



TOWN OF UPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

RECREATION COMMISSION

FIELD USE POLICY

All the public athletic fields in the town of Upton are scheduled through the Recreation Department. Any organized team, camp, school, business, club, or youth group must have a permit issued by the department in order to utilize a field. A permit holder has exclusive rights to use of the field(s) as outlined in their permit.

When to Apply

Spring Season (April 1 -June 30): Applications accepted beginning January 1

Summer Season (July 1 -August 31): Applications accepted beginning April 1

Fall Season (September 1-November 30): Applications accepted beginning June 1

User Priority

Because the Recreation Department is not able to accommodate all our field requests, we have established a user priority schedule. It is important to realize that field request permits are not automatically renewed and groups must reapply each season.

Priority 1: Upton Recreation Department Programs

Priority 2: Non-Profit Upton Youth Groups and School Department Programs

Youth groups that are currently approved include: MUYSA Soccer, Nipmuc Baseball, Nipmuc Youth Lacrosse, Women's Soccer, and Upton Men's League Softball.

Priority 3: All other Organizations and Groups

These include but are not limited to: Private youth sport organizations (selects), adult leagues, private sport camps, non-resident youth sport groups. Preference will be given to organizations that rented fields in the previous year.

Wet Field Policy

If any fields are to be closed on a weekday, the Parks Department will post a "Field Closed" sign on that field and will notify Recreation Commission via e-mail by 3:00 pm of that day.

If any fields are to be closed on a weekend day, the Parks Department will post a "Field Closed" sign on that field by 6:00 am of that day. It will be the User Group Field Coordinator's responsibility to check the fields for posting and notify the appropriate people in a timely manner.

An email will be sent out by 3:00 pm the day the fields will be re-opened (All days in between will be closed). Anyone found using a posted field will be held responsible to pay for the damages. In addition, if the Field Closed sign has not yet been put up or rains come after the 3 pm deadline user groups/coaches are expected to make educated and responsible decisions regarding field conditions and playability, keeping in mind the current and future quality of turf for ALL users.

Regardless of whether the field is officially closed or not, a practice or a game should not commence or continue if:

- The field has standing water on it (i.e. puddles)
- Footing is unsafe and slippery
- Lightning is in the area
- The ground is waterlogged and "squishy" when you step on it
- You have mud on the bottom of your shoes after walking on the turf

Anyone found using a field during rain resulting in damage will be held responsible for all repairs to the field. Each league and youth sport organization will be responsible for communicating field closings to all referees, umpires, coaches, parents, and participants.

Once a game or practice begins, the referee, umpire or league representative is responsible for suspending play should weather or field conditions change.

RECREATION COMMISSION

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RECREATION DIRECTOR

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