

City of Vaughan  
Managing Use on Premium Soccer Fields Policy

**Revised April 2011**

Soccer fields require a high quality of turf to ensure a safe playing field for players in order to reduce injuries and prolong the quality of turf. To reduce excessive wear and soil compaction on soccer fields, the following policy has been developed.

**Policy**

The City of Vaughan shall manage the amount of play on premium \* soccer fields in order to be fair to all clubs, maximize the life of turf on the soccer field and to reduce unnecessary maintenance costs. The revised Wet Field Policy, in conjunction with the Managing Use Policy is designed to benefit both the user and the taxpayer.

\*The definition of a premium field is a senior size regulation field that is fenced, irrigated, lit for night time use, and is maintained as per Parks and Forestry Operations standards.

**Procedure**

1. Premium fields receive maintenance and cultural practices (as per Parks and Forestry Operations standards such as aeration, top dressing, over seeding, fertilization and soil analysis).
2. Premium fields are inspected daily, cut/trimmed and lined weekly or as required, holes and nets repaired immediately as per Parks Operations Standards.
3. In co-operation with the User groups, Recreation and Parks and Forestry Operations, fields are chosen prior to spring as to their availability i.e. early or late field. This schedule is the basis for planning renovations, tournaments, staffing etc. Unless special approval has been granted by the Commissioner of Community Services, the predetermined dates will not be altered.
4. Premium fields shall have a rest period of two days in a seven day week with no more than four time slots\* allocated for week days and no more than six time slots allocated for weekends.

\*two time slots equal one game.

5. Premium fields are intended for scheduled games. Practices are allowed if played utilizing the width of the field rather than the length. Goal mouths are not to be used for practices.

6. The rest period is designated for maintenance and will be permitted to Parks and Forestry Operations as **Park Maintenance Days**. These days will be clearly marked prior to booking permits in the spring. A rest day may be altered if the City is responsible for causing impact to the scheduled permits.
7. Large tournaments shall not be permitted prior to June 15<sup>th</sup> or after September 29<sup>th</sup> unless approved by the Commissioner of Community Services.
8. Under the direction of the Parks Supervisor, staff will regularly monitor the conditions of the fields and provide monthly reports on the condition, cultural practices and repair strategies applied to each field. The information is available in a central filing system for access by the Manager of Parks and will be available for discussion at the fall soccer meetings with Club Presidents. Clubs are still encouraged to discuss concerns throughout the season with their designated Parks Supervisor.
9. Fields will be monitored by assigned Parks and Forestry staff or Parks Patrol security during permit and non-permit periods. Evening supervision by Parks Patrol will allow increased communication. If users refuse to leave a non-permitted field, the Parks or Security staff shall immediately contact the By-Law Enforcement staff who shall note the names of the users and warn them that they are in violation of the Parks Bylaw #134-95 and will ask them to leave. Permit holders may be charged and fined as per the bylaw.