

April 28, 2014

The Board of Cambridge Youth Soccer strongly supports the conversion of Field 3 at Danehy to a synthetic surface.

Currently, CYS and CRLS soccer teams require 156 hours per week of game and practice time (Documented in Exhibit A). When you add in the demands for other youth sports, adult soccer leagues, other adult sports, and the use by other high schools (as required by the regional charter for Danehy), it is estimated that 250-300 hours per week of time is required.

In order to meet this demand with a reasonable quality grass playing surface, Cambridge would need on the order of 14 -18 full size grass fields¹. Cambridge has only 6 full size fields.

Synthetic fields offer significant advantages:

- Approximately four to six times the amount of playable time per week compared to grass fields²
- Playable in almost any weather
- No re-scheduling of practices nor games
- High quality surface allows for quality instruction and play
- Fewer injuries and fewer serious injuries occur on synthetic fields (Penn State Center for Sports Surface Research)³

Further, we are keenly aware of the advantages to CRLS High School soccer teams and the continued development of this outstanding program, but we will leave the details of that to be submitted by CRLS.

Therefore, for these and other reasons, the Cambridge Youth Soccer Board strongly supports the conversion of Field 3 to Synthetic Turf, the sooner the better, for the health of its children, its students and its adults.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Farrar, President, CYS
 Larry Ward, CYS Board
 Sandy Gould, CYS Board
 Roni Mansour, CYS Board
 Susan Ruff, Director

Exhibit A: Soccer Demand from CYS and CRLS teams Only.

	Teams	Practices Per Week	Home Games Per Week	Total Hours Per Week
CRLS estimated	6	5	1	72
CYS BAYS	16	2	0.5	80
CYS In Town	1	1	1	4
Total				156

Assumptions:

- Practices = 2 hours per session.
- Games = 2 hours per game
- Home Games = 2 games per Week for HS, 1 at home / 1 Away
- Home Games CYS = 1/2 of the teams playing at home any given week

Footnotes:

¹ In addition to regular maintenance, the only way to maintain quality on a grass field is to restrict use. The amount of use is in general estimated at 18-25 hours of practice per week on dry practice fields, and 5-10 hours per week total use on any game field. Here is a representative chart from the North Carolina State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences: (http://www.turffiles.ncsu.edu/PDFFiles/005037/AG-726_Maximizing_the_Durability_of_Athletic_Fields.pdf) For per week load, assume 3 Season Use, 39 Weeks. Divide Field use by 39 to get per week load on a DRY field.

Table 1. Expected Field Condition Based on Hours of Field Use per Year

Expected Field Condition	Field Use (Hours per Year)
Sustained good field conditions	200 hours or less
Good field conditions with some thinning of the turf and localized wear areas	400 to 600 hours
Fair field conditions; expect significant thinning and wear.	800 to 1,000 hours
Significant turf loss, field surface damage, increased potential for athlete injury	More than 1,000 hours

Sustained Good: 5 hours per week maximum use in dry conditions
 Good: 10-15 hours per week maximum use in dry conditions
 Fair: 20-26 hours per week maximum use in dry conditions
 Poor: 26+ hours per week maximum use in dry conditions Note: Increased Injury Potential

Footnotes Continued:

All grass soccer fields in Cambridge (except for the dedicated Youth Soccer Field at Maher and the shared use field at Gore) are used at the upper levels or beyond. All are in poor condition from over use, and have increased potential for athletic injury. In order to provide 250-300 hours per week, 10-14 grass practice fields (Fair Condition/26 Hours per week Max) and at least one to two dedicated game fields (Good to Sustained Good Conditions, 5 to 10 hours Max.) would be required. An additional 4 fields would be required to allow for the resting of each field once every four years as dictated by sound turf management practices.

These estimates also have to take into account School and Youth use (3-7 pm Weekday, all day Saturday) as well as the nearly 1/3 of NE days which are rainy and therefore days on which a grass field should not be used at all. It would take 6 turf surfaces to meet current demand with a quality surface.

Other field use estimates can be found in:

"Sports Field Quality and Performance Levels Based Upon Resource and Management Investment" S.T. Cockerham, V.A. Gibeault, and S.B. Ries, *University of California, Riverside. June 2012, Page 3.*

"Review of Benefits and Issues Associated with Natural Grass and Artificial Turf" Montgomery County, MD 2011, Page 22.

²"Review of the Impacts of Rubber in Artificial Turf Applications", by Rachel Simon of the University of California, Berkeley 2010, Page 48

³ "From the Field - December 2010," Penn State Center for Sports Surface Research, Page 1.