

POLICY ON USE OF MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD AND TRACK

Scheduling for use of the Multi-purpose Field and Track at the High School shall be by the office of the Director of Physical Education, Athletics and Student Activities.

Evening Use with Lights:

1. Field lights may be in use not more than 3 nights in any week. High School athletic use will be limited to a maximum of 20 regular season sporting events in each of the fall and spring sport seasons.
2. Access to the lighted field for tournament use is at the discretion of the Superintendent.
3. Once the High School schedule is determined, non-school teams may request evening use of the field, but in no event will there be more than 3 evening events scheduled in any week.
4. After a football game on Fridays, field lights will be extinguished thirty (30) minutes after the end of the game, or by 9:00 p.m., whichever is earlier.
5. For all athletic events other than football, lights will be extinguished thirty (30) minutes after the end of the game, or by 9:00 p.m., whichever is earlier.
6. Use of the public address system will be limited to football games and tournament play. Use of the public address system will be supervised by an adult at all times.
7. There will be no non-athletic use of the field without the prior approval of the School Committee.
8. Lower level lights on the track will be extinguished by 10:00 p.m. from September 1 through May 31, and by 11:00 p.m. from June 1 through August 31.

**BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
644 PLEASANT STREET
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS 02478
617-484-2642**

June 7, 2001

Mr. John Gahan, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
c/o Office of Community Development
Town of Belmont - Town Hall Annex
19 Moore Street
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478

Dear Mr. Gahan:

RE: Special Permit Request of the High School Athletic Facilities Building Committee

As a result of a vote of the Belmont community, a new multi-purpose field and new track will be built in the High School Athletic Complex, replacing the existing football field and track. The new facility, which will accommodate football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey, will be equipped with field lights, allowing for evening games, and lower level lights to allow for community evening use of the track. As the height of the poles, which will support the lights, exceeds the town zoning by-law, the building committee requested a special permit to install the light poles. In conjunction with that request, the Zoning Board of Appeals requested information from the School Committee about the use of the field. If the Special Permit is granted and there is a lighted facility at the Athletic Complex, the School Committee has developed the attached policy to govern its use.

In establishing this policy, the School Committee intends that the new multi-purpose lighted field and track serve as a resource for use by all members of the community. We are mindful of the divergent needs of this community: student athletes, non-school sports teams, community members, immediate neighbors and other residents are all effected by the construction and use of this facility. The School Committee has met with the public, including abutters to the Concord Avenue field and track, and has spoken with the Recreation Department and other users of the field regarding the establishment of this policy. We want to ensure that regulation of the new facility is respectful of the concerns of immediate neighbors, while it meets the needs of the young athletes and other community members who will use it. The attached policy has been approved with these issues in mind.

In addition to the formal policy, which governs use of the field, the School Department will also take the following steps to help reduce traffic congestion in the neighborhood adjacent to the field.

1. Arrange for temporary signs to be used at high volume events, which will direct cars to park in the Belmont High School parking lot.
2. Include on its web site, directions to the athletic facilities, including directions to park in the High School lot.
3. Direct other Middlesex League teams, and their fans, to park at the High School lot.
4. Announce at games (with the agreement of the Board of Selectmen and the Police Department) that parking restrictions are vigorously enforced and illegally parked cars will be towed.

There are several additional items of concern to abutters of the Concord Avenue Complex that are not within the jurisdiction of the School Committee. We are scheduling a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the issues of traffic control, parking regulations and enforcement, authority and responsibilities for lighting and extinguishing the field and track lights, field maintenance and other related issues. We are confident that appropriate plans can be implemented that will allow appropriate use of the facility without impinging on the quality of life of immediate neighbors.

We hope that this letter, and the accompanying policy respond to the concerns raised at your last hearing. If there are any further questions for the School Committee, please convey them to us through Dr. Peter Holland, Superintendent of Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen Miller".

Kathleen Miller, Chair
For the School Committee