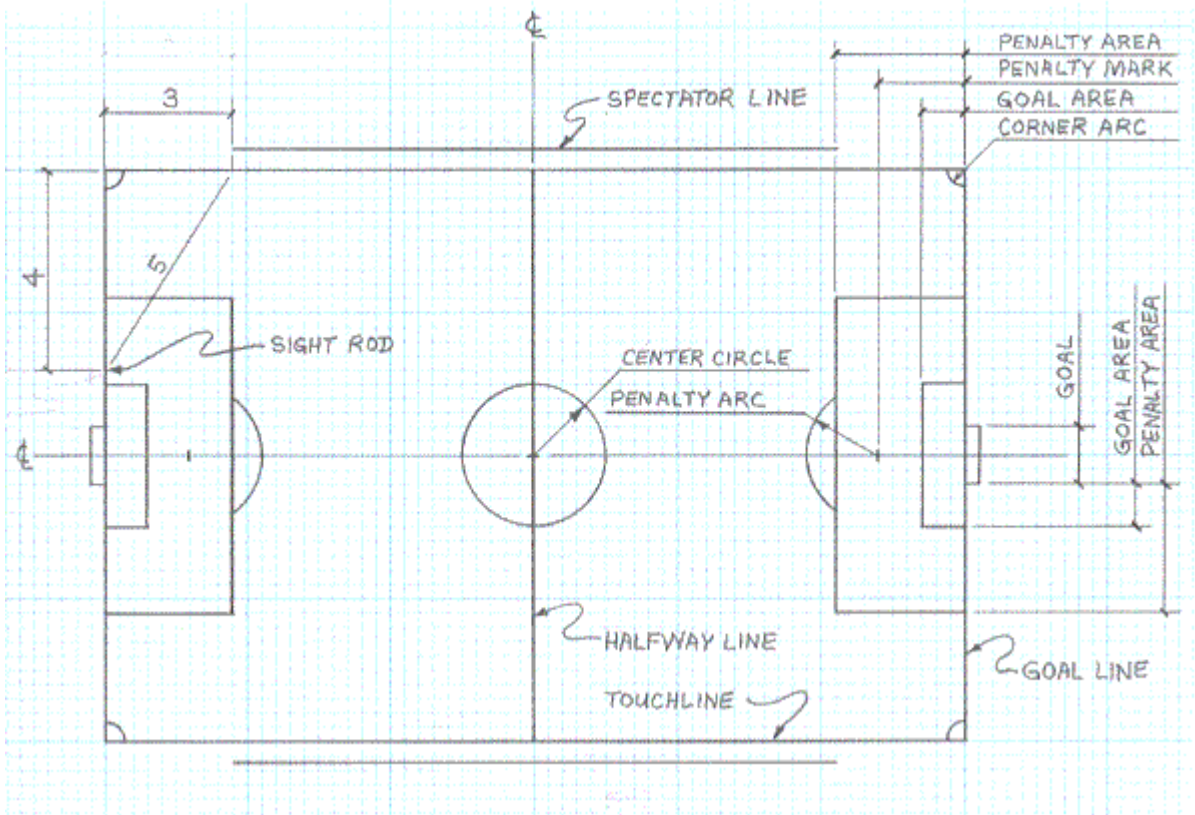


# Field Preparation Guide

Field preparation includes field layout, maintenance, setup, and takedown.

## Field Layout



**Soccer Field Dimensions**  
**U.S. Youth Soccer Modifications to FIFA Law 1**  
(yards unless noted otherwise)

Age Group	Team Size (NSCL/WAGS)	Periods of Play Minutes (NSCL/WAGS)	Ball Size	Goal Size (NSCL/WAGS)	Field Size Range (NSCL/WAGS)	Center Circle	Corner Arc	Goal Area	Penalty Area	Penalty Mark	Penalty Arc
<b>HS</b>	11v11	35-35 (45-45)	5	8x24'	<b>70x110</b> (min50x100)	10	3'	6	18	12	10
<b>U14/15</b>	11v11	35-35 (35-35, 40-40)	5	8x24'	<b>70x110</b> (min50x100)	10	3'	6	18	12	10
<b>U13</b>	9v9 (11v11)	30-30 (35-35)	4 (5)	7x24(8x24)	<b>70x110</b> (min50x100)	10	3'	6	18	12	10
<b>U12</b>	9v9	25-25 (35-35)	4	7x24(8x24)	<b>45x80</b> (min50x100)	8	3'	6	14	8	8
<b>U11</b>	8v8	25-25 (30-30)	4	7x24	<b>45x80</b> (min45-50x70-75)	8	3'	6	14	8 (10)	8
<b>U10</b>	7v7 (7v7)	25-25 (30-30)	4	7x18	<b>40x50</b> (min45-50x70-75)	8	2'	6	14	8 (10)	8
<b>U9</b>	7v7 (7v7)	25-25 (30-30)	4	7x12'	<b>40x50</b> (min45-50x70-75)	8	2'	6	14	8 (10)	8
<b>U8</b>	4v4No GK option(5v5 w/gk)	20-20	3	7x12'	<b>30x40</b>	5	2'	3	-	-	-
<b>U7</b>	4v4 No GK	20-20	3	Pugg '	<b>25x35</b>	3	2'	-	-	-	-
<b>U6</b>	4v4 No GK	30 min practice 2x12 min halves	3	Pugg	<b>20x30</b>	3	2'	-	-	-	-
<b>U5</b>	4v4 No GK	30 min practice 2x12 min halves	3	Pugg	<b>15x25</b>	3	2'	-	-	-	-

The best time to layout a field:

- • Thursday or Friday morning before the weekend games;
- • Before somebody else goes out and does a really lousy job of it;
- • When nobody is on the field such as students or grounds keepers;
- • Right after the grass is cut;
- • When it is dry and the wind is calm;
- • Before the previous lines disappear.

The time required to layout a field:

- • It takes one person 4 hours to layout a field properly from scratch;
- • It takes two people 2.5 hours to layout a field properly from scratch;
- • It takes one person 3 hours to layout a field properly beginning with existing work points;
- • It takes one person 2 hours to layout a field properly beginning with existing lines;
- • It takes one person 1 hour to over-paint the lines before a game.

The tools required to layout a field:

Except for the liner machine and spray paint, these tools are not provided by the club (see The Home Depot).

- • 300' tape measure;
- • 100' tape measure;
- • (4) cones to site corners during preliminary field layout;
- • (35) 6" steel stakes (60d galvanized nails);
- • (10) rolls of string (#21 cotton/polyester cable/chalk line, 285' per roll) on a reel (spent plastic wire spool with a PVC pipe axle and windup knob);
- • 2' sight rod;
- • liner wand and (12) cans of white or orange spray paint;
- • litter bag.

## Field Layout Procedure

1. Check with league administrator to determine the oldest age group scheduled for the field. Find the [soccer field dimensions](#) listed above for that age group.
2. Perform a preliminary field layout. Survey the site for safety hazards, obstacles, poor playing surfaces, and low areas slow to dry. Decide the optimum field location. This is often a compromise between sizing the field large enough and avoiding the worst field conditions. Allow space for spectator lines and pedestrian traffic around the field. Decide which touchline location is most critical for given conditions; begin there at corner1 closest to your car (station tools there).
3. Measure, string, and stake touchline1 from corner1. Place stakes at goal lines, penalty areas, spectator lines, and the halfway line. The spectator line is 9 feet off the touchline. Retrieve the tape.

The most efficient way to use the tape measure is to lay it out full length along the line, calculate the running feet measurements in your head, and place the stakes accordingly. For example, if the touchline is 110 yards, place stakes at 0', 54', 165', 276', and 330'. You have to append the 100' tape to reach 330'. If this hurts your head, prepare a cheat sheet ahead of time.

4. Measure and mark a 3-4-5 triangle at corner2. The touchline leg is 3 units extending from corner2 to the penalty area stake. (If the penalty area is 18 yards, then 1 unit = 18 feet.) Use the 300' tape to measure the goal line leg 4 units (72 feet) from corner2. Use the 100' tape to measure the hypotenuse 5 units (90 feet) from the penalty stake on the touchline. Stake the sight rod vertically where the two tapes intersect on the goal line. Retrieve the 100' tape.
5. Measure, string, and stake goal line1 from corner2. At corner3, just touch the string to the sight rod to position goal line1 square to touchline1. Place stakes at penalty areas, goal areas, and the goal line center. Retrieve the tape.
6. Measure goal line2 from corner1 to roughly locate corner4. Retrieve the tape.
7. Measure, string, and stake touchline2 from corner3. Shift corner4 as required to intersect. Place stakes at goal lines, penalty areas, spectator lines, and the halfway line. Retrieve the tape.
8. Measure, string, and stake goal line2 from corner4. Place stakes at penalty areas, goal areas, and the goal line center. Retrieve the tape.
9. String the near spectator line1, the halfway line, and the other spectator line2.
10. Paint all lines in both directions beginning and ending at the string end (corner1). The maximum line width is 5". Use the 100' tape to paint the corner arcs by hand. Retrieve the string (if you end painting at the string end, the reel end will dry first).
11. Use the 100' tape to measure and stake the penalty area and goal area corners. Penalty area corners can be measured square from the goal line and the touchline. Goal area corners can be measured perpendicular from the goal line. String the penalty areas and goal areas.
12. Use the 100' tape to measure and stake the penalty marks. Penalty marks can be measured perpendicular from the goal line. Stitch paint the penalty arcs by hand. Retrieve the stakes and paint the penalty marks by hand, a 12" line parallel the goal line.
13. Use the 100' tape to measure and stake the center mark. Stitch paint the center circle by hand. Retrieve the stake and paint the center mark by hand, a 12" line parallel the touchline.
14. Paint the penalty area and goal area lines and arcs, and the center circle in both directions beginning and ending at the string end. Retrieve the string and stakes.
15. Count the stakes.

## Field Maintenance

Field maintenance tasks:

- • Monitor the lines during extended periods of rain and/or non-use, and either over-paint the lines or hand paint all corners and endpoints to save the field layout;
- • Anchor loose goals;
- • Attach loose goal nets;
- • Move furnishings like trash cans and benches to behind the spectator lines;
- • Canvas the field for litter and safety hazards like dog fetch sticks, broken glass, and shredded aluminum and plastic containers;
- • On a *very rare* occasion, call Fairfax County Turf Management (703-324-8590) about getting the grass cut, or cut the grass yourself.

## Field Setup and Takedown

Stoddert assigns home team setup and takedown duty. A team's assignment should also be indicated on its league game schedule. Check both schedules to be certain of which team is responsible for game day field setup and takedown, the first team named for each game is the home team.

If your team has field setup, check the field days before the game and perform field layout, if required.

The *field instructions* indicate where field preparation equipment is stored for each field. Equipment is either stored in a locker at the field, or it is stored at a private residence near the field. This list indicates what equipment is required for each field, and gives directions for accessing the equipment. Inquiries regarding travel equipment and supplies should be directed to the appropriate travel commissioner.

Game day field setup may take 1 hour and include these tasks:

- • Transport portable goals (1x10' each), goal nets, corner flags, liner machine, and paint from storage to the field;
- • Over-paint the lines;
- • Assemble the goals and attach the nets;
- • Install corner flags;
- • Clear the field of any debris.

Game day field takedown may take 30 minutes and include these tasks:

- • Disassemble the goals and nets;
- • Retrieve the corner flags;
- • Pick up litter from around the field;

Transport all equipment back to storage.

To All Commissioners:

### FIELD SETUP INSTRUCTIONS FALL 2005 (9/5/05)

Please give this information to each Coach and require that the coaches discuss this with every parent.

Every team using a Stoddert permitted field is responsible for removing all trash from the field at the end of each game. The division commissioner should insure that the last team makes a thorough check of the field and leaves it spotless.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

EVEN IF THERE ARE TRASH RECEPTICLES ON THE FIELD, DO NOT PLACE ANY TRASH IN THEM. TAKE ALL TRASH HOME. ONCE THE RECEPTICLE IS FULL AND SOMEONE AFTER YOU OVERFILLS IT, THE NEIGHBORS WILL BLAME STODDERT FOR THE TRASH BLOWING ACROSS THE FIELD. WE DON'T NEED THIS EXTRA AGGREVATION.

THAT WAS VERY IMPORTANT.

#### Instructions for Marking Fields

Several area fields will be shared by different Stoddert recreational and travel age groups, as well as Wilson High School. Each division's field must be marked in cooperation with the sharing division and in a specific color. Please contact the division commissioner with whom you are sharing a field before you lay out your field. It is wise to lay out all fields simultaneously so no one feels at a disadvantage. You should match the required dimensions of your division as closely as possible.

Carter Barron (South) – There will be one 100yd x 60yd field (high schools) and one 75yd x 50yd field (middle schools) with both axes running north-south. These will be marked in white. All open fields on or near these fields must be marked in orange.

Carter Barron (North) – These two fields will be used by recreation GU-11 and travel U-9&10. Refer to the travel rules before marking the field.

Hardy – A full sized field (marked in white) and used by GU-13 will run perpendicular to Foxhall Rd  
*N/A Fall 2005: the three U-9 fields must be marked in orange and fit perpendicular to the large field.*

Ft Reno – A full sized field is already marked and used by Wilson High School and travel. All U-8 and GU-8 fields must be marked in orange.

Palisades – The same field (approximately 45 x 70 yards) will be used by recreation GU-12 and travel U9&10. Refer to the travel rules before marking the field.

Jelleff is maintained by Bob Stowers.

Deal is maintained by Thom Heath.

Date: 9/5/05

### **Instructions for Carter Barron and use of goals stored there (and used at Rudolph)**

These instructions also apply to teams playing at Rudolph Recreation Center using goals stored at Carter Barron.

The goals are stored in bags in a fenced storage area behind the Sixth Presbyterian Church, located on the southeast corner of 16<sup>th</sup> St. and Kennedy St, NW. To reach it, turn east (away from the park) onto Kennedy St. from 16<sup>th</sup> St. and turn right into the alley that is about 150 feet from 16<sup>th</sup> Street. The alley goes into the church's parking lot. The storage area is on the far east of the lot (to your left).

The Pugg goals, used by U-7, are stored two to a bag, no more, no fewer. The bag appears oblong and is black. The goals must be inserted into the bag to fit the shape of the bag or it will tear. The bags must be closed to prevent moisture from entering. Do not place any paint cans or wands inside the bags.

The standard goals are stored in gray/black carrying bags containing the parts for one goal and two corner flags. When you return the goals, be sure that all parts are present and no parts from other goals have been included. If any parts are broken or missing, immediately inform your commissioner so the next user will have a full set. Do not place any paint cans or wands in the bags. Other teams, recreational and travel, may use these goals so do not fail to follow these instructions. If you don't, you may ruin a soccer day for another team on another day of which you are unaware.

The gate is secured with a combination lock. The division commissioner knows the combination. Tags having the field ID identify each division's goals. Some goals may be shared on different days by two divisions on different fields. Both fields and days will be on the tag.

Do not take any other goals. Do not assume that other division's goals will work for you. Never leave the compound without locking the gate. You secure the combination lock by "mixing up the numbers" from the opening combination and closing the lock. If you have trouble closing the lock, move the numbers to the open position, press the catch closed and mix up the numbers.

We share use of these fields with other groups. We want to cooperate. In the fall, a group of private schools uses Carter Barron for interscholastic league games and scrimmages, as well as practices, on weekdays. We have agreed to mark our fields in ORANGE where they overlap with their fields. They have placed rigid frame goals on their fields that interfere with our fields and must be moved on Saturdays. Since we share a common goal of helping kids play soccer

and other sports, you are expected to be reasonable in your use of and demand for space. If you believe that your needs are not being reasonable considered, refer the matter to your division commissioner.

## **Instructions for Fessenden**

Fessenden is a National Park Service Park and is not permitted. It is a “first come, first served field”. If a group is already present, they get a “reasonable” amount of space to use. Usually the only competition is from other Stoddert teams. We “permit” the area for use by Stoddert teams to create some order within the family and expect other Stoddert people to honor it. You have to do the best you can with non-Stoddert people since they have the right to be there if they are ahead of you or if there is reasonable space available.

Date: 9/5/05

### **Instructions for use of goals stored at Ft Stevens**

At Ft Stevens there is no storage box so you must use flags under the division's care. You must also have a copy of the relevant permit. The Ft Stevens center is sometimes open on Saturdays. We do not lock the goals but we do move them off the field after play.

At every field, we have potential conflicts with the neighborhood that view the field as a neighborhood asset. We will go the second mile in order to maintain pleasant relations. Bring a plastic bag(s) to the field and take home all trash generated by your team and, in the case of travel, the visiting team – EVEN IF THERE ARE TRASH RECEPTICALS AT THE FIELD. All organized use of the field is to end on time when your game time or practice time is over.

## **Instructions for Hamilton Park**

The goals are stored at the house across the street of Kathryn Ferger & Laird Streed, 1337 Hamilton St, NW, (202) 723-6320. They are retired Stoddert parents who have been very cooperative for many years by letting us use their house for storage. Do not ring the bell! Enter the back yard through a gate on the right side of the house and look to the left. The goals are stored against the west fence on a small patio. The last teams should return them to the back yard in the same location.

Date: 9/5/05

### **Instructions for use of goals stored at Hardy**

N/A Fall 2005 Younger divisions use portable goals which are stored in a wooden shed near the tennis/basketball courts. The commissioner knows the combination to the lock.]

Rigid frame goals are stored next to the tennis/basketball court. You should also use the sandbags on the legs when the wind exceeds 20 MPH. These goal frames can and have blown over in a strong wind and are a hazard if not properly secured. Check that the bolts at the top junction are present and tight. Someone has been removing them and this presents a major hazard since a person could be seriously injured if the top bar were to come loose and fall.

Paint, paint wands and flags are stored in the storage bin. Always replace the corner flags in the box after the last game. It is also secured by a combination lock using the same combination as the goals. Copies of the field permits are also in the box inside a plastic bag. Do not remove this unless a field or police officer requests to inspect them. You should have your own copy of the applicable permit with you at all times

The Hardy recreation center is usually open from 9am – 3pm on Saturdays.

At every field, we have potential conflicts with the neighborhood that view the field as a neighborhood asset. We will go the second mile in order to maintain pleasant relations. Bring a plastic bag(s) to the field and take home all trash generated by your team and, in the case of travel, the visiting team – EVEN IF THERE ARE TRASH RECEPTICALS AT THE FIELD. All organized use of the field is to end on time when your game time or practice time is over.