**DEERFIELD PARK DISTRICT**

**ATHLETIC FIELDS INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSURE POLICY**

**Purpose**

Park District athletic fields have been designed and are maintained for the enjoyment and use of Deerfield Park District residents. The purpose of this policy is to provide a guideline for the use of Park District athletic fields to prevent damage to the playing surface and injuries to field users brought upon by inclement weather or unsafe playing conditions. An effective field maintenance program is essential for safe, quality fields. User groups are asked to help by accepting and adhering to these rules. Groups who use Park District athletic fields are expected to assist in protecting their participants and fields during periods of rain or inclement weather. It only takes one practice or game to destroy a field that is not ready for play.

**Policy**

The Deerfield Park District reserves the right to cancel or suspend approved outdoor field use permits for games and other uses whenever it is anticipated that weather or field conditions could result in damage to the fields or injury to players. Permits may also be cancelled when the health and safety of participants are threatened due to impending conditions.

**Procedure**

The Athletic Supervisor and/or Director of Parks or their designated representatives shall have the authority to close any or all athletic fields whenever weather or field conditions dictate.

Field use or playability will be determined by safety conditions and/or hazards that could be deterrent to the welfare of users/players; existing and forecasted weather conditions for the day; and potential damage to the field due to use.

If any of the following conditions occur, the scheduled games or practices should be cancelled or postponed:

 1. Standing water on the field of play

 2. Soil Saturation: water surfacing or bubbling up when walking on turf

 3. Leave a 1/4” deep impression when walking on baseball infield

 4. Field is muddy to the point that footing becomes unstable (players slipping and sliding)

 5. One inch or more of rain, 24 hours prior to scheduled game or practice

 6. Steady downpour of rain on game or practice day

 7. Early spring or fall conditions where ground is frozen and playing surface is dormant

 8. Audible thunder, visible lightening or Thorguard alert

 9. Sharp or other dangerous objects on field (i.e. broken glass, surface rocks, holes in ground)

 10. Unsecured soccer goals

Field users shall inspect all fields prior to and subsequent to each use to determine the suitability of the fields for any contemplated use and to identify any safety hazards. Field users shall take responsible measures to protect participants and spectators from known safety hazards. Field users shall promptly advise the Park District of any known safety hazards.

**It is the user group’s responsibility to use common sense and best judgment when deciding to play/practice or cancel. User groups are responsible for any damage to field or turf as a result of their participants use. Use of field or turf that results in damage may result in loss of current or future group permits.**