal which, if proposed, will be approved for a year, subject to reauthorization under this Policy.

G. Reauthorization of Adult Program

Following the conclusion of any adult sport season, no subsequent season may be conducted without a vote of at least 2/3 of the Executive Board. At least two months before the start of a proposed second adult season, the sport desiring reauthorization shall submit to the Executive Board the following: (1) a formal request for a second season, (2) a summary of the success/challenges encountered during the first season, (3) a certification that no youth sports were interfered with during the conduct of the adult season, (4) a disciplinary report covering (a) suspensions, (b) ejections and (c) fights that occurred during the prior season and (5) any proposed changes for the second season.

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H. Automatic Suspension for Misrepresentations

If any misrepresentations are discovered under sections (c), (f) or (g) of this policy, the adult sport season shall immediately be terminated.

I. Compliance With Existing Policies

Any adult league must comply with all bylaws and written policies of the MRC with the following exceptions.

1. An adult league shall not be subject to Policy 101.6, as it will have its own, separate review process, which is set forth in this Policy.
2. An adult league shall not be subject to Policy 101.7, except that any officials shall have the concussion training set forth under Policy 101.7..
3. Policy 104.01 as adult leagues shall not have travel teams.
4. Policy 103.2 as adult leagues shall not be permitted to have youth coaches, youth volunteers or youth officials at practices or games.
5. Participants and spectators for adult leagues shall be subject to Policy 103.3 (Code of Conduct). Any Code of Conduct violations shall be reported to the sport by the game officials. The sport shall have an individual designated to receive such Code of Conduct violations and shall be responsible for imposing the discipline set forth under the Code of Conduct. If a Code of Conduct violation occurs at a facility during which a youth sporting event is occurring, the suspension under the Code of Conduct shall be doubled.

Marlton Recreation Council Code of Conduct General Offense/Misconduct Penalties - Adult Leagues

1. This Code of Conduct will cover the adult level of all sports in the MRC and will supersede and replace any existing, sport-specific codes of conduct as well as the basic code of conduct.
2. All penalties listed below are *minimum* penalties and are subject to review by the Executive Board. Penalties may be increased at the discretion of the Executive Board. If a commissioner or sports board believes that longer suspensions are warranted, the commissioner or sport board shall inform the Executive which may impose additional penalties to protect the health, safety and welfare of its youth athletes, game officials, board members, volunteers and spectators.
3. Any fights in an adult league ***must immediately be reported*** to the Executive Board and the Executive Director.
4. Repeat violations of this Code of Conduct may result in additional suspensions, an increase in the total length of suspension, or a suspension from all MRC activities, regardless of if the suspensions are incurred in different sports, but such penalties only may be imposed by the MRC Executive Board.
5. Certain sports are affiliated with State and/or National organizations. In the event that the affiliate organization has its own code of conduct with similar provisions to this Code of Conduct, the penalty assessed shall be the greater penalty assessed by this Code of Conduct or the code of conduct of the affiliate organization. Additionally, if the affiliate organization has a penalty for an offense which is not covered by this Code of Conduct, the Sport shall impose the affiliate organization's penalty for that violation.
6. An individual must serve the suspension for the team they were playing for when the suspension was issued before they are allowed to play any other level of that sport (i.e., if an individual is suspended for a violation while playing for a recreation team, that athlete cannot play travel in the same sport until the individual has served the suspension in recreation). The exception to this is that, if the suspension would last past the end of the season, that individual may serve the balance of the suspension in the next season (recreation or travel), whichever happens first.
7. In the event an event occurs that is not specifically covered by this code, the Marlton Recreation Council Code of Conduct (Policy 103.3) may be used as a guide for discipline.
8. The penalties assessed herein may be and in a number of instances are different than the penalties in Policy 103.3 because (a) no youth athletes will be involved but (b) there is concern regarding the example set by adults for youths who may be watching.

Violations Against Athletes

Offense	Suspension
Purposeful striking of an athlete by another athlete	4 Games
Verbal abuse or taunting of an athlete	3 Games

Throwing an object at an athlete	4 Games
Making any obscene gesture towards an athlete	3 Games
Use of profane language towards an athlete	3 Games
Spitting at an athlete	4 Games
Verbal threat of bodily harm against an athlete	Remainder of Season and Review
Purposeful striking an athlete by a game official	Remainder of Season and Review
Purposeful striking of an athlete by a spectator or any other individual not otherwise mentioned in this section	2 Seasons
Intent to injure during the course of a game	Remainder of Season and Review
Fighting ¹ with another athlete (not in self defense)	5 Seasons
Fighting in self defense	Review by the Board
Leaving bench during a fight	2 Games and Review
Playing while suspended	Remainder of Season and following season

Violations Against a Game Official

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Suspension</u>
Purposeful striking of a game official	Remainder of Season and Review
Verbal abuse or taunting of a game official	2 Games
Throwing an object at a game official	Remainder of Season and Review
Making an obscene gesture towards a game official	2 Games
Use of profane language towards a game official	2 Games
Verbal threat of bodily harm against a game official	Remainder of Season and Review
Any assault of a game official	5 Seasons
Fighting with a game official	5 Seasons
Spitting at or on a game official	5 Games

General Misconduct

<u>Offense</u>	<u>Suspension</u>
Spectator entering the field of play (including rink, court, etc.) without permission or otherwise disrupting play	4 Games
Spectator entering a bench, dugout or other area reserved for players and coaches during a game without permission	4 Games
Violation of MRC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy, including use of racial, ethnic, religious, or other discriminatory slurs	5 Games
Throwing an Object onto a playing surface	4 Games
Verbal abuse of MRC official or volunteer	3 Games
Verbal abuse of another spectator	3 Games
Throwing equipment by a player (not at an individual)	2 Games
Spitting at or on anyone not addressed in the previous section (e.g. MRC official, volunteer or other spectator)	5 Games

¹ For purposes of this Code of Conduct, "Fighting" shall be defined as mutually exchanged blows delivered by hand, head, fist, or other portions of the body.

Verbal threat to anyone not listed above (e.g. MRC official, volunteer or other spectator)	Remainder of Season and Review
Throwing an object at anyone not listed above (e.g. MRC official, volunteer or other spectator)	4 Games
Knowingly having an unapproved individual coaching a team by any coach.	4 Games
Abuse of property, i.e. township fields, school board fields, MRC owned property	Responsible for all repair costs and/or fines + 1 year suspension from all MRC activities
Conduct not specifically defined above	Subject to Review based on factual circumstances