

Other Athletic Play Areas

Southwest Florida
Water Management District
WATERMATTERS.ORG-1-800-423-1476

**Phase 1 (Moderate Water Shortage)
Water Restrictions & Year-Round
Water Conservation Measures**

FACT SHEET

Athletic play areas include, but are not limited to: football, baseball, softball, soccer, polo and lawn bowling fields. Clay tennis courts and rodeo, equestrian and livestock arenas are also considered to be athletic play areas. In addition, public parks, when used for a festival or other scheduled event involving heavy foot traffic, are considered an athletic play area for a period ending two weeks after the event. Golf courses are addressed in a separate fact sheet.

KEY FACTS:

- Some athletic play areas, especially newer ones, use reclaimed water. In this way, they are conserving higher quality water for public supply and agricultural needs.
- Larger facilities have Water Use Permits; these permits have annual “water budgets” and other stringent water conservation requirements that must be followed.
- If the facility is not using 100% reclaimed water and is not required to have a Water Use Permit, it must follow the watering times and other common-sense limitations listed below.
- Whether or not a Water Use Permit is involved, any non-play lawn or landscape area associated with the facility may only be irrigated according to the applicable lawn and landscape irrigation schedule.

WATERING TIMES AND OTHER LIMITATIONS:

- Normal supplemental irrigation may only occur before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.
- Unless an athletic play area has a variance (District-authorized alternative irrigation schedule), one-half of the property may be irrigated on Mondays and/or Thursdays; the other half, on Tuesdays and/or Fridays. A map or sketch must be maintained on-site to show how the property is divided for irrigation scheduling purposes.
- Football, baseball, softball, soccer, polo, and similar turfgrass areas may receive an extra irrigation application immediately after heavy play, if necessary, to maintain safe play conditions (regardless of the day of week).
- The wetting of clay tennis courts, baseball or softball infields, and rodeo/equestrian/livestock arenas is allowed immediately prior to use to ensure athlete and animal safety or to control dust (regardless of the day of week).
- Spot treatment and syringing to address a hot, dry area is allowed (regardless of the day of the week).
- Irrigation of a turfgrass athletic play area to prevent heat stress of the grass is allowed (regardless of the day of the week).
- New plant establishment, chemical applications, irrigation system maintenance and other special water uses may follow the standard allowances for those specific practices (please refer to detailed fact sheets for these topics).
- During a Phase I water shortage declaration, prepare for possible worsening conditions (at a minimum, test and repair or adjust each irrigation system to address broken pipes and other leaks, damaged or tilted sprinkler heads, and other sources of water waste).

General Information:

Stricter local ordinances may apply, so be sure to also check with your local water utility. If you have any questions about how these or other year-round water conservation measures apply to your facility, please call 1-800-848-0499 during normal business hours or send an inquiry to Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.org.