



2014

Plain Township Parks Athletic Field Policies



Plain Township Parks Athletic Field Policies

Parks Athletic Field Use Policies

A. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to establish policies and procedures that govern the use of Plain Township athletic fields with the overall goal of safe and playable conditions for all eligible users. The policy will outline the responsibilities of users from the initiation of an athletic field reservation with the Parks Programming Department through post event activities. Under all circumstances, Plain Township's Partner Associations assume full responsibility for the actions of any groups subletting fields in accordance with their lease contract. This document supersedes all previous athletic field use policies.

B. Bi-annual Meetings

Bi-annual meetings will be held to discuss field specific issues such as maintenance schedules, facility issues, camps, tournaments, clinics, and overall timelines for use. The Athletic Field Use Policy will be reviewed at the bi-annual meetings and suggestions for changes or additions will be considered. The policy will be updated once annually each January. The meetings will be held in March for spring sports and August for fall sports.

C. Park Rules & Regulations

All park visitors are required to abide by the rules of this policy as well as all Township ordinances. Park rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Athletic fields and shelters require reservations for use and can be scheduled through the Parks Programming Department.
- Pets are only allowed at Alpine Community Park and Schneider Community Park.
- Alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, and incendiary devices i.e. fireworks, model rockets, are strictly prohibited.
- No glass containers are permitted in the park.
- Gas and charcoal grills are strictly prohibited.
- Permitted field users are responsible for the sportsmanship of their players, coaches, officials, and spectators.
- Parking is in designated lots only. No parking is permitted on grass or landscaped areas unless deemed necessary for the tournament/event taking place by Plain Township. User groups must inform their participants and spectators to park in designated lots. It is the permitted user's responsibility to alleviate traffic and parking issues.
- At the conclusion of a practice or game, users must collect all litter and garbage from the field and adjacent areas and deposit in provided trash receptacles.
- Fencing and buildings are strictly off limits for use as warm-up targets, batting soft toss, or throwing against in any fashion.

Plain Township Parks Athletic Field Policies

D. Prevention and Maintenance

Plain Township requests that Partners refrain from or limit their use of heavy traffic wear areas during practices, regardless of weather, to assist in providing the best field conditions possible for the scheduled games. This includes: goal areas, pitching mounds, foul lines, and any other portion of the field showing wear due to traffic. Preventing additional wear during non-game activities will greatly lengthen the playability of fields as the season progresses.

Schedules

Partners will be responsible for maintaining an accurate schedule with the Parks Programming Department. The Parks and Facilities Manager will arrange operations around the daily schedule provided to minimize interference whenever possible. Therefore, unscheduled activities interfering with planned grounds maintenance operations are obliged to move at the request of Plain Township personnel.

Maintenance Closures

Fields may be closed at the discretion of the Parks and Facilities Manager or designated Plain Township representative during times when the fields remain playable for certain operations such as aerification, emergency repairs, or pesticide applications. Partners will be notified in advance whenever possible.

E. Field Status Recommendations

Plain Township will maintain a web page (www.plaintownship.com) that provides daily field status recommendations of “open” or “closed” for Diamond Community Park based on the playability, safety, and saturation of the athletic fields. The web page will be updated no later than two o’clock p.m. Monday through Friday and Partner Associations that are affected will be notified by that time as well. If fields are listed as “closed”, Partner Association leaders have the opportunity to overwrite the decision due to field playability may improve between the time of the posting and scheduled play. Similarly, if a field is listed as “open” and precipitation deteriorates conditions so that field damage or unsafe conditions ensue, Partner Associations are responsible for cancelling or suspending play. Field damage will be addressed by the steps outlined in the following Progressive Action Plan.

Progressive Action Plan for Athletic Fields

- 1) The Parks and Facilities Manager or designated Plain Township representative will inspect fields daily to determine if damage has been sustained that reduces the safety and playability of the surface.
- 2) Dated photos will document field conditions when damage occurs. Photos will be stored on Township computers and are available upon request.

Plain Township Parks Athletic Field Policies

- 3) Fields will be closed when necessary for rest and renovation following events which cause damage and reduce safety. Users will be notified of rest periods in the Township's kiosks and signs will be posted signifying the field as "closed." Plain Township may employ measures such as temporary fencing to isolate playing surfaces while renovation and grow-in is undertaken to restore safe playing conditions.
- 4) Continued or un-repairable damage by Partners or other permitted users will result in the discontinuation of the agronomic maintenance program except for mowing. Primary field users will be notified in advance of Plain Township's intentions to change, discontinue, or temporarily suspend field maintenance programs.
- 5) Unauthorized usage of a field will result in a \$150.00 fine plus the costs of wages and materials for damage repairs if incurred. Final decisions on damages will be made by the Public Service Director.

