

THE RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW YORK

7900

USE OF PERMANENT FIELD LIGHTING
AT JOHN NUGENT STADIUM

The Rye City School District Board of Education hereby declares the following to be the policy and procedures of the School District regarding the use of permanent field lighting at John Nugent Stadium:

1. Permanent field lights at John Nugent Stadium shall be used solely for the Rye City School District athletic events, as designated below. The Superintendent of Schools is not authorized to approve use for any other purpose and it is the Board's commitment to the community that the lights will not be used for any other purpose or events.
2. The lights shall not be considered a General Fund expense of the District. All costs for the use of the lights, as well as ongoing maintenance, repair and security costs, shall be paid from the Lighting Operation, Maintenance, Repair and Security Fund. Additional costs associated with clean-up above a normal weekend day event, after a night event, shall also be paid by the Fund. Gate receipts from night athletic events will be allocated to the Fund. It shall be the responsibility of the Rye City School District to oversee the Fund available for the operation of lights at John Nugent Stadium. If at any time the Fund is insufficient to cover the operation, maintenance, repair, security and additional clean-up, if any, associated with the lights, light use shall be discontinued until such time as sufficient funds are available.
3. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop a safety, security and clean-up plan for each night activity to be fully funded from the Lighting Operation, Maintenance, Repair and Security Fund, as discussed in number 2 above.
4. A maximum of fourteen (14) lighted weekend games shall be allowed with two additional lighted games possible in the event Garnet teams make the playoffs and will host home playoff games. If, on the afternoon of a scheduled night event, another athletic contest is scheduled for Nugent Stadium, lights may be used in the afternoon and continue into the evening. In such a case, this shall be counted as one event of the fourteen (14) or two additional lighted playoff games allowed.
5. All night events at the Stadium shall be scheduled on Friday or Saturday nights only. Night events shall begin by 7:00 p.m. and must be completed with lights off by 10:00 p.m. In the event that the contest is delayed because of injury, overtime or a significant public safety event and cannot be completed by its curfew time, the lights shall be turned off no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the contest.
6. The Rye/Harrison football game shall not be a night event.

7. The permanent field lights will not be used for any pep rally, graduation, school assemblies, band concerts or a bonfire.

8. A maximum of seventy (70) athletic practices and twilight games (other than weekend events) using lights shall be allowed at the Stadium during any given school year. Within the 70 events, a maximum of thirty (30) practices may be scheduled in the fall and spring and shall end with lights off by 7:30 p.m., Monday through Friday only. An additional maximum of thirty (30) events may be scheduled in the fall and spring as twilight games at the Stadium in any given year. These games shall be scheduled Monday through Friday only with lights off by 7:30 p.m. or 30 minutes after the end of the event in case of an injury delay, overtime or a significant public safety event. At the beginning of the official New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) fall season (usually mid-August) and in response to new health and safety regulations, if the air temperature rises to 95 degrees during a regularly scheduled practice or if a heat index warning is issued, stopping practice, the lights may be used from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This will be a back-up plan for allowing teams to practice in safer conditions and will be allowed no more than five (5) times). This plan is in response to the new Heat Index Procedures approved by the NYSPHSAA. The District is aware of neighbors' concern with the District's use of lights and will invoke this additional use in extraordinary circumstance only. The winter track program may use two poles rather than four in December and January to light a maximum of ten (10) practices with a 6:00 p.m. lights curfew. Unused winter track light use may not be assigned to other spring programs.

9. The Athletic Director shall be responsible for maintaining the log of night athletic activities: both competitions, and practices.

10. Emergency lighting, the cost of which will be paid from the Lighting, Operation, Maintenance, Repair and Security Fund, must be made available in case of a power failure that may occur during any of the night use.

11. On or about July 15 of each year, the Director of Athletics shall publish the dates for fall night games. On or about March 15 of each year the Athletic Director shall publish the dates for spring night games. A special effort shall be made to notify the community, especially the neighboring residents, of these dates. In the event that games must be rescheduled due to inclement weather or other factors beyond the District's control, an attempt will be made to notify the community, especially the neighboring residents, of such changes.

12. If the procedures and regulations within this policy are violated, night athletic events for the rest of that season (fall or spring) for all sports, shall be canceled or other appropriate sanctions imposed.

13. Use of the Public Address System (PA) will be allowed only for the PA announcer, the playing of the National Anthem and half-time shows by the cheerleaders. Other normal high school band activities, without the use of the PA System, shall be allowed. Use of the PA System to play music during practices and during game warm-ups is not allowed.

14. Stadium lights are approved for use during the months of August, September, October, November, December, January, March, April and May.

15. This policy will be reviewed and evaluated every three years with a use report to the Board at the end of each school year. Prior to considering amending this policy and its procedures, the Board shall notify the community and shall re-establish an Advisory Committee consisting of Board members, neighbors, proponents, opponents, representatives of the donors and community members. The Advisory Committee will be charged to discuss options and report their recommendations to the full Board of Education. The Board will, in turn, consider the Advisory Committee report, as well as all the information compiled during the initial gift proposal discussions of 1999 and 2000, and any other revisions made to the original policy, in its deliberations and decision making process.

Reference: Policy 1500 – Public Use of School Facilities

Adoption Date: June 28, 2011

Effective Date: July 1, 2011

