



Hillview Community Center
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www.losaltosrecreation.org

DATE: December 1, 2010
TO: Athletic Field Users
FROM: Peggy Ford, Senior Recreation Supervisor
SUBJECT: **ATHLETIC FIELD GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY**

The Los Altos Recreation Department is seeking your assistance in preserving the quality of all of your parks & neighborhoods. Group use of our fields impacts not only the turf area of the playing fields but also the surrounding park amenities, streets and neighbor homes. Our Good Neighbor Field Use Policy is designed to provide you the user with a quality field for play; preserve the quality of life for residents surrounding the parks; and to protect the integrity of the park.

This Good Neighbor Policy is straightforward – Treat the park and surrounding community as you would like to have your own park and neighborhood treated. Common sense should always prevail in the interpretation of this policy. Listed below are areas of particular concern.

- FACILITIES:** Please make sure that your groups & participants do their best to care for our facilities. Hitting baseballs or kicking soccer balls against the fences is not allowed. This not only damages the facility in the long run, but also causes problems with the neighbors such as noise and loose balls on their property. The Hillview Baseball Field backstop and fences should never be used for soccer goal practice.
- PARKING:** Please have your group park in designated parking lots whenever possible. If street parking is necessary, **NEVER** park in front of a neighbor's driveway or block sidewalk access. You may want to consider establishing a car pool system for your participants.
- NOISE:** Please be sensitive to the noise levels your activities generate, particularly in the early weekend mornings. Your group may be eager to get going at the crack of dawn, but not all the neighbors are as eager.
- RESTROOMS:** When there are no facilities available, please advise your participants to use facilities at home before coming to our fields. Please do not use the trees, bushes or other locations at the fields for this purpose! Kids play in the trees and bushes in our parks. It is not fair for them to have to watch out for this problem.
- TRASH:** Please remember to pack all trash. This includes not only trash generated specifically by your activity, but trash generated by spectators as well. Every park is equipped with trash cans.

RAIN: Athletic use of wet or saturated fields may cause extensive damage resulting in field closure and costly renovations. Groups shall abide by the following to preserve the life and condition of the fields during periods of rainfall, over-watered fields, and/or irrigation breaks or problems:

1. **Fields may not be used if conditions are wet or if the field is muddy.**
 - a. All grass fields are deemed closed to use at any time during a rainfall or irrigation problem. Play will be allowed during a light mist if the ground is hard and relatively dry at the time field use is considered.
 - b. If it has rained heavily before your field use within the past 24 hours, please have your coaches walk the field(s) to make sure the field is playable. If the grass is soggy and could be damaged during play, then you must cancel practice or play for that day.
 - c. If the City has closed fields due to heavy rain, you must not play on the field until the “field closed” signs have been removed and the field is in playable condition.
 - d. It is up to you to police your own organizations regarding weather conditions.
2. A failure to comply will result in payment for any damages incurred from your use and revocation of the permit.

Understand that this policy isn't meant to get down on any group. The complaints and concerns we've had from neighbors have been minimal and we would like to keep it that way. Inform your team members, coaches, families and friends of our policies. We have used the word “please” many times throughout this policy, however failure to abide by these policies could result in the loss of field use privileges for your group. Don't let this happen to you.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Los Altos Recreation Department at (650) 947-2790 or email info@losaltosrecreation.org.