

From: Howard Kohn <Kohn@erols.com>
Sent: Friday, January 9, 2026 7:50 AM
To: Weber, Carl <Carl.Weber@montgomeryparks.org>
Cc: Adeojo, Haviz <haviz.adeojo@montgomeryparks.org>; Huggins, Melanie <melanie.huggins@montgomeryparks.org>; Figueredo, Miti <Miti.Figueredo@montgomeryparks.org>; Harris, Artie <Artie.Harris@mncppc-mc.org>; Councilmember.Stewart@montgomerycountymd.gov; gabriel.albornoz@montgomerycountymd.gov; 'Tom LaLonde' <tom.lalonde03@gmail.com>; asp@partan.com
Subject: Possible Amendments to New Permit Process

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Good Morning Carl,

First of all, thank you for taking the time to answer my questions, and I appreciate that you'll include our suggestions in your staff report. For the record, I'm one of the commissioners for Takoma Park Soccer, a youth recreational league in the Down County that's been around since 1985. Also for the record, we support the thinking behind the proposed new permit process for athletic fields. The underserved should have better access. That's the guiding principle behind our league, too. Our goal has always been to give all kids a chance to play. The irony is that, in some cases, the new permit policy might lead to the opposite result. Our league, and similar youth leagues with a Saturday/Sunday schedule, might be forced to close.

Here's the scenario that concerns us: We receive our usual allotment of Priority Use permits for Saturday games (listed below), but, in the Go-Live event, we are not successful at obtaining additional fields for Sunday games. It would not be feasible, or fair, to tell our Saturday teams (coed, mainly boys) they can play while telling our Sunday teams (all-girls) they can't play. Or vice versa. Either way it's an impossible situation. Our only choice would be to cancel all games. This possible scenario would present itself every season. Children would have to cross their fingers and hope they get to play.

Assuming the new policy goes forward, we'd like to suggest a few amendments to improve the chances that Saturday/Sunday youth leagues will survive and that kids can reasonably expect to play:

- **Implement the new policy in stages.** In the first stage you could reduce Priority Use permits to three weekdays but allow Priority Use permits to continue

for both weekend days. That would give historical organizations time to make adjustments, perhaps over two years, before you implement the full policy.

- **Or give Saturday/Sunday youth leagues a transition period.** You could implement the full weekday/weekend policy immediately but exempt Saturday/Sunday youth organizations for a period of time, maybe two years, so we have time to orient ourselves to a new framework for scheduling games.
- **Give a (slight) priority to youth leagues over adult leagues.** You could implement the full policy as proposed, but, in the Go-Live event, you could give youth leagues a head start, say two hours, before opening up the ActiveMontgomery reservation system to adult leagues.

This is the list of Parks fields where we play games and for which we have Priority Use:

SATURDAY (Coed) -- North Four Corners Local Park (4th-graders), Pinecrest Local Park (5th-graders), Bullis Local Park (6th-graders), Argyle Local Park (7th-graders), Nolte Local Park (8th-graders), Jesup Blair Local Park (high schoolers).

SUNDAY AFTERNOON (All-girls) -- North Four Corners Local Park (4th-graders), Pinecrest Local Park (5th-graders), Bullis Local Park (6/7th-graders), Nolte Local Park (8th/12th graders).

Thanks for your help & Best regards,

Howard Kohn

Commissioner, Takoma Park Soccer

Phone: 240-461-6921

Cc:

- Haviz Adeajo, Manager, Park Permit Office
- Melanie Huggins, Supervisor, Athletic Fields Permitting
- Miti Figueredo, Director, Montgomery County Parks
- Gabe Albornoz, Director, Montgomery County Department of Recreation
- Artie Harris, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board

- Kate Stewart, Montgomery County Council Member, District 4
- Andrew Partan, Commissioner, Takoma Park Soccer
- Tom LaLonde, Coordinator, Takoma Park Soccer