

Lifetime Turf Field Usage Report (2012-2017)



Campus Recreation

Turf Field facility feedback, usage desires and opinions to help create this report were provided during 2016-2017 Campus Recreation Advisory Committee, group and individual meetings with:

Vice President of Student Affairs – Gary Dukes

Athletic Department Coaches – Kellen Walker, Baseball and Lonny Sargent, Softball

Club Sport Student Presidents – Taylor Klus, Mens Lacrosse, Christopher Davis, Mens Rugby, Leslie Carrasco, Womens Rugby and Nash Ilder, Mens Soccer

Student Athlete Representatives – Eleanor Jones and Selene Konyyn, Womens Soccer

ASWOU – Corbin Garner, Senate President, Nash Ilder, Senator, Jason Haynes, Senator, Averi Graves, Senator, Jacob Cates, Senator, Cynthia Olivares, ASWOU President, Rachel Gries, Senator, Felicia Dickinson, Senator, Austin Davis, Parliamentarian, Lilaah Jones, Pro-Tempore, Haley Morris, Senator, Patrick Moser, Advisor, Kelly Flugum, Secretary, and Jessica Freeman, Judicial Administrator

Director of Athletic Facilities and Event Management – John Bartlett

Facilities Services – Michael Smith and Jake Whisenhunt

Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics – Curtis Campbell

Report approved by Campus Recreation Advisory Committee on May 19, 2017

(In attendance - Tashawna Wright, Frank Calzada III, Preston Neumann, student members; Angela Barry, Rob Troyer, Faculty and Staff members; Melissa Bergeland, Rip Horsey, ex officio members)

Executive Summary –

It is the goal of Campus Recreation to provide a well-maintained and safe Turf Field facility for the students of Western Oregon University and others who wish to use the facility. It is the intention of this executive summary to establish a formal and simple priority usage policy to facilitate that goal.

Per the original language written for the student referendum vote, the Turf Field was designed “to provide playable field space year round for activities such as club sports, intramural sports, individual/group recreational activities and limited use by athletics (Oversized Turf Athletic Field Referendum; spring, 2011)”. The Campus Recreation Director will have oversight responsibility of the field use and priority.

While an informal priority user system has been in place since the inception of the Turf Field, a formal and supported system is now needed to ensure the longevity of the turf field’s playability and availability.

The limited use by athletics during the first three years (2012-2014) of practice hours occurred mainly during weekday times (6-8am or 1-3pm) to limit the displacement of the majority of student usage. Except over the past three years (2015-2017) their usage has expanded practice hours into the late morning (6-10am), afternoon (12-4pm) and weekends.

Recommendation –

Establish a formal and understandable Turf Field priority usage policy for weekday and weekend usage.

Monday - Friday:

- (1) Club Sports (4-11pm)
- (2) Intramurals (4-11pm)
- (3) Informal Recreation (9am-1pm and when unscheduled)
- (4) Limited use by Athletics (6-9am and 1-4pm)
- (5) Rentals

Saturday-Sunday:

- (1) Club Sports (all day)
- (2) Intramurals (all day)
- (3) Rentals (all day)
- (4) Informal Recreation (when unscheduled)

The Athletic Department must request any usage outside of their designated Monday – Friday (6-9am and 1-4pm) practice times two weeks prior to each academic term. In addition, practice times may be moved, reduced or altered for unscheduled maintenance needs with a minimum of 48 hours notice.

Introduction of Need –

Prior to the Turf Field the students who participated in Club Sports (Women’s and Men’s Rugby and Men’s Lacrosse) and Intramural (flag football, soccer and softball) sports played on the Intramural grass fields west of Stadium Drive with exclusive priority during their respective seasons. The co-share of these grass fields led to unplayable conditions due to heavy usage and poor drainage.

Auxiliary student fee funded facility –

The Turf Field is considered an auxiliary student fee funded facility originally designed to be the home fields for the Club Sports, Intramural sports and informal recreation opportunities for students with limited use by Athletics.

The Turf Field is currently student fee funded with an \$8.65 per term (fall, winter, spring or summer) fee added to a student’s account at 1.0 credit hour of on-campus enrollment to pay for the debt service and operations. The fee is combined with the (RECF) Rec Center Building Fee, which is also added to a student’s account at 1.0 credit hour of on-campus enrollment.

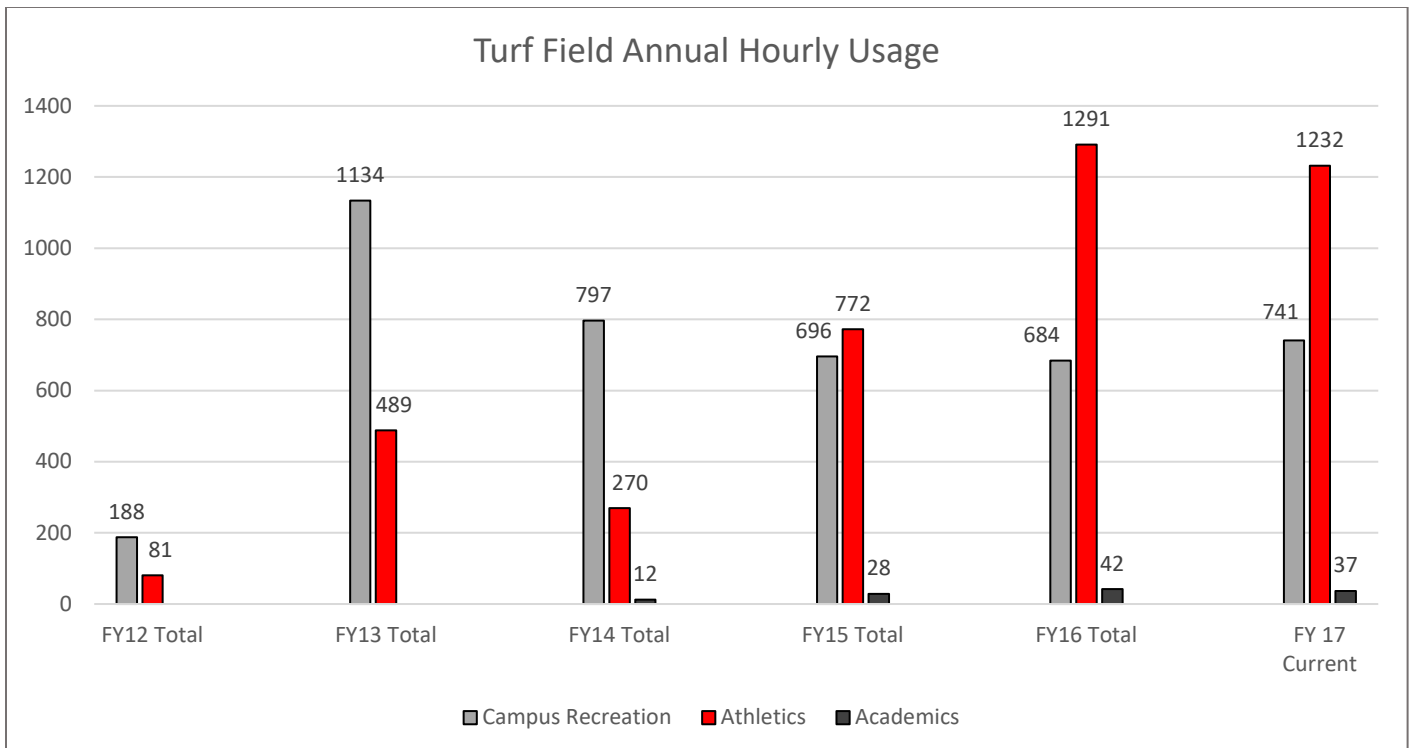
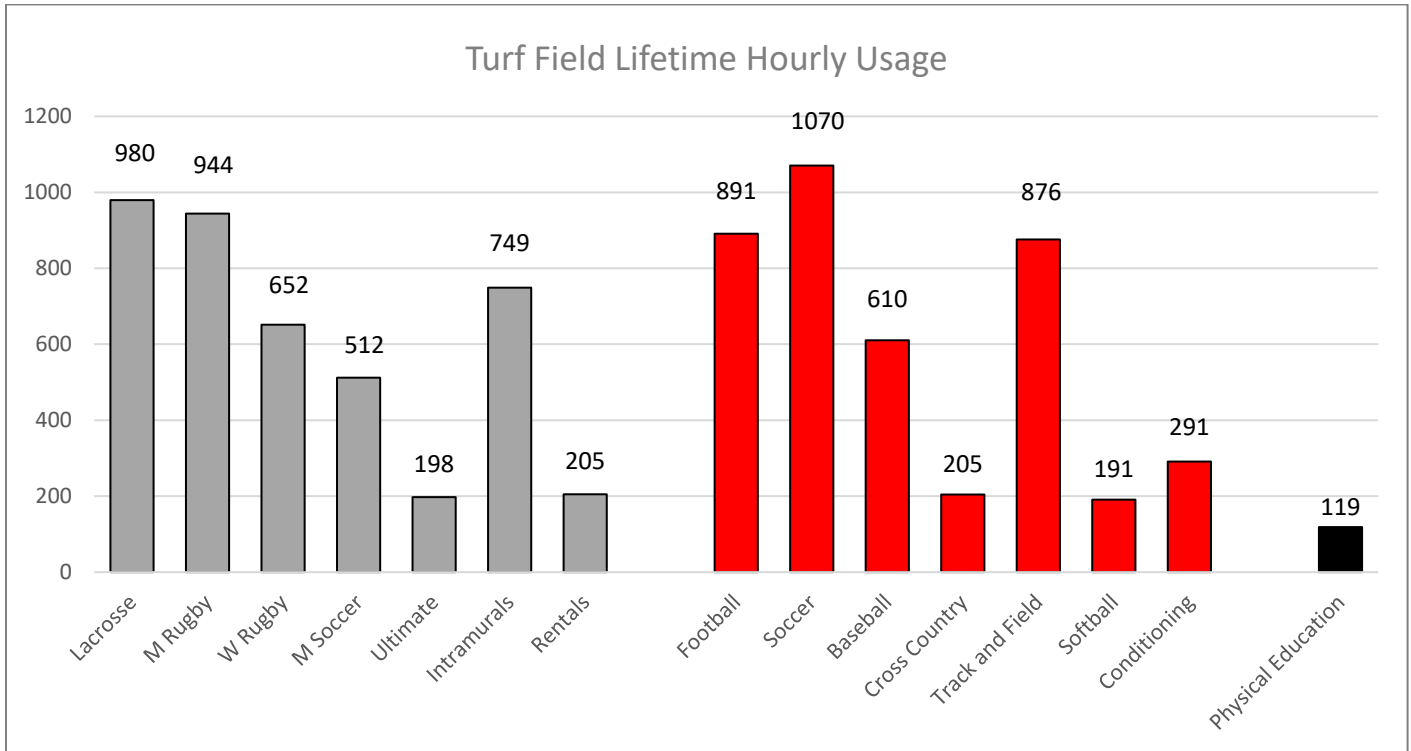
The goal is to redesign and reform the previously agreed upon usage by all parties involved through ASWOU Student Senate meeting on April 12, 2011 (10.c.ii.1) of limited use by athletics (6-8am or 1-3pm). This is in an effort to conserve the resource and limit additional financial obligations by all students ahead of the scheduled life-span.

Additionally, the required maintenance from the increased Athletic Department usage has been performed by Campus Recreation, who oversees the Turf Field maintenance, without cost recovery.

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Usage statistics –

The primary design of the Turf Field, as mentioned previously, was “club sports, intramural sports, individual/group recreational activities and limited use by athletics”. The Turf Field lifetime (spring 2012 to 2017) usage does show a shift in user patterns, which is the reason for the formal priority usage request.



Developing policies –

The initial Turf Field usage policies were developed by Rick Sedgwick (former Campus Recreation Director) in spring 2012. From February 8, 2013 to May 16, 2014 the Turf Field usage policies were discussed and edited with Campus Recreation, Vice President of Student Affairs, Club Sports and Athletic Department input to encompass more of what was occurring on the Turf Field. Specific Athletic Department/Club Sports policies were developed to handle the challenges created by the increase of teams wanting to schedule/use the turf field.

On September 2, 2014, at an all staff Athletic Department meeting held in the Columbia Room in Werner University Center, the entire Athletic Department was provided the auxiliary facility funding model for the Turf Field, a prioritization of usage and a list of Athletic Department/Club Sports Turf Field policies (listed below). During the meeting many of the coaches expressed their disappointment and disagreement with restricted access and limitations of practice time. The current policy is listed below.

WOU Campus Recreation Turf Field usage policies for the Intercollegiate Athletic/Club Sport Teams –

Campus Recreation Turf Field	The turf field is designed “to provide playable field space year round for activities such as club sports, intramural sports, individual/group recreational activities and limited use by athletics (Oversized Turf Athletic Field Referendum; Spring, 2011)”. The Campus Recreation Director will have oversight responsibility for turf field use and priority.
Athletic Department practice times (must be current WOU student(s) with paid IFC fees)	The Athletic Department must request any usage outside of their designated Monday – Friday (6-9am and 1-4pm) practice times two weeks prior to each academic term. Use of the field must be scheduled prior to initial practice/event through the Director of Athletic Facilities and Event Management / Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and must be approved through the Campus Recreation Director. Practice times may be moved, reduced or altered for unscheduled maintenance needs with a minimum of 48 hours notice.
Athletic Department event(s) or clinic(s)	\$30/hour when reserving the field for event(s) or clinic(s).
Light reservations	Requests can be made by Director of Athletic Facilities and Event Management / Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics to Campus Recreation Director.
Light cost	\$15.00/hr any time requested by Athletics for light usage
Field lining	Approximately \$125 for paint and labor cost per hour (based on rates determined by Physical Plant) charged to requesting entity. No additional full field dimensions will be painted on the turf field beyond what was originally inlaid during the construction phase. Can only be requested by Director of Athletic Facilities and Event Management / Executive Director of Intercollegiate Athletics to Campus Recreation Director.
Scoreboard	Use of the scoreboard is allowed during rental event or a clinic and is run by Campus Recreation or a trained Athletic Department staff.
Restrooms	Athletic coaches may open/close the restrooms for usage during their practices. Cleaning charges may occur if deemed appropriate by Physical Plant.
Equipment storage	All equipment is to be removed off the field after each allocated practice time or paid practice, game, event or clinic outside allocated practice times.
Tires, blocking, weighted and speed sleds or other large equipment	Blocking, weighted or speed sleds and tires are not permitted on the field at any time. All large items should be used and stored away from the East side of the turf field if feasible.
Team and conditioning practices	We ask all teams and conditioning to alternate or move their practice areas around the Turf Field. This request is designed to reduce the wear on the center of the field or repetitively used areas.
Vehicle usage	Motorized vehicles (i.e. Gator, Utility vehicles, etc) are not permitted on the turf field. Exceptions are allowed for assisting an injured participant or maintenance. Per Shaw Sport Turf maintenance - prohibited activities on a synthetic turf system is unnecessary vehicle travel.

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Equipment removal	Extra equipment must be requested and approved prior to any practice, game, event or clinic (i.e. soccer goals). Extra approved equipment not removed after approved practice, game, event or clinic will be subject to a late fee of \$45/day or a minimum of \$75 for the one time removal.
Bleachers and other seating	Bleachers or benches may not be moved or placed inside the fence area on the turf field. Spectator, coach, athletic trainer/staff are not allowed to place chairs, tables, tents and/or canopies on the turf field without prior approval from the Campus Recreation Director. For safety and liability purposes all spectators must stay off the turf field during all practice, game, event or clinic.
Field Policies	To maintain a safe and healthy environment the following are prohibited: animals; smoking or tobacco products; glass containers; metal spikes or metal tipped cleats; gum, sunflower seeds or food; bicycles, skateboards or skates; unauthorized or unapproved vehicles; sharp objects; marking of field surface Users will need to pick up and place in trash/recycle containers any trash/recyclable products (tape/wraps, plastic bottles, paper, cups, etc).
Club Sport and/or Intramural equipment	Please be respectful when moving Lacrosse goals, soccer goals and/or rugby uprights. Club Sport goals or uprights should not be used during athletic team practice. An exception is given for soccer utilizing the soccer goals.
Damage/Replacement	Groups who damage equipment or the field will be responsible for the cost to replace or repair the specific piece of equipment or property. Cost will vary depending on the piece of equipment's retail value and repair costs (shipping, handling, tax, travel, etc).