



## **Park Athletic Field Guidelines**

### **Field Closure Guidelines**

The City of Laconia, Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to providing quality athletic facilities for the benefit of Laconia residents and guests. It must be understood by all athletic associations that utilization and play under wet conditions is the most limiting factor in providing quality athletic fields. The Parks & Recreation Department will not allow play when field conditions may contribute to unsafe play or when use would damage the fields and significantly lessen their safety and availability for future play.

The Parks & Recreation Department will make the decision to cancel any practice or game Monday through Friday until 5pm on a field by field basis. On Saturdays, Sundays and after 5pm Monday through Friday, a representative from each athletic association scheduled to use a field will evaluate the field's condition based on the following criteria. If any of these conditions exist, the association representative is expected to cancel play.

- 1.) **Standing Water on the Field of Play:** This condition is the most obvious and under no circumstances shall play take place. Under these conditions, coaches, team managers, club officials, or other leaders of athletic association shall cancel and reschedule practices / games / events for that time slot.
- 2.) **Soil Saturation:**
  - Walking on turf causes water to surface.
  - Walking on turf on heels cause's indentations.
  - One (1) inch or more of rain 48 hours prior to scheduled game or practice accompanied by steady rain on the game or practice day.
  - Steady downpour of rain on game or practice day that could cause damage to turf or injury to participants.
- 3.) **Specifics for Baseball and Softball Infields:**
  - Under no circumstances shall infields that have standing water or puddles be brushed off with a broom or squeegee. This practice pushes infield mix into the turf and creates lips.
  - When stepping onto a field, if the infield mix pushes out from under your shoes, the field is too wet and not playable.

### **General Use Guidelines**

#### **•Drills and Training Procedures:**

Utilize areas immediately adjacent to the prime playing areas whenever possible. Help preserve our fields by moving drills and other training procedures away from the most heavily utilized areas.

#### **•Baseball and Softball Exiting Procedures:**

When a game or practice has ended, the pitcher's mound, base areas, home plate and any other heavily worn areas shall be leveled and raked, keeping in mind not to rake towards the grass edge and create lips.

#### **•Athletic Equipment:**

All attendees to athletic events, including spectating children, must be prohibited from abusing equipment including, but not limited to, goals and nets, backstops, bases, landscaping, bleachers or restroom facilities. Any misuse of these or other related amenities are subject to all appropriate action, including suspension from the use of the City's athletic fields.