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| <p><b>Section 9</b></p> | <p><b>Library Premises</b><br/>         Approving Authority:<br/>         Morris Area Public Library District Board of Trustees</p> |
|                         | <p><b>Tween/Teen Gaming Area Policy</b><br/>         Effective Date: 05/11/2026<br/>         Reviewed and Revised:</p>              |

The Morris Area Public Library provides a gaming area for tweens and teens to encourage social interaction, creativity, and engagement with library spaces. The following guidelines are intended to ensure fair access, safety, and respect for library resources.

**General Use**

- The gaming area is intended for patrons ages **11-18**.
- Use of the space is **first-come, first-served**.
- Library programs and events take precedence over gaming area use.
- All users must follow the Library’s **Code of Conduct Policy** at all times.

**Check-Out & Use**

Video games and controllers must be checked out to a patron’s library account for use within the library. Items may be checked out on either the minor’s card or a parent/guardian’s card; however, **the cardholder must be present** at the time of checkout.

- A patron may check out a maximum of **3 video games and 2 controllers** at one time.
- Some games allow multiplayer use. Groups wishing to use up to 4 controllers must check them out using **at least 2 patron accounts**.
- All items will be cleared from the patron’s account upon return.

**Games & Content**

- The Library provides games with a variety of ratings for circulation; however, **only games preloaded** on Library gaming systems may be played in the Tween/Teen Gaming Area.
- Staff reserve the right to determine appropriate use of all gaming materials within the library.
- No outside games will be allowed
- Online play and downloads are not permitted.

**Time Limits**

- Gaming sessions are limited to **1 hour per individual/group**.
- One additional hour may be allowed if no other patrons are waiting.

**Equipment Use**

- All gaming equipment (consoles, controllers, etc.) must remain in the library.
- **One controller per person**; limited number of players at a time based on the system.
- Equipment must be handled with care and returned promptly after use.
- No food or drink is allowed near gaming equipment.

**Controllers (In-Library Use Only)**

- Controllers are **not available for general lending** and must remain inside the library at all times.

- Controllers **follow our Library of Things procedures** and may only be checked out to Morris Area Public Library cardholders.
- Controllers must be **returned directly to Youth Services Desk staff** when finished.
- Controllers may not be placed in return bins.

### **Video Games (Circulating Collection)**

- Video games may be checked out for **in-library use or for home use**.
- The standard loan period is **two weeks**, in accordance with library lending policies.
- Video games may be returned in designated return bins.

### **Damage & Misuse**

- Patrons are responsible for any **damage to equipment or space** that occurs during their use.
- Replacement costs may be assessed for damaged or missing items.
- Any attempt to alter, hack, or misuse equipment or software is prohibited.
- The library is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen personal items.

### **Computer Use Authorization**

Library gaming consoles (including PlayStation, Nintendo Switch, or other systems) are considered part of the Library's **computer and electronic resources**.

- Use of gaming consoles falls under the Library's **Computer, Internet, and Electronic Resources Use Policy**.
- A parent or guardian must authorize computer use for minors through the Library's **library card application or account permissions**.
- Minors without approved computer use authorization may not use gaming consoles.

### **Supervision & Responsibility**

- Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring their child's participation. Please also refer to our **Access to Library Materials by Minors** policy.

### **Behavior Expectations**

- Gaming is a **shared, social experience** and patrons are expected to take turns and include others when possible.
- Disruptive behavior, inappropriate language, or unsafe actions will not be tolerated.
- Failure to follow these guidelines may result in:
  - Loss of gaming privileges
  - Removal from the gaming area
  - Further action in accordance with library policies

### **A Reminder to Parents:**

You are the only person who may restrict your child's access to library materials and services. The library staff are responsible for providing equal access to library materials and services for all users. Organizations that provide ratings, such as the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB), are not government organizations and therefore cannot be mandated or enforced; their ratings are considered advisory, not law.

The library staff is available to assist any parent or guardian in locating information (ratings, reviews, ect.) on the appropriateness of a movie or book for their children.