



ATHLETIC FIELD CLOSURE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY DO ATHLETIC FIELDS CLOSE WHEN IT RAINS?

Safety is our number one priority. Playing on wet and soggy fields can cause significant damage as they dry unevenly and create holes or other tripping hazards. While the city never wants to cancel activities, no one wants a player's season to end because of a preventable injury. We close our fields for inclement weather, and we open them depending on how quickly we can get them to recover. Secondarily, use of wet fields can significantly drive maintenance costs up.

HOW CAN THE PUBLIC FIND OUT ABOUT ATHLETIC FIELD USE CLOSURES?

X (formerly Twitter): Follow us on X by following @cupertinofields.

Hotline: (408) 777-3566

WHICH CITY DEPARTMENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ATHLETIC FIELD USE CLOSURES?

Field closure decisions are made Monday through Friday. Public Works is responsible for determining if fields are open or closed and for placing field closed signs at fields. Parks and Recreation updates the X account and the hotline.

WHEN DO YOU EVALUATE FIELDS AND NOTIFY THE PUBLIC?

City staff strive to provide as much advance notice as possible about field use closures to the public. Public Works makes every effort to determine field status before 1 p.m. on rainy days. However, the weather sometimes does not cooperate and depending on when it starts to rain; the notification may come later in the day.

WILL FIELDS BE OPENED ON AN AFTERNOON AFTER THEY WERE CLOSED IN THE MORNING?

If fields are closed in the morning, they will remain closed for the rest of the day. This provides the safest environment for participants, reducing the risk of a season-ending injury and preserving field integrity.

WHAT ABOUT HOLIDAYS?

While it is impossible to predict the weather, city staff will do their best to make field status decisions and provide information the business day before the holiday about the status of the field over the break. Please follow the X account for the most up-to-date information.

WHY ARE FIELDS CLOSED WHEN IT IS SUNNY OUTSIDE?

Many factors affect city staff decision to reopen fields including, but not limited to, current temperature and humidity, the amount of precipitation that has occurred and the time frame in which it has occurred, future expected precipitation, any standing water on the field, and drainage capabilities of the field/site. It can sometimes take several days for fields to completely dry out and return to a safe and playable condition.

MY SPORTS ORGANIZATION PAYS FEES FOR THESE FIELDS. AREN'T THE FEES ENOUGH TO PAY FOR FIELD REPAIRS CAUSED WHEN THEY ARE WET?

The City of Cupertino invests a significant amount of financial resources maintaining athletic fields for sports leagues and residents. Athletic field use fees only account for part of these costs. Use of fields during wet conditions causes significant damage to the turf resulting in increased maintenance costs and long periods of downtime for refurbishment. Organizations are not charged for permit reservations on days the fields are closed.

WHO DO I CALL TO REPORT SOMEONE USING A CLOSED FIELD?

You can report any violation of the Cupertino Athletic Field Use Policy to Code Enforcement and the Santa Clara County Sherriff at (408) 299-2311.

CAN I LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE ATHLETIC FIELD USE HOTLINE?

The Athletic Field Use Hotline is for information purposes only.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE FIELD USE POLICY?

You can download the Cupertino Athletic Field Use Policy at www.cupertino.gov/fields.

WHO CAN I CONTACT TO FIND OUT MORE?

Amanda Hui, Recreation Coordinator manages the Athletic Field Use Policy and can be reached at amandah@cupertino.gov.