



NEEDHAM PARK AND RECREATION

RE-OPENING PLAN – PHASE 3 OPEN SPACE, PARKS, FIELDS & COURTS

General Guidance

This plan is the second phase in re-opening the Open Spaces, Parks, Fields, and Courts that are operated by the Town of Needham's Park and Recreation Department under the guidance of the Park and Recreation Commission.

This plan has been created using the guidance from Governor Baker and the Needham Public Health Department. The goal of this plan is to allow as much access as possible, in a safe way, with many opportunities for low risk activities.

The intent of this plan is to allow for passive recreation, and permitted user groups to conduct amateur organized sports activities and programs during Phase III in Needham that are permitted by the state's re-opening plan and with the Safer-at-Home Advisory that was enacted on Monday, May 18 and the Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for businesses and other entities providing outdoor adult sports, supervised youth sports leagues, summer sports camps – Phase III, Step 1 issued on August 17, 2020.

The Needham Park and Recreation Department is committed to keeping our residents safe during this pandemic and will reinforce the social guidance provided by the Reopening Advisory Board for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Guidance all individuals must follow to reduce the risk of new COVID-19 transmission includes:

- Covering your face
- Washing your hands
- Remaining physically distant (6 feet or more)
- Staying home if you feel sick and keeping family members home if they are sick
- Gatherings of less than 50 people

General Guidelines

During Needham's Phase 3 the following areas and services will have specific guidelines for each area and service outlined below:

- Public Tennis Courts
- Athletic Fields and Parks for permitted user groups to conduct amateur organized sports activities and programs.

There will be separate Phase 3 guidance for the following areas:

- Playgrounds
- Basketball Courts

Public Tennis Courts

Beginning June 16th, Public Tennis Courts will be open for residential public use from sunrise to sunset with the following guidelines.

- Residents will need a 2020 Tennis membership to utilize the public tennis courts operated by the Needham Park and Recreation Department.
 - Tennis Memberships are \$30 for an individual, \$45 for a family, or \$15 for a senior individual (over 60).
 - Tennis Memberships can be purchased online (needhampandr.activityreg.com – click on 'Purchase Membership') or by mail (Attn: Tennis Membership, 178 Rosemary Street, Needham, MA 02494). When purchasing online, please ensure all members of your household are listed on your account prior to purchasing.
- Any resident using the public tennis courts must have a copy of their receipt, either printed or available on a mobile device, and be ready to show matching photo identification.
- Children under 8 are not required to have a membership to use the public tennis courts. Children under the age of 12 must always be with an adult.
- Courts will be used on a first come, first served basis. Only the game of tennis is permitted on the courts.
- Unregistered guests will not be allowed during Phase 3 of the reopening.
- Change over on courts will be on the hour (:00), quarter past the hour (:15), half past the hours (:30), and quarter to the hour (:45). Signs posted at each court signify when the courts will change over.
- During Phase 3 courts can be used for singles and doubles play while adhering to social distancing regulations.

- When changing over the court, users preparing to use the courts must yield to the users leaving the court and remain in the designated waiting area to maintain 6 feet of social distance. A face covering is required if 6 feet of social distance cannot be maintained.
- No pick-up games, organized games, or tournaments are allowed.
- Private Lessons may not be operated at any public tennis court.
- Adults have priority use of the courts after 6:00pm. Player ages 15 and under shall yield the courts if adults are waiting to play, unless they are accompanied by an adult.

The Park and Recreation Commission reserves the right to modify these rules when it is in the best interest of the public to do so, and to suspend the seasonal membership of any individual who does not abide by the rules.

Be advised that court amenities are not sanitized, and any use of the public tennis courts are at the risk of the resident.

Athletic Fields & Parks

Beginning on August 28, 2020, Needham Park and Recreation will begin allowing user groups to apply for permitted field use for fall activities in the Town of Needham.

User groups that wish to permit field space must:

- Submit a plan for use with protocols to the Park and Recreation Department in compliance with the Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for businesses and other entities providing Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities – Phase III, Step 1 document.
- Fill out the online 'Field Permit Request'.
 - As part of the Field Permit Request you must upload a valid Insurance Certificate and Field Request spreadsheet that can be found on the Town's website.

Submitted protocols will be reviewed by the Needham Public Health Department prior to permits being approved. User group protocols that are not approved by the Public Health Department cannot be issued permits.

All permit holders will have the following requirements:

- All groups will be required to submit daily attendance sheets that include the full name, phone number, email address, and user type (i.e. player, coach, spectator) for each group on the field to the Park and Recreation Department for each individual group. A team roster can be uploaded if it has all the above information.
- All persons on the field during the permitted time MUST sign-off on the Town of Needham Symptom Check-Off Form. This includes players, coaches, parents, or other spectators on the field.

- Any person on the field, players, coaches, parents, and spectators, **MUST** have a face covering with them at all times. Players may lower their face covering while they are 6 feet away from other players, but it must be worn when 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained. Coaches, parents and other spectators **MUST** wear their face covering at all times while on the field.

Once permits are issued, the permitted group may only use the field that they have been permitted. If a field must close for any reason (i.e. damage, weather), the Park and Recreation Department will do their best to find an alternative field for the displaced group, but there is no guarantee that additional space will be available. Groups cannot switch their permitted field without written permission from the Park and Recreation Department, even if it is within the same organization.

Groups found in violation of any protocols within this document may receive warnings and penalties including discontinuing permits for the remaining season for the entire organization and loss of permitting in future seasons.

Be advised that parks and fields are not sanitized, and any use of the public parks and fields are at the risk of the resident.