

**MIDDLE SCHOOL JOINT USE FIELD PROGRAMMING**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

**November 1, 2023**

**Purpose of Joint Use:**

Since 1948, San Diego Unified School District has participated in a Joint Use Program with the City providing for the shared use of public facilities and resources to meet the educational and recreational needs of the communities that both public agencies serve. This joint use partnership fills an essential gap in addressing the City's need for more parkland and additional recreational opportunities particularly in some of the older built out communities where there is little available land for new parks.

Working together, SDUSD and the City provide over 340 acres of recreation space after school hours spread across 91 joint use locations.

**How does Joint Use work?**

Most Joint Use Fields in the City are District owned property. Per California Education Code, District property must be used for school purposes. Where possible, community or public use can be accommodated upon mutual agreement by the District and City if there are no negative impacts on District curricular programming.

Generally, the District provides land and construction funding for joint use fields and the City contributes to the maintenance of the joint use fields. Joint use fields are exclusively used by students and school sites during the school day but become available for public use after school hours, on weekends, and on school breaks.

Joint Use Facilities differ from other public parks in that the primary function is for school purposes (a school first). The shared or joint use must accommodate the District's primary mission to provide curricular programming which includes the newly formed Middle School Athletics programs.

The City and District work to balance the shared use of joint use facilities to the maximum extent feasible; however, the District's curricular needs for their students shall prevail in the event of scheduling conflicts. In other words, the District always has the right to use District property for school purposes.

## **What is the Middle School Athletics program?**

San Diego Unified School District is committed to excellence in athletics as part of a larger commitment to excellence in education. That excellence includes a commitment to the physical and emotional well-being of students and the social development of student-athletes. As part of this mission, San Diego Unified has announced one of the biggest expansions of its athletics program with the launch of middle school athletics.

This no cost sports program provides an incredible opportunity for middle school students in every San Diego Unified School to participate in competitive sports programs at the middle school level that directly feed into the high school CIF sports program. Due to popular demand, the District plans to expand the Middle School Athletics Program in the upcoming 2023-24 school year with additional teams and potentially new sports to accommodate the overwhelming number of students interested in participating in the program.

Additional information can be found here: <https://sdusdathletics.com/middle-schools/>

The 2023-24 Middle School Athletics sports program dates are as follows:

Fall Season      August 28- November 3 (Basketball, and Track and Field)

Winter Season   December 4- March 8 (Volleyball and Soccer)

Spring Season   March 11- May 17 (Flag Football)

## **How will Middle School Athletics impact the Joint Use Program?**

Parks and Recreation (P&R) permits for impacted JU fields will not be issued in advance to allow for the Middle School Athletics Fall, Winter and Spring Season practice schedules to be finalized. Practice schedules are typically finalized the week before the seasons start. Impacted permit times are Monday through Friday starting after school until 6:00pm (up to 4 days per week). There are no plans at this time for District use of middle school joint use fields on Saturdays and Sundays.

We recognize that this is a change for many long-term user groups who have historically enjoyed the use of joint use fields 30 minutes after the school dismissal bell.

P&R Recreation staff will work with any displaced user groups to find alternative locations wherever possible.

The City continues to increase park and recreation field space in our communities. Please contact your City Council representative or get involved with your local community planning group or community recreation group to advocate for more funding and resources to provide better and more recreational field spaces in your community.

### **Which joint use facilities have Middle School Athletics Programs?**

Every San Diego Unified middle school is eligible to form teams based on student interest. For example, a school may not have enough students signed up for the fall season, but they could have interest for the winter season sports or the springs season sports.

The following JU Fields could be participating in the program:

Audubon K-8, Challenger Middle, Clark Middle, CPMA Middle, Dana Middle, DePortola Middle, Farb Middle, Innovation Middle, Language Academy Middle, Longfellow K-8, Mann Middle, Marshall Middle, Marston Middle, Montgomery Middle, Pershing Middle, Roosevelt MS, SCPA Middle (Penn Athletic Area), Standley Middle, Taft Middle, Wangenheim Middle (currently practicing at Walker Elementary), and Wilson Middle (currently practicing at Edison Elementary).

### **Questions**

For more information, please contact Shannon Scoggins, City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department at [sscoggins@sandiego.gov](mailto:sscoggins@sandiego.gov) or Tracey Tincknell, San Diego Unified School District, Real Estate Supervisor at [ttincknell@sandi.net](mailto:ttincknell@sandi.net).