



ATHLETIC FIELDS INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSURE POLICY

PURPOSE

District athletic fields are designed and maintained for the enjoyment and use of all residents. The purpose of this policy is to inform the public of certain rules and restrictions for fields to (1) prevent damage to the playing surface and (2) injuries to field users caused by inclement weather or unsafe playing conditions. An effective field maintenance program and inclement weather closure policy is essential for safety, upkeep, and enjoyment for all D.C. residents and visitors. Field users are asked to help us by adhering to the following rules and procedures. Groups who use District athletic facilities are expected to assist in protecting their participants and the fields during periods of rain and other inclement weather. With respect to field quality, it only takes one practice or game to destroy a field that is not ready for play.

POLICY

The District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel or suspend outdoor facility and field use, including uses subject to an issued permit, for games, practices and other uses whenever field conditions might result in damage to the fields or injury to players.

Permits may also be cancelled when the health or safety of participants is threatened due to existing or predicted conditions, including but not limited to heavy rains, thunderstorms, and air quality alerts.

It is the field user's responsibility to visit the DPR homepage at dpr.dc.gov or call the D.C. Parks and Recreation Weather Hotline at (202) 671-0331 after 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday or after 7:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday to verify field closures. Closed fields may not be used.

DPR rangers enforce field closure notices, and if groups are found using closed fields, the permit holder may be charged for the cost to repair the field. Additionally, if DPR determines that a permit holder has violated the field closure notice on multiple occasions, the entirety of their permit may be revoked and that organization's or group's ability to acquire future permits shall be under review.

PROCESS

DPR uses various resources to get the most accurate conditions report at a particular site. These resources include coaches, DPR employees, referees, and umpires. Information may be collected from one or more of these sources prior to a decision to close a field. Once the decision is made, the hotline and DPR homepage are updated.

Weather is very difficult to predict. To assist with closure decisions, DPR utilizes weather forecasts from various sources. However, DPR reserves the right to close a field when a determination is made that use might cause damage or injury.

Please use the breakdown below as a general guide for which fields are closed

Rain

- Artificial Turf – Open until conditions become unsafe for play
- Natural Turf – Closed
 - Note: Fields may be offline for multiple days in order for the field to completely dry-out and return to a playable condition.

Thunderstorm

- Artificial Turf – Closed until storm passes (unless field becomes saturated)
 - On-site umpires or referees allowed to make reopening call
- Natural Turf – Closed (may reopen)
 - Reopening dependant on amount of rainfall, DPR Grounds Division will make determination.

Snow or Ice

- Artificial Turf – Closed
- Natural Turf – Closed

Hazardous Air Quality Warning

- Artificial Turf – Closed
- Natural Turf – Closed