

**USE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS AND LIGHTED STADIUMS AT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Purpose and Scope**

To outline administrative regulations governing use and maintenance of athletic fields and lighted stadiums on district campuses (excluding those fields that have been leased to or are subject to joint use agreements with the City of San Diego).

Suggestions or questions concerning this regulation should be directed to the Real Estate Department.

**Animals on School Grounds**

1. Joint Use Areas

Releasing or walking animals on private or public property for purposes of relieving themselves is prohibited (San Diego Municipal Code 44.0304.1).

2. Non-Joint Use Areas

Due to health and safety concerns, all dogs are prohibited on school grounds, both during and after school hours, unless needed for an approved instructional program under the strict control of qualified instructors or handlers. Stray animals should be isolated from children, who must not be permitted to handle these animals.

**Prioritization in the Use of District Athletic Fields and Lighted Stadiums**

Use of district athletic fields and lighted stadiums shall be managed in a way that maximizes benefits to the school and its students, yet minimizes negative impacts to the surrounding community, and shall be prioritized as follows:

1. Use by the school for its own programs and activities
2. Use by other cluster schools
3. Use by other district schools outside the cluster
4. Use by non-district schools
5. Use by community organizations and community associations
6. Use by other groups including for profit entities

**Site-specific Use Policies**

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The Board of Education may adopt site-specific field use policies that take into consideration the specific needs and constraints of a particular campus, including the specific needs and practices of the school, the adequacy and condition of the facility, the physical location of the site, the needs of the community, the impact of the proposed use on the surrounding community, and the extent to which negative impacts to the surrounding community can be mitigated by the employment of reasonable restrictions. All high schools shall have a Field Use Policy which applies to all field events.

Prior to amending a field use policy adopted pursuant to this Section, the district shall provide mailed, written notice to all residents and property owners located within a one-half mile radius of the school site. Notice shall be provided at least 14 days in advance of the public meeting at which the proposed amendment will be considered. In addition to the mailed notice to residents and property owners provided for in this section, the district shall send notice in the same manner to any resident or property owner requesting such notice. A request for written notice under this subsection shall be made in writing to the district and must be received no later than 30 days prior to the Board meeting for which it applies. Written notice of this subsection means any notice sent via first class mail or, if requested by a property owner or resident, via e-mail.

**Use by Outside Entities**

Requests by outside entities to use district athletic fields and/or lighted stadiums shall be processed in accordance with administrative regulation. Upon receipt of a facilities use request from an outside group, the Rentals Office shall consider whether the proposed use is appropriate for the requested facility, considering the potential impact on the school and the community, the availability of sufficient parking, security, custodial services, restrooms and other services needed to accommodate the use. The Rentals Office may direct an outside group to the facility most appropriate for the proposed use, taking into account the above factors.

**Fees**

In addition to those fees typically assessed pursuant to administrative regulation, users of athletic fields and stadiums may be assessed the cost to the district to operate the field or stadium, including reimbursement for utilities, repairs, maintenance and other costs where measurable.

**Natural Turf Field Use and Maintenance**

Physical Education (PE) Departments and landscape personnel may plan the isolation of portions of fields for periodic heavy maintenance during the year, especially in the summer for football fields. To maintain natural turf fields in usable condition, users must adhere to the following:

1. School Programs
  - a. Fields are reserved for exclusive use of schools Monday through Friday, including evenings.

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- b. Where sprinkler system controllers exist, watering is completed at night. (Since no Sunday contracts are issued, fields are thoroughly watered on Saturday nights.)
  - c. Fields are not to be used after substantial rains to avoid severe damage to grass. The site principal and the appropriate zone landscape services supervisor are responsible for this control.
  - d. On days when fields are fertilized and watered-in, there will be at least one day of non-use.
  - e. It is the PE instructor's responsibility to:
    - (1) Control classes on mowing day for student safety.
    - (2) Keep PE equipment away from sprinkler heads.
    - (3) Adapt football practice to avoid heavily worn areas.
    - (4) Schedule practice for other sports (e.g., softball, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey) and marching units on decomposed granite areas as often as possible.
    - (5) Nondistrict users shall not be permitted to assign or sublease use of the athletic fields.
2. Nondistrict Users with Recreation Contracts
- a. No contracts will be authorized for Sunday use of any natural turf field, unless excepted for a particular event by the site principal's written request to the Rentals Office. Fields are posted with these conditions.
  - b. Contracts for other sports (e.g., baseball and softball) practices shall be permitted only on decomposed granite areas; Saturday games may be permitted on natural turf fields.
  - c. Pop Warner football may request contracts for Saturday games; daily practice shall not occur on natural turf fields.
  - d. Base anchors or pitching rubbers shall not be installed on school ball diamonds without express permission of district personnel and approval as to location and type.

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- e. Nondistrict users must assume responsibility for spectators and participants to protect banks and other landscaped areas and for cleaning up litter.

**Posting of Rules**

A summary of the rules set forth in the Field Use Policy shall be posted at the entrance(s) to the athletic field(s) so that attendees are aware. The posted sign shall also warn field users that failure to comply may result in revocation of the user's permit or denial of requests for future field use.

**Calendar of Events**

A calendar of events shall be posted under a separate tab on each school's website so that the surrounding community members can easily view the schedule of field activities. The tab shall include information such as the approximate times of the events and a phone number or email address for information or questions.

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

*38130 Civic Center Act, use of school property for public purposes*

SAN DIEGO MUNICIPAL CODE

*44.0304.1 Animals on private or public property*

Regulation

approved: December 12, 2017

Effective: February 1, 2018

**SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

San Diego, California