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### **Loudoun Soccer Field Allocation Policy**

As an affiliated Loudoun County league (501 C3), Loudoun Soccer receives a field allocation from Loudoun County Parks & Recreation that includes Loudoun County Public School sites and County Parks. In addition, we have the privilege of using some private fields and our own Loudoun Soccer Park. Because we are permitted use of so many fields, we must enforce proper use and care of fields and parking areas by parents, players and coaches. This document will outline the responsible use of fields and explains the Loudoun Soccer scheduling and field assignment processes.

During each season, Loudoun Soccer works for approximately 16,000 players. We can break that down into about 80 travel teams, 75 Adult teams, 235 mini soccer teams and 484 recreational teams. That's more than 1280 practices each week with 800 games each weekend. We make every attempt to be accommodating, accurate and responsive. We ask that you be courteous and patient if a problem should arise and understanding if you do not get the exact time and field allocation you want. We are all part of the same club and as such we want to work together for the benefit of the players.

Athletic fields will be allocated based on priority as listed below. This does not guarantee that every team will receive the fields, days and times they request, but we will do our best to accommodate.

1. Loudoun Soccer Programs, i.e. GK Academy, Striker Academy, Technical Training Academy...
2. Adult League is Monday through Thursday each week. They are a large group and get a block of turf time. Their time does not change from week to week .
3. U.S. Soccer Development Academy
4. Travel coaches that have multiple responsibilities. Often times their teams practice back to back on the same field at specific times in order to accommodate other Club responsibilities. These teams might be on grass or turf space.
5. Elite and Premier Teams
6. Travel I, Travel II, Developmental Teams
7. Challenge Teams and recreational teams in their towns of play
8. Travel teams that have post season tournaments. We do not allocate field space to recreational teams that participate in post season play.

### **Field Closures - Practices and Games**

1. Loudoun Soccer uses the Rainedout.com service to notify subscribers via text message if the fields close for various reasons including weather related issues. All club members are



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strongly encouraged to subscribe to this free service at [www.loudounsoccer.com/textalerts](http://www.loudounsoccer.com/textalerts). The Fields page at [www.loudounsoccer.com/fields](http://www.loudounsoccer.com/fields) will also be updated when there is a change in field status.

2. The County is large and spread out so the weather is not always the same throughout. Therefore, if a practice is progress, and inclement weather becomes an issue, the safety of the players is the top priority. For Lightning, coaches must follow the club's lightning policy - <http://loudounsoccer.com/weather> and use their best judgement for other types of weather, unless they are notified by the club or park staff.
3. If a game is in progress, the above holds true, with the referee taking the lead. Parks sites may be closed by the County staff preempting the referee decision. The referee will notify their assignor and in turn the club when this occurs.
4. Players, coaches and families are not to practice on fields that are closed
5. In the case of thunder and/or lightning, everyone must vacate the field area and move into a car or permanent structure for a period of 30 minutes after the last thunder/lightning sighting (policy on website)
6. Please assist those that need help to a safe place.

### **Field Closures - Weekend Games**

1. Loudoun Soccer will notify the leagues of the field closures in accordance with their policies and then notify the coaches/team administrators of field closures in order for them to notify their teams and opponents.
2. Loudoun Soccer uses the Rainedout.com service to notify subscribers via text message if the fields close for various reasons including weather related issues. All club members are strongly encouraged to subscribe to this free service. The Fields page on the website will also be updated when there is a change in field status.
3. The County is large and spread out so the weather is not always the same throughout. Therefore, if a game is progress, and inclement weather becomes an issue, the safety of the players is the top priority. The referee can make the decision to stop or cancel a game. Park sites may be closed by the County staff preempting the referee decision. Please notify the club when this occurs.
4. Teams playing at away locations overseen by other organizations (e.g. Travel and SFL teams) may need to coordinate communication with the host club regarding the status of their matches.



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### **Goal Areas and Safety**

1. All goals should be anchored for safety
2. Coaches are asked to inspect the goals before playing to ensure sandbags, weights or anchors are in place
3. Climbing, hanging and swinging are strictly prohibited. It is the responsibility of parents and coaches to monitor their players to ensure this behavior is quickly stopped. Failure to stop this behavior could end with torn nets or, worse, a goal being pulled on top of players

### **Use of Assigned Fields Only**

1. You are not permitted to assume ownership of a vacant field or portion of a field if you do not have a reserved time. Often, these fields are vacant for a reason or reserved at a slightly different time by another group. You can always email [fieldscheduling@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:fieldscheduling@loudounsoccer.com) with questions about open fields.
2. Each team on a field should have at least one goal to use during practice. If movable goals are available on your practice site, please be mindful of the other teams sharing that space.

### **Loudoun Soccer Park**

#### Field Access

The park can be very busy at times and it is important to observe all field signs and directions from park staff. If you have questions or need assistance please ask for the Manager On Duty (MOD) at the park's concession stand to explain the procedures to you.

1. During practices and training sessions only players and coaches are allowed on the turf. Spectators will remain outside the fences. Signs indicating spectator locations will be posted for games.
2. Please do not interfere with the game/training session prior to your scheduled time, and vacate the field quickly so that the next group can begin on time. If you plan to have a post game/practice discussion, please do so off the field.
3. Please leave your area clean and free of trash.
4. No Dogs are allowed on the turf.

This is our park and equipment so please be kind and respectful.



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### **Recap - Responsible Use of Public Facilities**

1. Use legal parking. Do not park in "no parking" areas. Be mindful of the law and avoid residential driveways, fire hydrants and mailboxes
2. Use public toilets or portable toilets where available
3. Leave fields free of all trash, even if something was there when you arrived, please be helpful and clean it up before you leave. This includes bottles, caps, athletic tape, food wrappers and the like
4. NO PETS!!!! Pets are not allowed on any county fields or turf surfaces. Please ask pet owners to remove their animals and clean up any remains from their visit
5. Amplified sound is not permitted
6. No alcoholic beverages
7. No portable grills using charcoal, briquettes or similar heat source parked on grass surfaces
8. No climbing over walls or gates to access closed areas
9. No play on fields that have been closed due to weather

### **Field Allocation Process - Travel Program**

1. By May 12<sup>th</sup> (or following completion of tryouts), all coaches will be asked to submit their practice requests for the entire year. This includes all season (summer, fall, winter and spring). The exception being if a team and/or coach are added post tryouts. Coaches are then asked to submit necessary documents as soon as possible.
2. No fields will be allocated between end of regular season play and July 7. The exception being rising U9 teams, teams still playing their regular season and teams that are competing at Regional and National levels.
3. Travel applications are attached to the back of this document (attach). Recreational coaches are asked for their requests when they register their children.
4. Teams that receive trainers will have to work with their trainer to ensure all sessions are made up within the season in which there are to receive them. Carryover of trainer sessions is not permitted and field space will not be a priority. To reschedule a trainer session, we will need a written request at least 5 days in advance to secure field space. You can send that request to [Fieldscheduling@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:Fieldscheduling@loudounsoccer.com).



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### **Off Season Practice Session Allotment- Travel Program**

A practice session is a ¼ field slot (turf) or ½ field (grass) for 1.5 hours of use, unless advised otherwise.

**Use of Evergreen Sportsplex and the LCPS artificial turf fields (outside of HS in-season) requires an additional rental fee.**

Winter- No County grass fields are allocated to leagues. HS turf fields may be requested and will be allocated to the club, if available. A fee will be assessed for use. As the county develops artificial turf fields outside of LCPS property, this may change.

Summer- All park sites (Bermuda grass fields) are taken down for maintenance/recovery. Therefore, initially we may receive some school fields. We work with PRCS to obtain some use of park fields as they are released. We are required to pay the per player County user fee for summer use on any/all county fields. This fee is included in the club fee. If the County decides to charge us for a summer fee, this amount will be passed onto the teams. Again, HS turf fields may be requested and will be allocated to the club, if available. A fee may be assessed for use.

Teams at Elite, Premier and Travel 1 levels get a specific amount of off season practices included in the club fee structure. These sessions have to be requested using the form attached, by the requested date. There is no guarantee these will be on the turf.

Teams of Travel II level do not have any off season practices included in their club fees. However, they can request practice in the off season on grass surfaces, provided some are available or purchase turf sessions. If a Travel II teams want to practice on the turf, turf fees will apply. Grass fields are only available as space is allocated by PRCS.

For all teams, practice sessions are available in sets of 5 or 10 at a set price. (see attached price sheet) Teams wishing to purchase additional field sessions need to complete the Field Request Form and submit at least 5 days in advance. If payment is due, the coach and Team Administrator need to agree and a bill will be sent from the accounting department. It will need to be paid within 10 days or the team will not be given further field time until it's paid in full.

Off season practice allotment details are generally shared within a Fees document found on the Travel homepage.



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### **Off Season Scrimmages - Travel Program**

Many teams want to play full field scrimmages on the turf in the off season. Due to closures of fields in the off season by Parks and Rec, space is at a premium and using a full field makes practicing for many teams impossible. If a team wants a full field to scrimmage, they can use 2 of their off season practice sessions and the opposing team can use two of theirs, assuming both teams are Club teams. The allotted time will be 1.5 hours. If either team is out of practice sessions or does not have practice sessions available, the field cost will be \$210 for 1.5 hr/ full field and \$105 for 1.5 hr/small sided field (half field) scrimmage. Again, this must be agreed to and signed off by both team coaches and managers. A bill from the accounting department will be sent to the Team Administrators and must be paid within 10 days.

Use of Evergreen Sportsplex, Morven Park and LCPS fields can be reserved through Loudoun Soccer and rental fees will apply. Grass fields are not lined in the summer and goals are not always in place.

Teams wishing to have a referee will need to contact the referee assignor and will incur the fees as such.

### **Practice Field Policy - Recreation**

#### **Team Formation Overview:**

Loudoun Soccer forms teams on a season-to-season basis (e.g. a player registers for the Fall and Spring seasons separately, and each season is organized as a separate period of time), and team rosters reflect this; players may be placed with different teammates and/or a different coach each season.

As such, Recreation teams – which includes our Micro (Pre School 3-4), Mini (Pre-K and Kindergarten), Rec 1 (Grades 1-2), Rec 2 (Grades 3-6), Challenge 1 (Grades 3-4), Challenge 2 (Grades 5-6), Classic (Grades 7-8) and SFL (U16-U19) teams – are not officially formed until two or three weeks before the first game or session of the season. Teams cease to exist once the season concludes, which is typically after their last game or session.

This means a team's existence is typically:

- Fall: forms in mid-August, and disbands in late October or early November
- Spring: forms in mid-March, and disbands in early June.



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### **Practice Field Allocation and Scheduling:**

Teams in the K-8 grades and U16-U19 age groups are allocated specific practice days, times, and locations based on this general calendar and seasonal format; specific start and end dates are determined by Loudoun Soccer based on this general calendar as well as the allocation of fields and determination of field readiness by Loudoun County Parks and Rec (LCPR). Teams are typically assigned a training location within their Town of Play (e.g. Ashburn teams will train at an Ashburn site).

Volunteer coaches submit their requested days, times, and locations when they register as coaches; this data is then used by the club's volunteer Age Group Coordinators (AGCs) and Commissioners to assemble the practice schedule.

All attempts to honor requests are made but cannot be guaranteed due to multiple variables (e.g. there are a finite number of fields available, and all teams cannot train on Tuesdays).

### **Practice Length and Field Sizes:**

Most teams train for 60 minutes (Grades 7-8 and U16-U19 teams may train for 90 minutes). Typical training times are 5 PM and 6 PM. Teams are allocated half of one game-size field for training (e.g. a 1<sup>st</sup> grade team will be assigned half of a 4v4 field); another similarly aged team will often occupy the other half of the field. Typically teams that train at 5 PM may have access to an entire field, due to the popularity of the 6 PM time slot.

### **Practice Schedule Conflicts:**

In the event a discrepancy occurs with field assignments (e.g. three teams arrive at one field to train at the same day and time), the coaches should be respectful of each other while resolving the short-term issue. Solutions include splitting the field into thirds, or one team moving to an open field or open space for that night's session. Coaches should then promptly notify Jamie Rawson at [jamie.rawson@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:jamie.rawson@loudounsoccer.com) about this conflict by email, providing the names of the coaches involved in this conflict.

### **Out-of-Season Training Requests:**

Out-of-season training is practices that occur before a team is officially formed or after a season concludes.





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Requests for pre-season practices on dates prior to the formation of rosters cannot be accommodated, since teams do not yet officially exist. Additionally, Loudoun Soccer typically does not receive field allocation at that early of a date, and does not have access to gym space during the winter months for its Recreation teams. All teams may begin practicing on the dates established by Loudoun Soccer.

Players who are interested in additional training opportunities are encouraged to register for the numerous programs offered by Loudoun Soccer, including Summer Camps, Rec Technical Training Academy, and Winter Foot Skills Clinics.

Individuals may rent space at Loudoun Soccer Park but would do so at their own volition and expense, and not at that of Loudoun Soccer.

### **Practice Field Policy - Adult League**

Teams formed to participate in Loudoun Soccer's Adult League are not allocated practice field space. Instead, teams may rent practice field space at Loudoun Sports Park at the in-house rental rate (\$35 per hour per half of 7v7 field, or \$70 per hour for full 7v7 field per hour), depending on field availability. Loudoun County Parks and Rec (LCPR) fields are not assigned to Adult League teams for practices, as Adult League players are not charged the separate LCPR per-player usage fee to participate in the Adult League.

Teams interested in renting field space at Loudoun Sports Park should contact Caroline Deutsch at [caroline@loudounsoccer.com](mailto:caroline@loudounsoccer.com) to submit their requested day and time. Note that early evening mid-week requests (M-F, 5-8 PM) are unlikely to be accommodated due to youth team usage during those days and times.

House teams formed by Loudoun Soccer may be allocated a free "get-to-know-you" kick-around prior to the season's start, as House teams consist of individually registered players who are likely unfamiliar with each other. Details will be communicated by the Adult League Director to participants when/if this event is scheduled.