



March 9, 2023

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners

FROM : Donnie Rosa - General Manager, Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT : **Sport Field Maintenance – Board Briefing Memo**

Dear Commissioners,

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification and general information with respect to the [Sports Field Renovations presentation](#) on March 6, 2023.

Clarification:

There was a Commissioner question pertaining to rest periods for our turf fields and our response stated 6-8 weeks. For clarification and accuracy the 6-8 weeks is in two parts:

Our current **spring rest (recovery) periods for turf fields is 4-5 weeks**. This limited timeframe is for staff to address many horticultural practices, but a critical component is addressing of bare and worn out compacted areas to recover. The taking on turf seed is a slow process as it takes 5-7 days to germinate, and 2-3 weeks to set roots and grow visible grass blades.

We also have a **2-3 weeks of rest (recovery) in late August**. This timeframe allows for staff to re-seed the turfed areas to out compete weeds. This work is critical in supporting fall and winter use.

In addition, staff connected and gathered information from various local municipalities on their allocation of field scheduling and hour's allocation of field use. The over-all sense with the local municipalities is that there are many non-for-like comparables.

The following is general information with respect to what some municipalities have in place for bookings and field resting times:

City of Abbotsford:

- All ball fields are closed from mid October until last week of March.
- The one premier field at Rotary Stadium is closed from December 1- May long weekend.

City of Surrey:

- Fall and winter fields, the rest periods are from May to early August.
- Summer fields, the rest periods are from mid-August to early October.
- Surrey allows for 20 hrs/weekly of gameplay in the drier months of the year, typically mid April to mid October.
- 12hrs/weekly of play in the wetter, cooler and dormant time of the year, typically from mid October to mid April.
- [Balancing Play & Maintenance on Grass Sports Fields](#)



City of Burnaby:

- Fall/Winter:
 - Monday to Friday – not booked (no lights on them).
 - Saturday/Sundays – 6 to 7 hours per day maximum.
- Spring/Summer – soccer fields:
 - Monday to Friday –one night per week as rest (usually Fridays) and book 3 hours per night max.
 - Saturdays/Sundays – 6 to 7 hours per day maximum.
- Spring/Summer – softball/baseball fields:
 - Monday to Friday – usually booked every evening for 3 to 5 hours per night.
 - Saturdays/Sunday – could be booked up to 10 hours per day.

While the upcoming [Sports Field Strategy](#) will provide a comprehensive city-wide strategy to guide our approach to sport fields, the above information is for your consideration.

Please contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or require additional information.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donnie Rosa".

Donnie Rosa (*they/she*)
General Manager - Parks and Recreation

/ka/ns/ds/em/tm/jk

Copy to: PB Leadership Team
Sport Field Strategy Project Staff
PB Communications