

FIELD USE POLICY AND RULES

FIELD USAGE REGULATIONS

Field usage fees are non-refundable except in the event of the West Chicago Park District closing fields due to inclement weather/unsafe field conditions, or if advance notice at least seven days prior to field reservation is received. The Practice Field fee includes: field dragged, bases installed once each morning. The Game Field fee includes: Dragging and lining of fields once each morning and bases put out.

SIGNS OF AN UNSAFE FIELD

The West Chicago Park District is committed to providing high quality, safe playing surfaces for our multi-use athletic facilities, but we need the help, commitment, and consideration of all user groups in protecting the field from excessive damage due to game and practice activities. The grass is the safety surface for the athletic fields. If any of the following conditions occur, the scheduled games and practices will be cancelled or postponed:

1. Standing water on the field of play
2. Soil Saturation
 - * One inch or more of rain 48 hours prior to scheduled game or practice accompanied by steady rain on game or practice day.
 - * Steady downpour of rain on game or practice day, which could cause damage to field or injury to participants.
3. Extreme drought conditions where 50% of the playing surface is dormant.
4. Early spring conditions where 50% of the playing surface is dormant.
5. Audible thunder, visible lightening or Thorguard alert.
6. Periods of forecasted severe weather warning.
7. Darkness.

All coaches, referees, and umpires are responsible for ensuring the safety of field playing conditions at all times during scheduled play. Safety implies protection of the participants, as well as the resource. In addition to the above requirements, cancellations or suspensions of game play and practices should be enforced when:

- * Player's footing becomes unstable, slipping 6" or greater
- * Holes 4" in diameter of 2" depth or larger in field of play
- * Surface rocks 3" or greater exposed on playing field
- * Standing water in an area 3' or greater

Important Note

Official field closure by the Park District means no one can practice or hold a scheduled game. The West Chicago Park District utilizes Rainout Line to report field status. Log onto rainoutline.com and you can sign up for text/email alerts which you can opt in/out of at any time. The phone number to check field status via Rainout Line is 630-225-7876 Ext. 2.

ATHLETIC FIELD USE/ABUSE

The level of use correlates to the level of maintenance. The considerations for use are:

- * Primary Purpose (Passive or active area)
- * Safety implications (Football, Soccer vs. Softball, Baseball, vs. Picnic area)
- * Short term/long term impacts (Seasonal Maintenance)
- * Real costs (Material and Labor)

USE DISCIPLINE

The stress of constant field use will create damage that the best-planned and best-financed maintenance program will not rectify. A field use policy, which is coordinated with the maintenance program, and which governs the amount of play a field may receive, can greatly enhance the field quality and reduce maintenance costs.

- * Competition play only-no practice
- * Number of games allowed per day or week
- * User fees
- * No play during periods of tuft dormancy

- * No play when fields are wet
- * Avoid concentrated trampling when possible. Rotate play areas to allow for resting and recovery of turf
- * Withhold spring use until turf has recovered from winter dormancy
- * Keep off areas where there has been thawing of frozen turf
- * Use discipline involves everyone who uses the field

FIELD AVAILABILITY

The West Chicago Park District's Fields are typically open from April 1st through October 31th of each calendar year. Our fields will remain closed and will not be available for rental or play from December 1st through March 31st of each calendar year. Practice/Game Fields will be available during the month of November at the Superintendent of Recreation's discretion.

FIELD USE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

- * You may be asked to show proof of reservation to Park District Staff or West Chicago Police Department on site. Keep your receipt with you at all times.
- * The Superintendent of Parks/Recreation or his/her designate is authorized to close any playing field or game field for the purposes of maintenance or to protect the surface of the field from damage. In the event that fields are closed, it is the renter's responsibility to be up to date with Rainout Line and vacate the fields.
- * Athletic field(s) shall be vacated at the time(s) and date(s) indicated or Lessee(s) shall be charged a pro-rated amount for every one-half hour of overtime use.
- * No District equipment or property shall be removed from the premises without permission of the District Director
- * No beer, liquor or any alcoholic beverages shall be brought or consumed upon the premises or be in the possession of any member of the party. Violation of this provision shall result in automatic revocation of all rights hereunder and the forfeiture of all fees.
- * Only District personnel may line fields; no outside lining permitted.
- * Lessee(s) are solely responsible for providing any and all supervision at all times during Lessee(s) use of any athletic field, including but not limited to the leased athletic field, and all common areas. Further, Lessee(s) shall be responsible for ensuring that Lessee(s) guests and invitees comply with all applicable rules and regulations pertaining to use of District Athletic Fields.

FINES AND PENALTIES

It shall be unlawful to go upon a game field which has been designated "closed" and/or has posted a sign stating "closed field". Failure to comply with the West Chicago Park District's Field Use Policy may result in any of the following:

- * Per Chapter 7, Section 4 of the West Chicago Park District General Use Ordinance; any person found guilty of violating this provision will be fined an amount not to exceed \$500.00 per player.
- * Immediate Dismissal from Coaching, Refereeing, Umpiring on West Chicago Park District Fields (we reserve the right to withhold funds towards damages).
- * Immediate Cancellation of further use of West Chicago Park District Fields for current and subsequent seasons (we reserve the right to use pre-payment for use towards damages).
- * Billing for Damage to Fields (we reserve the right to use pre-payments or funds due to individual or Organization towards damages).