

TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-13

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 138 OF THE CODE OF
THE TOWNSHIP OF MAPLE SHADE, ENTITLED "PARKS AND
RECREATION AREAS," ARTICLE II, "SYNTHETIC ATHLETIC
FIELD USE"**

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that amendments to Chapter 138 are necessary to protect the Township's investment in its synthetic athletic fields; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council further finds that establishing clear standards for field use, maintenance, enforcement, and penalties will promote public safety, preserve municipal assets, extend the useful life of the synthetic athletic field, and ensure equitable access for all permitted users.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Maple Shade, County of Burlington and State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 138, Article II, §138-13, "Allocation of fields and facilities," is hereby amended by adding a new Subsection F to read as follows:

F. Temporary closure of synthetic athletic fields.

(1) The Township Manager, Recreation Director, Director of Public Works or their designee may temporarily close any synthetic athletic field due to maintenance, grooming, repairs, manufacturer warranty work, inclement weather, unsafe field conditions, public safety concerns, emergency operations, or any condition which may damage the playing surface or create an unsafe condition.

(2) Closure pursuant to this subsection shall not result in liability by the Township to the permit holder for the payment of compensation or monetary damages as a result of any field closure.

Section 2. Chapter 138, Article II, §138-14, "Facility use rules and regulations," is hereby amended by adding new Subsections M through Y as follows:

M. Only molded rubber cleats or manufacturer-approved synthetic turf footwear shall be permitted. Metal cleats, detachable cleats, track spikes, golf shoes and similar footwear are prohibited.

N. Food shall not be permitted on the synthetic playing surface.

O. Water contained in non-glass containers shall be the only beverage permitted on the playing surface

P. Glass containers are prohibited on the playing surface.

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Q. Tobacco products, vaping devices, chewing tobacco and similar products are prohibited.

R. Fireworks, open flames, charcoal grills, paint, confetti, glitter, colored powder and similar materials capable of damaging the playing surface are prohibited.

S. Bicycles, E-bikes, skateboards, scooters, E-scooters, rollerblades, hoverboards and similar recreational devices are prohibited on the playing surface.

T. Golf practice, shot put, discus, javelin, hammer throw and similar activities are prohibited.

U. No tents, canopies, signs, banners, fencing or equipment requiring stakes, spikes or anchors shall be installed without prior Township approval.

V. No unauthorized motor vehicles, golf carts, utility vehicles, trailers, lifts or motorized equipment shall be permitted on the synthetic field except Township-authorized maintenance or emergency vehicles.

W. Portable goals, benches, nets and athletic equipment shall not be dragged across the synthetic playing surface.

X. All users shall comply with the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations and warranty requirements applicable to the synthetic turf system.

Y. Any observed damage, seam separation, loose inlay, excessive wear or hazardous condition shall immediately be reported to the Township.

Section 3. Chapter 138, Article II, is hereby amended by adding a new §138-14.1 entitled "Turf Preservation" to read as follows:

A. Practice activities may be relocated or rotated to minimize excessive wear.

B. Digging, staking, piercing or otherwise penetrating the synthetic surface is prohibited.

C. Users shall not remove, relocate or redistribute infill material.

D. No chemicals, cleaners or similar substances shall be applied without prior Township approval.

E. The Township may restrict or prohibit activities necessary to preserve the useful life of the synthetic field.

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Section 4. Chapter 138, Article II, §138-16, "Conditions of use," is hereby amended by adding new Subsections F through J as follows:

F. Permit holders shall supervise participants, coaches, spectators and guests using Township facilities.

G. Permit holders shall inspect the field prior to use and immediately report unsafe conditions or damage.

H. Any person or organization causing damage shall reimburse the Township for all inspection, engineering, repair, restoration, replacement, labor, material and administrative costs.

I. Violation of this Chapter may result in warning, suspension, revocation or denial of future field use privileges.

J. The Township reserves the right to cancel, suspend or modify any permit due to maintenance, weather, emergency operations, public safety concerns or municipal necessity.

SECTION 5. Chapter 138, Article II, is hereby amended by adding a new §138-16.1 entitled "Violations and Enforcement," to read as follows:

§138-16.1 Violations and Enforcement

A. Violations.

It shall be a violation of this Article for any person or organization to:

- (1) Use the synthetic athletic field without an approved Township permit where a permit is required.
- (2) Violate any provision of this Article.
- (3) Damage or misuse the synthetic athletic field or related Township facilities.
- (4) Fail to comply with the lawful directions of Township personnel acting within the scope of their authority.
- (5) Permit participants, coaches, volunteers or spectators under their supervision to violate the provisions of this Article.

B. Enforcement.

The Township Manager, Recreation Director, Police Department, Director of Public Works or any employee designated by the Township Manager shall have authority to enforce this Article and may require any individual or organization violating this Article to immediately cease prohibited activities or vacate the facility.

C. Administrative Remedies.

In addition to any other remedy authorized by law, the Township may:

- (1) Issue a written warning;

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- (2) Suspend or revoke an existing permit;
- (3) Deny future permit applications;
- (4) Require reimbursement for damage to Township property; and
- (5) Take any other administrative action necessary to protect Township property and ensure compliance with this Article.

D. Penalties.

Any person or organization violating any provision of this Article shall, upon conviction, be subject to the penalties established in Chapter 1, Article II of the Code of the Township of Maple Shade.

Section 6. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 7. Severability.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence or clause of this Ordinance is adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage, approval and publication as required by law.

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION

The foregoing ordinance was introduced at a meeting of the Maple Shade Township Council, held on August 6, 2026 and was read for the first time.

This ordinance will be further considered for final passage at a Regular Meeting of the Township Council to be held on September 10, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. at 200 Stiles Avenue, Maple Shade, NJ 08052. Copies of this ordinance will be made available on the township website at: www.mapleshade.com and at the Municipal Clerk's office to member of the general public who request same during normal operating hours. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning the ordinance.

Andrea T. McVeigh, RMC
Maple Shade Township