

## Sound System Use Policy for Hunnewell Track and Field Facility

Adopted 5-10-2018

This policy is intended as an addendum to the policy outlined in the Natural Resources Commission Law, Policy, & Regulations Handbook 2017, Section 3 on Park and Conservation Lands, under “Special Regulations for the Use of Playing Fields” (document Link). That policy states: “There shall be no use of speakers or any amplification of any kind unless authorized by the Natural Resources Commission.” We acknowledge that Article 97, under which this land is protected, states that the “Public has the right to clean air, water, freedom from excessive noise, natural, scenic, historic, esthetic qualities of their environment.”

The need for this specific policy arose with the installation of a permanent sound system on the parkland during the renovation of the Hunnewell Track and Field. The sound system is in proximity to the Fuller Brook Path and the World War I Memorial, and many homes.

For information about the specific application of this policy, individual permits, or the need for expedited review, please contact the Director of the Natural Resources Commission.

1. The permanent sound system at the Hunnewell Track & Field Facility shall only be used by the Wellesley Public Schools. Any group seeking to use the permanent sound system that is not a part of the Wellesley Public Schools must seek advance approval from the Wellesley High School Athletic Director or Wellesley High School Principal. If such approval is granted, the user group must then apply to the Natural Resources Commission for use of the permanent sound system and comply with any limitations that are placed on such use.
2. The permanent sound system shall only be used for competitive play, and not for athletic practices or for general use by the public and shall be under the supervision of the Wellesley High School Athletic Director or Wellesley High School Principal or their assignee(s). The playing of amplified music on the permanent sound system for the National Anthem, intermittent music during official games, and for music accompanying school district performances or ceremonies (e.g., school drill teams, flag corps, cheerleading, graduation) shall be at the discretion of the Wellesley High School Athletic Director or Wellesley High School Principal. Other uses of the permanent sound system will require the express permission of the NRC Director.
3. A portable sound system shall only be used at the Hunnewell Track and Field by youth lacrosse for 10-minute warm-ups before games during their spring season, and by youth football for announcing games on Sundays during their fall season. Speakers must be aimed away from State/Smith Street and Rice Street. Any other use of a portable sound system will require the express permission of the NRC Director.
4. Any sound system shall only be used between 9:00 am and 7:00pm, unless by special permit from the NRC. Testing of the permanent system shall not start more than 60 minutes before the competitive event and music shall begin no sooner than 60 minutes before the competitive event and shall end no later than 15 minutes after the competitive event.
5. Any sound system shall only be used from the earliest fall practice date, to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), as defined in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Rules and Regulations Governing Athletics handbook, unless permitted by the NRC.

6. The volume of the permanent sound system shall not exceed 85 dBA at any property line to the field. The volume of a portable sound system shall not exceed 70 dBA at any property line. These sound system limits will apply at all times, no exceptions.

7. At no time may a secondary sound system be used in conjunction with the permanent sound system, unless permitted by the NRC.

8. The school athletics department will test the system annually to ensure the proper functioning of the PA system.

9. Violation of this sound system policy may result in the denial of future permits by the NRC and the PFTF.