

Hello Parks and Recreation Team,

I am writing on behalf of Downtown United Soccer Club, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving over 1,500 children annually. We appreciate your commitment to fairness and accessibility, but we have concerns about the proposed permit system changes:

Prioritization Issue: Focusing on game permits over practice permits undermines the importance of regular practice for skill development and team building. A 2 or 3 to 1 practice-to-game ratio is often recommended.

Impact on Training: Limited practice time could lead to less prepared athletes and increased injury risks during games. It may also negatively affect programs focused on skill-building and inclusivity, reducing overall sports engagement.

Broader Implications: Issues like depression, obesity, and substance abuse make ample field time essential for all activities—games, practices, and clinics. It would eliminate offerings like our TopSoccer program for children and adults with intellectual, emotional or physical disabilities.

Financial and Administrative Burdens: A more complex permit process and potential loss of renewal rights could threaten many organizations' sustainability, impacting their ability to plan and operate effectively.

Alternative Suggestion: We propose maintaining flexible weekday renewals and encouraging game-focused weekends without exclusivity. This approach allows for better use of field space and supports all users.

We respectfully ask you to reconsider these changes and work with youth sports organizations to develop a system that truly supports the youth of NYC.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Kevin

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