

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FRIEND OF THE FIELD PROGRAM

WHAT IT IS

The “Friend of the Field” program is a cooperative venture between and among interested athletic organizations, the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), and Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)

FCPS playing fields frequently do not meet the conditions desired for the level of competitive athletics being played on them by some community groups. Many athletic organizations want to provide facility improvements and maintenance activities, but are reluctant to do so without some assurance that during the useful life of their investment they will be allowed continued use of the facility, but not exclusive use.

It is desirable to establish a program that encourages a partnership involving the athletic organizations that use school system fields, NCS which schedules their use, and the School Board which owns the fields. Athletic organizations organize and conduct activities for County residents, and have improved the quality of the athletic fields in a number of instances. This partnership would help protect the School Board’s investment and improve facilities for County residents.

WHO BENEFITS

Everyone! By assuming these responsibilities, athletic groups develop a sense of pride in the facilities and the organization. They also develop a better understanding of athletic field care, and as a result can create playing fields of the highest quality. The schools benefit by having fields of better quality for their physical education programs.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Athletic organizations may “adopt” fields at the locations to which they have been assigned by NCS, which will continue to assign fields and times according to its established procedures. The organization will be given the first opportunity to apply for additional time slots that become available on fields that the organization has already adopted. Under no circumstances will an organization receive exclusive use of a FCPS field.
- All maintenance operations must be in accordance with adopted Fairfax County Public Schools maintenance standards.
- Adoption periods are for two years and may be renewed provided the athletic organization is in compliance with the terms of the agreement. Changes in the name or title of the organization’s authorized representative must be communicated to FCPS within one week of the effective change date. Organizations must sign renewal agreement 60 days prior to the expiration of their current Friend of the Field agreement.
- The adopting organization assumes all liabilities and is responsible for damage or injuries resulting from improper maintenance.

- The “Friend of the Field” program is a maintenance agreement and entitles participants to perform only authorized maintenance activities.
- **No additions or changes to the school field facilities may be done by adopting organizations without a written request sent to NCS. NCS will work with the school principal and FCPS Office of Design and Construction on approval of any improvements.**
- Call the FCPS Community Use Section (571-423-2340), if you have questions.

STEPS IN BECOMING A “FRIEND OF THE FIELD”

- Submit a “Friend of the Field” application to FCPS Community Use Section.
- FCPS will review and forward the application to NCS for approval.
- FCPS will provide an information document containing the conditions, terms, and restrictions, including the maintenance standards to which the applicant must agree to adhere.
- FCPS will initiate an on-site meeting with the school principal, officials of the adopting organization, NCS and FCPS personnel to discuss details of the proposed field adoption.
- If the applicant is in agreement to the terms of the program a “Friend of the Field” Agreement will be signed by the attendees and copies will be distributed.