

**APPROVAL CONDITIONS FOR LIGHTS ON ATHLETIC FIELDS
AT METHACTON HIGH SCHOOL**

1. Waivers and Variances

MSD shall not request any waivers or variances from Worcester Township which would materially override any of the provisions of these Conditions.

2. Allowed Users of MHS' Athletic Fields when Illuminated

In consideration of the fact that the primary purpose of athletic facilities at MHS is to allow MSD School-Sponsored Athletic Teams and Related Student Groups to engage in school-sponsored athletic and related activities, MSD agrees that:

a. A MSD "School-Sponsored Athletic Team" is defined as a MSD middle school or high school varsity, junior varsity, freshman or MSD intra-mural team. A "Related Student Group" is defined as a MSD school band, cheerleading squad, color guard, or similar MSD student group that supports School-Sponsored Athletic Team Activities or Events. A "School-Sponsored Activity or Event" is defined as an activity or event engaged in by a School-Sponsored Athletic Team or Related Student Group, including competitions and practices.

b. School-Sponsored Athletic Team Events or Activities and other Events or Activities engaged in by Related Student Groups on all MHS fields shall always take priority over other users. The use of MHS athletic fields by groups that are not School-Sponsored Athletic Teams or Related Student Groups shall not result in situations where School-Sponsored Activities or Events that could otherwise take place during daylight hours are shifted to nighttime hours because fields are being used for non-school-sponsored activities.

c. Non-school-sponsored athletic or related groups may not use any MHS' lighted athletic field for any nighttime activity or event, except as described in Section 2c(1), below. These groups include, but are not limited to, community athletic clubs or other community groups, whether for children or adults. The fact that MSD students may participate in these non-school-sponsored groups shall not qualify them as a School-Sponsored Athletic Team or Related Student Group as defined in Section 2a.

1. Subject to all other provisions and limitations of this document, non-school-sponsored groups may use a lighted athletic field for a nighttime activity or event for a maximum of 3 events per calendar year.

d. All non-school-sponsored groups using any MHS athletic field shall be charged an amount sufficient to cover all expenses associated with using the fields, including but not limited to security and pro-rated maintenance costs. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Methacton School Board for charitable organizations.

e. The only non-athletic activities allowed on any lighted field shall be graduation exercises, events permitted under Section 2c(1) and activities of Related Student Groups.

f. Special Events shall be defined as non-recurring events such as athletic conference tournaments and band competitions. They shall be considered to be School-Sponsored Activities or Events if MSD students are included in the activity and those activities are an extension of what would otherwise be considered a School-Sponsored Activity or Event as defined above in Section 2a. Any such Special Events shall be subject to the restrictions of Sections 3 and 4 of these Conditions and shall be included in the restrictions on the number of nights per week allowed for lighted activities and events specified in Section 3a and the Saturday/Sunday lighted event restrictions specified in Section 3b.

3. Frequency of Use

In consideration of the fact that frequency of nighttime activities on lighted fields is a concern for residents because of potential problems with noise, traffic, parking, and security:

a. Nighttime use of one or more illuminated athletic fields at MHS is limited to a total of no more than 3 nights per calendar week. Twice in September and twice in October, a fourth night in one calendar week with illuminated fields will be permitted if, for each such exception, one other calendar week in the same month shall be reduced to two illuminated evenings.

b. Except as noted below, under no circumstances shall an illuminated event take place on a Saturday or Sunday.

1. The MHS band may host one, Saturday evening event per calendar year to be held under the lights. Field lighting for this event may remain on until the end of the event, plus no more than 15 additional minutes after the end of the event, to provide for safe egress from the field.

2. Two additional events or activities per calendar year that would otherwise be permissible under the provisions of this document may, at the discretion of the Methacton School Board, be held on an illuminated field on a Saturday night, in place of an event that would have otherwise been permitted under the provisions herein on the preceding Friday night. Each such Saturday night event shall count as one of the 3 illuminated weekly events allowed under Section 3a, above.

c. No illuminated event shall be allowed on any day between MHS graduation through August 15 of the same calendar year, except band practice at illumination levels as specified in the Worcester Township Lighting Ordinance., which may be held up to 3 weekday evenings per week during that time.

d. A schedule showing all illuminated events shall be posted to the MSD web site at least 30 days prior to each month of the school year.

4. Times of Use and Illumination Intensity

In consideration of the fact that the duration of and illumination intensities for nighttime activities on a lighted field are of concern to The Neighbors:

a. Lighting system controls as described in the Worcester Township Lighting Ordinance shall be used to limit both the times when fields are illuminated and the intensity of the illumination. Illumination intensities shall always be limited to the minimum levels appropriate for different kinds of activities as defined in the Lighting Ordinance.

b. Lights illuminating the football field for at-home, interscholastic varsity football games may remain on until the end of the game, plus no more than 15 additional minutes after the end of the game to provide for safe egress from the field.

c. All activities and events, other than at-home, interscholastic, varsity football games, requiring lighted fields shall be scheduled so that they shall be expected to end no later than 9 pm. At the conclusion of the activity or event, any lights whose purpose is to illuminate an athletic field shall be extinguished. It is understood that rain delays, overtime, etc. may occasionally make it unreasonable to abruptly end an inter-school competition at 9:00. For those reasons the Superintendent, or his designated staff member, may need to extend the time when the lights are turned out. Such exceptions shall not apply to band practice, sports practice or Special Events. If any field lights are left on past 9 pm more than 3 times during a calendar year, for whatever reason, the fourth extension for up to 30 minutes after 9:00 pm

shall be interpreted as a violation of these Conditions. Each additional extension past 30, 60, 90, etc. minutes shall be considered an additional violation.

d. A field shall not be lighted in the early morning for practices or any other activities, nor shall it be lighted during any time when no activity is taking place on the field or when an activity can be conducted safely in natural lighting. Lights may be illuminated as required for maintenance or adjustment of the lights.

5. Noise

In consideration of the fact that noise from athletic events and other activities is a major concern for residents:

a. No music or other audio programming shall be allowed at any event or activity on any MHS athletic field except live music provided by MHS bands and bands from visiting schools, except as noted in 5a(1) and 5a(2), below.

1. The live or recorded playing of the U.S. National Anthem prior to athletic events shall be allowed.

2. Amplified music shall be allowed at one inter-scholastic event per calendar year in which a Related School Group (as defined in Section 2a, above) is a participant, provided that all public address or other audio system speakers are located between the event and adjacent residences with sound directed away from the residences. Practices for any such events shall not use any public address system or other large audio system, but may use portable (“personal”) audio devices.

b. With the exceptions noted in 5a, above, use of any sound system for events at any athletic field shall be limited to announcements that are consistent with and required by the nature of the event, (e.g. announcing scores, player replacements, emergency announcements, etc.) Speakers shall be oriented in a way that minimizes sound levels on adjacent properties.

c. Music by MSD bands and other visiting school bands shall be allowed at any School-Sponsored Activity or Event, including special events as defined in Section 2f.

d. In accordance with Section 2, no MHS athletic field shall be used as a venue for music or other programming or concerts.

e. The public address system will not be used for practices.

6. Lighted Scoreboards

Any lighted scoreboards that may be erected on the athletic fields will not be visible from any off-site residence.

7. Wooded Area on MHS Property

In consideration of the fact that the small wooded area on MHS property adjacent to Mill Road is important for the aesthetic relationship of MHS property to surrounding residential properties as well as being a significant component of a storm water management system on MHS property, MSD agrees that this area shall be preserved now and in the future.

8. Procedures

The MSD Administration shall prepare a document describing the procedures that will be used during illuminated events including parking and traffic control, security, student regulations, etc. That

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document shall become part of these Conditions and enforceable as part of these Conditions. The specific procedures in the document may be modified from time to time by the administration.