



Field Closure Policy

Department: Parks & Recreation
Version: 1.0
Effective Date: June 12, 2025
Prepared by: B. Campbell,
Athletic Coordinator

Purpose:

To ensure the continued health and sustainability of athletic fields throughout the season by establishing clear guidelines for field closures and safe use, prioritizing both turf management and the safety of field users.

1. Authority for Field Closure

The Park Authority reserves the right to close any athletic field if park staff determine that field conditions are unsafe for participants or if use under current circumstances would result in damage to the field.

2. Criteria for Field Closure

A field shall be considered closed for play if any part of the field becomes unsafe for users or if use will cause damage to the field surface.

An athletic field will be closed if any of the following conditions are present:

- Standing water exists on any portion of the field and cannot be removed without causing damage.
- Muddy conditions are present which will not dry by the start of scheduled use.
- Water can be seen or heard underfoot when walking on the field.
- Water gathers around the sole of a shoe or boot when standing on the field.
- An impression or footprint remains visible when walking on turf areas.
- At least one inch (1”) of rain has fallen in the preceding 12 hours.

Note:

Standing water indicates ground saturation. Simply removing the water does not resolve saturation. Saturated fields, rather than standing water alone, cause both unsafe conditions and lasting damage.





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3. Additional Closure Considerations

Powhatan County Parks & Recreation may close fields/facilities due to:

- Significant rainfall on the day of scheduled use.
- Rain occurring after cold temperatures, which slows field drainage.
- Slick mud caused by field overuse.
- Footprints in the turf that retain water.
- Wet turf conditions that pose a risk of injury or field damage.
- Major turf loss from weather events, overuse, insufficient water, or soil compaction.

4. Field Work and Maintenance Policy

Any individual, league official, or volunteer intending to work on or repair athletic fields must **complete the Groundskeeper U Field Maintenance Training** before engaging in any field maintenance activities.

5. Communication and Enforcement

Field status updates and closures will be communicated via the inclement weather line, **(804) 598-5275, option 1.**

Unauthorized use of a closed field or performing unapproved maintenance may result in sanctions, including team/league suspensions or loss of field privileges.