



Updated Fall 2020 Permit Procedures

COVID-19 UPDATE: Due to the most recent [guidance](#) regarding events and gatherings, the BCRP Permits Office will not accept or issue any new permits for public events now through **September 30, 2020**. Beginning September 16, **private events** will be permitted at 25% capacity with a maximum attendance of 63 participants per permitted space. Athletic permits are exempt from the participant maximum. This guidance will be enforced. Current permit holders with events that exceed the permitted number of attendees, and are unable to reduce their total number of attendees and/or are unable to comply with new permit guidelines are encouraged to contact the BCRP Permits Office for a full refund or an account credit to be used at a later date.

All park goers must adhere to the latest city-wide [guidance](#). This means, wearing a mask whenever social distancing is not possible, and for athletic activities, **at all times**. The latest city-wide guidance also applies to all park and athletic permit holders. Current permit holders, please review the most recent required guidelines.

For Fall 2020 season beginning September 16th, 2020, **athletic permits will be accepted for both youth and adult leagues**. Youth athletic permits will be permitted for all sports except: tackle football, wrestling and rugby. There are no athletic-type restrictions for adult sports. Any violation of the required guidelines to include the mandated mask order at all times, will be immediately revoked without question.

Due to the late notice of fall permitting process, BCRP is offering both youth and adult league organizers who participated in the **2019 fall season**, the opportunity to automatically receive 100% historical field usage from 2019 Fall for 2020 Fall **for all sports**. The following procedures **only apply for Fall 2020 permit season**. Further guidance regarding future field allocation policy and procedures for 2021 seasons will be updated and provided soon.

All leagues who qualify, will be sent a list of fields they received in 2019. Leagues will have **two weeks** from the date the historical lists are sent to respond to the permits office with what fields they would like to keep or give back for fall 2020. If there are changes to times, these requests must be made via email to park.permits@baltimorecity.gov From there, each league will receive an invoice that will be due two weeks prior to play.

For adult leagues, all fields which are given back will be open to the public for permitting requests after the two-week period is up or by September 15th, (whichever comes first). It is also at this time that returning leagues may request for additional fields that may have become

open. Public requests may be made via emailed application to park.permits@baltimorecity.gov on or after September 16th, 2020.

For youth leagues, requests can be made beginning September 16th for field usage beginning on September 28th, 2020.

Fall field usage will follow all necessary guidelines set forth by National, State, Local and health guidelines provided **and can be revoked at any time**. Once again, **masks must be worn at all times**. A new BCRP team of Park Ambassadors will be on site to verify that all guidelines are being followed. If any guidance is violated, notice of immediate revocation of permits will be issued from the permits office via an official email with no questions asked. Permits will be revoked for six months for a violation.

BCRP will reassess its COVID-19 response in November and work to provide guidance for the spring permit season 2021 by December. Please know, we have not made this decision lightly. Our mission is founded on providing healthy opportunities to recreate in our park spaces and we look forward to returning to our pre-COVID programming– **when it's safe**. It is with the support of the Health Commissioner and City Administration to make our decision not to hold fall youth permits for tackle football, rugby and wrestling and is centered on the goal of reducing the risk and spread of COVID-19 so we can move into 2021 with an active and healthy year.

Please note, the BCRP Permits Office is currently closed for walk-ins. We ask that you [call](#) or [email](#) us directly to address any questions or concerns.

All park goers must adhere to the latest city-wide [guidance](#). This means, wearing a mask whenever social distancing is not possible. The latest city-wide guidance also applies to all park and athletic permit holders. Current permit holders, please review the most recent required guidelines.

Guidelines to Permit Outdoor Spaces

Based on State and Local guidance on reopening phases, park spaces are now open for permit usage under the provided guidelines. We are hopeful that cooperation from all and compliance to the provided guidelines will reduce the risk of spread; however, usage of these spaces is at user's own risk. Baltimore City Recreation and Parks reserves the right to limit any event or activity or cancel any permit due to a positive COVID-19 test or as a result of updated State and Local guidelines and/or executive orders.

During the COVID-19 Maryland State of Emergency, it is the user's responsibility to follow all CDC and/or state and local health department guidelines concerning social distancing, screening, and the use of masks or cloth face-coverings during event/activity at all times. The Department of Recreation & Parks offers a variety of permit types and rental spaces. The

following guidelines are encouraged and apply to all permits and rentals. Further details applying to specific permit types will be addressed thereafter.

- No more than 25% of the space capacity or a maximum of 63 participants (whichever is less) are allowed to gather in one permitted space at a time maximum. *There may be spaces where less than 63 people are permitted due to square footage and inability to distance.*
- Social Distancing measures should be taken for all participants following CDC guidelines of 6 feet.
- Proper masks and/or face coverings should be worn at all times.
- Sanitizer is encouraged for participants to bring with them.
- City of Baltimore Waivers must be signed by Permit Holder & all participants.
- Permit Holder must read aloud the waiver to all participants on site of the permitted event.
- A written plan should be submitted explaining steps the permit holder will take to ensure compliance with all CDC and/or state and local health department guidelines concerning social distancing, screening and use of masks or cloth face-coverings.
- Permit Holder is responsible for reporting any positive COVID-19 test results from any participant of permit activity to the Permits Office the same day you are informed of the test results.
- Attendance shall be collected and provided to the Permits office for contact tracing purposes in the event of a positive test.

Athletic Field Usage

- Only two spectators allowed per youth participant event but must maintain social distancing.
- Participants of leagues should not linger pre or post field usage.
- Equipment to include individual seating is encouraged to be brought by each individual participant.
- Where park amenities of bleachers, benches or other seating areas are available, it is encouraged for participants to still use their own personal seating, but if used, encouraged to bring their own sanitizer and to seat distanced from other spectators or participants.
- A written plan should be submitted explaining steps the league or organization will take to ensure compliance with all CDC and/or state and local health department guidelines concerning social distancing, screening and use of masks or cloth face-coverings.
- Social Distancing measures should be taken to best ability while on field and strictly enforced in dug out or sideline areas.
- Players equipment or bags should be spaced out and each player should remain near their bags or equipment while off field.
- Shared equipment must be sanitized frequently.
- Proper masks and/or face coverings should be **worn at all times.**
- Players/Coaches should avoid or limit contact such as:
 - High Fives, team huddles, arms around players, snacks, sharing of water, etc.

For any questions, please contact our permits office at park.permits@baltimorecity.gov