

**CULVER CITY  
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
POLICY/PROCEDURE  
PROPOSED  
PARK AND FIELD USE POLICY**

### **HISTORY:**

In July of 1994, the Human Services and Parks Commission took action to prohibit adult soccer play at Culver West Park. This action was based on a 9 month study regarding adult soccer play and the anti-social behaviors that were exhibited by, and associated with those players. Repeated instances of alcoholic beverages in the park, loud and noisy behavior after hours, and public urination in and around the park location prompted the residents to present their concerns to the Commission.

Although the action to prohibit adult soccer play was based on the activities at Culver West park, it was applied to all Culver City Parks as it was determined that adult soccer play is inconsistent with the best appropriate uses of park space. The action was based on the following:

- Open space play area at Culver West Park is too small for the location of a full sized or scaled down soccer field. Such field would extend beyond the park boundaries.
- Either sized field would totally occupy the open space available at Culver West Park.
- The practice of unregulated adult soccer playing at Culver West Park has a detrimental effect on all other recreational activities. When adults engage in soccer playing at Culver West Park, the playing of softball or general recreation is impossible due to the danger of collisions with adults running after soccer balls, or participating in soccer play.
- The practice of unregulated adult soccer play has had a detrimental effect on surrounding properties caused by errant balls landing in private property, resulting in unauthorized trespassing of adult soccer players onto private property.
- The practice of unregulated adult soccer play has a detrimental effect on the turf and field maintenance at Culver West Park. The playing of soccer by adults in the small open space requires the players to occupy the infield diamond as well as outfield of the existing softball field, which has consistently resulted in damage to the dirt infield and grass outfield areas.

### **PURPOSE:**

To establish policies and procedures relative to park and field usage. Provide equal access for Culver City residents to public facilities that are safe and well maintained for

perpetuity. Policies and procedures are necessary for the following reasons:

1. There are insufficient funds and facilities to permit unlimited and unscheduled use by all participants.
2. Demand for usage is greater than available facilities.
3. Resources such as land and money prohibit the City's ability to increase facilities to satisfy demand for usage.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Set forth an interim policy for soccer play as outlined below, including general regulations.
2. Conduct an audit to evaluate existing practices and procedures with the intent to position services and facilities to satisfy demand with existing resources.
3. Conduct benchmarking study of best practices.
4. Develop framework and organizational infrastructure, including program management and maintenance procedures that best serve residents with given resources.
5. Require systematic evaluation and assessment to ascertain whether or not new and/or revised procedures and practices are accomplishing the goals and objectives set forth through the process.

#### **PROPOSED POLICY - SOCCER PLAY ON CITY FACILITIES:**

All City managed fields or open space on parks or schools shall be available for drop-in soccer play use from 8:00 am to dusk or 10:00 pm on lighted fields unless scheduled by a recognized City not-for-profit sports organization or closed due to maintenance or inclement weather. Drop-in use shall be defined as individuals who do not make up more than 50% or 8 players of a soccer sports team.

Those instances where there are more than 8 players and/or more than 50% of a soccer sports team are required to have reserved field usage in advance through the City's permit system (facility reservations - athletic services).

#### **GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

1. Culver City field use gives City programs, School District and Culver City not-for-profit youth sports leagues priority use throughout the year. Any other unscheduled time is available on a first come, first served basis. Not-for-profits shall have a

minimum of 90% Culver City residents as members in their organization.

2. All fields on Culver City parks shall be reserved in advance. Organizations wishing to reserve fields must fill out a Recreation & Leisure Services Field Use Application. The application and payment in full must be received by the Recreation & Leisure Services Department prior to use.
3. If an organization uses a field that has been closed by the City, that organization shall be financially responsible for restituting damages to that field.
4. All organizations reserving fields shall provide liability insurance in the amount of one million dollars per occurrence, certificate of insurance naming Culver City as additional insured and a copy of the endorsement on file with the Human Services Department prior to use. A 30-day written notice of cancellation clause is required.
5. Users must clean-up fields upon completion of the reservation. Damages or defacement shall be billed to the organization as determined by the Human Services Department.

**ANNUAL FIELD USE SCHEDULE.xls****Adult Soccer Schedule**

Month	Location
Jul-99	Culver City Park
Aug-99	El Marino Park
Sep-99	El Marino Park
Oct-99	El Marino Park
Nov-99	Culver City Park
Dec-99	El Marino Park
Jan-00	El Marino Park
Feb-00	El Marino Park
Mar-00	SC High School
Apr-00	El Marino Park
May-00	El Marino Park
Jun-00	El Marino Park
Jul-00	Culver City Park
Aug-00	El Marino Park
Sep-00	El Marino Park
Oct-00	El Marino Park
Nov-00	Lincoln Park
Dec-00	El Marino Park

Adult Soccer is primarily scheduled at El Marino Park and will be relocated on a pre-established schedule so that the El Marino field can be regularly maintained by Environmental Management.

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