



# City of South St. Paul

## Parks & Recreation

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### STAY SAFE MN: Athletic Field Use

### 5/18/2020

South St. Paul Park Athletic Field Users,

Governor Walz's Executive Orders will transition next Monday, May 18, 2020 from Stay Home MN to Stay Safe MN. As we continue to interpret exactly what is and is not allowed according to the new orders related to organized groups and teams in our park system, we are providing direction on how we are going to proceed locally with the use of athletic fields. We understand your anticipation to return field use to normal, however, as the Governor states, we will continue to follow the state guidelines on turning the dials slowly in the interest of public health and wellness. These are short term guidelines that will start 5/18/2020 and will be updated as more information becomes available and restrictions are lifted:

#### **Facilities available for use 5/18/2020:**

- ✓ Harmon Park
- ✓ McMorrow Field
- ✓ Veterans Field

#### **Guidelines for use:**

1. Only 10 individuals may be present at any one time at any athletic field. This includes players, coaches, adults, and other family members.
2. Only one group of 10 total individuals is allowed per field and social distancing of 6-feet must be observed at all times.
3. Fields are first come, first served with a 60-minute time limit. No scheduling/reservations will be done at this time.
4. Fields and general park areas remain open to the public. If a field or green space is occupied, relocate.
5. Do not install or leave any accessory equipment or structures on park fields at this time.
6. Grooming and lining equipment will not be available.
7. Groups are restricted from entering any park buildings.
8. Dugouts, benches, picnic tables, batting cages and bleachers should be avoided as surfaces are not sanitized regularly.
9. All park and field users are encouraged to wear masks.

#### **General park conditions:**

- Fields will not be groomed, lined, or chalked at this time. Use with caution.
- Park building restrooms are not available. Portable toilets may currently be available at some locations as they are deployed in the coming weeks. Note: portable toilets will not regularly be sanitized.
- Drinking fountains are not available. Bring your own water and do not share from the same container.
- Pick up any trash and drink containers and take it with you when you leave the park for the safety of others and our park maintenance staff.

We have been alerted that Governor Walz's office has tasked the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission to bring together youth and amateur sports groups to build a universal plan for returning to practice and eventually competition. The goal is to create mechanisms for restarting youth and amateur sports through a state collaboration. Current local and national return-to-play tools are currently being reviewed in collaboration with The Aspen Institute. We expect to hear an update next week.

Public Works continues to maintain athletic fields on weekdays and is operating in a reduced capacity for budget purposes during 2020. More fields will be offered for use in the future as we monitor and progress through the gradual reopening guidelines. We realize these field use restrictions are challenging to players, coaches, administrators and visitors. Your continued patience and partnership are appreciated. If the status changes on any particular guidelines or facility, Shannon Young will be in contact to provide an update and confirm scheduling. We are all in this together.

Thank you for your cooperation and stay safe!  
South St. Paul Parks & Recreation Department