

City of Stuart

SPORTS COMPLEX AND ATHLETIC FIELD USE POLICY

Purpose

The City of Stuart has established the following policies for all persons, organizations and groups that use the City's sports complex and athletic fields. The City reserves the right to amend or add any rules as necessary to provide all users with safe and high-quality facilities. These guidelines are comprised of general policies and procedures that apply to all fields within the sports complex. The "Stuart Sports Complex," located generally between the Iowa Interstate Railroad tracks on the north, Southeast Fourth Street on the south, South Fremont Street on the west, and South Madison Street on the east.

Athletic Field Assignment Priority

The City will issue sports complex and athletic field user agreements based on a first come, first serve basis.

Facility Use Requirements

- Leagues, organizations, groups or individuals must submit a Facility Use Application to reserve fields and dates. The application is included in this packet and can also be found online at <http://stuartia.com/> or at City Hall.
- Applications may be made 3 months in advance of the preferred date. All reservations are made on a first come, first serve basis. Facility Use Applications can be dropped off at City Hall, emailed to seed1@coonvalleytelco.com or faxed to 515-523-2578.
- In general, facilities are available for use from April 1-October 31, weather and field conditions permitting.
- The participant agreement, waiver, and release form must be completed by all users and league participants before facility use is allowed.
- User agreements are not final until approved and signed by the Economic Development Director and user.
- To ensure the best possible service for field reservations, a schedule of league activities, games and practices must be provided to the Economic Development Director, at a minimum, 14 calendar days prior to league practice start; however, sooner is preferred. Requests with less than a 14-calendar day lead time may be considered, but the City reserves the right to refuse field use due to time constraints.
- Tournaments require a minimum of a 30-calendar day advance request.
- All facility rules must be strictly adhered to. The applicant and its participants will be held financially responsible for any damage to grounds, equipment or surrounding property which occurs during the event, practices or games. See Appendix A for Rules and Regulations that apply to use of all athletic fields located in the City's sport complex facilities.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine if field conditions are satisfactory for play based on the field conditions. See Appendix B for conditions that may determine play on fields.

Athletic Usage Fees

There will be no charge or deposit required to use the athletic fields.

Available Facilities

There are five athletic fields available for use and a soccer complex. See Appendix C for the sports complex outlay and field locations and descriptions.

Rules and Regulations

- All refuse must be collected and placed in the proper receptacles before leaving the reserved area including dugouts, bleacher areas, parking areas and athletic fields. Please leave the facility in the condition it was found or better.
- No glass bottles are permitted at any athletic fields.
- Individuals shall not use any violent, obscene or profane language while on the field grounds nor shall anyone conduct him or herself in a disorderly manner or commit any nuisance that interrupts the normal operations.
- Character Counts! All coaches, players, parents and spectators will lead by example in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all teammates and competitors by watching language used, attitude, and being respectful of all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every event.
- Individuals shall not solicit the sale of any merchandise or solicit contributions whether public, private profit or non-profit, without the written authorization from the City of Stuart.
- Fields may not be sublet to other users/agencies/organization for practices, tournaments, clinics or any other special event without written authorization of the City of Stuart.
- Any violation of the rules or regulations will be cause for revocation of the sports complex and/or athletic field permit without warning.
- Practices and games are not to exceed time specified on the permit.
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted, except otherwise permitted by the Council.
- No smoking, e-cigarettes or similar are allowed on City property.
- No weapons of any kind are allowed on City property.
- All pets must be kept on a leash in all areas, including the walking trail. Pet owners are required to clean up after their pets. Service animals are permitted.
- No hitting/soft tossing of any types of ball or objects into fences or structures.
- Vehicles shall be parked in designated parking lot areas only.
- No vehicle parking fees shall be charged for tournaments or regular play.
- Failure to use fields as scheduled without notifying the Economic Development Director may result in loss of time slots. The field may also be used by another party for use.
- Any actions that endanger or that have the potential to endanger the safety of patrons or cause damage to a facility are not permitted and will result in immediate removal from the facility.
- Failure to comply with posted rules will result in removal from the facility.
- The City of Stuart is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged property.
- It is the policy of the City of Stuart that no activities will be held while a severe weather warning is in effect.
- During this warning period no one is allowed in the sports complex, athletic fields or in the dugouts.
- If a tornado warning is issued, patrons should leave the athletic fields and adjacent areas. Please note, concessions stands or other buildings on site are not certified tornado or storm shelters.

Field Conditions

The City of Stuart is committed to providing high quality, safe playing surfaces on all of our athletic fields. We ask for the cooperation of all user groups in protecting the turf from excessive damage due to game and practice activities. The turf is the safety surface for our athletic fields. If any of the following conditions happen to occur, scheduled games and practices should be cancelled or postponed.

1. Standing water on the field of play
2. Soil saturation
3. Walking on turf causes water to surface
 - a. Walking on turf on heels causes indentations.
 - b. Steady downpour of rain on game or practice day which could cause damage to turf or injury to participants.
4. Extreme drought conditions where 50% of the playing surface has turned dormant.
5. Visible frost, snow on grass or on frozen fields.

All coaches, referees, and umpires are responsible for ensuring the safety of field playing conditions at all time during scheduled play. Safety implies the protection of the resource, as well as the participants.