



Dan Sweet
7/23/18
6:59pm

July 23, 2018
Town of Kensington
Board of Selectmen
95 Amesbury Road
Kensington, NH 03833

RE: Kensington Youth Athletic Association (KYAA) – Scheduling Process Information and Clarification to the June 20, 2018 Minutes

Dear Members of the Board of Selectmen,

KYAA was made aware that there was discussion at the June 20, 2018 Board of Selectmen meeting regarding the scheduling process for the fields at Sawyer Park, presumably for the Spring of 2018. We feel that the generalizations summarized in the official minutes are unfair and incorrect. The minutes from the June 20 read as follows:

"It was explained that some organizations block off the calendar that they are going to use the fields and then they don't. When the board gets a blocked off calendar then the field is blocked from others using it. They will be talking to KYAA and the scheduling and working out the scheduling issues."

The summary/statement above suggests that KYAA intentionally and blindly "blocks" the calendar as part of the field use application preventing others from using the facility. This is far from the truth.

To be clear and to reiterate the information that was supplied to the Town as part of the initial application, this spring KYAA fielded 8 teams with more than 70 Kensington athletes participating in the program requiring significant field time. All of KYAA's spring teams are involved in multi-town leagues whose schedules have to be coordinated and merged which usually doesn't happen until April. KYAA bases the field request on **consistent** days and times for each team as we all know how difficult it is to schedule and coordinate competing family activities. Some variability has to be incorporated based on competing games, special events, foul weather, conflicts, etc. that arise. This is not 'blocking' a calendar.

KYAA's coaches communicate and participate in the early season scheduling process and are polled ahead of time for available days and times in their schedule. Once again, keeping consistent, yet separate times for all coaches allows Kensington's teams regularly scheduled times on the fields and attempts to maintain some predictability for the families involved. Practices were combined (as was field use time) where necessary as KYAA's pool of volunteer coaches is the limiting factor.

Near the beginning of the scheduling process, the Town asked that KYAA "give up" 5 dates and times so *out-of-town* organizations could have use of the fields. Those requests were all accommodated. There were several instances this season that KYAA had to schedule MORE time than was originally anticipated, including the dates that were 'given up'. During these times, when



necessary, the Kensington baseball and softball teams practiced on the Multi-purpose athletic field because the ball fields were reserved by *out-of-town* programs. On more than one occasion, when KYAA arrived to the Park one or more of the baseball/softball fields were not being used by the *out-of-town* program. Presumably, out-of-town programs have access to other options, fields and resources in those other towns. Kensington's teams do not have that luxury – Sawyer Park is the only option.

Incidents when out-of-town programs were occupying a field that KYAA had reserved were communicated to the Town as well – there were several. Some of the *out-of-town* programs were less than pleasant when they were informed of KYAA's reservation and especially when asked to leave or share the space. In some instances, the *out-of-town* program used the softball/baseball field and failed to rake or drag the playing surface after they were finished. This issue was also communicated to the Town.

It is important to note that there were no incidents when KYAA was using a field for which an *out-of-town* program had previously secured a field reservation. There were likely some incidents when KYAA had a field booked and it went unused – invariably, that will happen due to schedule changes, conflicts, weather, communication issues, etc. KYAA makes every effort to communicate cancellations, etc. to the Town via email and phone text. We believe this was very evident to the Town's field scheduling coordinators and hope they would say the same.

KYAA was of the impression that the scheduling and coordination for Spring 2018 was successful for the teams of Kensington. Conflicts are bound to arise, especially when established schedules and procedures are not followed and a sense of 'entitlement' is not addressed. KYAA appreciated the efforts made by Holly and Kathy through the process to schedule, communicate and attempt to address anomalies.

This correspondence is intended to provide the Board of Selectmen (and the Town) with some detail as to the lengths that KYAA takes to ensure fair and consistent scheduling for Kensington's teams and athletes, as well as *out-of-town* entities. Should you require further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

KYAA Board of Directors

Dan Sweet, President, Softball Coordinator

Bob Long, Vice-President

Jonathan Rozier, Treasurer, Equipment Coordinator

Jared Seavey, Secretary

Matt Minghella, Baseball Coordinator

Dave Macek, Rec Department Liaison

Meghan Chan, Soccer Coordinator

Greg Lacasse, Basketball Coordinator