

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, July 25, 2019

Aurora Hills Community Center, Main Room

Time: 6:30pm-9:30pm

Approval of Minutes

- June 27, 2019

New Business

- Introductions
- DPR field allocation and scheduling presentation
- Partner organization scheduling practices and experiences
- Group breakout exercise
- Report back and group discussion

Public Comment

Upcoming Meetings:

August Sports Commission Meeting- TBD

- 1) Have you heard anything this evening that could maximize scheduling efficiency from individual sports leagues?

- 2) What steps can be taken to achieve maximum scheduling efficiency in the DPR field inventory?

- 3) In your opinion, how can the Field Allocation Guidelines be tweaked to achieve maximum efficiency?

- 4) In your opinion, what data should be collected to effectively analyze capacity and field utilization?

Scheduling Process Questions

Sports Commission – May 23, 2019

Senior Room, Langston-Brown Community Center

Goal: Gain full understanding of intersection of DPR Allocation Guidelines, and League Allocation Processes.

DPR review:

- How are fields allocated to leagues for further scheduling?
- Is DPR fully able to allocate space in accordance with the Allocation Guidelines?
- What scheduling information does DPR receive back from the leagues?

Leagues' views of scheduling: For Youth Ultimate League of Arlington (YULA)

- **How does your league further distribute the field allocation received from DPR?** As evenly as possible between various high school and middle school teams. 15 middle school teams and 13 high school teams in the spring.
- **What information does your league provide back to DPR on how you distributed your allocation?** During our request period, we give our programmer an idea of the number of teams and field location preferences closest to each team's school.
- **Does your league distribute fields according to any kind of priority system (i.e., by player age; travel versus recreational; field quality; etc.)?** Our larger field spaces go to our high school teams. No other priority is given.
- **Are there any differences in pre-season versus in-season field allocations received and further distributed?** Pre-season is allocated to our high school because their competitive season starts earlier than our middle school teams.
- **Are there any differences between primary and secondary season allocations received and further distributed?** No.
- **Please describe any differences in scheduling practices v. games, including by age or skill level.** Our games are scheduled by middle school and high school and within high school an A team and B team.
- **How do lights affect scheduling decisions/allocations?** We are not allocated fields with lights.
- **How does synthetic v. grass affect scheduling decisions/allocations?** We are usually allocated grass fields. If we are allocated an occasional synthetic field they typically go to our high school teams.
- **What accommodations has your league made over the last 5-7 years to maximize field usage (i.e., multiple teams on fields, less practice time, etc.)? Are there other field**

efficiencies you could realize? We have multiple teams practicing on one field at a time and have had to stagger start and end times. For example, Kenmore 4 this spring, we have had up to 4 teams staggered during our allocated time.

- **What is currently done with excess field allocations (i.e. Is extra time turned in to DPR?)?** We don't typically return fields to DPR during our spring season.
- **Does your league keep track of schedule allocations that are not used by the recipient (e.g., coach cancels practice) and if so, are these slots made available to other teams within your league or other leagues?** Yes.
- **How does your league accommodate rainouts/inclement weather?** Practices or games are cancelled and are not rescheduled.
- **Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule practice or game activities outside of Arlington, and if so, why?** Games are sometimes played in Fairfax due to field availability.
- **Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule any practice or game activities in Arlington on privately-owned fields or other non-DPR space, and if so, why?** No.
- **Is there anything else about field scheduling (e.g., challenges, opportunities for more efficient use) that you would like to share with DPR, the Sports Commission, or other leagues?** As YULA continues to grow, we are worried about adequate field space allocation. We have struggled this season to give all our teams enough field space for practices and games. It would be great to have an opportunity to use Long Bridge Park as one of our field spaces since H-B Woodlawn is moving into the Rosslyn area without any field space available for at least 2 years.

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 27, 2019

Langston Brown CC, Senior Room

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Justin Wilt, Vice-Chair
Steve Severn
Matthew Galan
Kristi Sawert
David Tournquist

Dave Maher
Drew Murray
John Mingus
Megan Sheckles
John Bacon
Nancy Sharkey

Commission Members Absent:

Jessica Paska
Sherry Kohan
George Thompson

County/APS Staff:

Greg Anselene, DPR
Deb DeFranco, APS

Guests

Herb Levitan- (NVSO) Northern Virginia Senior Olympics
Sergio Enriquez – Parks and Recreation Commission

Please note: Agenda items may not be in chronological order.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

[7:00pm-7:10pm]

Motion to approve February 2019, March 2019, and April 2019 meeting minutes as amended, seconded, and approved.

New Business

[7:10 – 8:50 PM]

- Introductions of Sports Commission and guests.

- New Sports Commission Members John Mingus, Megan Sheckles, and Nancy Sharkey were introduced.
- Guests Herb Levitan and Sergio Enriquez were introduced
- **Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, Herb Levitan**
 - Introduction of Senior Olympics. Which includes over 70 events and 800 participants. Motto is “Living healthier longer”.
 - Events for all abilities. Events include classical events (golf, volleyball, track&field etc.) as well as sit down events such as Bunko and Bridge.
 - Mr. levitan stated that of all jurisdictions, Arlington County is the most enthusiastic. Thomas Jefferson Community Center hosts many events including the Opening Ceremony
 - MR. Levitan was asked what the Sports Commission could do to help. Mr. Levitan encouraged everyone eligible to sign up and participate. Mr. Levitan also indicated that they can always use help with marketing and sponsorships.
- **DPR Presentation on Marymount University MOA, Barcroft Batting Cages and Gunston Diamond opening. Greg Anselene, Manager of Sports Leagues and Field Management**
 - Marymount University MOA
 - Provided history of the MOU that was signed in 2009. MU made \$2m capital investment in Boeing Field # 1 at Long Bridge Park. Has been making prepayments for the recent turf replacement and annual maintenance payment
 - MU received 440 hours total hours per year for NCAA Soccer and Lacrosse (Men and Women). 240 hours are prime time (5pm-10pm M-F and 9am-4pm Sat & Sun)
 - MU approached the County in 2018 to discuss updating the current agreement
 - In July the County Board will consider and Amended and Restated MOA to include:
 - 100 additional hours of non-prime time use of Boeing # 1 at Long Bridge Park.
 - Use of County Tennis Facilities, beginning Fall 2019.
 - Practices 10:00 am – 4:00 pm M-Fri at Virginia Highlands Park.
 - 2 fall matches, 16 spring matches. A maximum of 4 matches can be played in primetime. Matches can be played at locations determined by DPR to minimize impact on one location.
 - Future Softball program (potentially 2022-2023 start)
 - Permitted to practice 10am-4:00pm with games scheduled after County leagues have been scheduled.
 - DPR will continue to work with MU Baseball program.
 - Commissioner John Bacon noted concerns that the County is not getting enough back in return for this agreement. Mr. Bacon stated the county should be net-positive in the agreement

- APS Liaison Debbie DeFranco questioned that the rental fees would cover the cost of additional maintenance.
 - Commissioner Steve Severn questioned the comparison of rental fees vs. League fees and that rental fees would be just a drop in the bucket.
 - Further discussion on watering down DPR's language regarding the commitment to the softball program, maintenance concerns and the impact to the other users.
 - Commission agreed to send a letter to the County board
 - Barcroft Batting Cages:
 - Arlington Sports Foundation raised funds to help renovate the batting cages at Barcroft Park.
 - Spring 2019 DPR staff met on-site with leaders of all diamond sports leagues to discuss the renovations.
 - Project is scheduled to begin July 22-August 31
 - Project scope includes:
 - Drainage improvements, ADA access, 4 electrical outlets
 - Two cages (35'x70') with the ability to divide into 4.
 - Cement base with artificial turf to be used in all-weather
 - Commissioner Steve Severn noted that much of the money raised by the Arlington Sports Foundation came from league donations.
 - Gunston Diamond Field
 - Was due for replacement in the Maintenance section of the Capital improvement plan. These projects are funded as a 1-1 replacement of existing amenities.
 - Arlington Sports Foundation and Diamond Field Fund Committee proposed conversion to synthetic turf field at Gunston. These 2 groups provided the delta of the CIP funded project and cost of synthetic turf (\$371,000).
- **26th St. N.-Old Dominion- Overview by Greg Anselene, Manager of Sports Leagues and Field Management.**
 - September 2018 the County Board accepted a recommendation from County Manager to create a community task for to:
 - Collaborate with staff to develop a master plan for the 7.6 acres of County-owned land
 - Group held 10 meetings beginning in November 2018 and concluding in March 2019.
 - Final Report was submitted to County Board on April 11, 2019.
 - The recommendations included:
 - A plan that "relies on maximizing the use of the sloped topography to provide double access with a rooftop park space that covers a portion of the operational facilities located on a lower level that covers a portion of the operational facilities located on a lower level".
 - The Task Force's report recommended that the County Board develop a Park Master Plan, however, the County Manager or County Board have not taken a position on this report and have not given staff direction on the site's future.

Scheduling Process Questions

Sports Commission – May 23, 2019

Senior Room, Langston-Brown Community Center

Goal: Gain full understanding of intersection of DPR Allocation Guidelines, and League Allocation Processes.

DPR review:

- How are fields allocated to leagues for further scheduling?
- Is DPR fully able to allocate space in accordance with the Allocation Guidelines?
- What scheduling information does DPR receive back from the leagues?

Leagues' views of scheduling:

- How does your league further distribute the field allocation received from DPR?
 - No. We assign games to fields we receive for spring, summer and fall seasons.
- What information does your league provide back to DPR on how you distributed your allocation?
 - After two seasons of playing at Bishop O'Connell on Sunday mornings, AWSL asked to no longer be assigned to play there. There were several times that the athletic director did not communicate to DPR about the field not being available or that the field time would be cut short.
- Does your league distribute fields according to any kind of priority system (i.e., by player age; travel versus recreational; field quality; etc.)?
 - No.
- Are there any differences in pre-season versus in-season field allocations received and further distributed?
 - No. AWSL only holds 1-2 pre-season practices.
- Are there any differences between primary and secondary season allocations received and further distributed?
 - No.
- Please describe any differences in scheduling practices v. games, including by age or skill level.
 - No differences for AWSL. We have an open division (req. to be 18 years or older) on Sunday morning and a masters division (one division is over 30 years and a second is over 40 years).
- How do lights affect scheduling decisions/allocations?

- Playing on Monday nights we need lighted fields. We've not had a problem getting fields from Arlington County.
- How does synthetic v. grass affect scheduling decisions/allocations?
 - AWSL is only assigned synthetic fields.
- What accommodations has your league made over the last 5-7 years to maximize field usage (i.e., multiple teams on fields, less practice time, etc.)? Are there other field efficiencies you could realize?
- What is currently done with excess field allocations (i.e. is extra time turned back in to DPR)?
 - Yes, as we work through our schedules, we turn unused fields back to Marta about a month prior to the beginning of the season. We have about the same number of teams season to season so we're not fluctuating much on our field needs.
- Does your league keep track of schedule allocations that are not used by the recipient (e.g., coach cancels practice) and if so, are these slots made available to other teams within your league or other leagues?
 - Aside from 1-2 practices prior to the start of the season, AWSL only uses fields for games. This is not applicable to AWSL.
- How does your league accommodate rainouts/inclement weather?
 - Playing on synthetic means we rarely have rainouts. AWSL reschedules games cancelled due to inclement weather.
- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule practice or game activities outside of Arlington, and if so, why?
 - AWSL does not have practice or games outside of Arlington County.
- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule any practice or game activities in Arlington on privately-owned fields or other non-DPR space, and if so, why?
 - No.
- Is there anything else about field scheduling (e.g., challenges, opportunities for more efficient use) that you would like to share with DPR, the Sports Commission, or other leagues?
 - AWSL's frustration is when the high school athletic directors do not communicate with DPR about a schedule change until it's game day. Then at 3pm on game day, AWSL is trying to contact team captains and referees about the change.

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Leagues' views of scheduling:

- How does your league further distribute the field allocation received from DPR?
 - We break space out into smaller groupings. We distribute to a variety of programs, in no particular order, to rec, travel, developmental, clinics and special programs. We work with our largest programs first and then move to smaller programs. This allows us to get the best use out of the space.
 - Travel teams – space is allocated by a field scheduler to balance age groups and genders
 - Developmental – preferences are collected and teams are lumped together to make the best use of space while factoring in days/time and location requests
 - Recreational teams – we have a centralized database where coaches can choose among options. Options are divided into age-appropriate categories to maximize sustainable use
- What information does your league provide back to DPR on how you distributed your allocation?
 - Detailed information including days/times/grades/teams and auxiliary program usage.
- Does your league distribute fields according to any kind of priority system (i.e., by player age; travel versus recreational; field quality; etc.)?
 - Premium and lighted fields are distributed to older age groups and travel for practices and games. We also give priority to coaches of multiple teams, allowing them to better coordinate multiple practice sessions. Within rec, teams are limited by age to certain sets of fields – 11v11 turf is exclusively for older teams

(with the exception of a new program, the Tuesday Night Training TNT, where kinder and 3rd grade teams share a turf field, but in these cases, we have 17 and 13 teams respectively, for a total of over 130 players per field), while informal "green spaces" are reserved for the youngest players (e.g., areas beside tennis courts, behind goals, unlined open public space in parks and at schools, etc.). Coaches tend to self-select off damaged/bare fields.

- Are there any differences in pre-season versus in-season field allocations received and further distributed?
 - Rec does not have pre-season. Only travel teams use preseason space/post season and off-season space most of the time.
- Are there any differences between primary and secondary season allocations received and further distributed?
 - Yes, the secondary season allocation of field space for soccer has less space than the primary. Our player counts are about the same but we follow the same process. The positive side of this is that in the spring we gain daylight so we can increase our practice fields as the season progresses
- Please describe any differences in scheduling practices v. games, including by age or skill level.
 - Rec Practices – younger grades generally given earlier practice times. Rec Games are on weekends and can be from 8:00am-8:00pm with younger grades generally finishing by 6:30 pm in the spring and 5:15 in the fall. We have made a real effort to evenly distribute turf among the various rec divisions. That said, K-2 rec all play on grass and so their games get rained out. We do not allocate some groups to "better" grass fields, and others to "worse" – we try to evenly distribute games among the various sites.
 - For travel games we do schedule fields for the highest leagues first as there are requirements to have games as much as the same venue as possible. After those games are scheduled the remaining space is allocated to leagues based on the number of teams we have playing in each league.
- How do lights affect scheduling decisions/allocations?
 - Rec – older teams given later practices times when lights can be used. Rec coaches who self-select later times tend to have older teams, regardless of whether the field is turf (TJ & VH complexes), or grass (Kenmore, Quincy, etc.), and subject to limitations to maximize sustainable field utilization. In the fall season, the lack of lights on most fields, limits our ability to schedule practices after 6:30.

- The travel teams tend to use more of the lighted fields as their allocation of fields is not based on neighborhood and we are able to have them drive to Long Bridge, Gunston and VA Highlands.
- How does synthetic v. grass affect scheduling decisions/allocations?
 - Rec practices – synthetic generally restricted to mid-elementary and above. Rec games – 3rd grade-HS have some synthetic availability.
- What accommodations has you league made over the last 5-7 years to maximize field usage (i.e., multiple teams on fields, less practice time, etc.)? Are there other field efficiencies you could realize?
 - The travel program has increased the number of players/team's schedule on the field. We pay close attention when scheduling so that we have like skill/age and sometimes gender teams on the field so the coaches can combine sessions so they can work on things using more field space at time or combine sessions as needed.
 - We have made big changes in Rec. We have set uniform standards for field usage, increased the numbers of teams per field, reduced practice time, and also created the TNT to use priority fields more effectively. In effect, we have doubled the numbers of teams on a field and reduced the number of 90 minute practice slots (the only ones we have now are the result of DPR field assignments, when we can't divide them up into even 60-minute blocks; all other Rec practice slots are now 60 minutes as the new norm). Coaches complain about having to share goals, not getting enough space, etc. but this is the new normal.
- What is currently done with excess field allocations (i.e. is extra time turned back in to DPR)?
 - There is no extra time on priority turf fields. All that is fully utilized. Extra space on grass fields is limited, but available to coaches whose regular practice might be rained out. Unused green space is pressed into service as teams are rained out of regular practice slots, or choose to transfer off damaged fields.
 - Any unscheduled travel allocation is turned back to our scheduler so it can be utilized by recreational teams to allow them more options for the volunteer coaches.
- Does your league keep track of schedule allocations that are not used by the recipient (e.g., coach cancels practice) and if so, are these slots made available to other teams within your league or other leagues?
 - To a limited extent yes, for priority turf spaces. But still plenty of room for improvement here. Generally practices are cancelled due to weather at the last minute, not something we can plan for. For travel teams, coaches do notify if

they have to cancel a practice and we do shift teams around if the space is significant enough. Often times we have 3 or 4 teams on a field so a cancellation just allows the teams on the field a bit more space that evening.

- How does your league accommodate rainouts/inclement weather?
 - For rec we reschedule games, allow coaches to take an extra practice slot in an available slot. As noted, most of these are pretty sub-standard spaces.
 - For travel, we reschedule games as fully as possible based on the available space and the end date allowed by the leagues, we participate in.

- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule practice or game activities outside of Arlington, and if so, why?
 - For rec, generally no, but Falls Church teams use FC city property to practice, reducing our demand for space. Some games are also scheduled at FC city fields.
 - On occasion, we will move a travel game outside of Arlington if field space is tight on a specific day. This can happen if a Saturday is needed or if we have a full load of games on a Sunday and space cannot be located. This is pretty minimal and on occasion we are able to bring a game into Arlington from an away scheduled game if that is the best option for the teams.

Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule any practice or game activities in Arlington on privately-owned fields or other non-DPR space, and if so, why?

- No. We might if we knew what these options were. We do sometimes use indoor space in the winter outside of Arlington. We have been in communication with a private school in Falls Church about their field but we have not used it to date.

- Is there anything else about field scheduling (e.g., challenges, opportunities for more efficient use) that you would like to share with DPR, the Sports Commission, or other leagues?
 - To DPR – wish there was a way to incorporate all field information by a specific pre-season time. The majority of field information is given out at-season but it's the myriad of changes after this point that are a challenge to implement.

 - We would like to see all sports who are scheduled on turf to provide a minimum number of assigned teams or players in order to continue to have access to the turf field. We have seen some underutilized turf space. We tend to schedule between 60 and 100 players on the turf fields for any session.

Scheduling Process Questions

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DPR review:

- **How are fields allocated to leagues for further scheduling?**
- **Is DPR fully able to allocate space in accordance with the Allocation Guidelines?**
- **What scheduling information does DPR receive back from the leagues?**

Leagues' views of scheduling:

- **How does your league further distribute the field allocation received from DPR? Our Field Commissioner divides up our space between boys and girls, then each of those Commissioners works with their coaches to fill the spots.**
- **What information does your league provide back to DPR on how you distributed your allocation? None other than giving back any space we don't schedule.**
- **Does your league distribute fields according to any kind of priority system (i.e., by player age; travel versus recreational; field quality; etc.)? Yes, but we leave it up to the girls and boys commissioner to decide for their gender. Boys made sure each team had at least 1 turf field per week. In past years the older boys got turf, younger boys got grass. Girls have been able to evenly distribute over the years but now they have more teams and are giving everyone a day of turf like boys.**
- **Are there any differences in pre-season versus in-season field allocations received and further distributed? Yes. Pre-season is pretty much tryouts for AYLC – we have to do tryouts at every age for every team. We generally have 2 or 3 weeks of practice before the first game and with no grass fields available until the week before, we just scramble to get everyone 2 practices per week before the first game (we can rarely accommodate all teams).**
- **Are there any differences between primary and secondary season allocations received and further distributed? Yes- we only use fields regularly during the spring. In the summer we may ask for 2 hours, 1 night a week for 5 or 6 weeks to do a clinic.**
- **Please describe any differences in scheduling practices v. games, including by age or skill level. Practice is weeknights. Our league schedules games and we request 1 field for Saturday and 1 for Sunday, 6 to 8 hours each day to accommodate all of our games. Wakefield has satisfied that requirement for the past 6 years (i.e. since I have been**

doing this). All of our teams but for 8U play in a travel league. Our only "house" league is 8U for both boys and girls, and each play in the morning (boys Saturday, girls Sunday) before the travel games start.

- How do lights affect scheduling decisions/allocations? A lot until daylight savings kicks in. We are provided times for fields (Williamsburg, Bluemont) that we can't use until mid-April.
- How does synthetic v. grass affect scheduling decisions/allocations? We divide it up to minimize the rain-out impact on each team.
- What accommodations has your league made over the last 5-7 years to maximize field usage (i.e., multiple teams on fields, less practice time, etc.)? Are there other field efficiencies you could realize? 1 – we reduced our practice times at each age group to add about 25% more field time. It doesn't always work given the times the County gives us. For example, we moved to 1 hour slots but the county gave us 1.5 hours at Williamsburg this year, so it didn't help to shorten those practices. 2 – we entered into a cost-share agreement with Marymount University to help them re-turf their 2/3 size field on campus in return for a certain number of hours over a fixed time period. 3 – for preseason tryouts we rent space indoors at various facilities in Loudoun and Fairfax county.
- What is currently done with excess field allocations (i.e. Is extra time turned back in to DPR)? not sure – we return some space each year but we do not know what DPR does with it.
- Does your league keep track of schedule allocations that are not used by the recipient (e.g., coach cancels practice) and if so, are these slots made available to other teams within your league or other leagues? No – we almost never have cancelled practice unless fields are closed.
- How does your league accommodate rainouts/inclement weather? Teams lose that practice, and we try to give them a replacement spot at Wakefield (DPR provides space at Wakefield but it's not consistent until May – so we use it as backup until then).
- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule practice or game activities outside of Arlington, and if so, why? Yes – see above about accommodations to maximize usage.
- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule any practice or game activities in Arlington on privately-owned fields or other non-DPR space, and if so, why? Yes – see above re: Marymount University. A combination of location and turf availability and lights make it our most valuable field in last February/early March for tryouts and preseason practices.
- Is there anything else about field scheduling (e.g., challenges, opportunities for more efficient use) that you would like to share with DPR, the Sports Commission, or other leagues? Over 80% of our members live in 22205 or 22207. While we are doing a lot of community outreach to grow the sport in south Arlington, traditionally the majority of our practice space is in south Arlington, resulting in both additional traffic and pollution

as 80% of our players have to travel 20 minutes across the County to get to practice. We would like to have more access to fields that re in the neighborhood of our families. We also lose a group of players each year to the McLean Youth Lacrosse program for just that reason – they practice at Lynway Terrace park, a 1 to 2 mlie drive for most of our players as opposed to much longer drive for most of our practice space.

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Leagues' views of scheduling:

- How does your league further distribute the field allocation received from DPR?

AGSA schedules 5 sub leagues, Travel team practices, Diamond league (6 grade+), Ponytail (4th and 5th grade), Pigtail (2nd and 3rd grade, and Pixie (K and 1st grade). VP of AGSA schedules practices for Travel teams, then blocks the available grid for Diamond, Ponytail, Pigtail and Pixie and provides the grid to the commissioners of each age group. Commissioners of this age group assign slots and provides the final back the VP of AGSA.

- What information does your league provide back to DPR on how you distributed your allocation?

AGSA Provides DPR a list of practices for pre-season and practices and game slots for the regular season.

- Does your league distribute fields according to any kind of priority system (i.e., by player age; travel versus recreational; field quality; etc.)?

Yes, travel teams require 2 weekday practices because they play tournaments outside the county. House teams 4th grade and up receive 2 weekday practices in the pre-season and 1 weekend. Once games start, house teams 4th grade and up receive 1 weekday practice and 2 games 1 on a weekday and 1 on a weekend. K-3rd grade have 1 practice and 1 game per week. Travel scrimmage may be scheduled ad-hoc.

- Are there any differences in pre-season versus in-season field allocations received and further distributed?

Yes see above

- Are there any differences between primary and secondary season allocations received and further distributed?
Yes, in the fall house teams do not have weekday games unless they are makeup games.
- Please describe any differences in scheduling practices v. games, including by age or skill level.
Listed above.
- How do lights affect scheduling decisions/allocations?
Older teams are scheduled later.
- How does synthetic v. grass affect scheduling decisions/allocations?
As of 5/20/2019 this question is not applicable for Softball, there is not an open synthetic turf field yet. The new synthetic field at Gunston opening in June will be a test bed for scheduling. However, being one of the smaller organizations, AGSA's allocation of time slots will not have a significant impact on overall scheduling
What accommodations has you league made over the last 5-7 years to maximize field usage (i.e., multiple teams on fields, less practice time, etc.)? Are there other field efficiencies you could realize?
We have occasionally scheduled two teams on the same field.
We are routinely bumped in the spring season from the high school fields when the high school teams needs to make up a game, and/or alters their schedule for any reason. This results in either cancelled games or practices. Sometimes teams doubling up on another field can salvage a practice. Often it is a matter of timing with High Schools announcing changes too late for AGSA to react, other than cancel the activity.
- What is currently done with excess field allocations (i.e. is extra time turned back in to DPR?)?
Turned back to DPR
- Does your league keep track of schedule allocations that are not used by the recipient (e.g., coach cancels practice) and if so, are these slots made available to other teams within your league or other leagues?
No, we do not have a process to manage coaches cancelling practice. We do not have enough volunteer resources to manage such an activity. The coaches are instructed to contact the County Rover (or AGSA VP) if they are the last scheduled practice and end early or cancel, simply to turn off lights. However, this is not tracked.
- How does your league accommodate rainouts/inclement weather?
Some games get made up (Sundays). Some games get dropped. Rarely will we be able to offer make up practices.
- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule practice or game activities outside of Arlington, and if so, why?
Older aged house leagues occasionally play interleague games outside of Arlington with other organizations that are looking to collaborate. We do this to increase the variety of game matchups and also to help alleviate the demand for field space. It is however

widely variable from season to season simply depending on the availability of other leagues. Practices are never scheduled outside the County.

- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule any practice of game activities in Arlington on privately-owned fields or other non-DPR space, and if so, why?
AGSA does not and in fact are not aware of any suitable space for such an activity.
- Is there anything else about field scheduling (e.g., challenges, opportunities for more efficient use) that you would like to share with DPR, the Sports Commission, or other leagues?

The AGSA scheduling staff is all volunteer and work full time jobs. This activity takes an enormous amount of time. Often on short deadlines that double up with deadlines for league deliverables in the same timeframe in order to get the seasons started.

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Leagues' views of scheduling:

- How does your league further distribute the field allocation received from DPR?

The youth baseball leagues have an online system for further distributing field allocation from DPR. It stems from the creation of a spreadsheet that tracks all available field time provided by DPR. Our allocated time is divided into individual practice, scheduled game, and makeup game slots based on when the time slot is and what level of play it is used for during the season.

From the master schedule a list of available practice slots is made available to coaches based on the level of play. Coaches review the list and then at a designated time fill out a practice request form indicating their top 5 choices for each practice slot. Slots are allocated using a modified first-come first-served system. It provides the most efficient way to allocate fields so that coaches get practices at a day/time/location that works best for them and their team.

In the spring, we do two rounds of practice selection. One for pre-season and one for in-season. we maintain a list of practice assignments for transparency and so that coaches can see when other coaches have their practice to arrange makeup games.

Our process leads to coaches getting their first or second choice 85% - 90% of the time.

- What information does your league provide back to DPR on how you distributed your allocation?

We provide DPR with a live view into our allocation. They are able to see an up-to-date listing showing which slots are being used/unused, who is using the slots and for what purpose.

- Does your league distribute fields according to any kind of priority system (i.e., by player age; travel versus recreational; field quality; etc.)?

Yes. We categorize fields by quality and capability to determine which age levels play on which fields. While not absolute, we give older teams priority over the bigger higher quality fields since field conditions have a greater impact on play at the older levels.

- Are there any differences in pre-season versus in-season field allocations received and further distributed?

Yes. During the spring season we have a pre-season. Since we do not have games during pre-season we provide each team with an extra weekly practice slot during the pre-season which lasts 2 - 3 weeks in late March to early April.

- Are there any differences between primary and secondary season allocations received and further distributed?

For the house /rec leagues the primary season is the spring. During the fall, our house / rec leagues receive less time. This is because we have less players/teams and the level of play and player commitment is lower.

Travel teams on the other hand have the fall as their primary season. In the spring travel teams practice once per week. In the fall they practice between 2 and 3 times per week and have double header games most Sundays.

- Please describe any differences in scheduling practices v. games, including by age or skill level.

Spring Season

Younger players (4 - 7 years old) play 1 game per week. Games last 1 - 1.25 hours.

Older players (8 - 12 year olds) play 2 games per week. Games last 2 hours.

Weekday practices are 1 hour. Sunday practices are 1.5. Since all levels have games on Saturdays, there are no practices scheduled on Saturdays.

Fall Season

All teams have one practice and one game each week. Same length as spring.

- How do lights affect scheduling decisions/allocations?

We are able to schedule two evening games each weekday at lighted fields. We only have regular access to 4 lighted fields (Barcroft 1 & 2, Jennie Dean, and Greenbrier) so this ability is limited. Due to the 6pm start time at Greenbrier 2, we are only able to get one game in on weeknights and only 3 of those days because AGSA has the field 2 weekdays.

We schedule older kids for the later games and practices on lighted fields.

- How does synthetic v. grass affect scheduling decisions/allocations?

It doesn't since there are no synthetic youth diamond fields

- What accommodations has you league made over the last 5-7 years to maximize field usage (i.e., multiple teams on fields, less practice time, etc.)? Are there other field efficiencies you could realize?

Youth baseball leagues in Arlington are constantly looking for ways to maximize efficiency and use of diamond fields in Arlington. Here is what we've done over the last 5-7 years.

- Reduced the length of practices
- Schedule practices on game makeup slots so that fields are used even when even when there are no makeups. This requires a lot of volunteer resources to track and communicate the use of these double duty time slots so that coaches and players don't show up at their practice only to find that there is a game occurring on it.
- As the spring season progresses and the sun sets later, we open up more practice times that were initially unavailable due to darkness earlier in the season.
- While having two teams practicing on a single field at the same is generally not safe, we do overlap some practices in the fall in order to conduct two practices each night on non-lighted fields. Otherwise we would not have enough field allocation to accommodate all of our fall games and practices.

As for other possible efficiencies

- Having access to more lighted fields would help tremendously.

- While natural grass fields are ideal for playing baseball, access to more synthetic turf fields would allow us to reduce cancellations as well as volunteer time needed to prepare fields after inclement weather..
- What is currently done with excess field allocations (i.e. is extra time turned back in to DPR?)?

Starting this spring we only have permits for the space we actually use. DPR uses our detailed allocation list to assign permits. Unused field allocation is available to us on an as needed basis.

Some excess allocation is necessary for running our program. There needs to be some slack in order to handle rainouts, field closures, and other unplanned issues that cause us to have to reschedule games and practices.

- Does your league keep track of schedule allocations that are not used by the recipient (e.g., coach cancels practice) and if so, are these slots made available to other teams within your league or other leagues?

Yes, we have multiple ways to track, recover, and distribute unused practice slots.

- Encourage coaches to submit a practice giveback when they are not using their practice slot in a given week.
- Review game schedules each week to see which teams have a game on their practice night. We make those practices available to teams whose practice has been displaced by a makeup game or that need to switch their practice slot that week.
- We have a live updated list of available practice slots. After reviewing the list, coaches can request a slot (temporary or permanent).
- We work with AGSA to share unused slots and adjust existing slots upon request.
- How does your league accommodate rainouts/inclement weather?

We have a robust system to accommodate rainouts/inclement weather.

Prevention and Monitoring

Our first priority is prevention of rainouts.

- We have a field training program and field and scheduling guide to encourage and teach coaches how to maintain fields and make them more resilient to rain.

- We have a communication system that alerts volunteers to the need to monitor fields when there has been inclement weather. Volunteers submit a field monitoring report that asks them objective questions about field conditions.
- These reports are collected in a central location and used by league officials and DPR to determine which fields may be playable and which ones need to be closed.
- We work closely with DPR to when inclement weather occurs to prioritize fields and allocate volunteers to prevent field closures when possible.

Rescheduling

When fields do get closed because of inclement weather or games are suspended due to lightning or other unforeseen issue we have a system for scheduling continuation and makeup games.

- For younger teams coaches are encouraged to use their practice slots to continue and makeup suspended and canceled games. This can be done easily because younger level games are only one hour long.
 - For our older teams our commissioners work with coaches to reschedule games using designated makeup slots (see maximize field use answer above). Games are rescheduled as soon as possible to prevent them from piling up.
 - When games are rescheduled, our website notifies all team coaches and parents, as well as umpires assigned to the game.
 - A lot of volunteer time goes into planning and implementing our rescheduling process. We think it's worth it to ensure a quality satisfying experience for all players, parents, and volunteer coaches.
- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule practice or game activities outside of Arlington, and if so, why?

Yes. DPR's policy is to open fields the third Saturday of March. Our teams form in late February and early March. Travel teams are in place all year long. As a result the leagues do purchase thousands of dollars worth of time at local indoor baseball facilities in order for our teams to prepare for the spring season.

The addition of the indoor facilities at Barcroft 6 will help reduce our need for facilities outside of Arlington. However, our access is very limited and must be shared among all youth diamond programs.

There has been some misunderstanding between DPR and APS that has made some APS gym facilities that were previously available for our use suddenly unavailable this past winter.. While this was partially cleared up, it was late in the process and led to some

unnecessary competition for very limited space after programs had already been adjusted to the reality of even less space.

There is still ignorance and misunderstanding amongst some APS officials about the nature and impact of diamond activities on a facility. There is also a lack of clarity about who has the authority to determine whether diamond activities can take place at a particular APS facilities.

- Does your league voluntarily or of necessity schedule any practice of game activities in Arlington on privately-owned fields or other non-DPR space, and if so, why?

There aren't any privately-owned diamond fields or space in Arlington that I'm aware of.

- Is there anything else about field scheduling (e.g., challenges, opportunities for more efficient use) that you would like to share with DPR, the Sports Commission, or other leagues?

I would like to see more transparency between all the leagues as well as DPR in terms of unscheduled slots on multi sport fields. We can develop a communication protocol for leagues to use those fields on an adhoc basis.

- Commission discussed that based on the recommended design that based on the PSMP additional playgrounds are not needed.
- Commission discussed that rectangle field users have a need in N. Arlington
- **Officiating Challenges in sports- What can the commission do to help**
 - Commissioner Dave Maher agreed to start researching
 - Discussion of current issues with Basketball Referee contract.
 - Mid-Atlantic Officials did not make payment to all officials that worked the 2018-19 basketball season
 - Arlington County has made all payments to Mid-Atlantic. Arlington has cancelled the contract

Commissioner Reports

- Commission Workshop Report- Delayed to July meeting
- Commissioner Kristi Sawert notified the commission of an Arlington County DES paving project- Quincy St. at W-L HS.
 - Notified the commission of plans to potentially reduce parking spaces on Quincy St.
 - Questioned the impact it will have on field and track users in addition to Pool users
 - Should the commission write a letter.
 - Commission Chair Shirley Brothwell requested staff to gather more information to share with the commission.

Adjorn
[9:00PM]

Public Comment
None

Matt de Ferranti, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Greg Anselene

Greg Anselene, Staff Liaison