

City of Hazleton

Defining Uses of Public Space (Revised)

1. Common Use

Common Use refers to informal, unreserved use of public parks and facilities within the guidelines of their intended purpose. Examples include casual play, pickup games, or general recreation.

Examples of acceptable common use include:

- A casual game of football on the outfield grass of a youth softball field
- Informal recreation that does not involve scheduling, uniforms, or organized competition

Examples of unacceptable common use include:

- Adult (18+) organized play on youth-designated fields
- Activities that cause excessive wear, damage, or interfere with other park users

The City of Hazleton assumes expected risks and routine maintenance associated with common public use.

2. Reserved Use

Reserved Use refers to the reservation of a public space through the City's established reservation process or direct coordination with the City of Hazleton Athletic Director.

All rules applicable to Common Use also apply to Reserved Use. Reserved Use does not permit:

- Adult league play on youth-designated fields without written City approval
- Installation of structures, fencing, or equipment without prior approval

3. League Use

League Use refers to the reservation and use of public facilities for organized sports leagues.

Definition of a Sports League

For purposes of park use, a sports league is defined as any organization or group that meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Reserves City facilities more than four (4) times per month
- Uses uniforms, team names, or organized rosters
- Conducts scheduled practices, games, or competitions

- Competes against teams from outside the City of Hazleton

Organizations may not avoid league requirements by reserving facilities under multiple names, individuals, or informal group designations. The City reserves the right to classify facility use as league use based on activity patterns.

League Requirements

All leagues must:

- Submit a completed *Application for Use of Hazleton's Park Facilities Operating as a Sports League*
- Maintain general liability insurance as required by the City
- Certify that all coaches, volunteers (paid or unpaid), officials, and individuals with routine participant contact have successfully completed all background clearances required by Pennsylvania law
- Use fields and facilities only as designated and approved

Age-Appropriate Field Use

Fields designated for youth use shall not be used for adult (18+) league play, practices, or games without written approval from the City. Violations may result in permit revocation or denial of future use.

Application for Use of Hazleton's Park Facilities

Operating as a Sports League (Revised)

Date of Application: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Requested By: _____

Type of Organization: _____

Facilities Requested: _____

Dates of Use: _____ **From:** _____ **To:** _____

Number of practices, games, or events per month: _____

Specific Purpose of Use:

Attach program schedule if available.

League Certifications (Required)

Background Clearance Certification

The applicant certifies that all coaches, assistant coaches, volunteers (paid or unpaid), officials, and individuals with routine participant contact have obtained and passed all background clearances required by Pennsylvania law. Documentation shall be maintained by the league and provided to the City upon request.

Insurance Certification

The applicant agrees to provide a certificate of general liability insurance naming the City of Hazleton as an additional insured, in the minimum amounts required by the City.

Facility Use Conditions

1. The requesting organization shall abide by all policies, rules, and regulations of the City of Hazleton now in effect or hereafter adopted.
2. Use of City facilities shall not interfere with City operations or programs. The City reserves the right to withdraw or rescind approval at any time.
3. Weapons, alcoholic beverages, cannabis, and controlled substances are prohibited on City facilities. Smoking and vaping are prohibited where posted and during youth activities.

4. City facilities shall be used in a careful and prudent manner so as to prevent loss, defacement, or damage. Good order and discipline shall be maintained by the requesting organization.
5. Facilities shall be vacated at the time approved and left in as good a condition as when use began.
6. The requesting organization agrees to assume responsibility for the acts and conduct of all participants, coaches, volunteers, officials, spectators, and invitees.
7. Cleanup Responsibility: All trash, recyclables, and debris generated by league activities must be removed immediately following use. Failure to clean the facility may result in additional fees or denial of future permits.
8. Portable Restrooms: Any portable toilets must be placed only in City-approved locations. No locks or access restrictions may be placed on portable toilets located on City property.
9. Temporary Structures: Any structures placed on City property (including sheds, concession stands, tents, fencing, or equipment storage units) must receive prior written City approval. All unapproved or temporary structures must be removed within the timeframe specified by the City following the conclusion of the season. Structures left beyond that period may be deemed abandoned and become City property or be removed at the league's expense.
10. Alteration, relocation, or installation of City property, equipment, or field components is prohibited without prior written approval from the City.
11. The City of Hazleton is not responsible for property that is lost, stolen, or damaged during league activities.
12. The requesting organization shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and shall obtain and pay for all required permits and licenses.
13. The City retains sole authority to close fields or facilities due to weather, safety, maintenance, or other operational concerns. Use of closed facilities may result in immediate permit revocation.

Indemnification and Waiver

The applicant acknowledges that participation in athletic activities and use of City facilities involve inherent risks. The applicant agrees to assume full responsibility for the conduct of participants, spectators, and volunteers and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Hazleton, its officers, employees, and agents from any claims arising from the permitted use, except where caused by the City's sole negligence.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City Use Only

- Application Complete
- Insurance Certificate Received
- Background Certification Received
- Approved Denied

Notes: _____

Authorized Signature (City of Hazleton): _____

Date: _____

City of Hazleton

Fan, Spectator, and Parent Decorum Policy

Purpose

The City of Hazleton Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all participants, officials, staff, and spectators using City athletic facilities. Youth and adult sports are an extension of community values, and the behavior of spectators plays a critical role in the experience of participants.

This Fan, Spectator, and Parent Decorum Policy establishes minimum standards of conduct for all individuals attending athletic activities on City of Hazleton property.

Guiding Principles

- Youth sports are a learning experience focused on development, teamwork, and sportsmanship.
- Spectators serve as role models; inappropriate behavior negatively impacts participants and the community.
- Respect for officials, coaches, players, City staff, and fellow spectators is mandatory.

Standards of Conduct (Non-Negotiable)

All spectators, parents, and guests agree to the following conditions while on City property:

- I will not possess, consume, or be under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or non-prescription drugs.
- I will not possess any weapon of any kind.
- I will not engage in physical confrontation, threatening behavior, or fighting.
- I will not use profanity, obscene gestures, slurs, or abusive language.
- I will not harass, taunt, or intimidate players, coaches, officials, City staff, or other spectators.
- I will not enter the field of play, court, bench area, or officials' area without permission.
- I will comply immediately with instructions from City staff, officials, site supervisors, or law enforcement.
- I will respect all individuals making the event possible, including referees, scorekeepers, timekeepers, volunteers, and City employees.

Prohibited Items and Activities

The following are prohibited at City athletic facilities during events:

- Alcoholic beverages, cannabis, and controlled substances
- Weapons or weapon replicas

- Artificial noise makers (including air horns, whistles, megaphones, or amplified sound devices) unless approved by the City
- Objects thrown onto the field or court
- Signs or displays containing offensive, discriminatory, or inflammatory language

League Responsibility

Leagues and organizations using City facilities are responsible for the conduct of their participants, spectators, parents, and guests. Failure to address spectator misconduct may result in penalties against the league, including suspension or revocation of facility use privileges.

Enforcement

Violations of this policy will be addressed as follows:

- Any individual in violation may be removed immediately from the facility at the direction of City staff, officials, or law enforcement.
- No warnings are required prior to removal for serious or unsafe behavior.
- Individuals removed from a facility may be subject to suspension from future events.
- Repeated or egregious violations may result in league sanctions, permit revocation, or denial of future applications.

The City of Hazleton reserves the right to determine appropriate enforcement actions on a case-by-case basis.

Acknowledgement

Attendance at or participation in events held on City of Hazleton property constitutes agreement to comply with this Fan, Spectator, and Parent Decorum Policy.

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in removal from the premises and additional disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the City of Hazleton.

City of Hazleton – Parks and Recreation Department

City of Hazleton

Fan, Spectator, and Parent Decorum

Acknowledgement & Agreement

This document serves as an acknowledgement of the City of Hazleton Fan, Spectator, and Parent Decorum Policy. All parents, guardians, spectators, and attendees are required to review and agree to the standards below prior to participation in or attendance at athletic events held on City of Hazleton property.

Decorum Agreement (Initial Each)

Please initial next to each statement to indicate understanding and agreement:

_____ I understand that City athletic facilities are intended to provide a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all participants and spectators.

_____ I will not possess, consume, or be under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or non-prescription drugs while on City property.

_____ I will not possess any weapon of any kind while attending City-sponsored or permitted athletic activities.

_____ I will not engage in physical confrontation, threatening behavior, harassment, or intimidation.

_____ I will not use profanity, obscene gestures, slurs, or abusive language toward players, coaches, officials, City staff, or other spectators.

_____ I will not enter the field of play, court, bench area, or officials' area unless expressly permitted.

_____ I will comply immediately with instructions from City staff, officials, site supervisors, or law enforcement.

_____ I understand that artificial noise makers (air horns, whistles, megaphones, or amplified devices) are prohibited unless approved by the City.

_____ I understand that failure to comply with this policy may result in immediate removal from the facility without warning.

_____ I acknowledge that repeated or severe violations may result in suspension from future events or additional sanctions imposed on the associated league or organization.

Acknowledgement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to comply with the City of Hazleton Fan, Spectator, and Parent Decorum Policy. I understand that attendance at athletic events on City of Hazleton property constitutes agreement to abide by this policy.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Relationship to Participant (if applicable): _____

Participant Name / Team (if applicable): _____

City of Hazleton – Parks and Recreation Department

CITY OF HAZLETON

PUBLICITY WAIVER AND RELEASE

I hereby grant the City of Hazleton (City or Hazleton) permission to reproduce my name, likeness, identity, voice, photographic image, videographic image, and oral or recorded statements (hereinafter "Recordings") in any publication by the City intended for educational, promotional, or other related use, including webpages and web-based publications.

By signing this form, I waive and release the City and their officers, agents, and employees, from any claim or liability relating to the use of my name, likeness, identity, voice, photographic image, videographic image, and oral or recorded statements. I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished Recordings. I understand that the Recordings and copyright will be the sole property of the City.

I acknowledge that the City will rely on this waiver and release if it decides to produce, broadcast, and distribute materials containing my name, likeness, identity, voice, photographic image, videographic image or oral or recorded statements, and that I will receive no money or remuneration of any kind from the City related to this waiver and release or the materials covered by this waiver and release.

I acknowledge and represent that I am over the age of 18, have read this entire document, that I understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this waiver and release, and that I have signed it knowingly and voluntarily on behalf of myself and/or my minor children (if applicable).

Printed Name

Signature

Date

(If Applicable), I am signing on behalf of my minor child(ren) as list below:

