HARFORD COUNTY ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS

GUIDELINES
ARTIFICIAL TURF PROGRAM
These Guidelines are to provide you with an understanding of the Artificial Turf Field Program in Harford County. The conversion of our stadium fields began in 2008. Three additional park sites were also converted starting in 2008. In partnership Harford County Parks and Recreation and Harford County Public Schools were tasked with maintaining and developing a program.

To formulate protocols and standards to provide for safe playing fields a committee was formed. Serving on that committee is two representatives with Parks and Recreation and two representatives with Harford County Public Schools. As joint agencies responsible for the fields our task is to look at ways to extend the life of the fields, ensure safe playing conditions, set standards for use, and look at funding budgets for future replacement of the turf. This committee meets on a regular basis throughout the year. Additional representatives from both agencies participate in meetings as needed to update policy and procedures, identify future capital and operating funds and review the program.

STANDARDS FOR USEAGE
All the fields are posted with the standard rules sign. Permits are required as set forth in the policies and procedures. Field scheduling is handled by the Athletic Director at each School for school sponsored activities. Parks and Recreation activities are scheduled through the local Recreation Specialist in the council the field is assigned to.

FIELD RULES
• FIELD USE BY PERMIT ONLY
• NO FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED ON THE FIELD (WATER IS PERMITTED)
• NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS OR GUM IN FIELD AREA
• ALL SHOES AND CLEATS MUST BE CLEAN BEFORE ENTERING TRACK OR FIELD - NO METAL CLEATS OR SPIKES ALLOWED ON SYNTHETIC FIELD
• NO VEHICLES ALLOWED EXCEPT EMERGENCY
• NO JUMPING FENCE (ACCESS BY GATE ONLY)
• NO STAKING OF ANY OBJECT ON THE FIELD
• DO NOT DUMP WATER OR ICE ON THE FIELD
• PLACE TEAM BENCHES OFF FIELD AFTER USE
• PETS PROHIBITED
• SNOW REMOVAL IS PROHIBITED
• THIS IS YOUR FIELD HELP TO PROTECT IT BY CLEANING THE FIELD AFTER YOUR EVENT

POLICIES and PROCEDURES (current versions)
• Memorandum of Understanding Joint Use Agreement for use of Artificial Turf Fields
• Procedures for use of Public School Facilities
• Parks and Recreation Directives
STANDARDS FOR MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the field after usage is the responsibility of the using group. It’s everybody’s responsibility to clean up the trash and place in the receptacles, ensure goals are not dragged across the fields and to leave a safe playing condition for the next using group.

Protocols have been established to provide a basis for Synthetic Turf Field Maintenance to enhance the life expectancy and provide for a safe playing surface. BOE and P&R share in those responsibilities and perform those tasks throughout the year to ensure safe playing conditions.

Items for using groups to assist with are listed below. By assisting with the recommendations below augments keeping the fields safe and performing to their maximum.

MAINTENANCE BY USING GROUPS

1. To avoid tearing of the artificial field all goals without wheels shall be carried and not dragged. Dragging of goals tears the turf requiring specialized materials to make the repairs. Driving on the field shall be minimized when carrying ball stoppers and setting-up goals. There shall be no parking of vehicles on the fields.
2. Sunflower seeds and chewing gum clean up requires additional time by our maintenance staff. Please help by reminding all your participants that these are not allowed on the fields. Seeds have to be removed as they decompose and ultimately hinder surface drainage.
3. Should a concern for an unsafe condition arise, notify the Site Leader, Athletic Director or Recreation Specialist at once.
   a) They will notify the appropriate agency responsible to remedy the situation.
   b) In the event of unsafe conditions, vandalism, or extreme weather conditions/ flooding, the BOE or P&R may close the fields until they are safe to resume use.
   c) BOE & P&R will determine if repairs can be made in-house, if contractual services may be needed to make repairs and if the field should be closed until the field is deemed safe.
   d) Based on annual g-max testing, fields may need to be closed for additional remediation.
   e) All equipment shall be moved off the fields during the yearly deep cleaning done in the spring.
   f) BOE is responsible for the following school sites:
      I. Aberdeen H.S.
      II. Bel Air H.S.
      III. C. Milton Wright H.S.
IV. Edgewood H.S.
V. Joppatowne H.S.
VI. Harford Tech H.S.
VII. Patterson Mill MS/HS

g) P&R is responsible for the following sites:
   I. Cedar Lane Park
   II. Fallston Rec. Complex
   III. Havre de Grace H.S.
   IV. North Harford H.S.
   V. Wade Tucker Field
   VI. Fallston HS