

Athletic League

Field Procurement Eligibility Policy

In recent months there has been considerable discussion concerning the Park District's athletic residency policy among the youth athletic league participants. We would like to provide a bit of history on this issue and hopefully answer some of your questions.

The Centerville-Washington Park District strives to preserve open space, provide quality outdoor education and recreation programs, and enhance the quality of life for local residents and future generations. The Park District's primary source of revenue is property taxes paid by Centerville and Washington Township residents. In order to maintain safe field conditions and to meet the needs of Centerville/Washington Township residents the Park District instituted an athletic league Field Procurement Eligibility Policy.

This policy was first adopted in March of 2001 with input from all of the local youth sports organizations through RecQuest, Inc. RecQuest Inc. is a non-profit organization with representatives from the Centerville Baseball League, Noon Optimist Sof-T-Ball, Wee Elk Football Association, Centerville United Soccer Association (CUSA), and ISC Storm Soccer Club. Park District staff and Board representatives attend RecQuest, Inc. meetings on an advisory basis.

In April 2006, the Park Board was asked by CUSA Competitive to review the Policy and consider changes to the allowable percentage of nonresidents. The Park Board reviewed CUSA's suggestions and made all recognized organizations aware of this request. With input from all league Boards, the Park Board decided against making any major changes to the policy. No change in the nonresident percentages was made and only minor changes to clarify the language of the current policy were included in the revised policy adopted by the Park Board on June 29, 2006. The current policy reads:

This policy encompasses all recognized youth athletic leagues as well as independent teams and organizations as determined by the Park District. Recognized leagues include Centerville Baseball League, Noon Optimist Sof-T-Ball, Wee Elk Football Association, Centerville United Soccer Association, ISC Storm Soccer Club and Centerville City School District. All recognized organizations as well as independent teams/organizations must meet an overall rate of 75% residents of Centerville or Washington Township. In addition, teams utilizing Park District facilities must meet a team residency rate of no less than 51%. Teams with fewer than 51% residents will not be permitted to utilize Park District facilities.

An exception is made for high school teams that are restricted by the Ohio High School Athletic Association and they will not be required to meet this residency rate. This OHSAA bylaw is not in effect June 1-July 31. For more details, see <http://www.ohsaa.org/general/about/Bylaws.pdf>

To verify residency, coaches and/or organizations must submit team rosters to the Park District complete with team name and number, coach's name and contact information, and players' last name and address. Rosters must be received by the established deadline before field space will be granted to any organization and/or team. All rosters will be

checked for accuracy. Teams not meeting this established policy and/or found to be falsifying information will be denied field space.

In conjunction with this residency policy, a scheduling priority has been established. The priority is as follows:

- 1st Priority: Recognized Recreational Organizations*
- 2nd Priority: Recognized Competitive Organizations*
- 3rd Priority: Returning Independent Teams/Organizations*
- 4th Priority: New Independent Teams/Organizations*

Because of the increasing demand for field space, the Park District will release available dates and times to independent teams following the completion of all recognized organization scheduling. This policy has been established in order to meet the needs of all Centerville/Washington Township residents. If you need clarification or have any questions, please contact the Park District at (937) 433-5155.

The Park District's main purpose is to serve the needs of the residents of Centerville and Washington Township, as they provide the primary support for the district. The Park Board recognizes that due to the nature of youth athletic programs, it is sometimes beneficial to include nonresidents. The Park Board feels the current policy allows for some nonresidents when needed by the program, yet ensures that a majority of participants utilizing Park District facilities are residents.

If you have any questions concerning this or other Park District athletic programs, please contact the Park District at (937) 433-5155.