



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY POLICY MANUAL

Policy: 402	Title: Athletic Field Use
Date Approved: 1/24/2018	Last reviewed: 6/26/2013
Objective: <u>Parks and Recreation Services</u> Provide recreation services and operate the park system consistent with Park Authority goals and objectives and the need of residents for quality programs and services in compliance with all applicable standards and best management practices.	

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to optimize a balance between use and protection of the facilities, while providing athletic fields for the enjoyment of all residents and visitors.

Policy Statement: The Park Authority shall balance the use and protection of athletic fields.

A classification of all field types shall be established to reflect the development, usage and maintenance level of the fields. The scheduling of organized sport groups and the issuance of permits to those groups shall be performed under the guidelines provided by the Park Authority and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Permit holders shall have first rights for the use of the fields to which they have been assigned. A field not being utilized by a permit holder can be used by others, including the "walk-on" public, as defined in Park Regulations.

Use periods of Park Authority Fields shall be limited as follows:

- Diamond Fields: After 4 p.m. on the last Friday in March to the end of the first full weekend* in November.
- Rectangle Fields: After 4 p.m. on the last Friday in March to the end of the third full weekend* in November.
- Synthetic Turf: Synthetic Turf Fields are available year-round.

* A full weekend is one in which Saturday and Sunday are both in November.

The following exception is made to the above use periods:

Participants in the Full Adoption Adopt-A-Field program shall be exempt from this policy as defined in the provisions governing that program.

Policy 402 Athletic Field Use (continuation)

Field closings shall be at the discretion of the Park Authority and for the purpose of maintenance, safety, or any reason deemed appropriate for the management or protection of property.

The use of athletic field lighting is available for organized sports groups who have a permit to use a field during the period of time that the lights are being used, and is for games and practices only.

Temporary lighting systems shall meet the same development requirements as permanent lights, including identification in the master plan for the park and adherence to all lighting and noise ordinances. The lights shall present no hazard to park users, shall not pollute the environment, and shall meet appropriate illumination standards. The Park Authority shall reserve the right to deny temporary lighting requests if it feels it is in the best interest of the Park Authority, park patrons or the surrounding community.

References:

1. Park Regulation, 1.16-1 Athletic Field Use
2. Fairfax County Noise Ordinance, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/zoning/noise-ordinance>

Supporting Documentation:

1. Fairfax County Athletic Field Policy: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/sites/neighborhood-community-services/files/assets/documents/athletics/fields%20and%20gyms/field%20allocation%20policy.pdf>