

Vienna Youth Soccer

# Field Use Policy

Created By: Vienna Youth Soccer  
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**Vienna Youth Soccer (VYS) has the privilege to use fields from the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), the Fairfax County Parks Authority (FCPA) and some private fields. Therefore, it is imperative that all VYS members (coaches, parents, players, and spectators) employ proper use and care for these fields when in use by VYS teams. Failure to do so will result in the Revocation of Field Privileges as described below. This document outlines all the Field Use Policies as mandated by FCPS and FCPA, describes the responsible use of fields, and explains the VYS scheduling and field assignment processes.**

The VYS community is urged to support the preservation and sustainability of our community fields through careful use and respect for those who neighbor these fields. It is the responsibility of all coaches, managers, referees and parents to lead by example by educating our children in the proper use of field space and emphasizing the importance of maintaining a clean environment.

During the season, VYS takes care of 275+ teams (~55 travel), 500+ practice slots per week and 150+ games every weekend. We make every attempt to be accurate, avoid conflicts and be responsive. We ask that you please be courteous and patient if conflicts occur.

**Practice slots will only be assigned to teams that have fully read, agreed to and signed the VYS Field Use Policy. If offenses occur against the Policy, practice privileges may be revoked. Appeals will be handled by the VYS Rules and Discipline Committee.**



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### **Revocation of Field Privileges**

Teams that do not adhere to the VYS Field Use Policy may be penalized as follows:

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b><u>First Offense</u></b>  | <b>Suspension of the next regularly scheduled practice.</b>                                   |
| <b><u>Second Offense</u></b> | <b>Suspension of next three allocated field slots.</b>  |
| <b><u>Third Offense</u></b>  | <b>Loss of all non-game field allocations and privileges for the remainder of the season.</b> |

### **Responsible Use of Public Facilities**

As members of the Vienna community who enjoy the privilege of using county, school and private fields for our games and practices, it is essential that we are always respectful of the property rights and privacy of those homes that border the fields and the other people who also use the parks and schools. Accordingly, it is essential that VYS members observe the following Codes of Conduct for all the fields used by our members:

1. Never trespass on private property to gain access to a field. It is better to be a few minutes late than to violate another person's property rights.
2. Minimize the noise levels during warm-ups for early morning games and late evening practices.
3. Use public toilets or portable toilets, where provided.
4. Leave the field free of all trash at the end of a game or practices, even if some of it was there from the group before. This includes bottles, caps, athletic tape, food wrappers, etc. It is a simple matter to police the field before leaving.
5. Use legal parking spaces, even if it requires a longer walk to the field. Do not park on grass or block driveways and mailboxes.
6. **NO PETS** allowed on any community field. Please ask pet owners to leave the field area with their pets and wait in the parking lot. School fields are posted with signs prohibiting pets by law.



7. When practices or games are finished for the day, properly secure loose equipment in Knaack boxes or offsite sheds and lock movable goals together, off the playing field. If any locks are missing or equipment damaged or missing, please immediately inform the VYS VP of Operations at: [vpoperations@vys.org](mailto:vpoperations@vys.org)
8. No food or drinks, other than water, on TURF fields, this includes sports drinks, coffee or snacks. No tents, tarps, chairs, benches or blankets on any of the turf fields.

We need to establish a high standard of respect for the environment, neighbors and the other users of the park and school fields. These Codes of Conduct are provided to educate our children on the proper use of community property and to ensure a positive ongoing relationship with bordering neighbors.

### **Field Closures**

It is quite common for one or more fields to be closed while others remain open. Please note when requesting VYS fields that some fields will be closed more frequently than others because of rain and standing water. It is Fairfax County and Vienna Youth Soccer policy that the user is responsible for any damage to the field that results from use when it is closed. On Fairfax Park Authority Fields there are signs that indicate when a field is closed. In addition, use of fields that have been closed can result in Revocation of Field Privileges. If fields are open, but inclement weather should develop, the coach and/or referees make the decision on whether practices or games continue or cease.

All teams (coaches and managers) are responsible for checking the VYS Field Closure line on the VYS web site at: [www.vys.org](http://www.vys.org) before each scheduled practice, game or field event. This applies to VYS teams and non-VYS teams who have been granted use of VYS-permitted fields. Field closures are updated daily during the season at **3:00 pm on weekdays and by 7:30 am on weekends and as needed off season**. If a field is closed, it is closed, no one is allowed to use it. **Do not use the grass field surrounding the playing field if the main field is closed.**

Please note that fields can be closed even when the weather is clear, because of standing water, previous field damage, conflicting events or other reasons. Please be aware that all fields handle rain differently. The VYS field status webpage is for informational purposes only; field signage and/or FCPA personnel take precedence. Fields are deemed closed if there is standing water, (e.g. you hear a "squish" when walking, or your footprint has standing water). When in doubt, keep off the field as a precaution to protect our valuable assets! If an area of the field is wet, stay out of that area. Do not practice in the goal mouths, especially when the ground is soft.

In the case of LIGHTNING and/or THUNDER, vacate playing fields immediately and move to a covered building or parked car. Practice/games may resume 30 minutes after the last thunder sound or lightning



sighting. Teams found practicing/playing during lightning and/or thunder storms may result in the Revocation of Field Privileges.

### **Thunder and Lightning Policy**

If thunder and/or lightning is seen or heard, **you must vacate the field area** and wait for 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or sight of lightning before using the field. Do not wait under a tree; they are a lightning rod during storms. Ensure the safety of everyone and go into a covered shelter, car or building to wait the required amount of time before returning to the field.

### **Goal Safety**

Every year in the United States, children are injured or killed by goals that tip over. Please help us in our effort of making goal safety a top priority! Goals must be anchored with sand bags or another acceptable anchoring system. It is the coach's and/or trainer's responsibility to check goals prior to the start of any practice or game and periodically during use. Do not use the goals and field unless goals are properly anchored. If a goal is not anchored before practice, please anchor them. Please report any unsafe equipment or conditions immediately to VYS Operations at: [ypoperations@vys.org](mailto:ypoperations@vys.org).

Climbing, swinging or hanging from goals is strictly prohibited. It is the responsibility of every VYS member to ensure that our players are safe. Any player caught climbing or playing on a goal may be subject to sanctions by VYS up to and including termination of field privileges for that player for the remainder of the season, with no refund.

### **Portable Goals at Schools and Parks**

**Please lock the portable goals together, off the field, after the last practice or game of the day. If you are unsure if a group follows you, lock the goals off the field. Locking prevents damage, theft and unpermitted use, and ensures safety of school kids. Teams that do not secure goals after games or practices may incur Revocation of Field Privileges**

It is FCPS policy that goals must be locked when not in use. Please do not give out lock codes to unpermitted users to avoid compromising our goals and fields.



## **Field Appreciation**

**All VYS teams are expected to follow the VYS Field Use Policy for all Vienna fields at all times. This includes staying off areas of the field that are damaged or muddy and practicing sideways across the field to minimize the wear and tear on the goal mouths. Abuse of fields may result in the Revocation of Field Privileges**

. Playing on a muddy field will move earth away from the wet areas. When the soil dries it will create ridges and permanent standing water will start to appear at the next rainfall. Your decision to play in a wet area has long lasting negative effects for weeks and months. Be respectful of the field and people using the field after you.

## **Clean Up & Recycle**

All VYS teams are responsible for picking up trash on the field at the completion of their practice or game session regardless of whether this trash was there when they first got on the field. Please pick up and recycle all plastic bottles! Last team on the field each day is responsible for a clean field. If you consistently find trash when you arrive at the field notify VYS Fields Personnel at: [programs@vys.org](mailto:programs@vys.org). VYS urges its community to respect the environment through proper use that includes cleaning up after every use.

**VYS encourages the use of reusable and refillable water bottles.**

We have an inordinate amount of non-biodegradable plastic bottles and plastic caps littering the areas surrounding the fields. The cost to remove trash is increasing and we are getting more complaints from neighbors, schools and other park users.

**Failure to pick up trash may result in Revocation of Field Privileges**

## **Pets**

FCPS policy is **NO PETS** on the property, enforceable by law. Therefore, pets are **not** allowed on community fields at **any** time during the year. Please help monitor our fields and politely ask those with pets to leave the field.



## **Parking**

Do not unlawfully use DMV designated handicapped parking spots. Do not park on the grassy areas near fields or fire lanes in a park. Doing so irritates the school community, FCPA and our neighbors. Please ask your fellow team member parents to respect the sites we use.

## **Field Permits**

You may only use fields that have been scheduled for your use and for which you have a printed field permit. Do not practice inside the penalty area, down the center of the field, or on any worn areas (middle of field or goal mouths). Use rebound goals and practice side to side across the field. Teach other coaches to do the same.

## **Exclusive Use Policy**

**You need to bring your permit to every practice and every game.** This is the only official documentation that grants you rights to use a field. VYS, FCPA and/or the Police Department cannot enforce your rights without it.

If you have a conflict with a walk-on group, please try to resolve the matter in a non-confrontational manner. If the walk-on group do not leave or you are concerned about safety, please call the Fairfax County Police non-emergency line at **703-691-2131**. The Fairfax County Park Authority policy is that permitted users of a field have exclusive use of the field. Remember that without a permit, you have no rights to use a field.

**This policy is not meant to put you in harm's way or create a situation which makes you uncomfortable. If you do not want to approach a group of apparent "walk-ons" or they are not responsive, please call the police at: 703-691-2131.**

Practice slots are assigned as carefully as possible. Please use only your assigned slots. If a conflict arises, please either try to work it out amongst your teams or contact the VYS Field Scheduler at: [programs@vys.org](mailto:programs@vys.org) to help resolve the matter. Please remove your team from the field when it is time for the next team's practice slot.

Please report any field issues to the VYS Fields Personnel at: [programs@vys.org](mailto:programs@vys.org). It is helpful to know the name/age group/gender of the other coach/team so that we can better work out misunderstandings.





### **Release of Unused Fields**

If you will not use your practice slot or a game slot, please notify the VYS Field Scheduler at: [programs@vys.org](mailto:programs@vys.org) ASAP so that the slot can be reassigned. With the large amount of requests, please allow other teams to use your unused slots.

### **Suspension of Field Permits**

**Travel Team Managers and House Coaches are responsible for complying with all field guidelines and policies as set by VYS. Teams that do not follow these guidelines may have their field privileges suspended as stated in the Revocation of Field Privileges**

section of this document. The first offense is suspension of the next regularly-scheduled practice. The second offense is suspension of next three allocated field slots. The third offense is loss of all non-game field allocations and privileges for the remainder of the season.

### **GUIDES**

The GUIDES is a password protected page on the VYS website for sole purpose of housing practice, game and activity schedules by fields. Each season the password is updated. Please check with the VYS Fields Assignor for information.

To Access Guides:

1. Go to <http://www.vys.org/scripts/runisa.dll?M2:gp::73054+L3/ROLogIn+E+113+599022>
2. Enter your UserId and Password – provided by the VYS Fields Assignor.
3. Need to access field permits? Look in the left column and click each field name to view permits, maps, and any special instructions.
4. To view season schedules, click on the links in the main area of the page.

### **Field Requests**

All field requests can be made on the VYS website at the bottom of the Guides page. Please complete the online form and your request will be addressed as soon as possible within 24 hours. should be emailed to VYS Fields Personnel at: [programs@vys.org](mailto:programs@vys.org).

Older children require larger fields. Younger children will are typically placed on smaller fields. Due to the limited number of fields available and the large number of athletes, often two or more teams will be scheduled in a particular area. Coaches should amicably work out the specific areas for practice. If conflicts arise that cannot be resolved on the field, then the matter should be addressed to VYS Fields Personnel at: [programs@vys.org](mailto:programs@vys.org).



## **Rescheduling Practices Due To Weather/Field Closures**

**Every effort will be made to allow scheduling additional practices in case of field closures. Do not show up at an empty field in the hope that it is open for you to use. Often empty or underused fields are booked with other teams who have also asked for space. Teams found pirating field space are subject to Revocation of Field Privileges**

## **Field Allocation Policy**

Regular season practice slots will be allocated at the beginning of each season to VYS Travel and House teams. All practice requests received by the practice request deadline for that season will be processed based on the following priorities:

- Groups of 2-3 teams requesting **IDENTICAL** field space (and are within the same age groupings)
- Travel and House coaches with 2 or more teams
- Travel and House Teams (by descending age order - U19-U13)
- Travel and House Teams (by descending age order - U12-U9)
- House divisions (by descending age order U8-6)

VYS reserves the right to adjust these guidelines based on the fields allocated by the county or as needs change. Teams requesting additional practice slots will not have those slots allocated until all teams have received one practice assignment.

## **Available Practice Fields**

The listing of available fields below identifies the age groups for which each field is most appropriate. In assigning fields, first consideration is given to assigning practice on age appropriate fields; however, because fields are limited, we cannot guarantee that the field you are assigned to will be age appropriate. Please note that not all of the fields listed below are available to VYS each season. Permits and field conditions sometimes warrant changes. For safety reasons, all attempts will be made to make sure that there is not a significant age discrepancy between teams sharing a field.



| Field Names and Addresses   | Maximum Teams Per Practice Slot | U6-U8 | U9-U10 | U11-U12 | U13-U19 | Quick field description (subject to changes)  |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---|
| <b><u>Blake Lane Park #1</u></b><br>10033 Blake Lane<br>Oakton, VA 22124                | 2                               | X     | X      | X       |         | Near the dog park.<br>Park at the Recycling Station.  |
| <b><u>Blake Lane #2-3</u></b><br>10033 Blake Lane<br>Oakton, VA 22124                   | 4-5                             | X     | X      | X       |         | Large hill area on<br>Bushman Drive.  |
| <b><u>Cedar Lane</u></b><br>101 Cedar Lane SW<br>Vienna, VA 22180                       | 2                               | X     | X      |         |         | From the parking lot, the grass<br>area off to the far right. Be<br>cautious of VLL on the diamond! |
| <b><u>Clark's Crossing Park #1</u></b><br>9850 Clarks Crossing Road<br>Vienna, VA 22182 | 3                               |       |        |         | X       | Nice field, stays wet.<br>100% field with goals.  |
| <b><u>Clark's Crossing Park #2</u></b><br>9850 Clarks Crossing Road<br>Vienna, VA 22182 | 3                               |       |        | X       |         | Nice field, stays wet.<br>80% field with goals.   |
| <b><u>Colvin Run ES #1-2</u></b><br>1400 Trap Road<br>Vienna, VA 22182                  | 4                               |       | X      | X       |         | Two 80% fields.<br>The hill backs to Towlson Road.  |
| <b><u>Flint Hill ES</u></b><br>2444 Flint Hill Road<br>Vienna, VA 22181                 | 3                               |       | X      | X       |         | Flat green space.<br>Avoid baseball teams on the<br>diamond.  |
| <b><u>Freedom Hill ES #1</u></b><br>1945 Lord Fairfax Rd<br>Vienna, VA 22182            | 3                               |       |        | X       |         | 80% Bermuda Field with goals.   |
| <b><u>Freedom Hill ES #2</u></b><br>1945 Lord Fairfax Rd<br>Vienna, VA 22182            | 3                               | X     | X      |         |         | Grass area next to<br>Spring Leaf Court.  |



| Field Names and Addresses  | Maximum Teams Per Practice Slot | U6-U8 | U9-U10 | U11-U12 | U13-U19 | Quick field description (subject to changes)   |
|--|---------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|--|
| <b><u>Idylwood Park</u></b><br>7715 Virginia Lane<br>Falls Church, Virginia 22043      | 3                               |       |        |         | X       | 100% field with goals.   |
| <b><u>Luther Jackson MS</u></b><br>3020 Gallows Road<br>Falls Church, VA, 22042        | 6-7                             |       |        | X       | X       | TURF with lights.<br>Two 80% or one 100% fields.<br>Additional turf space in back.         |
| <b><u>Kilmer MS #1</u></b><br>8100 Wolftrap Road<br>Vienna, Virginia 22182             | 3                               |       |        |         | X       | 100% Bermuda Field with goals.   |
| <b><u>Kilmer MS #2 (inside track)</u></b><br>8100 Wolftrap Road<br>Vienna, VA 22182    | 3                               |       | X      | X       | X       | 80% Bermuda Field with goals.  |
| <b><u>Louise Archer ES</u></b><br>324 Nutley St NW<br>Vienna, VA 22180                 | 3                               | X     |        |         |         | Must share with softball.<br>Use far outfield spaces.                                      |
| <b><u>Madison HS (Stadium)</u></b><br>2500 James Madison Drive<br>Vienna, VA 22181     | 4                               |       |        |         | X       | 100% TURF with lights and goals.   |
| <b><u>Marshall HS #1 (Stadium)</u></b><br>7731 Leesburg Pike<br>Falls Church, VA 22043 | 4                               |       |        |         | X       | 100% TURF with lights and goals.   |
| <b><u>Marshall HS #2 (in back)</u></b><br>7731 Leesburg Pike<br>Falls Church, VA 22043 | 4                               |       |        |         | X       | TURF with lights.<br>Two 80% fields or<br>One 100% field.                                  |
| <b><u>Marshall Road ES</u></b><br>730 Marshall Road, SW<br>Vienna, VA 22180            | 6                               | X     | X      |         |         | Park in lower lot.<br>Kiss and ride in upper lot only.<br>Do not park in the neighborhood! |



| Field Names and Addresses  | Maximum Teams Per Practice Slot | U6-U8 | U9-U10 | U11-U12 | U13-U19 | Quick field description (subject to changes)   |
|--|---------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|--|
| <b><u>Murphy Field</u></b><br><b><u>(Dunn Loring Center)</u></b><br>2334 Gallows Road<br>Dunn Loring, VA 22027 | 3                               |       |        |         | X       | 100% field with goals.   |
| <b><u>Murphy Field side area</u></b><br>2334 Gallows Road<br>Dunn Loring, VA 22027                             | 1                               | X     |        |         |         | Area behind the backstop.  |
| <b><u>NewSong Church</u></b><br>8200 Bell Lane<br>Vienna, VA 22182   | 3                               |       |        | X       |         | Goals and lights.<br>A bit bumpy.<br>Private field, no permits.                                    |
| <b><u>Nottoway Park #4</u></b><br>9601 Courthouse Road<br>Vienna, VA 22181                                     | 3                               |       |        |         | X       | 100% field with lights.<br>Bumpy.  |
| <b><u>Oak Marr Rec Center #2</u></b><br>3200 Jermantown Road<br>Oakton, VA 22124                               | 3                               |       |        |         | X       | 100% field with goals.   |
| <b><u>Vienna Adventist Academy (VAA)</u></b><br>340 Courthouse Road, SW<br>Vienna, VA 22180                    | 3                               |       |        | X       |         | 80% field with goals.<br>Private field, no permits<br>No use on Friday and Saturday.               |
| <b><u>Vienna Adventist Academy (VAA) side area</u></b><br>340 Courthouse Road, SW<br>Vienna, VA 22180          | 1                               | X     |        |         |         | Area to the left of the playground.<br>Private field, no permits<br>No use on Friday and Saturday. |
| <b><u>Waples Mill ES</u></b><br>11509 Waples Mill Road<br>Oakton, VA 22124                                     | 2                               | X     | X      |         |         | West side of Oakton.   |



| Field Names and Addresses  | Maximum Teams Per Practice Slot | U6-U8 | U9-U10 | U11-U12 | U13-U19 | Quick field description (subject to changes)              |
|--|---------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---|
| <b><u>Westbriar ES</u></b><br>1741 Pine Valley Drive<br>Vienna, Virginia 22182 | 3                               | X     |        |         |         | Park on/near Southern Pines Court. Don't block mailboxes! |
| <b><u>Wolf Trails Park</u></b><br>9328 Old Courthouse Road<br>Vienna, VA 22182 | 3                               |       | X      | X       |         | 80% field with goals.                                     |
| <b><u>Wolf Trap ES</u></b><br>1903 Beulah Rd<br>Vienna, VA 22182               | 3                               | X     | X      |         |         | Bumpy grass area.   |

### **Field Specific Issues & Concerns**

Parking can be a problem at some sites. Please do not park on the grass, "no parking" areas or reserved spots. Do not block driveways, mailboxes or other automobiles. Please drive slowly around sites. Instruct children to watch for traffic when they are crossing parking lots and roads.

- **Clark's Crossing has limited parking in the lot. Be nice to neighbors when parking on the street. There is a kiss and ride area located off Lawyers/Carr Hill Road. Players should ALWAYS travel in pairs when using this Kiss and Ride location.**
- **The upper lot at Marshall Road ES is restricted for coach and referee parking ONLY, and for Kiss and Ride. Parents must park in the lower lot near the buses. Please do not park in the neighborhood. DO NOT park on the grass!**

### **FCPA Field Monitoring Program**

There is a county-wide problem with walk-ons, particularly on turf fields, and the FCPA has increased the number of paid field monitors on weekends. Please be sure to have your VYS Field Permit with you at all times, or you may be asked to leave your field.



### **Damaged Fields and/or Missing Equipment**

If you notice any damage to fields, broken fence gates, missing locks, broken goals, goals missing pieces, missing or damaged nets or other problems on the field, immediately notify VYS Fields Personnel at: [programs@vys.org](mailto:programs@vys.org). Please do not assume another user has notified VYS of safety issues.

**“IF YOU SEE IT, SAY IT”**

### **Version History**

| Version  | Author          | Date       | Comments   |
|----------|-----------------|------------|--|
| Original | Liz DiFrancisco | Feb 2012   |  |
| V1       | Anjali Thompson | April 2015 | Added Guides section. Removed Signature section.                                 |
| V2       | Laura Skoff     | March 2016 | Updated fields request info, removed fields that no longer exist and email links |