

Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department

Synthetic Turf Field Rules

GENERAL USE GUIDELINES

Protect the field, the following is PROHIBITED on all synthetic turf field areas:

- All food and beverage (this includes snacks, gum, seeds, etc.), EXCEPT WATER
- Dogs or other animals
- Fireworks, pyrotechnics, open flames
- Golf, shot put, javelin, or discus throwing
- Glass
- Hitting, kicking, or throwing against the fences, climbing or jumping the fence.
- Metal cleats, high-heeled shoes, or spikes
- Sharp objects, metal of any kind, including all types of chairs, benches, corner flags, poles, tables, canopies, tents or other items that may penetrate and damage the synthetic surface
- Model airplanes, rockets, drones, balloons, kites or similar objects
- Motorized vehicles
- Skateboarding, biking
- Smoking and use of smokeless tobacco products
- Spitting
- Suntan lotions, oils or creams – Please apply these products prior to entering turf area

The Parks and Recreation Department will maintain and clean the synthetic turf fields regularly. User groups also have a responsibility to clean up after their use. When removing items from the turf playing surface we appreciate that all users lift and carry (DO NOT DRAG) equipment, trash and other items from the turf field.

Synthetic turf fields do not regenerate like natural grass. Anything left on the field remains there and may contribute to the overall degradation of the turf.

SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD USER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Adherence to Field Use Guidelines: All users must follow the posted guidelines and any additional instructions provided by the Department to ensure the field remains in top condition. Report any field damage, hazards or unsafe conditions, or equipment issues immediately to your county Liaison.

Prior to Activity:

Pre-Use Inspection by Users: Before using the field, inspect the turf for any visible damage, hazards or unsafe conditions such as tears, loose seams, uneven spots, or debris. If you find anything concerning, report it immediately to your county liaison via email and phone.

Reporting Damages, Hazards, Safety Concerns or Other Issues: If any damage, hazards, or unsafe conditions are noticed, report it immediately. Provide a detailed description and photos. This will help the Department minimize damage and address the issue quickly and appropriately. If a potential safety concern exists, users must modify the activity to exclude any area deemed unsafe. Clearly mark the hazard area on the field and ensure continuous supervision to prevent access to the restricted area. If unable to modify playing area for any reason, users must suspend activities until all concerns have been addressed.

User Group Initials: _____

Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department

Synthetic Turf Field Rules

Clean-up after your activity:

The user group is responsible for cleaning up after use and ensuring the field is prepared for the next group. Upon completion of your activity, carefully inspect the field and remove any items left behind by players, spectators, or coaches, such as trash, equipment, or personal belongings. Coaches and players should walk the field in a line at the end of the event to check for any hazards and ensure the area is clear.

Cleaning Spills and Participant Fluids

Always use personal protective equipment (PPE) when applicable. In the event of a spill or participant fluids, address the issue immediately to minimize contamination or damage to the turf. For small spills, gently blot the area with a soft cloth or towel to absorb the liquid. Avoid scrubbing, as this can damage the turf fibers.

Only use water for cleaning; do not use any cleaning products unless specifically approved in writing by the Parks and Recreation Department. After blotting, rinse the area with clean water to dilute any remaining residue. Ensure that no standing water remains on the surface.

For large spills or incidents requiring cleanup of participant fluids, contact your county liaison for assistance.

In the event that a user group leaves the field without properly cleaning up or allows the use of prohibited items on the synthetic turf as outlined in this document, the user will incur cleaning fees. Additionally, failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in restrictions on future access to the field.

Portable Goals and Equipment Use

Portable goals that will remain on property must be approved in advance by the Department. Work directly with your county liaison for approval. All portable goals used on turf fields must have four (4) wheels for easy movement. Goals must remain in good condition, and their movement should be minimized to avoid wear on the field. Any damaged or unstable goals must be removed immediately and repaired or replaced prior to any further use. Any damages to fields due to portable goals will be at the sole expense of the user group.

All other equipment must have wheels or be lifted and moved carefully to prevent damage to the turf. Any equipment brought onto the field must be approved and inspected by the Department prior to use to ensure it is safe and suitable for use on synthetic turf.

Use of Paint on Synthetic Turf Fields

The use of synthetic turf field paint is strictly prohibited without prior written authorization from the Parks and Recreation Department. Requests to paint synthetic turf fields will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Whenever possible, user groups will be directed to use alternative methods such as turf field tape, weighted lines, or markers. To protect the fields and preserve the warranty, approval to paint will only be granted in rare and limited circumstances.

User Group Initials:

Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department
Synthetic Turf Field Rules

- **Approved Field Paint Products:** The Parks and Recreation Department will determine the type of paint permitted for use on synthetic turf fields. Grass field paint will damage synthetic turf and is strictly prohibited. If a request is approved, the organization is responsible for purchasing the specified paint and any additional materials required by the Department.
- **Field Lining and Marking Requests:** Organizations seeking approval to line or mark fields must submit a written request at least ten (10) days prior to their permitted use. Requests must include a mock drawing or field map showing all proposed lines and markings, with specific dimensions clearly indicated.
- **Purpose and Duration of Markings:** Requests must also include a detailed description of the purpose or justification for the additional lines or markings, along with the anticipated duration of their use. If lines or markings are to be maintained for an extended period, the request must specify the frequency of reapplication.

Users Groups will be responsible for any costs resulting from damage to synthetic turf fields, failure to follow rules, guidelines, or improper use.

User Acknowledgment:

I, _____, participated in the synthetic turf field training and hereby affirm that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department Synthetic Turf Field Rules and Guidelines. I further understand that failure to adhere to these rules and guidelines may result in suspension and/or revocation of field use privileges, and/or cleaning or repair fees.

Organization Name

Authorized Representative Name – Please Print

Authorized Representative Signature – Please Sign

Date