



McLean Field Policy Memorandum Spring 2007

MYS is privileged to have access to fields from Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax County Parks Authority, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and private organizations. The proper use and care of these fields will dictate our ability to use them. MYS members should "act to preserve and enhance" the fields in our community and to demonstrate respect regarding the neighbors surrounding the fields. It is the responsibility of the coaches, managers, referees and parents to educate our children in the proper use of the fields. Let our children care about the environment they are given and leave it in better condition than when they arrived. Be nice to your fields and follow the following guidelines.

New For Spring '07:

1. **No Practice Goals.** The FCPA has banned the use of portable rebound goals with spikes throughout the county. We are working to adjust the policy and craft alternatives.
2. **FCPA Field Monitoring Program.** There is a county-wide problem with walk-ons, particularly on turf fields, and the FCPA has increased the number of paid field monitors on weekends. Please be sure to have your MYS Field Permit with you at all times, or you may be kicked off your field.
3. **LP2 Lights, Signage & Netting.** The FCPA has installed two zones on LP2. Zone A is closest to the light switch box. If you are the only team practicing on the field, please shut the lights off on the other zone to reduce power consumption. There is new signage with FCPA's policy regarding walk on use. There is new netting on the wetland's side of LP2. If a ball goes through the net, please walk all the way around the net to retrieve.
4. **MYS field policy requires the use of reusable and refillable water bottles.** We have an inordinate amount of non degradable plastic bottles and plastic caps littering the surrounding of the fields, the cost to remove trash is increasing, and we are getting more complaints from neighbors, schools, and other park users.
5. **Permits and Field Usage:** You need to bring your permit to every practice and game. This is the only official documentation that grants you rights to use a field, and MYS, FCPA, or the Police cannot enforce your rights without it.

If you have a conflict with a "walk-on" try to resolve it in a non confrontational way. If the walk-ons won't leave, please contact an MYS field committee member (e.g. Kley Parkhurst at 703-675-0753), FCPA/CRS personnel, or as a last resort you can call Fairfax County Police non-emergency line at 703-691-2131.

Fairfax County Park Authority policy is that permitted users of a field have exclusive use of the field. MYS field policy reflects this: **"no non-permitted users ("walk-ons") may be on a field permitted to MYS while any MYS activity is being conducted."** The practical application of this at LP2 and MYS field is that even if you are permitted 1/3 of the field and there are no other MYS teams, no walk-ons may be on the field. With time, we hope to educate the walk-ons that LP2 is exclusively permitted to MYS when MYS activities are scheduled, and MYS Field is exclusively for the use of MYS members at all times.

This policy is not meant to put you in harm's way or create a situation which makes you uncomfortable. If you do not want to approach a group of apparent "walk-ons" or they are not responsive, please call MYS field personnel or the police.

6. **Field Closings:** Check www.mcleansoccer.org/fieldstatus or 703 761-1601 for the latest field closures. If a field is closed no use is permitted at all. The field status webpage and the hotline are for informational purposes only; field signage and/or FCPA personnel take precedence. Regardless of the foregoing, fields are closed if there is standing water, you hear a "squish" when walking, or your footprint has standing water.
7. **Field Conditions:** If a field is open and an area of the field is wet, stay off that area. Do not practice in goal mouths or worn areas (middle of field). Practice side to side when possible. Teach other coaches to do the same. Report trespassers to field operations.



8. **Safety:**

- a. If thunder and lightning is seen or heard you must vacate the field area and wait for 30 minutes without thunder or lightning before using the field. Do not wait under a tree; they are a lightning rod during storms.
- b. Portable Goals must be anchored with sand bags, and all MYS portable goals should have sand bags chained to them. Almost every year in the United States, children are injured or killed by goals that tip over! Please help us reduce our liability by making safety a top priority. If a goal is not anchored before practice, please anchor them. If sand bags are missing report it to field operations.
- c. Rebound goals having spikes will not be provided. You may bring your own portable or rebound goals, but you must take them with you.

9. **Trash:** Pick up your trash when you leave the field. Our children need to learn to care for our community and represent MYS as environmentally responsible. Bring a trash bag with you to games and practices. Please pick up all plastic bottles! Last team is responsible for a clean field. If you consistently find trash when you arrive at the field notify field operations who will attempt to identify the culprits who might be leaving the field in such condition.

10. **Pets:** No pets allowed on school grounds. On Park Authority fields, dogs must stay at least 15 ft from athletic fields. No pets allowed during MYS sanctioned games.

11. **Parking:** Do not park in grassy areas, or fire lanes in park or school grounds. Doing so irritates the school community, the park authority and the neighbors. Please ask your fellow team member parents to respect the sites we use. Do not unlawfully use DMV designated handicapped parking spots. We have seen many tickets issued even if you are inside the vehicle (Lewinsville Park has seen \$250 tickets for just stopping 1 minute in the handicapped parking).

12. **Scheduling:** Frequently check the MYS calendar for when practice slots are assigned. Practice slots are assigned as carefully as possible, use only your assigned slots. If a conflict arises work with each other and contact Field Scheduling (mysfields@att.net) to resolve the matter. If you will not use your practice slot or a game slot, please advise Field Scheduling at mysfields@att.net. With the large amount of requests, allow other teams to use your unused slots. Be gracious in resolving any conflicts in field allocation and be off the field when other teams follow.

13. **Goals at Schools:** Please lock the goals at elementary schools. This prevents damage, theft, and is for the safety of the school kids. The lock combination is 2007. The combination is also at the very bottom of the field status page.

Online Information

All these links are found on the "Fields" link on the left menu. You can also access directly:

Fields Main Page: www.mcleansoccer.org/fields

Field Status: www.mcleansoccer.org/fieldstatus

Field Request Deadlines: www.mcleansoccer.org/calendar

Field Policy: www.mcleansoccer.org/fieldpolicy Includes an annual calendar as to when field requests are due.

Field Status Hotline: 703-761-1601

There is a form to report broken or missing equipment, unsafe conditions, etc: (link is on field's main page)

www.mcleansoccer.org