Athletic Fields

School Type:

Functional Area Description
Sports fields are the primary active outdoor area for middle and high school students. Planning a multipurpose athletic field complex at a school has several advantages: fields can share the lighting and irrigation systems, they conserve land use, and they allow for concentrated and more cost-effective maintenance.

The following is the recommended total acreage for each school type. If the total acreage is less than that recommended, support of the athletic program may need to be reduced. If only a small site is available ensure that construction costs are not unnecessarily driven up in an attempt to provide all recommended athletic facilities.

Middle School: 10 acres plus 1 acre per 150 students
High School: 10 acres plus 1 acre per 150 students
Unit Schools K-12: 20 acres plus 1 per 150 students
Unit School K-8: 15 acres plus 1 per 150 students
Unit School 6-12: 15 acres plus 1 per 150 students

Every school should be negotiating with the installation for the joint-use of nearby athletic facilities such as tennis courts, basketball courts, football, soccer, baseball & softball fields to support or enhance school programs.

Planning Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Description</th>
<th>SF</th>
<th>M²</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Fields</td>
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<tr>
<td>1a Track and Field; Football/Soccer Bleacher Seating</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>111</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1a Track and Field; Football/Soccer Bleacher Seating</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1a Track and Field; Football/Soccer Bleacher Seating</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>111</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Description</th>
<th>SF</th>
<th>M²</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a Concession</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>26.9</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b Concession Storage</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2c Men’s and Women’s Restrooms</td>
<td>530</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d Team Equipment Storage</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>111.5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2e Covered Area</td>
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1 Athletic fields

Middle Schools: Space permitting, middle schools are authorized an open turf area for field games (soccer/flag football, lacrosse) 100 yds x 50 yds ft (90 m x 45 m) and one basketball court (two basketball courts for schools with 250 students or more). Waiver requests for additional athletic fields and/or courts shall be submitted to HQ DoDEA for consideration.

High Schools: Space permitting, high schools are authorized one natural turf football/soccer field with a 400 meter track and one baseball field. Waiver requests for additional athletic fields, enhanced surfacing (artificial), and/or courts shall be submitted to HQ DoDEA for consideration.

Site Layout
The following guidelines should be considered in developing a site layout for the sports fields:

- Optimum orientation for sun and wind control.
- Circulation for players and spectators.
- Buffer zones between action spaces.
- Access to showers, classrooms, parking, and buses.
- Grading and slope for drainage.
- Layout, dimensions, and amenities shall be designed in accordance with the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Court and field diagram guide.

1a Track and Field, Football/Soccer Field Bleachers, and Press Box
- Provide a 400 meter, all weather running track with 6 lanes for schools with less than 400 students and 8 lanes for schools with 400 or more students.
- The conceptual plan places the high jump and pole vault within the perimeter of the running track to conserve acreage. Place the discus throw, shot put, and long/triple jump outside the track area.
- Include a natural turf soccer/football field in the center of the running track. Installation of enhanced surfacing (artificial turf) shall be submitted via waiver request to HQ DoDEA for consideration.
- Provide prefabricated permanent bleachers. Unless site conditions will not allow, divide bleachers into home and away sides. Provide 70 percent of the seating capacity on the home side of the field. Total seating capacity shall be based on the planning requirements table. Round to the nearest modular dimension for the prefabricated units.
- Provide a press box (not more than 250 sf) centered at the top of the bleachers on the home side of the field. It shall be totally enclosed with windows in the front and sides. Provide seating for eight people at a counter along the front wall. Provide two LAN drops and four electrical outlets.
above the counter, and a public address (PA) system.

- Lighting is only required for competition sports fields/courts and will be requested via a waiver to HQ DoDEA for consideration.
- Typical orientation for the football field is in a north/south direction.
- Provide an electronic scoreboard for the football/soccer field. Scoreboards for other competition sports fields shall be requested via a waiver to HQ DoDEA for consideration.

1b Baseball and Softball Fields (when approved)

- Baseball and softball fields shall be separate. Common dimensions for a baseball field are 360 ft x 360 ft (110 m x 110 m); softball fields are typically 225 ft x 225 ft (69 m x 69 m).
- Typically the baseball and softball fields should be oriented so that the batter is looking north when standing at the plate.
- Provide dugouts (fenced enclosure, concrete or gravel floor, roof) backstop fencing, warning track, outfield fencing with yellow fence guard and foul poles (recommended maximum height of 20’) with

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NOTE: the example conceptual plan shown is intended to spark design creativity.
mesh wings.

1c Tennis and Basketball Courts (when approved)
   • Typical orientation for the length of basketball and tennis courts is north/south.

2 Field House
The field house supports all outdoor sports activities by providing covered space for a variety of support activities, as outlined below.

2a Concession
The concession area shall have ample counter/storage space. Provide roll-up shutter at the transaction counter. The concession should include a double stainless steel sink, small commercial ice maker, separate hand wash sink (if required by code), and electrical outlets. No appliances will be installed that require specialized ventilation/exhaust or fire suppression systems. The intent is for the concession to support a microwave, popcorn machine, crock pots, and refrigerator/freezer or comparable residential level appliances. Provide two LAN drops in the concession area. The entire facility must have the capability to be secured when not in use. Heating should be provided to only prevent plumbing from freezing.

2b Concession Storage
Provide lockable storage room accessible only from the concession area.

2c Men’s and Women’s Restrooms
Men’s and women’s restrooms shall be provided.

2d Team Equipment Storage
Provide single, double or overhead rolling doors as required for existing equipment. If an overhead rolling door is used, also provide a single personnel door as another means of access. The storage areas can be subdivided with wire cages as required for secure storage to support individual sports.

2e Covered Area
The area directly adjacent to the concession transaction counter and the entrance to the public restrooms shall be covered. Provide exterior drinking fountains. The covered area should support queuing at the concession area.

NOTE: The conceptual 3D example shown is intended to spark design creativity.