



Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy: Field Closures & Inclement Weather Policies

To obtain the full SAMLARC Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy document, please contact

Pat White, Park Use and Sports Field Manager

pat.white@fsresidential.com

949-709-4017

Section IX: Maintenance Issues

Subsection 4: Field and Facility Closures

Fields and facilities may be closed at the discretion of the Park Use and Sports Field Manager and/or its designated representatives. Closures are kept to a minimum when fields and facilities remain in a playable condition. Priority is given to maintenance needs, rest and renovation periods, and sustainability for all SAMLARC fields. SAMLARC may close fields or facilities when SAMLARC engages in renovations involving any of the fields or facilities or when the health and safety of participants is threatened, due to impending conditions, including but not limited to, rain, muddy conditions, smog alerts, maintenance issues, lightning, and earthquakes.



Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy: Field Closures & Inclement Weather Policies

Section IX: Maintenance Issues

Subsection 6: Inclement Weather Guidelines

The purpose of this section is to guide the use of athletic fields to prevent injuries and damage to the playing surface brought upon by inclement weather and/or unsafe playing conditions. An effective field maintenance program is essential for safe, quality fields and sport complexes. User groups are asked to help by accepting and adhering to these rules. Groups who use the athletic facilities are expected to assist in protecting its participants and fields during periods of rain or inclement weather.

SAMLARC reserves the right to cancel or suspend Field Use Permits when field conditions could result in injury to players, or cause damage to the fields. Permits may also be cancelled when the health and safety of participants is threatened, due to impending conditions, including but not limited to, rain, muddy conditions, smog alerts, maintenance issues, lightning, and earthquakes. Procedure - During inclement weather, SAMLARC's staff will assess the playability of all SAMLARC fields to determine if use will occur. The Park Use and Sports Field Manager or designated representative shall have the authority to close any/all fields within SAMLARC.

a. Criteria for Establishing Field Playability

The following information is SAMLARC's policy regarding the use of fields in wet condition. These policies and procedures apply to all sports and activities conducted on a grass field, turf area, or infield:

b. Baseball and Softball Infields – Brick Dust

Infield will be deemed unsafe and unplayable when any of the following conditions are present:

- i. There is standing water within the base paths.
- ii. Your feet slip as you walk through the infield.
- iii. The depth of your footprint is greater than one inch.
- iv. Any of the above conditions are present within the pitching area.

c. Soccer, Utility, Baseball and Softball Outfields – Turf

Outfields and turf areas will be deemed unsafe and unplayable when any of the following conditions are present:

- i. There is standing water within the majority of a single playing position. Playing positions will be determined based on the user group.



Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy: Field Closures & Inclement Weather Policies

- ii. Your feet suction to the ground as you walk within the majority of a single playing position. Playing positions will be determined based on the user group.
- iii. Your footprints fill with water in the majority of a single playing position.
- iv. The depth of your footprint is greater than two inches in the majority of a single playing position.
- v. Grass can be easily dislodged from the fields during play.

The following procedures are to be followed regarding the use of fields when there has been rain, over-watering, or other serious conditions:

- a. If it has rained within the preceding 24 hours, groups scheduled to use SAMLARC fields must call the Mudline at 949-448-6217, or visit the SAMLARC website at www.samlarc.org. The Mudline is designed to relay same-day information regarding field closures and playability, except in the case of extreme conditions or scheduled maintenance. The Mudline message will be updated by 2:30 p.m. Monday – Friday and by 7:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. SAMLARC personnel will make the determination of field conditions/closures. Decisions are not negotiable.
- b. SAMLARC may declare a field subject to “re-inspect.” Re-inspect fields should be evaluated by the user group at practice/game time for playability. The user group must employ the playability criteria used by SAMLARC staff and outlined above.
- c. In the event that the Mudline has not been updated or is unavailable, user groups are expected to make educated, responsible decisions regarding field condition playability. The groups should employ the playability criteria used by SAMLARC staff (as outlined above) and take into consideration the current and future quality of the turf.
- d. Groups witnessing misuse of fields by other scheduled or unscheduled users are advised to contact the Orange County Sheriff Department (949) 770-6011.
- e. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in cancellation of existing Permit(s) and/or loss of rental/allocation privileges, and/or a strike against the organization. NOTE: Fields will be inspected by SAMLARC staff for misuse during inclement weather.