

Town of Barre
Parks and Recreation Department
Fields Unfit for Play Policy

The Town of Barre Parks and Recreation Department recognizes athletic competition and practice on soggy, soft, wet fields can damage fields by tearing up sod and by creating rough and uneven surfaces. Attempts to fix wet fields on the spot can lead to further damage. **No field maintenance may occur without prior authorization from the Recreation Director.**

Director's Office Number: (802) 477-1382 / Town Office Number: (802) 479-9331

The Parks and Recreation Department recognizes that everyone is busy and has full schedules. Postponing games is an inconvenience and can change the outcome of a season. The Town of Barre Recreation staff will make every effort to make fields suitable for practice and games. Despite these efforts, there will be days when ground conditions and weather result in unsuitable field conditions. Therefore, it is the policy of the Parks and Recreation Department to authorize the Recreation Director to deem fields unfit for play following the guidelines below:

1. Standing water on the field;
2. An average sized participant in that day or night's activities would make a 1" or deeper footprint;
3. The presence of impending inclement weather, including but not limited to: lightning, hail, severe rain, or wind;
4. Determination by the authorized game official (umpire or referee) to cancel the game due to weather.

The Recreation Director, or designated Town staff member, will inspect field(s) when it is suspected the field(s) might not be fit for play. If they determine the field(s) are unfit for play, they will post a sign conspicuously on the field or fence gates. If games or practices are scheduled for later that day or evening, they will attempt to communicate with the league's, association's, or team's contact person.

The Recreation Director, or designated Town staff member, will make a decision about the field(s) conditions and communicate with the appropriate contact person approximately two (2) hours before scheduled activities, or whenever possible, recognizing weather conditions may necessitate less than two (2) hour's notice.

The policy will apply to the soccer field, baseball field, softball field, little league field, and multi-purpose fields (baseball and softball outfields) at the Barre Town Recreation Area, to the East Barre Park, and to the South Barre ballfields.

Anyone playing on a field posted closed or unfit for play must leave immediately when directed by any Town Recreation Department employee, police officer, or the Town Manager.

If a league, association, or team violates the decision to prohibit play, the Recreation Director will note the date, time, and offending party or parties and contact the league's, association's, or team's responsible party to confirm the violation. When a violation is confirmed, the party involved may be assessed a \$50.00 penalty per violation. The Recreation Director may recommend additional penalties to the Town Manager for multiple offenses or in the case of severe damage.

Authorizations:



Selectboard Chair



Date

Revised: January 19 – March 4, 2024 - March 28, 2024
Approved by Town Recreation Board: March 4, 2024
Adopted by Selectboard: April 2, 2024

