



## DIAMOND SPORTS FACILITIES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### TAC MEETING 6 | NOTES

---

*TAC members may offer modifications to these notes by submitted comments to MPRB staff. Requests for modifications must be received within one week of the TAC meeting to allow for public posting within three weeks of the TAC meeting.*

The TAC meeting focused on field inventories, including a “tour” of several sites that might be made serviceable for high school girls softball. A correction was noted to the summary of fields and assignments from the chart completed during TAC Meeting 5. Using the now corrected list, staff will begin the process of identifying the two fields slated for high school girls softball for play in 2024. The discussion moved to field features and characteristics using a chart assembled by MPRB staff which noted several aspects of the fields. TAC members were asked about other factors that might be included in the chart and they noted:

- Outfield distance
- Presence of irrigation
- Presence of a pitching rubber
- Presence of a drinking fountain
- Presence of electricity
- Presence of lights (and whether controls are local or remote)

Those features, and others that might continue to be identified by the TAC, will be added to the chart. Michael Schroeder noted the chart will be instrumental in the MPRB’s evolution to online field registration, which is already being developed and might be available for beta testing with certain field users in 2024 with full incorporation as a part of Active.NET following a rigorous test period.

TAC members noted that temporary fencing would be available through BSN or Beacon Sports. Staff will review manufacturers with an eye toward semi-permanent fencing, as the goal for girls softball is to perpetuate the field configuration with outfields at 225 feet (optimally, although some fields might be 200 feet given existing conditions). Other improvements will be discussed at TAC Meeting 7.

TAC members impressed upon staff the need for fencing and regulation field conditions for high school girls as a means of establishing fair and comparative statistics for girls, especially those girls who might be playing at levels where college and scholarships are factors.

TAC members noted that, while outfield fencing is important, creating safe conditions and team benches and bull pen areas needs equal consideration.



To help in defining desired field features and conditions at various levels, TAC members will be provided a survey requesting a ranking of various features by field type. The survey will be distributed to TAC members prior to the next meeting.

Staff noted the timing of meetings of the TAC and that the process might be near a mid-point. As such, Commissioner Menz has requested an update on the work to date. That update would be at a Recreation Committee Meeting on a Board meeting night, probably in November or December.

The meeting ended at approximately 6:30 pm.