

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 26th, 2025

In-Person Meeting

Lubber Run Community Center

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of April 24th, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- Approval of May 22nd, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Old Business

- Introduction of new member – Joesph Dunn
- Day of Play Discussion
- Interest/Concerns of other Sports Groups Outreach
- PSMP Next Steps: Sports Commission Representative

New Business

- Field Utilization Pilot Program Presentation by Ben Harris & Mariah Leonard

Commission Member Reports

- Chair Updates
- Softball Presentation by David Lansing

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- August 28th **(Field Trip)**
- September 25th **(In-Person)**
- October 23rd **(Virtual)**
- November 20th **(Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- December 18th **(Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 24th, 2025

In-person Meeting

Lubber Run Community Center

[Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of March 27th, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- Motion – Dave Langsing
- Second – Hamilton Humes
- Approved

Old Business

New Business

- Sports Day
 - Exploring options to move day to sometime in the fall to provide more time to put together the day with all relevant parties. Group is meeting next week to lay out groundwork.
- PSMP Next Steps: Sports Commission Liaison
 - Nancy Sharkey interested in being the liaison for the PSMP again, however has concerns about role of the liaison in assisting with the PSMP. Nancy's term is ending soon which is another concern and opened discussion on having someone else step in.
 - Decision on liaison will be made at May SC meeting.
- Interest/Concerns of other Sports Groups
 - SC members are representation parts of Arlington's sport community, but there are other parts of the sport community not present.
 - John Mingus raised question to members on ways to figure out who those people representing those groups not present and try to convince them to come.
 - George Thompson suggested creating a process where the SC asks specific questions, they would like the outside groups to answer and then open that up to the community where those sports group could weigh in and give their perspective on their sport. Believes SC outreach to these groups could be a good way to push back against any perspective that the SC is just baseball and soccer.
 - SC members decided to bring back the liaison list, and using it as a tool to see the inventory or groups built up so far, and then looking at what's missing and what they can fill in.

- Deb DeFranco put up Wrestling as a sport that the SC reached out to. 2 Members of the wrestling community have reached out to both school and DPR about trying to get more space as wrestling is growing in Arlington. She mentioned that they would be a good group for the SC to reach out to and see if they are interested in speaking at the May meeting.

Commission Member Reports

- Chair Updates
 - Chair John Mingus is beginning the transition to step down from Sports Commission
- PROMISE Working Group Update

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- May 22nd **(Virtual)**
- June 26th **(In-person)**
- August 28th **(Field Trip)**
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- November 20th **(Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- December 18th **(Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 22nd, 2025

Virtual Meeting

Lubber Run Community Center

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Public Comment

- None

Approval of Minutes

- Approval of April 24th, 2025, Meeting Minutes
 - Minutes could not be approved due to not enough SC members being present at meeting. A total of 6 members are needed for approval of minutes.
 - Approval of April 24th Meeting Minutes will now happen at June Meeting.

Old Business

New Business

- Wrestling presentation by AJ Gavin
 - Is looking to grow the Wrestling program in Arlington by creating a Youth Wrestling program for Middle School and High School kids and using middle school sites.
 - Program would be run by volunteers with Marymount students aiding with coaching needs through a Marymount University incentive to give back to community.
 - There is already a club formed under the umbrella of USA Wrestling, so all they need currently is a facility to use. For interested Arlington youth, all they would need to participate would be the purchase of a USA Membership. This membership would provide them access to tournaments across the country, for Spring, Summer and Fall. The member fee would be \$47 per child. However, if athlete would want to compete in tournaments, the athlete would be responsible for covering the costs, with the club willing to help fundraise if any athlete needs financial assistance.
 - The training and competition schedule would be based of the Virginia Wrestling Association.
 - Club is requesting free use of Williamsburg Middle School and with that, any wear and tear on equipment due to club's use will be replaced by the club via fundraising. Would like to be given the middle school twice a week from 6pm – 8pm. This time frame would include set up, practice, and clean up.
 - Sports Commission is supportive of Wrestling in Arlington. DPR, Ben Harris, mentioned that a challenge would be that we don't currently have a Wrestling partner group, had some conversation with some other clubs to try to do that, but the issue that kept arising was space. Believes a key item would be to make sure that there was an agreement with APS regarding maintenance on mats. With partner

leagues, DPR wants to make sure program is success, but DPR cannot put all costs onto APS.


- DPR showed support for growing Wrestling in Arlington.
- New Member Approval
 - New member has been approved to join Sports Commission by county board.
 - Another potential member is in the application reviewal process.
- PSMP Next Steps: Sports Commission Representative
 - It has been 5 years since it was passed, and now it is in the beginning stages of an update process.
 - A representative is still needed from the Sports Commission to represent the sports side.
 - Nancy Sharkey provided members of overview of discussion topics that they will need to weigh in on if they step into PSMP representative roles. Some topics she mentioned, is field utilization, zoning, field space definitions, how to meet field needs of Arlington community balancing both sports and free use needs.
 - The PSMP committee will be quarterly, which is a change from the monthly meeting that occurred in past years.
- Interest/Concerns of other Sports Groups/Liaison List
 - John Mingus shared the Liaison list which included contacts for both Partner leagues and other sport groups.

Commission Member Reports

- Chair Updates
 - Hamilton Humes went to the PRC meeting to sit in and listening. Members were talking about parks and playground builds and how falls are one of the biggest risks to a child at a playground and how the department can work to make the ground softer for these falls to lower injury risk.
 - Dogs on fields – AFM and rovers have gotten a lot of push back from Arlington residents on not being allowed on fields. Have gotten to the point where they are bringing dogs on fields without care of rules or argue when being told to remove the dogs from the fields.
 - Adam Rasmussen, PRC Liaison to SC, suggested bringing it to county to see if fines for dogs being on the fields can be increased.
 - Deb DeFranco, APS, mentioned that even with fines or fees, Dogs on fields will continue to be an issue.

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

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FIELD SPACE UTILIZATION PILOT PROJECT

BEN HARRIS AND MARIAH LEONARD

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Dates:

Spring Season: March 15 – June 16, 2024

Fall Season: August 19 – November 15, 2024

Partner Leagues in Pilot

Arlington Girls Softball Association (AGSA)

Arlington Soccer Association (AS)

Arlington Youth Lacrosse Club (AYLC)

Youth Ultimate League of Arlington (YULA)

Fields selected for Pilot Project

Bluemont Junction Park (Natural grass rectangle field)

Escuela Key # 1 and # 2 (Natural grass diamond Fields)

Williamsburg # 1 and # 2 (Synthetic Rectangle Field)

Data Captured

Entries by location, organization, use type, number of players in attendance.

Athletic Field Use

Please log the following information for **YOUR** team. Each coach is responsible for logging their own team's information.

League Name Required

Location Required

Date Required

Start Time Required

(Please select the time that is best depicted by these slots)

End Time Required

(Please select the time that is best depicted by these slots)

Use Type Required

- ☐ Game
☐ Practice

Number of Players Required

(Number of players from your team who attended today's practice or game)

Submit

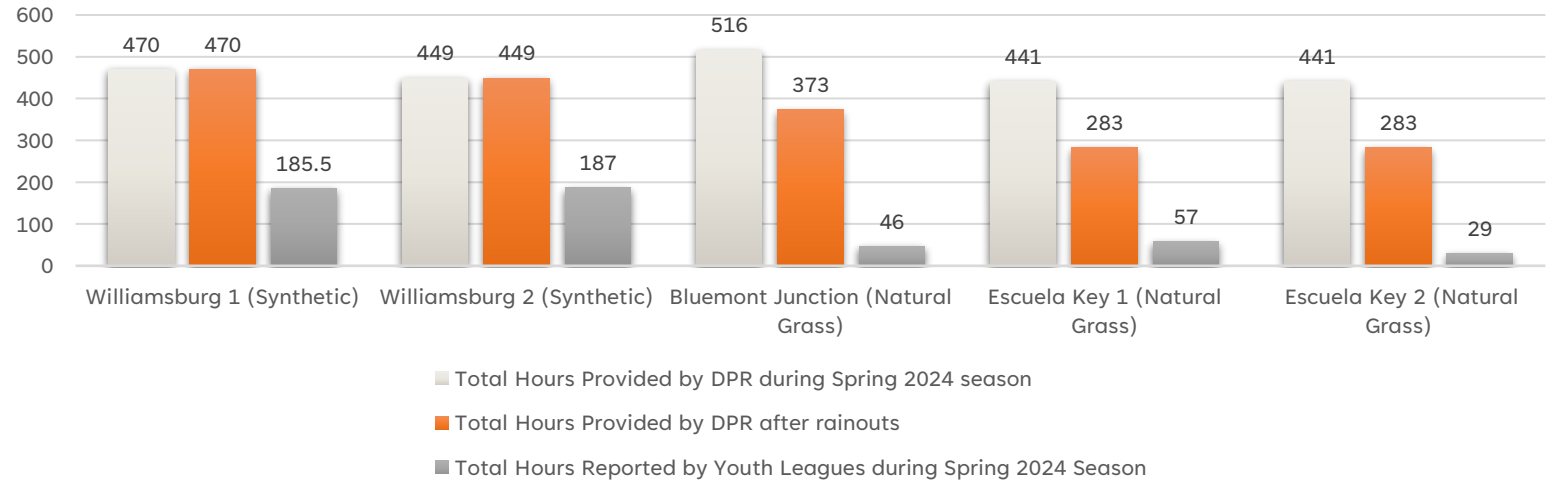
DATA RESULTS

Important Notes:

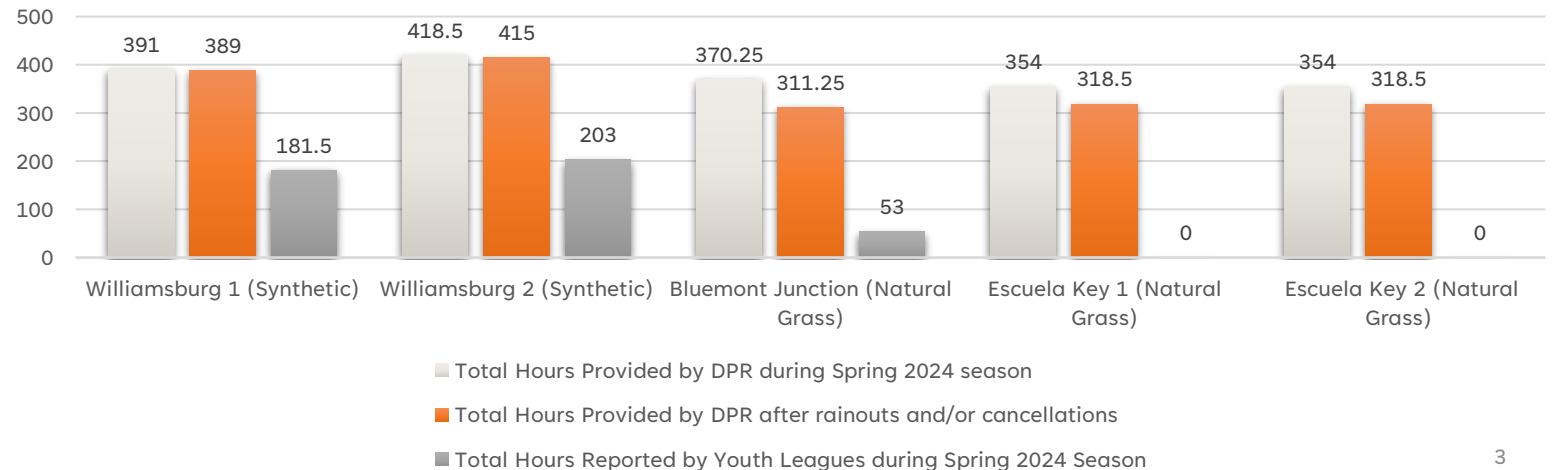
DPR subtracted hours from initial permits for the following:

- Hours lost from Daylight Savings
- Hours lost from Heat Advisory
- Hours lost Inclement weather or any permit cancellations
- Synthetics not affected by rainouts.

Spring 2024 Season
Total Hours Provided vs. Total Hours Reported by Field



Fall 2024 Season
Total Hours Provided vs. Total Hours Reported by Field



CHALLENGES WITH FIELD UTILIZATION PROJECT

Leagues not completing Field Check in

QR Code Signs Missing

Game Day challenges

NEXT STEPS FOR FIELD UTILIZATION PROJECT

Next Steps

This first phase of the pilot was inconclusive as the submission rates were low and didn't accurately measure usage.

Staff is currently looking at short-term and long-term solutions to improve data collection and resume pilot in Fall 2025

- Short-term
 - Alternative reporting tool that requires no data entry – just a 'check-in'
 - SMS texting service
 - Will be setting up meetings with Leagues
 - Utilizing field rovers to sample field usage on a schedule
- Long-term
 - Looking at potentially alternative technology methods on tracking field use

A series of white, thin, overlapping geometric lines on a black background, forming various polygons and intersecting points, primarily located on the left side of the slide.

QUESTIONS ?

Arlington Girl Softball Association



The Arlington Girls Softball Association is dedicated to providing the means for young female athletes to play and compete in the game of fastpitch softball in Arlington County, VA. AGSA seeks to provide a community based, volunteer youth sports organization that is committed to fostering the highest ideals of good sportsmanship and teamwork while providing the opportunity and support to achieve whatever goals in our sport that the individual seeks. The ultimate purpose is to better prepare our youth for adulthood and make them better participants in the global community.

Structure:

- AGSA is a partner organization with Arlington Parks and Recreation
- Board of Directors consisting of 30 members
- Operating “House” recreation programs and Travel programs

House Age Groups

Pixie: Kindergarten and 1st Grade

Pigtail: 2nd and 3rd Grade

Ponytail: 4th and 5th Grade

Diamonds: 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade

High School: 9th – 12th Grade

Spirit: Summer All Stars

Travel

Arlington Sage and Arlington Impact

8 Sage teams from 9U to 16U

2 Impact teams: 16U and 18U

Registration

- AGSA operates a Spring Season and a Fall Season. Spring seasons are designed to be the primary season and includes playoffs. The fall season is designated as more player developmental
- 2024 House Fall Registration: **370** players
- 2025 House Spring Registrations: **435** players
- 2025-2025 Travel teams (Sage and Impact) **123** players

After a reduction during COVID, we are now exceeding COVID registration numbers by **~15%**

*Notable increase in Fall numbers over previous years

AGSA's Focus

- ❖ Introduce girls to the basic rules and skills of fastpitch softball
- ❖ Maximize player development of fundamentals
- ❖ Keep the game moving at a decent pace
- ❖ Be competitive but make the environment positive and fun
- ❖ Have as many girls as possible wanting to return to play the following season

Notable House/Recreation Rules

Fastpitch softball is played on a diamond field with 60 ft bases. AGSA rules utilize USA Softball as the baseline for the rules. Age-appropriate rule modifications are designated by league commissioners with a focus on developing players and spreading the joy of the game.

Pitching Distances:

- ❖ 10U and under – 35 feet – 11” ball
- ❖ 12U – 40 feet – 12” ball
- ❖ 14U and up – 43 feet – 12” ball

Pitching, Batting and Fielding

- ❖ Full team in the batting line up
- ❖ Run limits per inning vary by age group, time limits vary by age group
- ❖ Pixies – coach pitch
- ❖ Pigtails – Mix of Coach pitch and Player Pitch. Generally, Player pitch is mixed in during 3rd grade over the course of the season
- ❖ Ponytails – Player Pitch with Coach reliever if 3 walks/HBP in an inning. Pitch limit for a pitcher - 2 innings for competitive balance
- ❖ Diamonds and High School league– All player pitch
- ❖ In our House recreation program, we allow 10 fielders (except HS League plays with 9) and on offense you bat your entire team in the line up.
- ❖ HS league partners with regional fastpitch leagues to supplement game schedule.

Travel Softball

Travel softball is a competitive landscape in Virginia and nation wide. AGSA charts two travel softball programs: Arlington Sage and Arlington Impact



Arlington Sage is a competitive year-round travel fastpitch softball program. The focus of the Arlington Sage program is to create teams that are competitive at the "B" Level of travel programs

- The Sage teams have annual tryouts and are assembled based on age group.



Arlington Impact is a competitive year-round travel fastpitch softball program. The focus of the Arlington Impact program is to support players interested in playing college softball by creating teams that are competitive at the "A" Level of travel programs

- The Impact teams have annual tryouts and are assembled based on age group.

Teams are formed in late Summer and compete from Fall through Summer. Tournament distances vary based on the desires of the individual teams.

News

AGSA has partnered with Arlington Little League to form 4 Little League All Star softball teams at the 10U, 12U(2), 14U ages to play in LL District 4 world series. The 14U (Juniors) team has already qualified for States along with McLean LL.

LL District 4 Juniors State tournament will be hosted by Arlington (Barcroft)

AGSA is **not** becoming a Little League organization but rather have worked closely with ALL to comply with LL requirements to form LL All Star teams. This is possible since Arlington has no LL softball.

On the **Travel** side: Sage 14U team won the USSSA B Class world series in Florida beating teams from Texas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana among others.

Resources



<https://www.agsafastpitch.com>



<https://arlingtonsage.com>



<https://www.arlingtonimpact.org>

Resources



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