

Roxanne Maher

From: Scott Johnson
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2023 10:54 AM
To: Jay Hartling; Andra Ingalls
Cc: Fred Allyn, III; Roxanne Maher; josh@joshuasworldwide.com; ledyardyouthleaguefootball@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Ledyard Youth Football League - Rain cancellations

Good morning Andra,

Unfortunately, we don't have the facilities to hold practice in the rain. Our fields are natural turf fields and using them in certain conditions is a safety concern. In addition to safety using the field when wet causes significant damage. Our field closures are not meant to take practice time away from the kids, but rather ensure the kids continue to have a field to use. The only football games played in the heavy rain are on synthetic turf fields, games held on natural turf fields would be canceled/ rescheduled in the event we receive significant rain.

Unfortunately, the solution would be to install a synthetic turf field and that would cost over a million dollars.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson Jr, CPSI

Director

Ledyard Parks and Recreation Department
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From: Jay Hartling <jhartling@ledyard.net>
Sent: Friday, August 25, 2023 5:51 PM
To: Andra Ingalls <aingalls@ledyardct.org>
Cc: Fred Allyn, III <mayor@ledyardct.org>; Roxanne Maher <council@ledyardct.org>; Scott Johnson <Scott@ledyardrec.org>; josh@joshuasworldwide.com; ledyardyouthleaguefootball@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Ledyard Youth Football League - Rain cancellations

LPS is always willing to collaborate to figure out solutions. Unfortunately the rain poses a challenge for all of the teams in Ledyard, including our HS programs.

If there is something we can do, please have LYF reach out to us, the President has my number.

Jay

On Fri, Aug 25, 2023 at 4:07 PM Andra Ingalls <aingalls@ledyardct.org> wrote:

All,

Where can the Ledyard Youth Football League practice when it rains?

I just had a conversation with Joshua McKeon (of Joshua's Worldwide.) He emphasized that he was not calling me as a rep for the Ledyard Youth Football League, but rather a coach and a local business owner that supports the League. His interest is providing a healthy community opportunity for the kids.

When it rains, football practice is canceled. For the past several years, Josh, because of his business resource, has been able to bring his team to a field at Mashantucket to practice in the rain. The tribe is happy to host them and does not charge for the use of the field. Recently, the League has stipulated that if one team goes, they all go. Fair enough, but the field on the Reservation is not large enough for the entire league at once. So, an opportunity is lost.

Football is a sport that plays games even in rain. How can we make a way to let the League practice in the rain, too? It is totally understandable that the fields need to be maintained for all the sports that use them. Still, there must be a solution here. Is it Depta? The High School? I think we all agree that sports provide a whole lot of good for our kids. Let's find a way to make sure that this opportunity isn't lost to wet weather.

I suspect this issue can be solved. Again, the question is where can the Ledyard Youth Football League practice when it rains?

Thank you!

Andra Ingalls

Town Councilor
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Finance Committee Member
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