

Athletic Use Field Policy Update



Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission

January 28, 2026

Purpose

The purpose of the Athletic Field Use Policy is to establish clear guidelines for the permitting and use of Washoe County athletic fields and facilities. These policies are designed to ensure fair and equitable access for all user groups, protect the integrity and safety of County-owned assets, and promote responsible stewardship of public resources.



Locations

Athletic fields available for permitting exist at the following locations:

- Regulation Soccer Fields -	- Youth Baseball/Soccer Combo -	- Regulation Baseball Fields -
Eagle Canyon Park	Gator Swamp Park	Golden Valley Park
Forest Park	Eagle Canyon Park	New Washoe City Park
Lazy 5 Regional Park	Silver Knolls Park	South Valleys Regional Park
Lemmon Valley Park	Cold Springs Park	
North Valleys Regional Park		- Practice Turf/Flat Field -
South Valleys Regional Park	- Youth Baseball Fields -	Golden Valley Park
Village Center Park	Eagle Canyon Park	Lemmon Valley Park
	Golden Valley Park	Silver Knolls Park
- Youth Soccer Fields	Lemmon Valley Park	Arrow Creek Park
North Valleys Regional Park	North Valleys Regional Park	White's Creek Park
South Valleys Regional Park	South Valleys Regional Park	Virginia Foothills Park



Challenges and Goals

- **High Demand vs. Limited Supply:** Managing an increase in league and team requests for a finite number of athletic fields.
- **Formalizing Legacy Operations:** Transitioning from "unwritten" historical practices and fragmented drafts to a unified, public-facing policy document for community transparency.
- **Administrative Continuity:** Providing clear operational guidelines for recreation staff to ensure consistent management across future seasons.



Policy Updates and Additions

No formal policy was previously available to the public outside of the attachments included in the application packet (Section V of the Policy). Working from an unreleased prior draft, recreation staff has formalized and updated the document to better reflect current operations. Notable updates and additions include:

Overall:

- Updated fees to align with the current fee schedule.
- Added current due dates for various documents including application packets and league rosters.
- Updated/removed park names where necessary.



Policy Updates and Additions

Section 4.2 Priorities for Issuing Permits

- Updated Priority List
- Added language stating that *higher priority does not guarantee full allocation of all fields requested.*
- Added policy regarding team applications: *Individual teams may only request field space if their rostered players are not already participating in another league utilizing Washoe County facilities.*

Section 4.4 Damage/Cleaning Deposit

- Added circumstances for withholding the deposit: *By failing to pay utility costs within the thirty (30) day deadline and By failing to remove league equipment from fields within 30 (thirty) days of the end of the Fall season.*



Policy Updates and Additions

Section 4.8 Inclement Weather

- Added language to highlight avoiding turf damage:

..it is ultimately the responsibility of the league or organization to cancel or reschedule games and practices if conditions make play unsafe, or if field use may result in damage to the playing surface.

Section 4.10 Facility Modifications / Improvements

- Changed language regarding volunteer work: *Any volunteers must complete appropriate volunteer documents.*



Policy Updates and Additions

Section 4.11 Keys and Locks

- Rewrote section for clarity and added language regarding the required use of combination locks and the right to remove unauthorized locks.
- Added policy regarding End of Season key returns:

Upon expiration or termination of a Field Use Permit, all issued keys must be returned to the County.

Section 4.16 Batting Cages

- Added policy regarding removal of netting during winter break:

Due to the risk of bird entanglement, all netting must be removed from batting cages during winter break.



Policy Updates and Additions

Section 4.17 Soccer Goals

- Added language regarding labelling and condition:

Soccer goals must be labelled with the organization that owns them and must be in adequate condition to be moved for turf maintenance and upkeep (e.g. mowing).

- Updated language regarding winter storage:

Leagues must remove all soccer goals from the turf within 30 days of their permit's end. Any goals remaining on the turf after this period will be moved or disposed of at Washoe County's discretion, and all associated labor or disposal costs will be deducted from the league's security deposit.

Thank you

Questions?

