

**A RESOLUTION BY
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
CHEROKEE COUNTY, GEORGIA REGARDING
THE ATHLETIC FIELD AND FACILITY USE POLICY OF CHEROKEE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Cherokee County owns and leases several parks throughout the county that include athletic fields, indoor and outdoor facilities; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County operates said parks through Cherokee Recreation & Parks; and

WHEREAS, Cherokee County desires to promote the orderly and efficient use of the athletic fields and facilities by priority users while also allowing for the use of the athletic fields and facilities by the public when not reserved for scheduled activities.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cherokee County that Cherokee County hereby establishes the following updated policies and procedures, applicable as of the effective date hereof, to ensure the safe and efficient use and the equitable availability of the athletic fields and facilities owned and operated by the county.

Section 1 – Athletic Field and Facility Use Policy

1a. Athletic Fields and Outdoor Facilities

Reserved use of athletic fields and outdoor facilities is permitted by this policy and encouraged by Cherokee County. **Unreserved athletic fields and outdoor facilities will be available to the public for open, unstructured or public recreation on a first come/first served basis during the normal operating hours of the park/facility.**

1b. Indoor Facilities

Reserved use of indoor facilities is permitted by this policy and encouraged by Cherokee County. Use of indoor facilities without a reservation may be permitted when space is available; however, such use is subject to applicable fees and charges as established by Cherokee County.

Athletic fields may be defined as natural or synthetic surfaces including, but not limited to grass, dirt, turf, concrete, asphalt, etc. Outdoor facilities may be defined as pavilions, boat ramps, canoe/kayak launch, camps sites, trail systems, archery range, etc. Indoor facilities may be defined as any designated space or room within a building operated by Cherokee Recreation & Parks. Athletic fields and facilities may be closed by Cherokee Recreation & Parks due to weather conditions, maintenance, to protect the public from unsafe conditions or to protect the fields from damage due to overuse. When reserved for use, such fields and/or facilities are not available to the public during the reserved times. Cherokee Recreation & Parks shall have the operational authority regarding management of the athletic fields and facilities when not specifically covered in this policy.

Section 2 - Priority Users

Four priority categories of facility users are hereby created (Category 1 being the highest priority) and shall be considered in the allocation of athletic fields and facilities with scheduled time at all facilities. Cherokee Recreation & Parks shall set priorities based upon, but not limited to, the following: the number of participants, the residency of participants and the overall impact of the group or organization upon the established recreational needs of Cherokee County residents.

Category 1 – Cherokee Recreation & Parks

“Cherokee Recreation & Parks” shall include all of the following: activities and programs of Cherokee Recreation & Parks and events sponsored, co-sponsored or partnered with Cherokee Recreation & Parks.

Category 2 – Local Recreation Providers

A “Local Recreation Provider” is defined as an organization registered as a nonprofit corporation with the Georgia Secretary of State with its principal office located within Cherokee County and which is managed by a governing board comprised of Cherokee County residents established and operated for the primary purpose of providing and delivering recreation opportunities to the citizens of Cherokee County whether or not a fee is charged. Such groups include, but are not limited to, volunteer youth sports organizations, senior sports groups or the YMCA.

To qualify as a Local Recreation Provider, no less than eighty-five percent (85%) of the participants MUST be residents of Cherokee County and have a minimum of 60 participants or 5 teams. Cherokee County staff may verify residency prior to the allocation of fields through rosters with participant names and addresses and/or individual participant utility bills/photo ID.

Category 3 – Local Civic, Faith Based and/or Educational Groups

“Local Civic, Faith Based and/or Educational Groups” shall include, but are not limited, to organizations as the Rotary Club, Lions Club, Cherokee County School District, private schools or home school groups located within Cherokee County boundaries.

Category 4 – Businesses, Other Contracted Organizations, Individuals or Groups

Any business, organization, club, individual or group that does not fall within the definitions of Category 1, 2 or 3, as defined above, shall be considered a Category 4 user under this Policy.

Section 3 - Athletic Field and Facility Reservations

An athletic field or facility shall be considered reserved upon the payment of the prescribed fee and the issuance of a Facility Use Permit provided by Cherokee County. The Facility Use Permit shall include ALL of the following:

- The name of the organization or individual reserving the athletic field.
- The name, address and phone number of the individual making the application and contact person for the permit.
- The specific athletic field(s) or facility being reserved.
- The date of issuance.
- The date, time and duration of the permit.
- The specific fee or fees charged and schedule of payment.
- All conditions assigned to the permit over and above the requirements of this Policy.
- The signature of the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Director or his/her designee.
- A signature of the permit applicant agreeing that the conditions, restrictions and waivers have been met or will be met in connection with the event for which the permit has been issued.

In the event of a cancellation of an activity by the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Director or his/her designee due to weather conditions which make the activity impossible, or due to any Act of God beyond the control of the applicant/permit holder, 1) a credit may be given to the applicant/permit holder; 2) a refund may be requested from the Cherokee Recreation & Parks Director or his/her designee; or 3) the event may be rescheduled at the earliest available date with no additional fees incurred.

Section 4 - Sales on Park Property

Cherokee County retains the complete and exclusive rights to regulate the sale of all goods and services sold or conducted on park property. All commerce is expressly prohibited without the prior written approval of Cherokee Recreation & Parks. Vendors are subject to all business license and insurance requirements. In addition, all vendors must successfully complete any applications and pay fees adopted by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners. Food concessions must be approved by any applicable department of Cherokee County and must follow all applicable laws including Cherokee County Codes and Ordinances.

Section 5 – Fees and Charges

Applicable fees and charges for the use of County athletic fields and facilities as well as for recreational programming are, pursuant to Cherokee County Ordinance No. 2010-O-008, are approved by the Cherokee County Recreation & Parks Advisory Board.

Section 6 – Athletic Field and Facilities Use Rules

Reservations are limited exclusively to the designated athletic field or facility and its immediate surrounding area. All other park attractions and amenities, including but not limited to walking

tracks, playgrounds, and tennis courts, shall remain open to the public. Access to indoor facilities or enclosed spaces is excluded unless expressly approved and documented as part of the reservation by Cherokee Recreation & Parks.

In no event shall a tournament organizer require an individual to pay admission for Park or Facility access during an event. At the point of collection for any event admission fee, there shall be posted a sign stating that **“No fee is being charged to any person who is entering the park for purposes other than the event.”**

Permits issued are non-transferable.

In the event the organization is a youth athletic association, the association shall comply with the most current version of the Cherokee County Youth Athletic Associations Policy and Procedures Manual.

In the event the organization conducts business in the park such as a tournament rental or clinic, the organization shall be subject to all business license and insurance requirements.

In the event a Cherokee County program or function conflicts with an organization’s use of the athletic field or facility identified in the permit, the Cherokee Recreation & Parks program or function shall have priority, and the conflict will be resolved by the organization’s rescheduling its use of the athletic field or facility.

All organizations and spectators shall follow all Cherokee County park and facility rules. Users shall leave the parks and facilities clean and shall dispose of all waste in designated receptacles.

SO RESOLVED by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners this 17th day of March, 2026:



Harry Johnston, Chairman

ATTEST:



Christy Black, County Clerk

