

## Use Other than Designed

Spring Sport Practice begins March first of each year. Many fields are not playable because of snow, mud and lack of lines. As a result teams look for other locations to practice.

“Uses other than designed” is limited to district sports where there is a district employee responsible for the actions of the group.

**Softball and Baseball use gyms** – precautions are taken to protect the floors, walls and doors. Special instructions are provided to the coaches and they are responsible to protect all against damage. There is no batting practice indoors.

**District lacrosse uses parking lots.** The primary lot is the HS bus circle. Grounds staff removes cinders prior to use, VoTech buses are re-routed, and the lot is barricaded from traffic. Coaches of sports teams have strict directives not to play games with the area being used for passing and technique training. The soccer lot was used last spring but the removal of cars was difficult requiring the cancellation or relocation of practice.

**Cheering uses the cafeteria** away from all glass. Sweating is minimal and mats are in place so there is minimal health concern.

**Corridors cannot be used.** There is too much glass and other areas that can be damaged. Intended use and designed use is always considered looking at safety, the potential for damage, and impact on the intended use.

Community is not permitted to use areas outside of their designed use. IE: Practices in parking lots because no way to ensure no interaction with vehicles, remote control planes in gyms, mountain bike polo.

### Other uses not approved for any group

- Tires
- Practice/Training in Locker Rooms
- Practice Walls
- Building Buffer
- Parking in Undesignated Areas
- Tailgating/Cooking

## Safety

All decisions are based primarily on safety with liability and damage being secondary.

- **Use Other than designed** – Explained above
- **Overuse** – loss of grass, resulting hard surface and muddy conditions create safety concerns.
- **Closure of fields** - Grounds and Athletic Director review playing conditions. In some cases fields are closed 100%. In other cases they may only be closed to JV or community. Each situation is case by case with consideration to safety, maintenance and need.
- **Use before grass establishes** – Early season use during the months of March and April is very hard on grass. Safety concerns are not immediate but damage creates long term safety concerns. Township fields are closed but district fields must open to accommodate PIAA schedule. Community use of our fields is very heavy during this period.