

# COMPREHENSIVE FIELDS GUIDE

***Selection of Practice Fields-*** [CLICK HERE](#) for the list of county fields we utilize along with the layouts

Please consider the following when selecting your practice space:

- Maintain Quadrant integrity (choose a practice field in your team's county quadrant)
- Distance of travel for each of your team members
- Time of your practice

## ***Field Status/Closures***

- Call the WEATHER HOTLINE @ 540-657-2010 for updated field information/closings
- The hotline, [our website](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) are updated as soon as the decision to close fields has been made by the county
- The county typically makes the decision around 2pm on weekdays or by 8am on weekends and holidays
- Field closures email will be sent to all Coaches – ***Please inform your teams asap***
- [CLICK HERE](#) for Inclement Weather Guidelines
- Any issues with fields or facilities (i.e., restrooms, benches etc.) should be reported to Stafford County Parks and Recreation via phone call to (540) 658-7110

If no Alert is sent and weather is a factor after 2pm weekdays or 8am weekends:

1. Coaches can cancel practices (practice may be able to be rescheduled for that week ONLY)  
Contact [fields@staffordsoccer.com](mailto:fields@staffordsoccer.com) for availability
2. Coaches can cancel games (U6/8 Only) – Games will be rescheduled once head coaches from both teams contact the scheduler at [fields@staffordsoccer.com](mailto:fields@staffordsoccer.com) within 24 hours of the cancellation.
3. Center Referee can cancel games (U10 and Above)

## ***Scheduling challenges and variables:***

- The game schedule will be released to coaches and parents as soon as possible before the start of the season
- Referees: The Referees that we use; also work high school games, other clubs and recreational organizations within the DMV region. Referees will not make a special trip to officiate just one game; therefore, games are scheduled back to back throughout the county.
- Fields: There are a small number of synthetic fields and well-maintained grass fields that we are allocated to use as game fields. We are also restricted as to when we can use those specific fields.

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- Multi-team Coaches: We do our best to schedule the games to accommodate the HEAD Coaches of multiple teams, to allow them to be present for each team under their supervision. Unfortunately, Assistant Coaches cannot be deconflicted during the scheduling process.
- Black-outs: We share all fields with other sports and county activities, therefore some fields are blacked out for use during some weekends and weekdays. This will limit the field space again. You can review the Black-out dates for each field [HERE](#).

## **Game Re-scheduling:**

- Games are automatically rescheduled, IF there are field closures, regardless of the reason (i.e. extreme weather). A field closure message is sent to all Coaches. Please inform your teams!
- Games (if possible) can be moved to an alternate location the same day IF the scheduled game field is deemed unplayable by the County. Please watch your calendars and emails for immediate changes. Alerts will be sent.
- Games cancelled due to weather by mutual decision of the Coaches (U6/U8 ONLY) will be rescheduled upon notification by BOTH coaches to the Scheduler, at [fields@staffordsoccer.com](mailto:fields@staffordsoccer.com), within 24 hours of the cancellation.
- Games cancelled by the Referee (U10 and above) due to inclement weather will be rescheduled based on the Referee Report (NOTE: The Center Referee is the ONLY approving authority on the field who can cancel the game) and in accordance with Stafford Soccer Rules.
- Games re-scheduled due to no available Coach – Please understand that rescheduling your game is a daunting event and it requires movement of other games to accommodate your request. If, you are not available to be present for a game, please make every attempt to have the AC or a parent supervise the team before requesting a re-scheduling of your game.

## **Field Etiquette:**

- The fields we use do not belong to Stafford Soccer
- The fields belong to Stafford County Parks & Recreation and are used by the public
- The Technical Areas on the fields are occupied by Coaches, Players, and Staff ONLY
- Spectator Area is designated opposite of the Technical Area
- Coaches are responsible for making sure all spectators are in their designated area during game
- Please ensure your area is clear of trash and equipment when leaving after your game/practice
- Maintain at least three (3) feet clearance from the sideline and goal line to allow proper play and referee traffic
- Maintain and promote positive sportsmanship

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- Coaches are responsible for their team's sideline/spectator behavior

## **Day Light Savings Time (Fall only):**

- All recreation and academy practices will go to 45 minutes instead of 1 hour, unless you are on a field with lights
- If you are on a lighted field, you may continue practice as usual
- If you are not on a field with lights and would like to change your practice to a lighted field, if available, please contact [fields@staffordsoccer.com](mailto:fields@staffordsoccer.com) .
- If you would like to move to an earlier spot at the field you are currently practicing on, please contact [fields@staffordsoccer.com](mailto:fields@staffordsoccer.com) to confirm availability.
- Practice Time Update:
  - 5:30 - 6:30 will change to 5:30 - 6:15
  - 6:30 - 7:30 will change to 6:15 - 7:00
- Please follow the new practice times during DLST so all teams can get their fair share on the practice field
- Please leave the practice area promptly so the next team can get their time in

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