

**NRC Comprehensive Sound Policy – Aug 19, 2024 (revised- June 25, 2024 original)**

1. **NRC AMPLIFIED SOUND POLICY** (\*Excluding Hunnewell Track & Field – see below for specific Hunnewell Track & Field Policy)
  - 1.1. Amplified sound is defined as voice, music or any sound extended above and beyond its normal range by an electronic device or secondary means such as a radio or non-electric equipment.
  - 1.2. The use of amplified sound is not permitted without a permit to be granted by the NRC or its Director. All NRC field permit request forms expressly require amplified sound requests.
  - 1.3. When permitted, the use of amplified sound shall be controlled by the permit holder such that the volume, direction, and duration of the sound is the minimum needed to meet the purpose of the use of the sound, and which will minimize the impact of the sound on other users of the park, playground, or other public property and its abutters. The volume shall not exceed 70 dBA at any property line unless granted by the NRC or its Director, but not to exceed 85 dBA at any time. In addition, a “common sense” consideration is the responsibility of the permit holder to keep amplified sound limited to the field/park location for which it’s been granted. In other words, if you can hear it across the street, it’s probably too loud.
  - 1.4. The intent of this policy is to allow, with a permit from the NRC, reasonable playing of music or use of amplified sound while considering location, time, duration and frequency. The NRC should consider the frequency of amplified permits per park or recreation site and afford significant consideration to the neighbors abutting the permitted areas. Amplified sound may or may not be permitted at all NRC sites.
  - 1.5. Amplified sound permit requests are required at least 60 days prior to the permit start date. Notice less than 60 days in advance will be considered at the NRC’s discretion.
  - 1.6. Amplified sound should be considered by the same user group prioritization as used by the Playing Fields Task Force with the following prioritization: (1) Town-Wide Special Events; (2) Wellesley Public Schools; (3) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues; (4) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs; (5) Wellesley Resident Adult Groups; (6) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use; (7) Charitable Groups; (8) Non-Resident Groups
  - 1.7. In addition to considering location, time, duration and frequency, the NRC should also consider the following when determining if approval will be granted:
    - 1.7.1. The total number of approved permit requests with amplified sound at a given time or period of time in a specific location or adjacent location
    - 1.7.2. Equity and parity considerations (e.g. gender across youth sports)
  - 1.8. Permit request examples (for illustrative purposes): Non-profit one-off or fundraising events; Seasonal youth sports; Summer camps/programming; Town-sponsored events (e.g. Wellesley Wonderful Weekend); For-profit (e.g. movie production)

2. **NRC AMPLIFIED SOUND POLICY FOR HUNNEWELL TRACK & FIELD**

2.1. The Permanent PA system is allowed without permitting the following **Wellesley Public School** usage:

2.1.1. **WPS Football Games**: The PA System may be used for competitive play during WPS football games for the following:

- Emergency Information
- National Anthem
- Key game facts including, but not limited to, naming a player who scores a touchdown, makes a significant play or players involved in a completed pass
- Announcements for raffles, concessions and school announcements should be made prior to or at halftime
- Senior game day presentations
- Cheerleading/Dance Team/Other WPS Performances during the game event

2.1.2. **WPS non-football teams** may use the PA system for the National Anthem, safety announcements and senior presentations (on Senior Day games only). It should be noted that the MIAA may require high schools that are hosting playoff games in tournament rounds of 32-, 16- or 8-teams to make announcements.

2.1.3. Testing 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 use of the permanent PA system shall end no later than 15 minutes after the competitive event.

2.1.4. The PA system may not be used for any sports practice, unless specified

2.1.5. The PA system may not be used for any amplified music after 7:30 p.m. except where explicitly defined (e.g. cheer/dance/other WHS)

2.1.6. The PA system may not be used for play-by-play game calling

2.1.7. The PA system may not be used for commentator discussion between announcers about a previous play

2.1.8. **WHS Graduation**: The PA system can be used for events related to WHS graduation prior to 7:30 p.m. An NRC Permit is required for any graduation extended beyond 7:30 p.m.

2.1.9. **Sound levels** are not to exceed 70dBA during testing and 85dBA during allowed activities as those noted above. Max sound levels will be monitored and limited via PA system's "sound governor" built-in mechanism

2.1.10. **Accountability for Compliance – Wellesley Public Schools Use**

- Accountability for all WPS athletic events resides with the Athletic Director.
- Accountability for WHS Graduation events resides with the WHS Principal.
- Accountability resides with the permit requester for any ad-hoc requests for WPS.

2.2. The Permanent PA system conditions for **Non-Wellesley Public School** usage:

2.2.1. The Permanent PA System is only allowed with NRC permitting.

2.2.2. When permitted, the use of the permanent PA system shall be controlled by the permit holder such that the volume, direction, and duration of the sound is the minimum needed to meet the purpose of the use of the sound, and which will minimize the impact of the sound on other users of the Hunnewell Track & Field and its abutters. The volume shall not exceed 70 dBA at any property line unless granted by the NRC or its Director, but not to exceed 85 dBA at any time.

- 2.2.3. Amplified sound permit requests are required at least 60 days prior to the permit start date. Notice less than 60 days in advance will be considered at the NRC's discretion.
  - 2.2.4. Amplified sound should be considered by the same user group prioritization as used by the Playing Fields Task Force with the following prioritization: (1) Town-Wide Special Events; (2) Wellesley Public Schools; (3) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues; (4) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs; (5) Wellesley Resident Adult Groups; (6) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use; (7) Charitable Groups; (8) Non-Resident Groups
  - 2.2.5. Permit request examples (for illustrative purposes): Non-profit one-off or fundraising events; Seasonal youth sports; Summer camps/programming; Town-sponsored events (e.g. Wellesley Wonderful Weekend); or-profit (e.g. movie production)
  - 2.2.6. In addition to considering location, time, duration and frequency, the NRC should also consider the following when determining if approval will be granted: (1) Total number of approved permit requests with amplified sound at a given time or period of time in specific location or adjacent location; and (2) Equity and parity considerations (e.g. gender across youth sports)
  - 2.2.7. Accountability for Compliance for Non-WPS Permits resides with the permit requester consistent with other NRC permitted activities.
- 2.3. 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 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.
- 2.4. 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.
- 2.5. At no time may a secondary sound system be used in conjunction with the permanent sound system, unless permitted by the NRC.
- 2.6. The school athletics department will test the permanent sound system annually to ensure proper functioning.
- 2.7. Violation of this sound system policy may result in the denial of future permits by the NRC and the PFTF.
- 2.8. **Accountability, Policy Review and Points of Contact ADDED FROM MAY 2023 LIGHTS POLICY**
- 2.8.1. For all other issues related to WHS practices and games held on the Track & Field, the community should contact the WPS Athletic Director.
  - 2.8.2. Representatives of WHS, NRC, and the neighborhood endeavor to meet two times per year (at the end of the Fall and Spring seasons) to maintain communications and review policies and guidelines pertaining to Wellesley High School's use of the Track & Field under lights. Comments / concerns relating to non-school use of the fields can be directed to NRC.
  - 2.8.3. Current contacts are listed below:

- WPD: Chief Scott Whitemore (main: 781-235-1212)
- WHS: John Brown, Athletic Director ([brownj@wellesleyps.org](mailto:brownj@wellesleyps.org))
- NRC Director: Brandon Schmitt ([nrc@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:nrc@wellesleyma.gov))