

ARLINGTON COUNTY ATHLETIC FIELDS

TURFACE USAGE POLICY

Standing water and damp areas are an unfortunate fact of life for athletic fields after periods of inclement weather and are particularly a hazard on diamond infields. The best defense against this is routine and proper maintenance, both prior to and after practices and games. The best medicine after an occurrence is wind, sun and time. However, there are certain instances where a moderate amount of turf surface quick drying agent can speed up the process, especially when there are only one or two damp spots remaining. Arlington County athletic field maintenance crews do utilize turf surface around the bases, pitcher's mound and known difficult spots after periods of inclement weather to help stabilize those areas. However, Arlington County also recognizes that our staff hours are limited and, as such, we have developed a policy allowing our affiliated user groups to utilize turf surface to supplement the work of our athletic field maintenance crews.

User Group Turf Surface Usage Policy:

- 1) No more than four (4) bags of turf surface should be used on any single playing field.
- 2) All turf surface needs to be purchased by the affiliated user groups. Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation DOES NOT provide turf surface.
- 3) Turf surface is only to be used on dirt infields.
- 4) Turf surface should not be used to soak up puddles or large saturated areas. Instead, it should be raked into damp spots around high traffic areas such as bases and the mound.
- 5) To utilize turf surface properly, spread it in a thin layer over the affected area and rake it in to help dry and then level.
- 6) The use of turf surface should not replace routine maintenance. Dragging, hand raking, leveling and tamping before and after games should limit the need for turf surface over the long-term life of a field.
- 7) Overuse of turf surface or abuse of this overall policy by an affiliated user group could result in loss of privileges.

Overuse of turf surface drying agent changes the soil makeup over time which results in an uneven and hardened playing surface. Arlington County does the best job possible to provide quality athletic fields and we ask our user groups to assist us in considering the long-term health of the athletic fields by adhering to this policy.