



# TOWN OF NORWOOD

566 Washington Street  
Norwood, MA 02062

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF TOWN-OWNED OR CONTROLLED FIELDS, PARKS, AND LAND [except the Town Common]**

Pursuant to M. G. L. c. 45, §§2 and 5, and all other power and authority hereto enabling, the Norwood Board of Selectmen, acting as Selectmen and acting as Commissioners of Park and Recreation land for the Town, hereby promulgate the following rules and regulations regarding the use of town-owned or controlled Fields, Parks, and Land, including property thereon.

### **1. Definitions for Purposes of these Rules and Regulations**

- a. Firearm - the term "firearm" shall mean a gun, pistol, or any weapon from which a shot is discharged by the force of an explosive substance, such as gunpowder, or by means of a compressed gas.
- b. Explosive Device - the term "explosive device" shall mean any device, contrivance, or contraption that bursts with sudden violence from internal energy.
- c. Bow and Arrow - the term "bow and arrow" shall mean a device, contrivance, or contraption consisting of arrows and the bow to shoot them. A "bow" shall mean a device, contrivance, or contraption consisting of a curved, flexible strip of material, especially wood, strung taut from end to end and used to launch arrows. An "arrow" shall mean a "missile" or other object having a straight thin shaft with a pointed head at one end and often flight-stabilizing vanes. at the other, meant to be shot from a bow.
- d. Blowgun - the term "blowgun" shall mean a device, contrivance, or contraption through which an arrow or other projectile may be impelled by the force of the breath or simulation thereof.
- e. Slingshot - the term "slingshot" shall mean any Y-shaped or similar device, contrivance, or contraption having an elastic strap or substitute therefor attached to the prongs, used for flinging small stones or other projectiles.
- f. BB Gun - the term "BB Gun" shall mean any device, contrivance, or contraption used to fire a pellet or similar projectile. The term "BB Gun" shall be synonymous with the term "air rifle".
- g. Paintball Gun - the term "paintball gun" shall mean, any type of device, contrivance, or contraption used to launch projectiles containing dye, including, but not limited to, gelatinous capsules typically shot from such devices, contrivances, or contraptions.
- h. Pellet Gun - the term "pellet gun" shall mean any type of device, contrivance, or contraption used to launch any type of bullet, piece of small shot, or other similar object.
- i. Spear - the term "spear" shall mean any type of device, contrivance, or contraption that is characterized by a long shaft with a sharply pointed end.

### **2. Permissible Activities**

- a. Fields - In general, field uses are limited to Sporting activities, Summer Camps, Clinics and/or other similar activities so approved by the Recreation Department.



- b. Parks (except Town Common) – Permits are required for any of the following activities:
  - i. Activities by groups of twenty (20) or more, except for Town sponsored activities otherwise approved by the Board of Selectmen.
  - ii. Weddings, celebrations, concerts, political events, etc.
  - iii. Use of a Park for passive activities such as art shows, political events, festive and religious celebrations, concerts, placement of display, etc.
  - iv. Events sponsored by any commercial organization or company with prior approval by the Board of Selectmen, including any fee that may be imposed per day or per event.
  - v. The display, distribution or consumption of prepared foods or beverages, subject to any required permit from the Board of Health. Such food request must be indicated on the submitted application.
  - vi. Picnics, birthday parties, cookouts, or other similar events / activities.

### **3. Restrictions / Impermissible Activities**

- a. It is forbidden in or upon land owned by the Town of Norwood and under jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen to possess a firearm, explosive device, bow and arrow, blowgun, sling shot, BB gun, air rifle, paintball gun, pellet gun, spear, or any similar device, contrivance, or contraption. This prohibition shall not apply to the use of the above in lawful defense of the person, family, or property of any person or their use in the performance of any duty required by law.
- b. It is forbidden on any town-owned land or structure thereon to damage, injure, remove, deface, or destroy property, including, but not limited to, any tree, shrub, plant, rock, building, cage, monument, pen, cage, lawn, fence, bench, artifact, signs, equipment, statue, marker, display, animal, picnic table, launch area, and/or pier.
- c. It is forbidden to disobey any legal request or order of the Police, or any agent or employee of the Town of Norwood.
- d. The rules and regulations may be enforced by means of a non-criminal ticketing procedure as set forth in M. G. L. c. 40, §21D, and adopted by the Town of Norwood. pursuant to Article XXIV of the General By-laws of the Town of Norwood.
- e. No alcohol, Littering, or Golf [excluding Disc Golf].
- f. Except as permitted in connection with an approved event under Section 2.b.iv, the distribution or display of commercial advertising, or soliciting of business, or any other commercial transactions, except in conjunction with an approved Farmers Market and Town sponsored events.
- g. No daytime or nighttime camping, including tenting, campers and RV's.
- h. Unless the premises are lit or the permit indicates otherwise, the hours of use are limited from dawn to dusk.
- i. Carnivals.
- j. Begging (private functions).
- k. Disorderly conduct.
- l. Gambling of any form.
- m. Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- n. The use of any motorized or non-motorized vehicle on a Field or Park without prior written approval from either the Recreation Department (Fields) or the Town Manager (Parks).
- o. No heavy equipment or trailers of any type, which could cause damage to the grass, walkways, or other Town equipment /structure shall be driven or placed upon the Fields or Parks.



- p. No skateboarding, using a scooter, or other similar equipment on any structure, statue, bench, monument, stairs, wall, platform, pier, or other physical structure on Town-owned land.

#### 4. General Conditions

- a. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- b. Individual Permits are non-transferable and are only valid for the date(s), time(s), and activity(ies) specified and approved for.
- c. A permit may be revoked by the General Manager, if a sanctioned event engages in activities that are not within the specifications of the permit.
- d. Displays - Parks Only [excludes the Town Common - covered under Policy #BOS-5]:
  - i. A request to place a display on a specific Park is limited to an area not to exceed 225 square feet. In the event that additional displays are permitted within the same period, the Town reserves the right to require any display to be placed in a manner as to allow other displays equal visibility, no display shall be placed so as to obscure or interfere with any other display.
  - ii. Sponsors of a display shall provide, at their own cost, a sign of professional quality with a minimum size of 12 inches by 20 inches clearly identifying the Sponsor(s) of the display and the following message: "The Town of Norwood welcomes free expression but does not endorse any particular viewpoint or religious denomination."
- e. Appropriately licensed Food and/or Ice Cream Trucks are allowed in Field and Park parking lots.
- f. Permits are issued on the express condition that the Applicant(s) shall maintain the area used in good condition at all times. The Applicant(s) shall leave the land utilized in the same or better condition they were in before said event. All trash, debris or any other materials shall be deposited in containers provided on site or carried out by the user(s) if no containers present. The area must be cleaned/cleared by the Applicant(s) by the end of the day the permit expires.
- g. Amplification of sound from any audio device requested and allowed may be restricted by the Board of Selectmen. The General Manager or a police officer may restrict the level of amplitude without prior notice during an event, if they deem it is in the public's best interest.
- h. Any person violating any of the above rules and regulations shall, in addition to any other civil or criminal penalty, be subjected to a fine of **\$100.00** for the first offense, **\$200.00** for the second offense, and **\$300.00** for the third and for any subsequent offenses. Persons using town-owned lands do so at their own risk.
- i. The Board of Selectmen may impose a fee for the-private-use of any Town-owned or controlled land not already indicated in this policy to cover Town expenses related to the oversight, maintenance, public safety, etc. and is not a tax to use the Park requested.
- j. The Board of Selectmen for Parks or the Recreation Department for Fields may, at their discretion, require a bond, a deposit and/or a liability insurance policy to protect the interests of the Town of Norwood.
- k. The Town, its agents, servants, and employees shall be held free and clear of any and all liability and the person(s) and/or entity(ies) shall indemnify the Town for all cost, expenses and claims made upon it, liability or otherwise.
- l. All situations not defined in these regulations, or request for exceptions, must be ruled on by the Board of Selectmen in advance of the requested event.
- m. The Board of Selectmen or its designee, after request for waiver of any of the indicated restrictions, may grant said request where the health, safety, and welfare of the public or intended purpose of the operation of town-owned lands is not found to be adversely affected.



**5. Permit Process****a. Fields**

- i. The Town's Recreation Superintendent is the designated individual responsible for the review, scheduling, approval and monitoring of all Town Fields. Individuals or organizations wishing to schedule the use of a Field shall submit a Field Permit Application [BOS Doc#16] to the Recreation Department for processing.
- ii. Field Rules and Regulations are noted on the Permit Application as well as in this policy.
- iii. Associated Fees for the use of any Field are noted on the Field Permit Application, which may change upon approval of the Board of Selectmen.
- iv. The 16 Fields subject to this process are: Balch, Callahan, Cleveland, Coakley Field 1, Coakley Field 2, Coakley Rectangular Field, Coakley Lower Field, Doherty, Ellis, Father Macs, Murphy, Oldham, Prescott, Willett, Wilson, and Winslow.

**b. Parks**

- i. Individuals or organizations wishing to schedule the use of a Park shall submit a Park Use Application [BOS Doc #15] to the Board of Selectmen Office for processing.
- ii. Applications to conduct permitted activities on any park as listed below, shall be filed on the approved application form, BOS Doc #15, which is available on-line or at the Recreation Department's Office, no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the requested date for said use by a Norwood resident, organization/company, or non-profit group.
- iii. Applications must be filled out completely in order for the application to be acted upon. Missing information might cause a delay in consideration or a denial of the permit. Late or incomplete applications may be considered at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen.
- iv. As a condition of issuing the permit, the Recreation Department may require the sponsor to pay for detailed police officer(s) as they deem necessary. In the case of activities with a duration of more than one day, this requirement may be imposed at any time it is determined to be necessary by the General Manager without advanced notice to the Sponsor(s).


**6. Grounds for Denial of Permit Request**

- a. A permit has been or will be issued to another entity for that date and time.
- b. Event is believed to present a risk to the public health or safety, including the availability of Town resources.
- c. Event is such nature or duration that it cannot reasonably be accommodated in the area applied for based on the projected number of attendees.
- d. Permit is requested for a date(s) that conflicts with official celebrations of the Town or Town sponsored event.

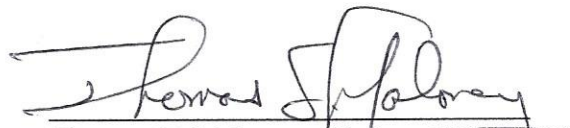
**7. Provisions**


- a. If any part, section, or subdivision of this policy is held to be invalid, unconstitutional, or inoperative as to any particular person(s) or conditions, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of this policy, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this policy are declared to be severable.
- b. Any inconsistencies between provisions of these rules & regulations and statutory law shall be resolved in favor of statutory law.
- c. The Board of Selectmen reserve the right, at any time, to modify or amend these rules and regulations or to adopt such other additional provisions as the Board deems necessary.

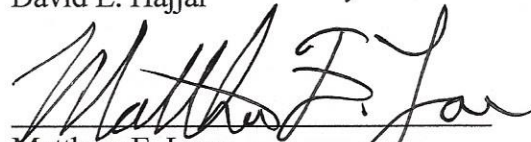
**The Norwood Board of Selectmen:**

  
William J. Plasko, Vice-chairman

  
Helen Abdallah Donohue

  
Thomas F. Maloney, Chairman

  
David E. Hajjar

  
Matthew E. Lane

**APPROVED:** 08 / 03 / 2021 with Doc #15 – Park Permit Application, and Doc #16 – Field Permit Application. These documents may change as the need arises without requiring a change in this Policy.