



MVLA Soccer Club

Competitive Soccer Teams
A Non-Profit Youth Organization
LAHS USAGE POLICY



Policy Description and Scope:

MVLA Soccer Club's field usage policies and rules are described in detail in MVLA's Field Manual posted to the MVLA web site at www.mvlasc.org. The Field Manual details general rules and etiquettes as well as specific rules for each field we use.

The purpose of this Policy document is to further emphasize the special attention we afford to the Los Altos High School site, both the All Weather Turf (AWT) and the grass athletic fields.

Below, the reader will find a list that highlights the benefits to MVLA and LAHS of our usage as well as the responsibilities placed on MVLA's shoulders for retaining our good status with the school.

This document also includes the general usage plan for the annual LAHS calendar, broken up season by season. Our permitted historical usage has been in effect since 2005 and has proven to work well with LAHS sports and usage schedules.

Policy and Rationale:

- ◇ MVLA targets usage of the AWT to elder teams in the club. We typically target usage for u14 and elders. This arrangement provides marketing benefit to the high school for prospective and current students. LAHS AWT helps recruit kids into the club and attracts top athletes to stay at local public high schools. And using AWT for elders helps preserve our other community grass fields from wear and tear.
- ◇ MVLA's permit patterns work in partnership with any school usage and with several long-standing community events (e.g., Junior Olympics, the Relay for Life in June at LAHS, etc.).
- ◇ MVLA observes that an idle field is an often misused field. MVLA strongly believes that regular permitted usage of the LAHS fields after school and on weekends deters poaching on the field. Our regular presence on the field also deters unauthorized presence of food, animals, and vehicles on the field.
- ◇ MVLA enforces any Blackout Days at LAHS and adheres to the letter and spirit of this school policy (no use at all on Blackout Days). Please refer to MVLA's specific policies concerning field poaching and other non-permitted use.



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- ◇ MVLA enforces a zero tolerance policy when a team violates the rules MVLA sets on LAHS facilities or in any way abuses the privilege of using the field. Coaches/managers suffer sanctions and teams suffer fines, plus the team will automatically lose their usage privileges on the field for rest of the season, or the next season if their breach occurs during the last month of the current season. Please refer to MVLA PIM's for applicable fines/sanctions.

- ◇ MVLA understands that sometimes LAHS must pull our permit for unexpected school usage after our assignments have already been made. All MVLA teams assigned to LAHS fields understand this caveat. However, over the years, the patterns of school usage have become very predictable and well known. These types of mishaps rarely happen.

- ◇ The grass facilities at LAHS are afforded additional constraints.
 - U11s Eldest on field: Due to the year-around use by the school, it is incumbent on MVLA to monitor the wear and tear on the natural turf with extra vigilance. Moreover, MVLA and the school have agreed to the u11 age group as the eldest age allowable on the grass field. These youngsters have, over three years, imposed no significant additional wear and tear on LAHS grass fields and have significantly reduce the unauthorized presence of dogs on the field.
 - No goals allowed on field unless special permission has been obtained from LAHS. Teams may use flat rebounders, but never place them on the field in typical "goal box" locations. Teams move their rebounders and change the pattern of play regularly.
 - No lines on the field, except for those already placed by the school, unless the school permits us to line the field.
 - MVLA historically receives permit to the grass M-F 6:00-7:30pm during limited light periods, Fall and Spring, with Summer getting 5:00-8:00pm due to extended daylight hours.
 - MVLA's field closure policies are most strict on LAHS grass. We close the field to our users long before LAHS closes the field to its students.

- ◇ MVLA submits a permit request each of four seasons for each field (AWT and grass). Typically, the request is timed such that the high school sports schedules are established. By now, several years into the relationship, MVLA and LAHS have established mutual familiarity with the high school sports and MVLA usage patterns, so the timing is very repeatable and predictable. The



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Usage Pattern is detailed below for each season. There may be minor adjustments each season, and the list below does not include the various conflicting events where MVLA defers usage to the school, including, but not limited to:

- SAT test days, off field until 2pm, unless permit granted otherwise;
- Any school meets, games, camps, practices, alumni games, CCS
- Relay for Life, Junior Olympics, Graduation, For-Profit Summer Programs (e.g., Eagle Camp)

General Historical Usage Pattern at LAHS AWT:

Fall: Sept-Dec

--Weekdays: M-F, start at 6:00-7:30 and then as light wanes 5:30-7:00 until DST ends

--Saturday: 9:0-6:00 any Saturdays not used by school football/field hockey games or the band.

--Sunday: Planned Fall 2009, expect 9:00-6:00

Winter: Jan-Feb

--Weekdays: no light, so no weekday permit.

--Saturdays: 9:00-5:30 every Saturday not used by LAHS soccer.

--Sunday: Planned Winter 2010, expect 9:00-6:00

Spring: March-June

--Weekdays: M-F, start at 6:00-7:30 after DST starts then 5-8 after track done.

--Saturdays: 9:00-7:00 every Saturday not used by Track

--Sunday: New for Spring 2008, expect 11:00-7:00 (may have to share with other group)

--Memorial Day Saturday: Small-Sided (4v4, 5v5) Jamboree for u13 and youngers on grass fields; kickbacks for goals, cones for lines, fields shifted at midday to avoid wear and tear (see detailed Jamboree policy for complete implementation details). This event will be requested each year under a separate stand alone permit.

Summer: July-August

--Weekdays: M-F 5:00-8:00pm, except for any weeks when the facilities are shut down for refurbishment.

--Saturdays: 9:00-7:00 every Saturday except for any weeks when the facilities are shut down for refurbishment.

--Sunday: Planned for Summer 2009, expect 9:00-7:00.