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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

FIELD ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITY USE MANUAL

1. ROLE OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The department is responsible for maintenance of Town parks, athletic fields and athletic fields on school grounds. The Director of Parks and Recreation oversees the department, along with the Parks and Recreation Commission, which is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen. The Director, with the assistance of the department staff, oversees the day-to-day operations related to field and park administration. Parks and Recreation Department is the major communication link to the community groups using the fields. In addition to responsibilities to public parks and athletic fields, Parks and Recreation Department has many other responsibilities, including offering programs each season for all age groups, and overseeing the operations and maintenance of various facilities and aquatic venues.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for guiding the administrative policy of public parks and athletic fields as well as steering future development of facilities to serve the residents of Newtown. The Parks and Recreation Commission are appointed members that make policy decisions related to the use of fields and parks.

The maintenance of Athletic Fields is only one segment of the work that must be done by the Parks and Recreation Department, and projects must fall into priority with the other projects that the department is required to accomplish. Athletic Field Maintenance begins sometime in March, depending on the weather and the current workload of the Parks Department. Priority is given to preparing the fields used by High School Athletics, starting with fields used for the varsity teams. The next level of priority goes to spring tournaments or special events. The Parks Department tries to coordinate the next level based on the priority requests from Youth Sports Organizations. Final priority is given to fields used only by adults. Organizations are not permitted to do any type of maintenance on fields without permission from the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Parks and Recreation Department has numerous responsibilities outside of the maintenance and administration of athletic fields. Requests from users of athletic fields will have to be judged based on the other priorities of the department at the time, so it is best to make requests early.

The Town of Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission will periodically review this policy and make any changes deemed necessary to the policy. In addition all Town of Newtown user organizations are encouraged to identify items of concern regarding the Field Administration Policy, and provide the Commission a written summary of those concerns for consideration during the review process.

2. ROLE OF SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS

Sports Group Communication:

Each group is responsible for making sure that all coaches, parents and participants are aware of all rules regarding use of fields and that the parks and neighbors are treated respectfully! Official requests must be submitted, in writing, through Park and Recreation. If you are not sure of the status of the request, do not hesitate to call and follow through.

Each group is responsible for securing additional services (i.e., portable toilets, garbage, recycling, pavilions, etc.) for special events. Nothing is done automatically due to the unique needs of all and the large number of special events held by many groups other than sports organizations throughout the year. The Parks and Recreation Department will make the decision on what tasks can be done during the work day, and what work must be funded by the specific organization.

Coaches, parents and participants should not contact Parks and Recreation Department for league related matters. They will be asked to contact their league officials to make the formal request. This is for the protection of league officials, who often make decisions for their whole program that might not have been accepted by the minority. This also reduces the amount of phone calls or confusion, considering we receive a high volume of calls from residents on many topics.

Sharing Scheduled Use/Permits:

Allocated field time cannot be shared with any group that does not have permitted use from Parks and Recreation Department. Two groups permitted by Parks and Recreation Department can work together to share field space, but must notify Parks and Recreation Department, in writing, of those agreements.

Non-Permitted Group Use of Fields:

In recent years, groups without permission have begun to use fields on a regular basis, finding times not used by permitted groups. These groups have increased the compaction and wear on the fields, and some have used the fields during inclement weather causing further damage. If you are aware of any group using fields on a regular basis without a permit, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 203-270-4340, or email carl.samuelson@newtown-ct.gov, and provide as much detail information about the group as possible so that we may contact the Newtown Police Department for assistance.

Make sure all of your coaches have something in writing indicating when they have use of the fields to insure they will have use of the fields when they go for a scheduled use. Any group that decides to regularly meet to use athletic fields must have a permit and follow the rules and regulations for use.

Work on Fields:

The Parks and Recreation Department has a regular schedule of maintenance related to safety on the athletic fields. Any group requesting overtime work on the fields must follow the rules and regulations as set forth by the Board of Selectmen and union agreements. No unauthorized work may be done at any facility. In the event that work is done without approval, that organization will pay for additional repair work that is made necessary, and will be in jeopardy of losing its permit.

Inclement Weather:

School decisions on field use at the High School and Middle School are made midday directly by the High School Athletic Director. This decision may differ from the one made later in the day for community groups, based on the weather at that time. Parks and Recreation Department does not get notified about school use.

League officials will make the decision on weekends and holidays after the 7:45 AM department decision if the weather changes and if the weather changes after the 3:00 PM decision on weekdays. Fields closed for the day by the Parks and Recreation Department may not be opened by any organization for any reason. Fields used when closed will result in the imposition of fines as outlined in the fine schedule. Field privileges will be revoked until all fines have been paid in full. The participants and parents in your program should be given a resource for finding out these decisions. All groups make their own decisions in regards to use on synthetic surfaces not normally closed during inclement weather.

Referees do not supersede decisions made by Parks and Recreation Department or the rules of the department.

As an example, a referee cannot declare a field playable after Parks and Recreation Department has closed the field for play. Practices and games cannot begin in April until Parks and Recreation Department has stated that the fields are open no matter what the first date is on the schedule. Fall schedules for community groups do not begin in August. They must have time scheduled in the Spring/Summer field permit in order to use fields in August. Fields closed for summer maintenance are not opened prior to September 1st for fall events.

Signs:

No signs or banners may be posted at any field or park without prior written permission of the Park and Recreation Department and proper permitting from the Zoning/Building Departments.

Tournaments:

The special event form must be completed and submitted to the Parks and Recreation Department. The word “tournament” includes all special events. Permission must be granted by the Parks and Recreation Commission prior to any event being scheduled. NO CLINICS of any type may be held without prior written permission from the Department. NO INFLATABLE STRUCTURES OR TENTS, of any type, may be put up without prior written permission. A PDF version of the special event form will be sent to all league officials. It is the responsibility of all groups to read the organizational permit carefully, and alter schedules to avoid conflicts. All efforts should be made by organizers of special events to reduce the effect of the event on other groups.

Dogs:

Dogs are not permitted at any Town Park or athletic field location, with the exception of service animals. Dogs are permitted at The Park and Bark Dog Park. At all other parks, dogs are not permitted on the premises. Dogs may not be on the athletic fields, within playground areas or on tennis courts. Leashed animals are permitted on the walking trails only at Orchard Hill preserve and at the Fairfield Hills Municipal Campus. Please respect other users and remember to pick up after your pets. Sports groups need to communicate this policy with coaches and participants. Please be sure this message is made clear to opposing teams or when hosting special events.

Synthetic Turf:

Please insure that water is the only liquid on the field, and that no other drinks or food items are permitted. Service animals must remain off the fields. Metal cleats are not permitted.

Accidents and Injuries:

Using the form provided, submit accident forms within 24 hours, or the earliest business day, if the accident was caused by field conditions. PREVENT accidents, and fully train all coaches by keeping the fields “911 ready”, making sure emergency access is available and first aid kits stocked and readily available.

Lost and Found:

The Parks and Recreation Department will bring found articles to the Parks and Recreation Office at Town Hall South, 3 Main Street. Individuals are notified if a name was written on the item. Items not claimed within one month of being received are donated to local organizations.

Respect and Safety:

1. Be respectful of neighbors at each park! They choose to live near the park, but did not choose to have trash in their yards, cars parked blocking their driveways or observe rude behavior.
2. No alcohol or illegal drugs are ever permitted at any field.
3. Make sure the equipment used meets current safety standards.
4. Litter should be picked up and removed at the end of each field use.
5. Resolve conflicts between groups promptly and fairly.

School Fields:

Parks and Recreation schedules all school fields. Please e-mail Carl Samuelson at carl.samuelson@newown-ct.gov to schedule a school field.

School buildings:

School building use is scheduled by Roseann Reggiano. Please e-mail Roseann at roseann.reggiano@newtown-ct.gov to schedule a school building.

Donations:

The Parks and Recreation Commission must approve all donations including, but not limited to, projects, in-kind, items, renovations and financial donations. Any donation or gift for a specific intended purpose or for any purpose must be submitted, in writing, to the Commission and must comply with all Town regulations regarding memorials and/or donation policies in effect at the time of the donation, as may be amended from time to time. Monetary donations may be made to the Newtown Park Gift Fund at any time during office hours or online through the Town's website (go to the Park and Recreation page).

Sports Program Information:

Parks and Recreation Department annually publishes a brochure with program names, contact names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please keep the information up to date so that the office can direct interested participants to your program.

Lining Of Athletic Fields:

In 2006, the Parks and Recreation Department discontinued the past practice of lining baseball and softball fields for community groups and does not provide materials for painting lines or marking diamonds. Athletic field lines will continue to be lined for Newtown High School Athletics. Parks and Recreation Department will continue to line multi-purpose fields, and baseball/softball field foul lines on a weekly basis. Lining needs outside of this are subject to the following rules and regulations:

1. Parks and Recreation Department must approve all field linings. No field may be lined without prior written permission from Parks and Recreation Department. The person in each community league responsible for overseeing the lining of fields should remain in contact with the Parks and Recreation Department during the season in order to coordinate the mowing and lining schedules.
2. Only two sets of lines will be permitted on any grass field. Typically, the primary set will be painted in white and the secondary set will be painted in blue or yellow. The paint product used must be approved, in advanced and in writing, by Parks and Recreation Department.
3. A community group may make a request to Parks and Recreation for a department staff member to work overtime to line fields for special events. Major lining projects often require two staff members to complete the project in a timely fashion. A rotation schedule of trained staff will be maintained and every effort will be made to have staff available for the requested off-duty time.
4. The community group will pay the full cost to the Parks and Recreation Department prior to their use of the field, which will be deposited into the appropriate payroll account upon approval of the Finance Director and/or Board of Selectmen. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department for the most current hourly rate and union regulations.
5. A community group may hire a private company or individual to do the lining that has previously been approved by the Parks and Recreation. The company or individual shall provide all equipment and materials. No Town of Newtown equipment, materials, or storage may be used at any time. The company or individual must provide proof of insurance to the Community group, with a copy provided to the Town of Newtown through the Parks and Recreation Department, prior to their doing any work on the field. The community group liaison must remain in contact with the private company or individual and with the Parks and Recreation to insure collaboration between the mowing and lining schedule.
6. A community group may not hire a Town of Newtown Parks employee to do maintenance, including lining, on his/her own time. This practice has been allowed in the past, but in accordance with the State of Connecticut State Ethics law, it had to be discontinued.
7. A community group may volunteer to do lining on its own. A community group liaison must meet with the department staff prior to any lining to insure that the proper procedure is followed. The liaison must remain in contact with the department to avoid scheduling problems. There is no town building storage available for volunteers doing lining, and Town equipment shall not be used.
8. A community group shall not do its own maintenance nor shall it hire its own maintenance contractor without prior written authorization of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Additional Notes:

For all requests, the current collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Newtown and all Park and Recreation employees will be honored. No unauthorized maintenance work may be done at any park. The Parks and Recreation Department may choose to train volunteers from community groups for specific projects. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department with questions.

All community groups considering a donation of services or materials to the Town for an athletic field must make the request in writing on the organization's letterhead. The president of the organization must sign the request indicating the board of directors has approved the donation. The letter is sent to the Park and Recreation Commission to be addressed at their regularly scheduled meetings, and if approved, will then go to the Board of Selectmen for official acceptance of the gift. The applicants will be notified of the decision in approximately sixty days, if not sooner.

League Presidents:

Unless otherwise requested by the League President, the President will be the primary contact with the Park and Recreation Department. This individual is responsible for:

1. Submitting field request information by the appropriate dates;
2. Coordinating use with other groups, especially when there is shared use or schedule conflicts;
3. Coordinating lining by private contractors or volunteers for regular season baseball and softball;
4. Training coaches and parents on the rules of field usage;
5. Communicating field closures during inclement weather (evenings, holidays, and weekends);
6. Submitting Field Administration and Surcharge Fees by scheduled date;
7. Contacting Parks and Recreation with requests and safety concerns;
8. Ensuring that all participants of his/her group are participating in a safe program;
9. May assign ONE point of contact to serve as primary contact point with Parks and Recreation; and
10. Submitting lighting schedules and assuring lights are turned off when not in use.

Field Scheduler:

Based on the field space made available to the league through the group permit, this person schedules all games and practices. This person may be named by the league to be the main contact with Parks and Recreation. This individual is responsible for:

1. Creating a schedule that works within the time given to the league;
2. Insuring that all coaches know when special events supersede permits;
3. Working out schedule conflicts with other groups;
4. With League President, communicating field closures during inclement weather (evenings, holidays, and weekends);
5. Contacting Parks and Recreation with tournament requests; and
6. Submitting lighting schedules and assuring lights are turned off when not in use.

INFORMATION FOR COACHES

All league officials are required to provide this information to their coaches, prior to the season beginning.

1. Field use schedule / Permit information is available to league schedulers on the Parks and Recreation website. In the case of a dispute, only a group that can show it has scheduled use will be allowed to stay on the field.
2. Coaches may not request additional field space. Any questions related to field space must be directed to your league officials.
3. Newtown Public Schools have first priority on school fields on weekdays. They have the right to complete games that extend beyond their permitted time, and to schedule make-up or post-season varsity games outside of their permitted time.
4. Any questions related to field scheduling must be directed towards league officials. Coaches may not interfere with any other permitted group's use of a field or the instigating coach's league may face the loss of the field use.
5. The organizational permit only gives permission for practices and games for most groups. Approved Special Events supersede regular scheduled use. No special events or tournaments may be held without the prior written permission of the Parks and Recreation Department or Commission and no additional equipment for a special event may be placed on Town land without prior written permission of the Park and Recreation Department.
6. All areas must be left clean at the end of use, with trash secured away and not left out to attract animals.
7. Rain dates are normally not given, due to high demand for use.
8. Some special event requests will require attendance at a Commission meeting prior to the event. Please plan accordingly.

Inclement Weather:

For up-to-date changes in any program regarding weather, time or location, please sign up for up-to-date information at www.newtown-ct.gov.

- Click on "subscribe to news"
- Add your cell phone number and/or email address
- Check off "Recreation Field closures and Cancelations"

All league officials, parents, coaches, players are welcome to sign up for this notice.

1. The website is only updated on days when Town staff is working, and it is not done until AFTER 2:30 p.m.
2. Weekdays decisions are not made until 2:30 p.m. to give fields the most opportunity to dry and to determine whether they can be used. If decisions were made earlier, there would be more field closures. Please do not call at 12:00 p.m. asking for a decision.
3. On weekends, decisions are made and posted by 7:45 a.m.
4. On weekends after 8 a.m., holidays and on weekdays when weather conditions have changed after the 2:30 p.m. decision, contact your league officials who are responsible for inclement weather decisions. Leagues may not open any fields deemed closed by Parks and Recreation.
5. Use of wet fields jeopardizes the safety of participants, causing five (5) times the damage of the use of a dry field. It also adds increased maintenance to the field. Do not use a field with standing water and do not attempt to do any maintenance on your own that has not been previously authorized by Park and Recreation.
6. Use of wet fields may jeopardize your league's permit.

Safety Information:

1. All coaches should walk the field and surrounding areas prior to using the field. A potential hazard must be reported to the participants and the opposing team. Report unsafe conditions to your league officials, who will in turn, notify Parks and Recreation.
2. No field may be used when it has been closed by Parks and Recreation. There are NO exceptions.
3. Coaches are responsible for making sure participants/parents drive and park in a safe and legal manner. Access should always be available for emergency vehicles. Neighbors should not be blocked from accessing their own homes.
4. Children should never be dropped off in dangerous areas, i.e. crossing a busy road to reach the field.
5. Do not feed geese or wildlife. That only encourages them to stay on the field area.

Legal Information:

1. No person shall possess or consume alcoholic beverages nor illegal drugs as defined by CT General Laws.
2. Ice cream trucks and vendors are not permitted within 1,000 feet of any recreational park or school in organized use, as defined by CT General Laws.
3. Dogs are not permitted at Town Parks with exception of service dogs. Dogs are permitted at the Park and Bark Dog Park. Service dogs are not permitted to be off-leash or to defecate on Town property, as defined by Newtown Animal Control.

Accidents:

1. Leagues should provide specific guidelines for the prevention of safety, and should train all coaches on how to deal with accidents. Basic first aid should be available on site.
2. All accidents must be reported to Park and Recreation within 24 hours or by the first official day of business.

Important Information:

1. All trash, including water bottles, must be removed from the field by coaches and players at the end of each event.
2. Lost and Found items of value will be left at the Parks and Recreation office at 3 Main Street, Newtown CT 06470. Individuals are notified if a name was written on the item. Items not claimed within one month of being received are donated to local organizations.
3. Groups authorized to use the lights have the ability to self-cancel lights up to 1 hour before scheduled use to avoid charges. Lighting cancellation requests during the day to Parks and Recreation must be made, in writing, before 2:00 p.m. to avoid use charges. Group administrators may only cancel scheduled lights. There is no way individual groups can turn lights on or schedule lights for use. Please plan accordingly.
4. Coaches should provide directions to fields to parents/participants. Ask league officials for any special parking restrictions at the fields you use.

Parking and Field Notes:

- NO parking or driving on any field.
- Parking lots must be used where available. NO parking on grass.
- Be courteous to neighbors at parks without parking areas. No one should park on neighbor's lawns or block driveway access.
- Directions, including proper parking, must be provided to visiting teams.
- All parking laws must be followed.
- Insure there is emergency access to all parks and on all neighborhood roads.
- DO NOT BLOCK ANY GATES.
- Alcohol and drugs not permitted at any park.
- In the past year, Parks and Recreation and/or Newtown Police received at least one complaint about parking issues or speeding at all of the parks, except Orchard Hill Nature Center. The most numerous complaints are from neighbors of Glander Fields and Treadwell Park. Please be respectful and courteous to avoid loss of field use.

INFORMATION FOR USER GROUPS

Starting & Ending Use Times:

Town fields may be permitted as available between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Use begins and ends at the times stated on the permit including setup and clean up. Groups are not allowed on fields prior to the start time on the permit and are required to have the fields clean, picked up and be off the fields at the ending time indicated on the permit. Field preparation and participant warm up allowed within the parameters of field use hours. Additional fees will be charged for unauthorized or extended use beyond times listed on the permit. Check your permit for specific times you may access the fields.

Pavilion and Grill Use:

All organizations using fields or hosting an event wishing to utilize a pavilion and/or permanent grills must reserve these facilities in addition to the field reservation/permit. Portable grills utilizing charcoal, briquettes, propane or a similar type heat source are NOT allowed.

Traffic and Parking:

User groups must inform their participants and spectators to park in facility parking lots and public parking areas. If needed, user groups should post directional signs to assist participants and spectators to appropriate parking areas. When traffic and/or parking are an issue or during postseason tournament play, the user group or organization must provide volunteers to direct participants and spectators to designated parking areas. It is the users' responsibility to alleviate traffic and parking issues. No vehicles are allowed on Town fields or property, other than parking lots, without written permission noted on the use permit issued by the Parks and Recreation department.

MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Rest and Renovation:

An annual rest and renovation program is scheduled at all sites to maintain field sustainability. Parks and Recreation attempts to accommodate user groups but, ultimately, the health and safety of the user and the condition and playability of the fields takes priority. This may require the closure of fields or facilities, denial of use of a field, and/or alternate sites for athletic use.

Field Modifications:

Requests to modify, resize, add multiple field use, or improve any Town field or facility shall be submitted, in writing, with conceptual drawings to the Parks & Recreation Department. No temporary or permanent structures or equipment shall be erected on any facility unless previously approved, in writing, by the Parks & Recreation and is dedicated for community use. Submission of a request to modify or improve a site does not constitute approval. Approval will be given according to Town policy. Approval will be provided in the form of a written document and will outline the scope of the project as approved. Adding additional fields to a site without permission will result in a violation and/or fine. Modified fields for multiple use will be billed appropriately.

FIELD CLOSURE PURPOSE & POLICY

Town athletic fields have been designed and are maintained for the enjoyment and use of Newtown residents. The purpose of this policy is to guide the use of Town athletic fields, to prevent damage to the playing surface and injuries to field users brought upon by inclement weather or unsafe playing conditions. An effective field maintenance program is essential for safe, quality conscious fields and sport complexes. User groups are asked for assistance by accepting and adhering to these rules. Groups who use Town athletic fields and facilities are expected to assist in protecting their participants and fields during periods of rain or inclement weather. It only takes one practice or game to destroy a field that is not ready for play. User groups are responsible for any damages caused to a field by playing in questionable weather. This includes damages done trying to dry out the field such as digging ditches, raking mud into the fencing, pushing water into the outfield/grassy areas or applying a drying agent. Violations will constitute a strike against the organization and/or may result in cancellation of your permit.

Policy:

The Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel or suspend outdoor facility or field use permits for games, practices and other uses whenever field conditions may result in damage to the fields or injury to players. Permits may also be cancelled when the health and safety of participants are threatened due to impending conditions, including but not limited to heavy rains, weather alerts, pesticide application, and forces of nature.

Procedure:

The Parks and Recreation or designated representative shall have the authority to close any or all athletic fields whenever weather or field conditions dictate. During inclement weather, maintenance staff will assess the playability of all Town owned athletic fields to determine if use will occur. The Parks staff shall be responsible for assessing field conditions and updating field status. Should weather conditions deteriorate, staff will reassess field playability and close fields if conditions dictate. Field use or playability will be determined by safety conditions and/or hazards that could be deterrent to the welfare of user/players, existing and forecasted weather conditions for the day and potential damage to the field due to play or practice use.

Inclement Weather Field Closures:

For up-to-date changes in any program regarding weather, time or location. Please sign up for up-to-date information at www.newtown-ct.gov.

- Click on “subscribe to news”
 - Add your cell phone number and/or email address
 - Check off “Recreation Field closures and Cancelations”
 - All league officials, parents, coaches, players are welcome to sign up for this notice.
1. The website is only updated on days when Town staff is working, and it is not done until AFTER 2:30 p.m.
 2. Weekdays decisions are not made until 2:30 p.m. to give fields the most opportunity to dry and determine whether they can be used. If decisions were made earlier, there would be more field closures. Please do not call at 12:00 p.m. asking for a decision.
 3. On weekends, decisions are made and posted by 7:45 a.m.
 4. On weekends after 8:00 a.m., holidays, and on weekdays when weather conditions have changed after the 2:30 PM decision, contact your league officials who are responsible for inclement weather decisions. Leagues may not open any fields deemed closed by Parks and Recreation.
 5. Use of wet fields jeopardizes the safety of participants, causing five (5) times the damage of the use of a dry field. It also adds increased maintenance to the field. Do not use a field with standing water, and do not attempt to do any maintenance on your own that has not been previously authorized by Park and Recreation.
 6. Use of wet fields may jeopardize your league’s permit.

ALLOCATION PROCEDURES

Fields will be allocated by priority use and permitted as sustainability allows. After high school schedules are confirmed, the Parks and Recreation will work with user groups to permit fields. Fields will be allocated to teams/organizations based on the percentage of verifiable Newtown residents participating on that team/organization in relation to all teams in that priority group. Verification of Newtown residency will be established by providing such documentation as the Parks and Recreation staff deems necessary including but not limited to team rosters, player addresses, picture ID, utility bill, or birth certificate. Fields will be allocated without regard to competitive level of skill. Field use times will be divided into prime time and non-prime time. Prime time priority is given to youth teams Monday through Friday 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and all day Saturday. Non-prime time priority is given to adult groups from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and all day Sundays as site specifics and sustainability allow.

Teams and organizations may be required to provide schedules that indicate all allocated fields are being used. Fields not being utilized by the appropriate organization or team indicated on the use schedules three times during a season and/or the reserved period of use will be reassigned. Teams and organizations will be notified when a field has gone without use by Parks and Recreation staff and also prior to reassignment. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to reassign field assignments to accommodate the needs for tournaments and/or special events. All organizations hosting tournaments on Town fields must meet with Parks & Recreation staff at least 30 days prior to the tournament date to complete a Tournament Checklist Form. After all requirements for application of field use are met a formal permit will be issued authorizing use of Town fields. Submission of field request and/or special event, tournament request does not constitute approval. A copy of the permit must be available at each site approved for use for inspection by Town staff.

Allocation Procedure Formula:

Fields will be allocated to teams/organizations based on the percentage of verifiable total Newtown residents participating on that team/organization in relation to all teams in that priority group. To resolve a discrepancy between two youth organizations that request use of the same site/field and that cannot be worked out between the two organizations, the following allocation formula will be used to determine the number of fields that will be allocated to each organization. The total number of organization participants that are Newtown residents will be divided by the Minimum Roster Size for each sport to determine the total number of teams in an organization.

The total number of teams in an organization will be divided by the total number of teams from all organizations in question determines an organization’s allocation percentage. An example of this would be:

Baseball Group A has 180 Newtown residents: 180 divided by 12 equals 15 teams.
Baseball Group B has 300 Newtown residents: 300 divided by 12 equals 25 teams.

15 +25 = 40 total teams
15 divided by 40 = 37.50% of allocation for Group A
25 divided by 40 = 62.50% of allocation for Group B

All fields allocated for adult teams/organizations will be based on the total number of verifiable Newtown resident players expressed as a percentage of all residents playing in all Group D/E organizations as the premise for allocation of hours.

SITE SPECIFIC FIELD USE

Some sites have restricted use due to the location of the athletic fields, neighborhoods with limited parking and/or fields directly adjacent to residences. Additional site specific measures may be added to reduce residents’ concerns adjacent to the athletic field facilities. Check your permit for specific times you may access the fields and the number of fields allocated for your use.

Tournament Procedures:

All general rules and reservation procedures as specified in the Field Administration Policy are applicable during tournaments. Tournament applicants must complete an Athletic Field Request form. Submission of this form does not constitute approval. Written approval is given according to allocation policy, after fees are paid and when a permit is issued. Tournament applicants must receive Town approval/Permits to sell food, use a pavilion or set up tents. This approval must be noted on the use permit prior to use. All organizations conducting tournaments using Town fields must meet with Parks & Recreation staff at least 30 days' prior to the tournament date and complete a Tournament Checklist. Game times and field use must follow all policies outlined in the Field Allocation and Use Policy.

User Organization Categories:

These categories place non-school/non-Park and Recreation organizations into scheduling categories that are listed in the following priority use levels. Any users who add programming, or change affiliations, must present changes to the Commission prior to field use for approval.

Category A – Must meet all criteria

- Newtown Non-Profit Youth organization
 - 80% or greater Newtown Residents per team and;
 - Youth Established Organization and;
 - Games and Practices only, priority does not trump special events.

Category B – Must meet all criteria

- Newtown Non-Profit Adult organization
 - 80% or greater “Newtown residents” (see definition) per team and;
 - Adult Established Organization and;
 - Game Schedules, priority does not trump special events

Category C

- New Newtown based Organization qualified for field usage under the “Field Administration Policy” and;
- 80% or greater “Newtown Residents” per team and;
- Pays double currently established surcharge rates for a period of five years and;
- Approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission as a qualifying organization for a period of one year prior to issuance of field time.

Category D

- Newtown Non-Profit Youth or Adult organization with:
 - Less than 80% Newtown Residents per team or;
 - Regional teams based in Newtown (Club, Premier, AAU, CFC, or other entity not qualified under category A&B or C)

Category E

- Non-Newtown based regional teams or;
- Non-Newtown based non-profit

Category F

- Outside Tournaments (One time, or no prior category or affiliation)
- Outside Special Events (One time, or no prior category or affiliation)
- Any organization not listed in prior categories

Fee Structure

	Grass no lights	Grass lights	Turf no lights	Turf lights	Other no lights	Other lights
Category A	PP/PS Surcharge	\$75 per event Plus Surcharge	PP/PS Surcharge	\$75 per event Plus Surcharge	PP/PS Surcharge	PP/PS Surcharge
Category B	PP/PS Surcharge	\$75 per event Plus Surcharge	PP/PS Surcharge	\$75 per event Plus Surcharge	PP/PS Surcharge	PP/PS Surcharge
Category C	2 x PP/PS Surcharge	\$75 per event Plus Surcharge	2 x PP/PS Surcharge	\$75 per event Plus Surcharge	2 x PP/PS Surcharge	2 x PP/PS Surcharge
Category D	\$70 per hour	\$100 per hour	\$100 per hour	\$150 per hour	Site Specific	Site Specific
Category E	\$100 per hour	\$150 per hour	\$150 per hour	\$200 per hour	Site Specific	Site Specific

Definitions:

Authorized Maintenance: Tasks undertaken by an organization approved, in advance and in writing, by the Park and Recreation Department.

Fall Season: September 1st through December 15th (Synthetic surfaces). Natural surfaces close November 15 (Newtown High may use fields through post-season game schedule).

Field Surcharge Fee: A fee charged to assist with costs related to capital expenditures that is deposited into a designated fund within Park and Recreation’s Revolving Funds.

Field Administration Fee: A fee charged to account for the cost of the administrative tasks undertaken by the Park and Recreation Department, and deposited into the Town of Newtown’s General Fund.

For-Profit: Any business, group, individual or organization not certified as a 501(c)(3) or that has received a waiver from the Park and Recreation Commission.

Junior Field: Those generally used by elementary aged and younger youth.

Established Organization: Newtown-based organization that has used facilities for a minimum of 5 years under the same organization, or prior to the establishment of field use policies.

Newtown Residency: In order to be considered 100% Newtown residency, the participants must live in Newtown, attend Newtown Public Schools or a private elementary school or high school located in Newtown or have 100% of participants employed in Newtown, by a Newtown based business.

Non-Profit: An organization formed as a 501(c)(3) for which proof must be provided, including certificate, copy of constitution and table of organization with list of paid employees.

Organized Activity: Any group of ten (10) or more individuals that communicate and meet on a regular basis.

Permit: A set of documents provided by the Director of Park and Recreation, including but not limited to a calendar of approved dates and organizations, Regulations for Use, and safety information.

Priority Use: The order of preference when allocating the use of facilities to organizations.

Senior Field: Those generally used by High School, adults and older youth.

Special Events: Includes, but not limited to, clinics, tournaments, round-robins, practice-only organizations, charity events, carnivals, multi-inning/quarter games; approved only for events sponsored by Newtown Parks and Recreation, Newtown Public Schools or a Newtown based non-profit organization.

Spring Season: March 15 for synthetic surfaces and April 15 for natural surfaces through third Sunday in June (Newtown High may start prior to April 15th based on CIAC schedule).

Standing water: Puddles that remain on the facility surfaces after inclement weather.

Summer Season: Monday immediately after third Sunday in June through August 31.

Traditional Use: Includes, but not limited to, practices, games or meets between two teams.

Waiver: A determination made by vote of the majority of the Park and Recreation Commission that a specific organization may not meet all the requirements for a priority user group, but is determined eligible based on written documentation provided that determines organization's value to the community or requirements of league.

FIELD/FACILITY RULES & REGULATIONS

In addition to the Athletic Field Use request form, a completed, signed, copy of the Acknowledgement and Receipt Form is required. Applicants are required to abide by the specific rules of the application as well as other Town codes and any posted signage at a given site. Failure to comply may result in a fine, retention of a group's deposit, and/or cancellation of any current or future permits. These rules include but are not limited to.

1. Groups consisting of ten (10) or more individuals wishing to use a field must acquire a permit with the Parks and Recreation Department. Field use permit must be available during use and presented to any Town representative upon request. The Parks and Recreation Department has exclusive discretion in decisions on scheduling of Town fields and such decision shall be final.
2. It is the responsibility of the organization president and the individual identified as the person in charge of the permit to enforce the rules and regulations regarding the conduct of the group while on permitted facilities, as well as make sure coaches receive and understand that permits must be on site during field use.
3. Use begins and ends at the times stated on the permit including setup and clean up. Groups are not allowed on fields prior to the start time on the permit and are required to have the fields clean, picked up and be off the fields at the ending time indicated on the permit. Additional fees will be charged for unauthorized or extended field use beyond times listed on the permit. Check your permit for specific times you may access the fields.
4. Parking is allowed only in designated areas. No vehicles are allowed on Town fields or property, other than parking lots, without written permission noted on the permit issued by the Town. User groups must inform their participants and spectators to park in facility parking lots and public parking areas. It is the user's responsibility to alleviate traffic and parking issues.
5. Selling food or other items is not allowed without Town approval and must be permitted through the Health Department.
6. Use of artificial noisemakers, horns, rattles, bells, or whistles by spectators are not allowed. Amplified sound is not allowed on any field without Town approval and must be noted on the permit.
7. Banners may not be posted without Town approval and noted on your permit.
8. Balls and any other equipment thrown, batted, kicked or otherwise land on private property must not be retrieved without the property owner's permission. Do not climb walls or enter gates to gain access onto private property.
9. Property boundary walls or any fences are not to be used as backstops at any time.
10. Portable goals and/or markers are allowed but must be removed daily.
11. Please leave park areas immediately after games and practices safely and quietly, especially after late games. For the benefit of our community, please practice being good neighbors as most facilities are in residential neighborhoods.
12. Groups may not play on fields closed due to wet field conditions. It is the responsibility of groups to distribute field closure information to its users. All groups and users can sign up for automatic closure notification at the "Subscribe to News" link at www.newtown-ct.gov. Follow this link to recreation Field Closures and cancellations. Notifications will be posted at 2:30 p.m. Monday – Friday and at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday & Sunday. Please do not call prior

- to these times seeking closure information.
13. NO alcohol, gambling, fireworks or flammable material, narcotics or drugs are allowed on Town of Newtown property.
 14. All permit applications must be submitted, in writing, to the Park and Recreation Department. Applications received past the established deadlines will be processed on an as available basis, regardless of priority status. No action will be taken on incomplete applications.
 15. Requests to use athletic fields or parks that are deemed by Parks and Recreation to be non-traditional or that will place a higher burden on the facility than typical use must be put in writing on the current Special Event Request Form. Special events must be approved by the Park and Recreation Commission.
 16. Facility allocation will be managed by Parks and Recreation and will be based on the categories listed in the next section, but may also take into account field conditions, scheduled renovations, age and history of organization, past practices of organization (positive and negative), age appropriate sized facilities, and impact on neighborhood.
 17. In general, younger youth will be scheduled on junior fields and older youth and adults will be scheduled on senior fields.
 18. Priority use on 60' and 90' diamonds is given to baseball and softball organizations; priority use on multi-purpose fields will be given to organizations that play on rectangular fields, including but not limited to football, soccer, and lacrosse.
 19. All permit holders agree to abide by the most current set of Regulations for Use
 20. An athletic field with standing water is automatically closed. No unauthorized maintenance work may be done to move the standing water and use the closed field. Permits may be revoked from organizations allowing use of athletic fields with standing water, and a fine may be charged to cover the costs related to the needed repairs.
 21. The Police Department will be notified when organizations allow coaches, parents, and/or participants to park illegally, or obstruct access to neighborhood homes or access by safety vehicles.
 22. A permit may not be sublet to a different organization. Parks and Recreation will work with current permit holders on any exchanges when both permit holders agree to the exchange. Unauthorized permit subletting shall result in an immediate loss of permit.
 23. Permits may be revoked if an organization does not abide by the Regulations for Use, or allows a facility to be damaged through its actions or lack of action. Organizations with revoked permits may be denied permits in the future.
 24. For-profit individuals and/or organizations will not be given permits for use of athletic fields or parks, for the purpose of raising private funds, without a majority vote of the Park and Recreation Commission or the Board of Selectman.
 25. All organizations wishing to use Town of Newtown facilities must meet an 80% residency requirement by individual team composition to use fields on a surcharge basis. All other groups or teams will be charged hourly.
 26. All organizations wishing to use Town of Newtown facilities must submit requests at bi-annual sports meetings, with schedules being submitted three (3) weeks prior to the start of the season. If schedules are not received on time, it will be assumed facilities are no longer required and they will be made available to be scheduled by other groups. SCHEDULES

MUST BE SUBMITTED TO PARKS & RECREATION WITH REQUESTS FOR LIGHTS CLEARLY NOTED ON THE SCHEDULE.

27. The Parks and Recreation Department has sole authority to assign fields/gyms or deny use of facilities to any groups requesting use. Said request may require the Parks and Recreation Department to obtain reasonable personal information or organization information, as the case may be, and may include a police background check. The Town of Newtown reserves the right to deny a request in the event that information is obtained which calls into question the character or morals of the person or organization applying. The Town of Newtown may revoke or suspend a permit in the event information comes to the attention of the Parks and Recreation Department which would cause the permit to be denied in the first instance.
28. Once facilities assignments have been made, any changes must be cleared through the Parks and Recreation office, with a minimum of 48 hours notice.
29. Schools have priority use of facilities on school grounds. Every effort will be made to coordinate school usage with previously assigned sports group usage. (Any groups not utilizing assigned field time must notify Parks and Recreation 48 hours in advance.) The Parks and Recreation Department will notify the organization representative should any schedule or facility changes are required. The Representative will ensure that the facility usage complies at all times with approved Parks and Recreation facility allocations. Time cannot be used or allocated for any activities other than practice or games. (Ex. camps, clinics, tournaments, etc.) **NOTE: If this request is a special program, clinic, camp or tournament request an Organization Representative MUST obtain the appropriate request form and submit it to Parks and Recreation.**
30. Each organization will provide the Parks and Recreation Department with one individual "Contact" to serve as Representative for all contacts regarding facility requests and/or issues. All requests, schedules, field concerns, lights, etc., must come through this person or the League President. No request from others will be accepted.
31. The organization will notify the Parks and Recreation Department, in writing, immediately if the appoints a NEW Representative/Contact Person.
32. The Representative will ensure that all officers, coaches, trainers, and other organizational officials are familiar with and understand the Facility Use Agreement Rules and Regulations prior to use of any Parks and Recreation or School facilities.
33. Any and all complaints about facility condition, assignments, etc., must be brought to the organization's Representative, who will then contact the Parks and Recreation Director or Assistant Director.
34. The Parks and Recreation Department has final say as to whether games or practices will take place on fields under our jurisdiction. Safety of participants and damage to fields must be of the highest priority, no matter how tight schedules become. Once it has been determined that the fields are closed, NO work is to be done by any organization to attempt to make the fields playable. No repair work is to be done in an effort to deem a field playable.
35. The Parks and Recreation Department will notify the organization's Representative should any schedule or facility changes be required. The Representative will ensure that facility usage complies at all times with approved Parks and Recreation facility allocations.

36. Any group using facilities after being instructed not to by the Parks and Recreation Department, or any group using poor judgment in playing in bad weather or scheduling events not approved by Newtown Parks and Recreation, will risk fines and/or forfeiture of seasonal facility rights.
37. Facility improvements (including equipment or services) will not be initiated until written approval with explicitly outline task(s) has been given by the Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission.
38. Any organization requesting facilities use for a tournament must submit a request in writing no less than thirty (30) days before the tournament. Tournament approval is based on facility availability and with written prior approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission. There is a per tournament fee. Fee MUST be submitted with form.
39. Any organization's failure to comply with the Regulations for Field Use will result in the imposition of fines as well as forfeiture of facility rights, subjects to the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Director and/or Assistant, in accordance with the Parks and Recreation Policy noted below:
 - a. First Offense - \$250.00 fine, possible forfeiture of facility rights
 - b. Second Offense - \$500.00 fine, possible forfeiture of facility rights
 - c. Third Offense - \$1,000.00 fine forfeiture of facility rights
 - d. Additional Offenses - \$1,500.00 fine forfeiture of facility rights
40. Any groups losing use of a facility for misuse of said facility must meet with the Parks and Recreation Director before regaining use and must appear before the Parks and Recreation Commission.
41. Any scheduling or lighting requests must be made to the Parks and Recreation Department, *at least 48 hours in advance.*
42. Any damage to facilities caused by an organization must immediately be reported to the Parks and Recreation office. Any damages your organization may notice, see, occur, or feel may soon occur must also be reported. Damages to facilities by sports groups will be evaluated and will be charged to the appropriate group.
43. All organizations are responsible for removing all garbage from facilities, recycling is strongly encouraged. The league must remove all garbage and debris from field before leaving field, even if another activity immediately follows. Coaches are responsible for reporting violations to the organization president. Continual violations will result in fines and or loss of use of facilities.
44. Any work groups set up by an organization to do some annual field preparation to start the season must work through the Assistant Director of Parks, with regards to what has to be done, materials, machinery, etc. Specifics are to be worked out by one person in charge of the group and the Assistant Director of Parks.
45. All organizations requesting use of town facilities, which require scheduling, custodians, mowing, grooming, lining and/or other maintenance operations, are required to pay a per player, per season surcharge, as set by the Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission. This surcharge, including rosters with participant's addresses, must be received in the Parks and Recreation office within three (3) weeks of the start of the season. *Failure to adhere to this policy will result in loss of facilities until surcharge is paid and a \$250.00 fine, at the discretion of Parks and Recreation.*

46. The surcharge fee for the year as set by the Parks and Recreation Commission is \$25.00 per player Newtown Resident and \$50.00 per player non-resident.
47. All accidents, regardless of severity, involving injury must be reported to the Parks and Recreation office within 24 hours of said accident.
48. Annually approved tournaments may impact field availability to other User Organizations. Organizations will be notified at bi-annual Facility Use meeting in the spring and the fall as to which fields/facilities will be available along with various Town activities and dates.
49. Requests for night games/lights at Treadwell Park, High Meadow Field or NHS back multi-purpose must be made at least 48 hours prior to the requested date. If the game is on the weekend, the request should be in the office by Thursday morning. Cancellations must be made prior to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If a night game is not played and has not been canceled through the Parks and Recreation office, the League, or team, will be charged and payment shall be made within five (5) days from the date said game was to be played.
50. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any park field or school field without permits. This includes spectators. It is up to the organizations to control their spectators or call Newtown Police Department. If this is not adhered to, teams or leagues will lose the right to use facilities.
51. Current certificates of insurance must be received in the Parks and Recreation office at least three (3) weeks prior to the use of facilities (this includes practices). No field time will be granted until insurance is provided.

ARTIFICIAL TURF RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. NO food of any kind, (i.e. gum, soda, juice or sports drinks, sunflower seeds, etc.) is allowed on the turf fields. Water is the only approved drink allowed on the turf fields.
2. NO suntan lotions, oils or creams of any kind on the field. Please apply sun block prior to accessing field.
3. NO spiking or anchoring of goals, corner flags, benches or field markers.
4. Field use scheduled through Parks and Recreation ONLY. Scheduled events have priority.
5. NO animals of any kind on the turf field or the entire park.
6. NO metal spiked cleats.

In an effort to communicate our desire to provide the best possible playing conditions we need the help of our users. In order to have quality playing conditions on athletic fields, it takes three conditions to be coordinated to achieve success. The goal is to have athletic fields that provide a safe environment for the athletes, and help prevent injuries as much as possible. In simple math, it is the SUM of these three!

S...cheduling
 U...se
 M...aintenance

SCHEDULING

Many factors go into decisions on how fields are scheduled that relate to maintenance. Some of the decisions are based on science. UCONN and UMASS Extension Services provide lots of information, as well as several specialized university research programs throughout the country. Some are specific to a particular field and coordination with other uses or concerns.

- No field should be used if it is excessively wet or excessively dry. Parks and Recreation will close fields with “standing water” and those announcements are made through Notify Me, on the website and on the recorded information line.
- Organizations need to make the decision on weekends and holidays, and ask for your full cooperation, which we acknowledge can be a challenge as league officials can’t control all coaches who want to play no matter what the circumstances, and it is also difficult to figure out how to get all games played with constant cancellations.
- A wet field is damaged about 5 times the amount of damage from a regular use.
- Fields shouldn’t be used unless the grass is growing, to insure it has the ability to recover from use. This is a difficult condition to honor. The compromise is that fields do not open until April 15th at the earliest, with only the High School having some limited use prior to that date. It is typically closer to May before the grass starts growing, so how the fields are used in April is an important decision. The second way to honor this condition is to shut down the heavily used natural grass multi-purpose fields during the summer months, and allow for some recovery time, though not at an optimal time of year, so that the fields are available in the heavily used spring and fall
- Fields should not be used when frozen, has a frost covering or is partially thawed. The April 15th opening date is often delayed as the fields are still snow covered, frozen, or soaked even though the snow has gone. Fields are not scheduled in the winter months, and are closed in mid-November. The schools are asked to assist with how fields are used in the winter months.
- Limit use to 50 activities per year. This is an impossible goal to achieve. An activity is a single use that is 2-4 hours in length. Wear patterns can start to show after 10 activities. After 25 activities, the turf will become thinner and more vulnerable to weeds. Beyond 50 activities...we all know what that looks like! A compromise on this goal is that fields are shut down for a minimum of two growing seasons after being seeded, to allow for a strong root system. Summer and winter are not considered growing seasons.
- Appropriate amounts of parking are needed for the use. Some activities are just too large for a particular site, so need to be scheduled at a location that can handle the parking needs. This is also a reason that special event requests are submitted for activities that are not typical for a park, so that issues related to parking can be accommodated.

USE

Once Park and Recreation has scheduled locations, it is now up to the organizations to make some decisions on actual use, to help achieve the goal of having safe and functional athletic fields for the athletes.

- Keep practices and drills off of high traffic areas, and move to different locations each time. Reducing the stress on heavily used areas will decrease the amount of compaction and allow for more growth of grass.
- Communicate with coaches on when fields are available, and when they aren't. A single coach, ignoring the decision of the league, can use a field and create enough damage that it isn't available for use for an extended period of time.
- Move practice equipment around so the same areas aren't impacted. For practice, game areas do not need to be used, particularly for repetitive drills or activities that need heavy equipment. NO STORAGE on natural grass fields without permission let the grass breathe and thrive!
- Put items away after use. Nets/goals should be put back if the field is used for multiple sports.
- Ask athletes to use "gentler" footwear that is less likely to create divots or tear root systems. A stressed field will receive less damage if sneakers are worn, but the decision is also based on the athletes having proper footing.
- Report concerns about field conditions to league officials who will report to the Town. A low spot on a multi-purpose field or a lip between the infield and outfield of a diamond can all decrease the safe conditions on a field. Prevent activities that create these issues!
- Reduce unpermitted use. The organizations that have permits tend to work with the Town to assist with how the fields are used to properly maintain their conditions. There are "sandlot" uses, which can cause some damage, but typically it is minimal. The hardest uses creating the most damage are the organized uses without permits. They play on a regular basis whenever they can sneak on, and tend to use fields as long as there is no snow coverage. They are not contributing to the care of the fields. Your assistance in helping us get these groups off the fields is greatly appreciated!!
- Pick up trash! Newtown has a carry in/carry out trash policy. Most locations have dumpsters near the buildings so items can quickly be dropped on the way out. If no dumpster is seen or if full, please "carry out." Our parks are far cleaner with your help!
Remember garbage cans attract bees and a number of individuals have life-threatening allergies to bees.
- NO vehicles! Vehicles are not permitted to drive at any park. No wheeled vehicles should be brought into parks or athletic fields for any reason. If deliveries or special access is required prior arrangements must be made.

MAINTENANCE

This is an integral part of the equation for quality athletic fields. The Parks and Recreation Department provides the majority of the maintenance at athletic fields. Along with this task, Parks and Recreation has many other duties, seasonal maintenance, and tasks on trails, pools, marinas and pocket parks. Some funding has increased in recent years to allow for the purchase of additional supplies for the maintenance program, and for contracts to hire specialists to help with some maintenance tasks, including mowing at some school sites.

The goal at all fields is to have a strong root system of natural turf, providing a solid foundation for proper footing for the athlete, and preventing the growth of invasive weeds and insects. The Town works from an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan, and attempts to have as natural a maintenance program as possible, with limited use of chemicals on an as-needed basis. No pesticide or chemicals are allowed to be used at any K-8 school in the State of Connecticut. We cannot lawfully spray for Poison Ivy, bees, or any turf disease that does not have an immediate threat to human health.

All of Newtown's athletic fields, with the exception of artificial surfaces, exceed the amount of recommended use, so compaction becomes a major issue leading towards other issues.

Components of Natural Turf Maintenance Program:

- Soil and water testing
- Fertilization and Lime
- Mowing
- Aeration (various methods)
- Topdressing
- Overseeding
- Drainage
- Irrigation, where appropriate

These are all considered components of a fertility program that is specifically designed for the needs of each field. The treatment of invasives is done on an as needed basis, following the State requirements for K-8 School fields. Chemical treatment is not used for aesthetic purposes. On fields with irrigation, the amount of water is now computer controlled so as not to overwater any facility. The height of the grass and the amount of irrigation are coordinated to encourage deep root growth, creating a higher quality athletic field. The amount of funds available, the type of equipment, the ability to properly nurture the soil based on test results, the amount of compaction from overuse, and the schedule of use (and unscheduled uses) can all impact a maintenance program at an individual site.

We currently maintain over 100 acres of natural sports turf. Some of them are sand based fields that require a different type of maintenance program. Some are fields used for high school sports, as well as community groups.

Diamonds

Maintaining diamonds, particularly the infield areas, is labor intensive work. Diamond crews are scheduled three days per week in the spring and fall seasons. With limited staff, it is not possible to maintain every infield on a daily basis.

Top priority is given to the diamonds used by Newtown High Athletics during baseball season, youth baseball and softball programs are the second maintenance priority. While grooming in the summer still occurs, crews are needed for other tasks as well. Foul lines are painted weekly at all diamonds.

Multi-Purpose Fields

The major task is mowing, and mowing crews are scheduled at least twice a week, during growing seasons, weather permitting. These fields are also painted weekly during athletic seasons.

Synthetic Turf

Regular maintenance is done on the synthetic turf fields to prolong the life-span of the fields and to keep in safe condition for the heavy use. Only water is permitted on the fields. No other food item, including sports drinks, food, or gum. All trash should be removed after each use.

Mowing Schedules

All Town athletic fields are scheduled to be cut twice per week. Mowing and lining schedules are crafted in a way to give user groups the best possible conditions for weekend game schedules. Head O'Meadow, Middle Gate, Hawley and Newtown Middle School fields are cut by a contracted landscaper and are cut once per week. All other school athletic fields are cut by the Parks and Recreation Department twice weekly.

Generally speaking fields that are cut on Monday are cut again Thursday, and fields that are cut on Tuesdays are cut again on Friday. We do have to modify this schedule based on weather concerns, or seasonal conditions.