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**City of Duluth - Parks and Recreation**

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**SUBJECT: ESports coming to Duluth Parks and Recreation**

**BY: Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer**

**ESports coming to Duluth Parks and Recreation**

[Duluth, MN] The City of Duluth Parks and Recreation division has joined forces with GGLeagues, an online esports gaming company, to offer a new program that provides players a safe and fun way to participate in a community activity from home.

“We are excited to be offering this great new opportunity to the Duluth area,” Recreation Specialist Brett Odegard said. “Esports will allow people to compete with others in our community outside of more traditional sports.”

Games that are available through the new partnership include Rocket League (3v3, any device), Rocket League (1v1, any device), Madden21 (1v1, Playstation and Xbox), Super Smash Bros. (1v1, Nintendo Switch), Fortnite (Solos and duos on any device ages for 13 and up), and Mario Kart 8 Deluxe (1v1, Nintendo Switch).

A youth division is made up of kids ages 8-12, a teen division with ages 13-18 and an adult division will compete against each other. The season will begin the week of January 24 with games being played on varying days depending on the game title. To play, participants will purchase a winter Esports pass for \$40. Players will play from their own homes and can compete in as many different games as they would like. Registration will be open until January 10.

Leagues will be run online through GGLeagues and will consist of an eight-week season. Games will be at the same time and day each week with a flexible rescheduling policy. At the end of the season, players will participate in a two-week playoff and championship event where a champion will be crowned. The winner of the league will be crowned the champion of the Minnesota esports League. Winners for each region will receive a GGLeagues champion shirt and medal!

To register, please visit [www.duluthmn.gov/parks/register](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/register). Click the Youth and Adult sports tab and complete the necessary information fields. To play, participants must have a console/computer to play on, email address, own the game you are registering to play, and have the ability to play live. All games are monitored by GGLeagues and players are held to a code of conduct to maintain a fun and safe gaming atmosphere. For more information on esports passes and FAQ: <https://www.ggleagues.com/page/esports-passes>.

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