

University Place Soccer Club

FIELDS POLICY STATEMENT



I. Purpose:

1. The purpose of this policy statement is to set forth the policies and practices of the University Place Soccer Club ("UPSC") as they relate to providing for game and practice facilities and equipment for member teams.

II. Statement of Intent:

1. It is the intent of UPSC to facilitate practices and home games for all member teams in good standing within the geographic boundaries of UPSC.
2. It is further the intent of UPSC to provide adequate fields and field equipment for each member team to have two 90 minute practices each week.
 - A. An adequate field for practice is considered to be one half of a regular sized game field, based on the field size for the team's age. (See below for specific exceptions for use of Curtis Stadium).
 - B. Adequate field equipment for practices is considered to be one goal, sized appropriately to the age group of the team.
 - C. All other practice equipment will be the responsibility of the individual member teams.
3. It is further the intent of UPSC to provide adequate fields and field equipment for all member teams' home games.
 - A. An adequate field for a game is considered to be a full, regulation game field, sized as required for the team's age group and appropriately marked.
 - B. Adequate field equipment for a game is considered to be two goals, sized appropriately to the age group of the team, sand bags or other anchors for the goals, and corner flags.
 - C. All other game equipment, including game balls, will be the responsibility of the individual member teams.
4. It is further the intent of UPSC to assist member teams by making a good faith effort to provide adequate fields and field equipment for non-league, non-scheduled, "friendlies", scrimmages, or practice games which are not being played as part of the member team's regular season schedule or playoffs, or as part of a competitive tournament or cup.
 - A. An adequate field and equipment for a practice game is considered to be the same as described above for a game.
 - B. In the event that insufficient facilities are available to accommodate additional activities, practice games will be considered secondary priority to regularly scheduled practices and games.

III. Access to Fields:

1. Although UPSC strives to provide for practice and game facilities for all member teams, UPSC does not own any of its own practice or game fields. It relies on reserving fields from the University Place School District and Pierce County Parks and Rec.
2. All field reservations for any practice, game, or other organized or informal team event, must go through the UPSC Fields Chair. No UPSC teams will be allowed to contact the school district, an individual school, or the parks department to make direct arrangements for use of a field.
3. Because UPSC relies on other entities for access to fields, access is not always guaranteed. It should be understood by all member teams that from time to time any particular venue will not be available to UPSC, including venues that have been previously reserved or scheduled.

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4. The majority of the fields that UPSC has access to are natural grass fields and are subject to wear and tear from weather and repetitive use. Deterioration of the fields over the course of a season may render the fields unplayable and no longer available to UPSC.
5. In the event that a field is not available the Fields Chair will make a good faith effort to accommodate the scheduled event at another location within the geographic boundaries of UPSC, but it is understood that this will not always be possible.
6. UPSC shares access to fields in UP with other sports that have equally demanding needs for field time. To ensure fields are available for UPSC they need to be reserved as far in advance as possible. In order to secure adequate field time to serve the needs of all member teams the UPSC Board may, at its sole discretion, reserve time on the fields in excess of that which has been requested by member teams, including paying for field time that the club does not ultimately utilize.
7. It is anticipated that all of the member teams will require practice facilities on weeknights and during after-school/work hours. To accommodate all of the member teams during those hours with the limited number of fields available to UPSC it will be necessary to have two practices on each weeknight at most fields, one earlier and one later. The typical arrangement will be one practice time slot from 5:00-6:30 and a second from 6:30-8:00.
8. As noted above the intent of UPSC is to provide for 90 minute practice periods. However, with the exception of Curtis Stadium none of the practice facilities have lighting. As the season progresses and the hours of daylight get shorter it will be necessary to shorten practice periods, for both the earlier and later periods, so that all teams are provided an opportunity for equal practice time. (See below for policies regarding the use of Curtis Stadium).

IV. Expectations of Use:

1. By utilizing practice and game fields provided for by UPSC, member teams agree to the following:
 - A. Teams will comply with the rules and regulations of use of the facility owner (UPSD or Pierce County Parks).
 - B. Teams will comply with directions from the UPSC Fields Chair relative to use of the fields and/or limitations thereof.
 - C. Teams will endeavor to keep the fields clean by removing any garbage and equipment at the end of every practice and game.
 - D. Teams will endeavor to protect and maintain the fields by varying where practice drills are held, discouraging players from intentionally damaging the playing surface, and limiting practice activities in areas of the fields that are damaged or made unplayable due to weather. Coaches will organize practice activities such that they occur away from the heavily used areas of the game field (ie. move the goals away from the marked goal areas to reduce impact of the field in front of the goal). Teams will inform the UPSC Fields Chair of damaged or deteriorated field conditions in a timely manner.
 - E. Teams will endeavor to protect and maintain UPSC equipment. Coaches will discourage players from hanging on nets or goal crossbars. Teams will report damaged equipment to the Fields Chair in a timely manner.
 - F. Coaches may be provided with a key or combination to the lock for the goals at their assigned practice/game facility. Coaches will share the key or combination only with

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other coaches or registered adult volunteers. Players will not be provided with keys or combinations for locks. Keys or combinations will not be shared with anyone outside of UPSC.

- G. Only coaches and adult volunteers will move goals. **Coaches will not use players to move goals.**
 - H. Teams will make a good faith effort to ensure that their coaches, players and spectators comply with the UPSC Side Line Behavior Policy.
 - I. Teams will cooperate with other teams using a shared facility and endeavor to provide an equal opportunity for use of the facility by all teams.
 - 1) Teams will discourage their players from taking possession of any part of a facility prior their scheduled practice or game time when that facility is in use by another team. This will include keeping players from entering the practice field while another team is using it.
 - 2) Teams will make a good faith effort to organize their practice drills and activities in such a manner as to reduce conflicts with neighboring practices (ie. when running a shooting drill locate the goal away from the neighboring practice so that errant shots do not interfere with the other team's drills).
 - 3) Teams will fully relinquish the field at or before the end of their scheduled time when another team is scheduled to use the field immediately after them.
 - J. Teams will not reschedule their practices or games to different days/times, or use practice or game fields that they have not previously reserved, without first receiving approval of the change from the UPSC Fields Chair and, in the event of a game, the UPSC Games Chair.
 - K. Teams will not take advantage of empty fields for practice, games or any other team event without first confirming with the UPSC Fields Chair that the field is available.
- V. Set Up and Maintenance of Fields:**
- 1. Each member team will provide at least one volunteer to assist with the initial laying out and marking of the game field that they are assigned to prior to the first week of competitive play for the fall season.
 - 2. Thereafter each member team will take a turn(s) preparing the game fields that they are assigned to for weekly competition. Preparation for games will include:
 - A. Repainting the game field markings at least 12 hours, and no greater than 72 hours, prior to the first scheduled game of that weekend.
 - B. Unlocking and setting the goals in place for competition, including placing sandbags on the back bar, 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled game of that day.
 - C. Setting up corner flags 30 minutes prior to the first scheduled game of the day. (This step may not be necessary when each team at a given field has their own set of corner flags. See below).
 - D. Returning after the final scheduled game of the day to remove the corner flags and re-lock the goals.
 - E. When games will be played on a given field on both Saturday and Sunday the responsibility for set up may be split between more than one team.

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3. The Fields Chair will work with the groups of member teams that will play at each of the various fields to establish a regular maintenance schedule (ie. all the teams that will play home games at Evergreen South will be one group, responsible for set up and maintenance of that field).
4. The maintenance schedule will rotate responsibility for preparing the field between the teams in each group such that each team using a given field has an equal responsibility for preparing the field for games.
5. The Fields Chair will provide each group of teams (one group per field) with corner flags, painting equipment, field paint and the key or combination to the goal locks, prior to the first weekend of competitive play. At the Fields Chair's discretion older age teams, playing on full sized fields, may be provided with an individual set of corner flags rather than sharing a single set for the field. Additional paint can be obtained throughout the season by contacting the Fields Chair.
6. Once the maintenance schedule is established and the equipment is provided the individual teams will be responsible for transferring that equipment between themselves as the responsibility for set up changes each week. The team with responsibility for the game set up for the final week of competition will be responsible for making arrangements to return the equipment to the Fields Chair at the end of the season.
7. A team's responsibility to participate in the set up and maintenance routine will end when their regular season ends.
8. Teams that choose to play in post season tournaments will be responsible for maintaining the game markings and field set up for their game fields for the duration of their tournament run. At the end of the regular season the Fields Chair will establish a new set up schedule among those teams that are continuing on with post season tournament play.

VI. Curtis Stadium:

1. UPSC has access to a unique facility, the Curtis High School Stadium. The Curtis Stadium has a synthetic surface, covered grandstands, lights for night use, and public toilet facilities.
2. The Curtis Stadium is available to UPSC for practices and games when it is not in use by the School District.
3. Use of Curtis Stadium by UPSC is scheduled and coordinated by the UPSC Stadium Coordinator, in conjunction with the Games Chair and Fields Chair.
4. Because the facility has an all-weather surface and lighting it provides a usable field late in the season when daylight hours are limited and grass fields begin to suffer from overuse. As a result there is a great demand for stadium time for practices later in the season.
5. To accommodate as many teams as possible the stadium will be scheduled for three teams during each practice time slot. One team will have the space from the 35 yard line to back of the end zone at one end of the field, a second team will have the same zone at the other end of the field, and a third team will have the space between, from 35 to 35.
6. When all three zones are being used, younger teams will be scheduled in the center zone.
7. Practice times will typically be scheduled weeknights at 5:00-6:30 and 6:30-8:00. When demand for practice time is high an 8:00 session may also be added for older teams.
8. Individual teams will not be provided direct access to Curtis Stadium. The facility will be unlocked prior to scheduled events and closed after scheduled events by the Stadium Coordinator or someone else directly designated by the Coordinator.

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9. Teams using Curtis Stadium for games will not have the same responsibilities for marking the field but they will be required to assist with set up and take down of goals and corner flags on game days. A schedule for set up and take down will be established by the Stadium Coordinator prior to the beginning of the fall season and updated throughout the season as required.
10. Teams using Curtis Stadium recognize that the UP School District will at all times have priority of use of the facility and UPSC activities can be delayed, postponed and/or cancelled at the request of the UP School District with little or no advance warning. Reserving the facility does not necessarily guarantee use.
11. In the event that a scheduled event at the Curtis Stadium is cancelled by the UP School District the UPSC Fields Chair and Stadium Coordinator will make a good faith effort to find an alternative venue for the event within the boundaries of UPSC.

VII. Prioritizing Use:

1. As noted above, UPSC has limited fields available for practices and games and several teams to accommodate. The facilities that UPSC does have access to vary in quality and amenities. As a result several teams may desire to use the same facilities at the same time. Conflicts of use will be resolved by the UPSC Fields Chair, with assistance of the UPSC Games Chair for game conflicts.
2. In the event of a conflict of use the Fields Chair will make a good faith effort to arrive at a solution that best accommodates all teams involved. However the final resolution of conflicts will be at the sole discretion of the Fields Chair. No team is guaranteed access to the facility of their choosing at the time of their choosing.
3. In resolving conflicts of use the Fields Chair will use the following general priorities:
 - A. Regularly scheduled games, which are part of a member team's season schedule, playoff or competitive tournament, will take precedence over practices and practice games.
 - B. Regularly scheduled practices will take precedence over practice games or scrimmages.
 - C. Older teams will be given priority over younger teams, particularly in the case of teams that have been affiliated with UPSC for several years. However, when both teams can be accommodated with back to back practices at the same facility the younger team will typically be given priority choice of the earlier time slot.
 - D. Teams playing at higher competition levels will be given priority over teams playing at lower competition levels.
 - E. The level of volunteer participation of the associate members affiliated with a given team in the support of UPSC will also be taken into account when assigning fields.
 - F. Notwithstanding the above noted priorities, teams that communicate their requests for field time to the Fields Chair clearly and in a timely manner will be given priority over teams that request fields on short notice. (ie. older teams or select teams that do not make timely arrangements for field time will not be allowed to bump younger or rec teams that have already established a practice time on a given field).
4. In recognition of the priority that older teams and teams that are playing at higher competition levels will be afforded for access and use of fields it is expected that those teams will use the higher quality fields (Chambers Creek and Curtis Stadium) for their

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practices and games, including paying the cost thereof. (See the UPSC Team and Competition Policy).

VIII. Cost for Facilities:

1. School Fields:
 - A. The UP School District allows UPSC to use their fields, except Curtis Stadium, for no cost. As long as that arrangement continues there will be no cost for member teams that use school fields for practices or games.
 - B. The free access to school fields has been taken into account in developing the UPSC annual operating budget. Should that arrangement change during a season, after registration for that season has begun, and UPSC does incur costs for using the fields, those costs may be passed on to the member teams using the fields if deemed financially necessary by the UPSC Executive Board.
2. Chambers Creek Fields:
 - A. Pierce County charges UPSC for use of Chambers Creek Fields. The rates are by the hour and are subject to periodic change.
 - B. The fields at Chambers Creek are higher quality fields than the school fields and typically better maintained. It is anticipated that older teams and select teams playing at higher competition levels will prefer to use Chambers Creek and, as noted above, those teams will be given priority of use at Chambers Creek.
 - C. Teams that chose to use Chambers Creek for practices or games will be required to reimburse UPSC for the cost of such use. UPSC will pay Pierce County and invoice the individual teams.
3. Curtis Stadium:
 - A. The UP School District does charge UPSC for the use of Curtis Stadium. The rate varies depending on whether the use is during the day or at night. The rates are also subject to change over time, with or without notice.
 - B. Teams opting to use Curtis Stadium for practices or games will be required to reimburse UPSC for the cost of such use. UPSC will pay the School District and invoice the individual teams.
 - C. The cost for each team will depend on how much of the facility they use - on third, one half, full - and for how long - practice vs. game. Practices will typically be based on 90 minute periods. Games will be based on two hour blocks.
 - D. UPSC recognizes that it is not always feasible to accommodate all the teams that want to practice at the stadium in equal groupings on any given night. It also recognizes that it is not necessarily fair to charge a team more for use of the stadium simply because they get bumped to a less crowded time slot. In response UPSC may opt to distribute the cost of the stadium use over all the teams that use it on a given night, not necessarily directly proportionate to the time and area a team uses. For example, if five teams want to use the stadium on Monday nights, three will be assigned 5:00-6:30 and two 6:30-8:00. Rather than have three pay for a 1/3 of the field and two pay for 1/2, the total cost for the night may be spread equally to all five teams. The exception would be for teams that specifically request a time slot that affords them access to a larger portion of the field.

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- E. The Stadium Coordinator will endeavor to maximize the efficient use of the stadium in order to minimize the cost to UPSC. That will include scheduling three teams into both practice times on all weeknights to the extent possible, before moving teams to other times. Any team that declines an assigned time slot and/or specifically requests a practice time slot that necessitates additional rental time of the facility, will be responsible for the full cost of the facility for their requested practice time.
- 4. Once a team has reserved time on either Chambers Creek or Curtis Stadium, unless the field is subsequently made unavailable for that time, the team will be responsible to pay for the cost of the field, whether they actually use the time or not.

IX. Miscellaneous provisions:

- 1. The UPSC Executive Board shall have the authority to deviate from this Policy Statement in day to day practice when deemed, in their sole judgment, to be in the best interest of UPSC.
- 2. This Policy Statement was adopted by a majority vote of the UPSC Board of Directors at a regular board meeting on April 9, 2012.
- 3. This policy statement shall remain in effect in perpetuity, or until modified by the Board of Directors of UPSC.