



CITY OF NORTHFIELD PROCEDURES FOR USE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS / MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

Requests for use of any Northfield Municipal Facilities, including Athletic Fields, by outside organizations must be coordinated through the City Clerk's Office, and must be submitted in writing, on the forms provided by the City of Northfield. It is a two-part process, consisting of a Use of Facilities Application, and if approved, a Use of Facilities Agreement.

The **City of Northfield Use of Facilities Application** will require the requesting organization to provide a detailed request as to the type of activity, dates to take place, and contact names and telephone numbers of members in charge. Mandatory fee applies if use of athletic field lights is requested and approved. Refer to Chapter 250-3 of the City of Northfield Municipal Code.

If Use is approved, the requesting organization must complete a **City of Northfield Use of Facilities Agreement** and provide a Certificate of Insurance listing the specified activity and naming the City of Northfield as Certificate Holder and Additional Insured. A copy of the Additional Insured Endorsement must be attached to the certificate.

Requests for athletic fields must be considered for approval by the City Council at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing body. Meeting schedules can be found at www.cityofnorthfield.org.

Submission of an application does not guarantee that use of facilities will be approved.

IMPORTANT – APPLIES TO ANY USE OF FACILITY (IES) WHERE MINORS WILL BE PRESENT:

The applicant/s shall be required to verify, assert and certify that:

1. Activities conducted at the FACILITY (IES) shall be in full compliance Under New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.21) which can be reviewed at: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/reporting/links/>
2. The applicant/s, coaches, and volunteers have read the City of Northfield's "Protection and Safe Treatment of Minors" Policy which has been attached to this document, and that all participants will adhere to conduct requirements, including mandatory background checks for all applicant/s, coaches and volunteers involved in the activity.
3. The applicant/s, coaches, and volunteers have completed the Rutgers SAFETY Clinic course (*Sports Awareness for Educating Today's Youth*™) which is a three-hour program that meets the "Minimum Standards for Volunteer Coaches Safety Orientation and Training Skills Programs" under (N.J.A.C. 5:52), or an acceptable equivalent course, such as the MEL Protecting Children video which can be viewed at: <https://melsafetyinstitute.org/safety-videos/>

No activity may take place until the approval has been granted, and the applicant receives a return copy of the fully executed Use of Facilities Agreement.



CITY OF NORTHFIELD
Application for Use of Facilities
(Other than Use of Birch Grove Park Center)

Name and Address of Organization: _____

Tell Us Who You Are / Description and Purpose of Organization: _____

Is the Group a Not-For-Profit Organization? Yes No

Do Participants Pay a Fee for Your Sport / Event? Yes No

If Yes, How Much? \$ _____ per: Person Day Season _____ (other)

Name of Applicant / Responsible Party: _____ Title/Affiliation _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (C) _____ (W) _____

Name and Location of Facility(ies) Being Requested: _____

For the Following Purpose: _____

on the Following Date(s): _____

Specify Hours of Use: From: _____ To: _____ Are Field Lights Requested*?

*If Yes, Provide Dates / Times for Requested Light Use: _____

**LIGHT USE FEE APPLIES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 250-3 OF THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD MUNICIPAL CODE*

of Participants per Date: _____ # of Participants who are Northfield Residents: _____

Will Juveniles be Present? Yes No If Yes, What Ages? _____

Have You Applied to Other Municipalities for Use of their Facilities for this Event? Yes No

If Yes, Name of Municipality/ies: _____

Date/s and Disposition of Request/s: _____

*Applicant has received a copy of the **City of Northfield Use of Facilities Guidelines, Use of Facilities Agreement and City of Northfield "Protection and Safe Treatment of Minors" Policy** and agrees to abide by and comply with the terms of the Guidelines, Policy, and Agreement. Applicant further acknowledges that **IF THE INTENDED USE IS FOR ANY ATHLETIC FIELD**, s/he must obtain from the Municipal Clerk's Office the date/time of the Council Meeting at which the Application will be considered, and attendance at same is required in order for the Application to be heard.*

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED

APPLICANT: _____ DATE: _____

Signature

Note: The City of Northfield has the right, in its sole discretion, to deny, limit, or revoke the use of requested facility(ies) when in the opinion of the City of Northfield the use presents a risk of unreasonable injury to persons or damage to property of the City of Northfield or others.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE ANY PORTION OF THE APPLICATION WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC REJECTION



APPLICATION FOR USE OF BIRCH GROVE PARK CENTER

NAME OF GROUP OR ORGANIZATION: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

Person Responsible: Name: _____ Title: _____

Home Address: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (C) _____ (W) _____

The Applicant requests the use of Birch Grove Park Center for the following purpose: _____

on the following date(s): _____

Specify the hours of use: From: _____ To: _____ # of people to attend: _____

TERMS OF USE

- Users are responsible for their own set up and break down of the Park Center meeting room.
- The facility must be left in the same condition it was in prior to use, including wiping tables and placing all trash in proper receptacles.
- **No use** of the snack bar area is permitted; **No access** to the snack bar is permitted.
- Rest rooms may only be accessed from *inside* Park Center and the exterior rest room doors are to remain locked at all times.
- Park Center may only be used for the purpose specified on the application.
- Application is subject to approval by the Birch Grove Park Superintendent.
- Applicant must sign for receipt of Key between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and is not to allow Key out of his/her possession at any time.
- Key is to be returned to the Birch Grove Park Superintendent NOT LATER than 12:00 p.m. *the day after the event*; applicant must sign for return of Key.
- Violation of the Use Agreement Terms will prohibit the Responsible Person from any further use of the facility.

Applicant has read and agrees to abide by and comply with the TERMS OF USE as stated above.

Print Name / Name of Organization

Signature

Applicant has received a copy of the City of Northfield Use of Facilities Guidelines, Use of Facilities Agreement and City of Northfield "Protection and Safe Treatment of Minors" Policy and agrees to abide by and comply with the terms of the Guidelines, Policy, and Agreement. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED. The City of Northfield has the right, in its sole discretion, to deny, limit, or revoke the use of requested facility(ies) when in the opinion of the City of Northfield the use presents a risk of unreasonable injury to persons or damage to property of the City of Northfield or others.

APPLICANT: _____ DATE: _____

Signature

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

PROTECTION AND SAFE TREATMENT OF MINORS

I. Purpose and Scope:

Under New Jersey law (N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.21), an abused or neglected child is anyone “under the age of 18 who is caused harm by a parent, guardian or other person having custody or control of that minor.” A child who is under the age of eighteen (18) is considered to be abused or neglected when a parent, caregiver, another child or another adult does one of more of the following:

1. Inflicts or allows to be inflicted physical injury by other than accidental means that creates substantial harm or risk of substantial harm, and/or
2. Fails to provide proper supervision or adequate food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care although financially able or assisted to do so, and/or
3. Commits or allows to be committed an act of sexual abuse against a child.

Child abuse can have long-term effects on victims. A lack of trust and difficulty with healthy relationships is common, as is a core feeling of worthlessness and low self-esteem. There may even be long-term trouble with regulating emotions that can lead to destructive behaviors.

There are typically four common types of abuse:

- The failure to meet a child’s basic needs, physically or emotionally, which is called *neglect*.
- The intentional use of physical force that results in injury, which is called *physical abuse*.
- The practice of any behaviors that harm a child’s feelings of self-worth or emotional well-being, which is *emotional abuse*.
- Engaging in sexual acts with a child including pornography, which is *sexual abuse*.

Unfortunately, statistics reflect that abuse is all too common in any form.

- In New Jersey, abuse reports involving 80,000 children are filed each year. Fifty thousand of those children receive prevention and post-response services.
- 75% of the cases involve neglect, 18% of the cases involve physical abuse, and psychological abuse accounts for 7% of the cases.
- 55% of the perpetrators are female, while males account for 45%.
- Sadly, child abuse is a vicious cycle, in that 30% of abused children will later abuse their own children.

The statistics and characteristics pertaining to *sexual abuse* are sobering and equally as disheartening:

- ✓ **“Peer-to-Peer”** abuse is by far the most common, where one or more children or adolescent(s) sexually abuses or inappropriately touches another. Legally, the abuser must be at least four years older to trigger the statute. The *American Psychological Association* reports this type of abuse is driven by power and dominance, the same factors that drive bullying within this age group. In fact, bullying can be a precursor to sexual abuse, especially when there is a lack of supervision.
- ✓ In contrast, **“adult-to-child”** abuse is typically thought out and planned in advance, demanding access, privacy and control. These three factors demand a specific type of relationship and setting, meaning that 90% of juvenile sexual abuse victims know their abuser. The scope of the problem is massive: by the age of 18, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys have experienced sexual abuse. From those figures, 88% of those molestations are attributed to individuals with pedophilia. ***Pedophilia is a psychotic disorder in which an adult or adolescent demonstrates a primary sexual attraction to prepubescent children.*** However, it is important, not to confuse pedophilia with actual child molestation, as many pedophiles never act on their attractions.
- ✓ Child sexual abusers are not always easy to spot. Though seven out of every eight molesters are male, they match the general population in ethnicity, religion, education, and marital status. So, there is no stereotype, especially since abusers go to great lengths to blend in. However, only 10% abuse children that they don't know, and 68% look no further than their own families for victims.
- ✓ 40% of abusers first begin molesting children before they themselves reach the age of 15, and the vast majority before the age of 20.
- ✓ Adolescent abusers generally begin their acts of abuse on younger siblings.
- ✓ Most sexual abuse occurs within the family. However, molesters can gain access to children outside of their own families through employment or volunteer work with an organization that works primarily with children. This allows them both time alone with potential victims and the ability to build trust and credibility. In fact, child abusers are often known and respected in their communities for their dedication to children.
- ✓ In terms of a victim profile, it is important to remember that, although there are characteristics that make some children more vulnerable, every child is in danger. Passive, lonely, or troubled children, especially those who live with step-parents or single parents, may be targeted. Children between the ages of 7 and 13 are most at risk, and children from low socioeconomic backgrounds or rural areas are more likely to be victimized.
- ✓ Molesters have behavioral patterns that can be identified as **“grooming”** their victims. Sexual abuse is rarely violent. The molester's goal is to solicit compliance by beginning to win the victim's trust. There might be pet names, gifts to foster exclusivity and encouragement to “keep secrets.” The molester might begin to spend time with the victim outside of the regular program or schedule, contacting parents to become involved in a child's life in some capacity, like babysitting. For

this reason, many parents are shocked after abuse comes to light simply because the abuser seemed trustworthy. Inevitably, the favoritism is not enough to keep the victim silent anymore, and the abuser resorts to threats—threats that play off of a child’s guilt over the sexual contact.

- ✓ During the grooming process and abuse, victims often begin to show signs such as sexual behaviors or strong sexual language that is too adult for their age. Many children feel at fault after the abuse and begin to suffer guilt and depression, even resorting to self-harm. They may begin to display cuts and scratches or other self-inflicted injuries. However, some children are naïve and unaware of the gravity of the abusive nature of their experience. Research shows that children often delay reporting sexual abuse. They should not be disbelieved just because they waited a long time to seek help.

In the State of New Jersey every level of government has a role in protecting minors.

- At the State level:
 - State law is enforced through the N.J. Family Division of the State court system. The court has broad powers, including the ability to remove children from dangerous situations
 - The Department of Children and Families, specifically the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, combines all state operations intended to safeguard children into a single, coordinated program working closely with the Courts, legal advocates and law enforcement.
 - The Department of Corrections operates adult prisons and youth correctional centers to deal with perpetrators, while individual counties operate youth detention centers and special purpose schools.
- At the local level:
 - Educational professionals have the most contact with children, meaning they are often the first to detect issues.
 - Housing Authority employees may also frequently come into contact with children.
 - Municipalities and counties operate or sponsor a variety of programs that involve children including but not limited to:
 - Recreation programs
 - Before and After Care programs
 - Youth sports leagues
 - Youth centers
 - Youth in Government programs
 - Junior law enforcement training programs
 - The role of **law enforcement agencies** is especially important. Police officers assist in resolving reported situations, often acting as first identifiers. In New Jersey, police are given broad authority to protect children, including the authority to remove them from their parents or caregivers without a court order if necessary to prevent imminent danger to a child. Under the **Prevention of Domestic Violence Act**, a law enforcement officer must make an arrest when the officer finds “probable cause” that domestic violence has occurred. This

holds even if the victim refuses to make a complaint. The Act is invoked in situations where the victim exhibits signs of injury caused by domestic violence, when a warrant is in effect, or when there is probable cause to believe that a weapon has been involved in an act of domestic violence. Abusers often use psychological tactics or coercive control over their partners, such as making threats to prevent a victim from leaving or contacting friends, family or police. But even if these conditions are not met, an officer may still make an arrest or sign a criminal complaint if there is probable cause to believe acts of domestic violence have been committed. Now if there is no visible sign of injury but the victim states that an injury did, in fact, occur, the officer must take other factors into consideration in determining probable cause.

The City of Northfield is committed to the safety of all individuals in its community however, the City of Northfield has a particular concern for those who are potentially vulnerable, including minor children. The City of Northfield regards the abuse of children as abhorrent in all its forms and pledges to hold its officials, employees and volunteers to the highest standards of conduct in interacting with children. Statistics show that 93% of victims under the age of 18 know the abuser. Further, a perpetrator does not have to be an adult to harm a child but is typically in a caregiver role. They can have any relationship to the child including a playmate, family member, a teacher, a coach, or instructor.

The City of Northfield is fully committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of minors who interact with officials, employees, and volunteers of the City of Northfield to the maximum extent possible. These Policy Procedures establish the guidelines for officials, employees, and volunteers who set policy for the City of Northfield or may work with or interact with individuals under 18 years of age, and those who supervise employees, and volunteers who may work with or interact with individuals under 18 years of age, with the goal of promoting the safety and wellbeing of minors.

This Model Policy provides guidelines that apply broadly to interactions between minors and officials, employees, and volunteers in programs operated by the City of Northfield or affiliated programs or activities. All officials, employees, and volunteers are responsible for understanding and complying with this policy.

II. **Definitions:**

- **Authorized Adult**- Individuals, age 18 and older, paid or unpaid, who interact with, supervise, chaperone, or otherwise oversee and/or interact with minors in program activities, recreational, and/or residential facilities. The Authorized Adults' roles may include positions as counselors, chaperones, coaches, instructors, etc.
- **Child or Minor - A person under the age of eighteen (18).**
- **Department Heads**- Appointed department heads of the City of Northfield, including the chief administrative officer, and any assistants.

- **Direct Contact** - Positions with the possibility of care, supervision, guidance or control of children or routine interaction with children.
- **Dual Reporting** – Reporting possible abuse to both the N.J. Department of Children and Families and law enforcement at the same time by the individual designated by the City of Northfield to report all possible cases of abuse.
- **Employees, Staff, or Counselors** – persons working for the City of Northfield on a full-time or part-time basis, and compensated by the City of Northfield.
- **Facilities** - Facilities owned by, under the control of, or rented or leased to the City of Northfield.
- **Grooming** - is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them. Refer to Appendix B for more detailed information on grooming.
- **N.J.M.E.L. J.I.F.** - New Jersey Municipal Excess Liability Fund Joint Insurance fund.
- **Officials** – Elected officials of the City of Northfield, and appointed Board members.
- **One-On-One Contact** - Personal, unsupervised interaction between any Authorized Adult and a participant without at least one other Authorized Adult, parent or legal guardian being present.
- **Programs** - Programs and activities offered or sponsored by the City of Northfield.
- **Volunteers** - Individuals volunteering their time to provide services to the City of Northfield who are not on the payroll and receive no compensation.

III. **Policy:**

The City of Northfield is charged with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all its citizens, including children under the age of 18. To that end, the City of Northfield is firmly committed to protecting children under the care and supervision of the City of Northfield from all forms of physical, mental, sexual and emotional abuse. The City of Northfield is committed to establishing and implementing safeguards to eliminate opportunities for abuse of children entrusted to the care of the City of Northfield. The procedures outlined below shall apply to all officials, employees, and volunteers who are either expected to or may reasonably be foreseen to have direct contact with minors in the exercise of their role on behalf of the City of Northfield.

IV. **Recruitment and Hiring of Employees and Vetting of Individuals Volunteering Their Time:**

- i. All prospective employees and volunteers shall undergo a thorough and complete background check, including the following:
 1. For *non-supervisory employees*
 - a. National Database Criminal History Search
 - b. National Sex Offender Search
 - c. Social Security Trace/Validation
 - d. Employment Verification
 - e. Motor Vehicle Record – if the employees will be driving any municipally-owned vehicles or equipment.

- f. Reference Check
- 2. ***For summer employees who will be interacting with minors, including but not limited to lifeguards, camp counselors, coaches, and instructors:***
 - a. National Database Criminal History Search
 - b. National Sex Offender Search
 - c. Social Security Trace/Validation
- 3. ***For employees in supervisory positions involving minors:***
 - a. National Database Criminal History Search
 - b. National Sex Offender Search
 - c. Social Security Trace/Validation
 - d. Education Verification
 - e. Employment Verification
 - f. Credit Check
 - g. Motor Vehicle Record
 - h. Reference Check

Many local governments hire minor children to work in their summer or seasonal programs. It may be difficult to obtain any background information for minors. It is recommended that the local government attempt to verify any past employment for minors between 16 and 18 years of age, with the consent of the parents or guardians.

Written documentation of the background check shall be maintained by the City in perpetuity.

- ii. Background checks that disclose any negative or questionable results must be reviewed and approved by the City **prior to** the individual being hired and/or working with minors. **Provisional hiring should not be permitted.**
- iii. All prospective employees and volunteers must complete the training adopted by the City **PRIOR TO** starting employment or volunteer service. **In addition to completing the training course adopted by the City,** it is highly recommended that all volunteer coaches complete the Rutgers SAFETY Clinic course (*Sports Awareness for Educating Today's Youth*™), which is a three-hour program that meets the "Minimum Standards for Volunteer Coaches Safety Orientation and Training Skills Programs" under (N.J.A.C. 5:52) and provides partial civil immunity protection to volunteer coaches under the "Little League Law" (2A:62A-6 et. seq.) The current Rutgers Safety Clinic Course includes a module on the sexual abuse of minors. If coaches completed the Rutgers course more than five years ago and it did not have any training on the sexual abuse of minors, it is highly recommended that the coaches be required to watch the video on the MEL website. Documentation verifying that the coaches watched and understood their responsibilities must be kept to confirm that the training was completed.
- iv. The City shall periodically re-check and document the Megan's Law directory for New Jersey to make certain that current employees are not listed.

Once employed, authorized Adults who are employed are required to notify the appropriate Human Resources representative of an arrest (charged with a misdemeanor or felony) or conviction for an offense within 72 hours of knowledge of the arrest or conviction in order to ascertain the fitness of those employees and volunteers to interact with children.

V. Procedures and Responsibilities of Officials:

Under New Jersey Law, an official may be held liable for the abuse or neglect of a child if he or she fails to implement appropriate safeguards to protect the child while the minor has been entrusted to the care of the City of Northfield. Most importantly, recent changes in the law in New Jersey extended the statute of limitations for child abuse and neglect cases substantially, thus placing local officials and employees at a far greater risk.

A valid cause of action can be filed by an alleged victim well after the official has left office. It is, therefore, critically important for officials to establish and monitor policies and procedures designed to safeguard minors entrusted to the care of the City of Northfield.

➤ Officials of the City of Northfield are required to:

- i. Complete the initial training course adopted by the City of Northfield, and any updated/refresher course, in order to better understand their legal duties and responsibilities under Federal and N.J. State Law. The training program will include the following concepts:
 - Recognizing the signs of abuse and neglect of minors.
 - Establishing guidelines for protecting minors from emotional and physical abuse and neglect.
 - Understanding and being prepared to implement the procedures necessary to eliminate opportunities for abuse.
 - Becoming familiar with the legal requirements to report suspected cases of abuse.
 - Fully understanding the legal consequences for not being diligent in making certain that employees of the City of Northfield adhere to all policies and procedures as adopted.
- ii. Meet **annually** with all Department Heads to review the “Policy Addressing Sexual Abuse of Minors”, and to verify that the administration is adhering to this policy which includes all of the following provisions. If the policy is not being adhered to, it is the legal obligation of the officials of the City of Northfield to implement whatever changes are necessary as soon as possible to make certain the policy is followed.

- iii. Conduct *random and unannounced* visits to program sites to observe the setup of the programs and conduct of the employees and volunteers of the City of Northfield.

VI. Program Procedures:

All City of Northfield programs operated by, sponsored by, or affiliated with the City of Northfield shall comply with the following procedures. All officials, employees, and volunteers who interact with or could possibly interact with minors, and those employees who supervise employees who interact with or could potentially interact with minors, shall adhere to the following policy.

The following policies shall apply to **all programs** offered by, sponsored by or affiliated with the City of Northfield. As an essential element of compliance with the overall objective of protecting and addressing the safe treatment of minors, the City of Northfield shall:

- a. Establish a written procedure for the notification of the minor's parent/legal guardian in case of an emergency, including medical or behavioral problems, natural disasters, or other significant program disruptions. Authorized Adults with the program, as well as participants and their parents/legal guardians, must be advised of this procedure in writing prior to the participation of the minors in the program. In addition, the City of Northfield shall provide information to parents or legal guardians detailing the manner in which the participant can be contacted during the program.
- b. Make certain that all program participants provide a *Medical Treatment Authorization form* to the City of Northfield.
- c. Implement and adopt a "*Code of Conduct*" for volunteer and paid staff members which, *at a minimum*, will include the following:

Code of Conduct

- Staff members will, at all times, respect the rights of program participants and use positive techniques of guidance including positive reinforcement and encouragement.
- Staff members will portray a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, courtesy, tact, and maturity.
- Staff members shall not transport children in their own vehicles, unless written authorization from the child's parent or guardian has been received.

- Members of the staff shall not be alone with children they meet in the programs outside of the camp. This includes babysitting, sleepovers, and inviting children to their home.
- Staff members shall, at all times, be visible to other staff members while supervising minors. Any exceptions require a written explanation before the fact and approval of the Program Director.
- Staff members will appear neat, clean, and appropriately attired.
- Staff members will refrain from intimate displays of affection towards others in the presence of children, parents and staff.
- Staff members are required to refrain from texting, and posting or checking any of the social media outlets while they are working or volunteering. The only exception is for texting for the purposes of communicating with another staff member or parent regarding a programmatic issue pertaining to a child.
- Staff members are prohibited from buying gifts for program participants.

In addition to the Code of Conduct, the following shall be a part of the specific program provisions:

- The possession or use of alcohol and other drugs, fireworks, guns and other weapons is prohibited.
- The City of Northfield shall set forth rules and procedures governing when and under what circumstances participants may leave the City of Northfield property during the program.
- No violence, including sexual abuse or harassment, will be tolerated.
- Hazing of any kind is prohibited. Bullying including verbal, physical, and cyberbullying are prohibited and will be addressed immediately.
- No theft of property will be tolerated.
- No use of tobacco products will be tolerated.
- Misuse or damage of City of Northfield property is prohibited. Charges will be assessed against those participants who are responsible for damage or misuse of property.
- The inappropriate use of cameras, imaging, and digital devices is prohibited including use of such devices in showers, restrooms, or other areas where privacy is expected by participants.

- Under no circumstances are any images of any child taken during any of the activities conducted or sponsored by the City of Northfield to be shared on any social media platform without the expressed written consent of a parent or legal guardian.
- If possible The City of Northfield shall assign a staff member who is at least 21 years of age to be accessible to participants. Additional Authorized Adults will be assigned to ensure one-on-one contact with minors does not occur and that appropriate levels of supervision are implemented.
- Take appropriate steps to ensure that children are not released to anyone other than the authorized parent, guardian, or other adult authorized by the parent or guardian This shall include annual written authorization on file in advance.
- Develop and made available to participants and their parents or guardians, the rules and discipline measures applicable to the program. Program participants and staff must abide by all regulations and may be removed from the program for non-compliance with the rules.
- The recommended ratio of counselors to program participants should reflect the gender distribution of the participants, and should meet the following:
 1. One staff member for every six participants ages 4 and 5
 2. One staff member for every eight participants ages 6 to 8
 3. One staff member for every ten participants ages 9 to 14
 4. One staff member for every twelve participants ages 15 to 17
- The responsibilities of the counselors must include, at a minimum, informing program participants about safety and security procedures, rules established by the program, and behavioral expectations. Counselors are responsible for following and enforcing all of the rules and must be able to provide information included herein to program participants and be able to respond to emergencies.

Specific Policy and Procedures for Use of Restrooms by Children/Minors:

- All restrooms shall be checked in advance by staff persons before minor children enter to ensure that no other individuals are present.
- Staff members (of the same sex) are to stand guard at the doorway to make sure that no one else enters the restroom while a child is there. Children should not be permitted to enter restrooms in pairs or in groups, unless it is absolutely necessary.
- For field trips, staff members must monitor bathroom use by minor children and shall not permit a child to enter a restroom alone.

VII. Procedures for Law Enforcement Officers:

Law enforcement officers of the City of Northfield frequently interact with minors in a variety of ways. In addition to the guidance provided by the Attorney General's office, it is important to establish guidelines to assist law enforcement officers in being aware of how to act and react in these circumstances. To that end, the Chief of Police or his or her designee of the City of Northfield shall formulate a written policy addressing the safe treatment of minors for consideration and approval by the governing body for law enforcement officers who interact with minors.

The policy shall, at a minimum, incorporate and address the following:

- a. **Transporting minors in a police vehicle.** Whenever possible, victims or alleged victims of sexual assault or other crimes, or minors removed from a situation for protective purposes, shall be transported by two officers (at least one of whom shall be of the same sex as the victim) in unmarked vehicles that does not have a prisoner compartment/partition. Officers transporting a minor for whatever reason shall document starting and stopping mileage through radio contact.
- b. Directives issued by the N.J. State Attorney General pertaining to interaction with minors shall be incorporated into the policy.
- c. The following provisions from the ***"Code of Conduct"*** for counselors shall be included in the policy for officers assigned to work in school settings (i.e., Class 3 officers):
 - i. Officers will, at all times, respect the rights of students and use positive techniques of guidance including positive reinforcement and encouragement.
 - ii. Officers will portray a positive role model for youth by maintaining an attitude of respect, loyalty, patience, courtesy, tact, and maturity.
 - iii. Officers shall not transport children in their own vehicles. Officers shall not arrange to see students outside of school and this includes babysitting, sleepovers, and inviting children to their home. Any exceptions require a written explanation before the fact and approval of the Chief.
 - iv. Officers shall make certain that they are neat, clean, and appropriately attired.
 - v. Officers will refrain from intimate displays of affection towards others in the presence of children, parents and staff. Officers shall not buy gifts for students at any time.
 - vi. All officers are required to complete the initial training course offered by the NJMEL JIF, and any refresher courses as well.

VIII. Training Requirements:

Individual training courses have been designed for each of the following categories and **all** officials, employees, and volunteers of the City of Northfield are required to complete training (and refresher course training) adopted by the City of Northfield. ALL employees of the City of Northfield shall complete the training course whether they interact with children/minors or not. Although training records will be maintained, it is recommended that each City of Northfield and individual trainees also keep copies of their own training records.

a. **Elected Officials, Appointed Officials, Department Heads, and Supervisors:**

All elected officials, appointed officials, department heads, and supervisors shall Complete the initial virtual training course offered by the NJMEL, **“PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ABUSE”** and adopted by the City of Northfield, and any updated/refresher course, in order to better understand their legal duties and responsibilities under Federal and NJ State Law. The course includes the following concepts.

- Recognizing the signs of abuse and neglect of minors.
- Establishing guidelines for protecting minors from emotional and physical abuse and neglect.
- Understanding and being prepared to implement the procedures necessary to eliminate opportunities for abuse.
- Becoming familiar with the legal requirements to report suspected cases of abuse.
- Fully understanding the legal consequences for not being diligent in making certain that employees of the City of Northfield adhere to all policies and procedures as adopted.

b. **Volunteers and Employees of the CITY OF NORTHFIELD**

All employees and volunteers (regardless of whether they will be working with children or not) shall complete training provided by the NMEL in the form of the **“PROTECTING CHILDREN”** video on protecting children on the MEL website and found at www.njmel.org

i. Course content shall include:

1. Current State NJ State Law pertaining to Sexual Abuse of Minors
2. Recognizing the signs of abuse and neglect
3. Different types of abuse (i.e., Peer to Peer, Adult to Child, etc....)
4. Your legal responsibility for implementing and monitoring procedures and employees
5. Reporting cases of abuse

c. **Law Enforcement Officers**

i. Course content shall include:

1. Current Status of N.J. Law and Directives from the Attorney General for Law Enforcement personnel
2. Your responsibilities
3. Officers in Schools
4. Reporting Abuse

IX. Reporting Suspected Child Abuse/Neglect:

In light of the importance and priority placed on safeguarding the health and safety of minors, it is critically important that suspected cases of child abuse and neglect are reported as soon as possible. **As a government official, employee or volunteer, you are legally required to report suspected child abuse. This requirement includes all governmental officials, employees and volunteers.**

The following procedures shall be utilized in reporting suspected cases of abuse. The City of Northfield shall also train officials, department heads, employees and volunteers in the concept of “**dual reporting**” which involves reporting the suspected abuse to local law enforcement in addition to reporting the abuse to the Department of Children and Families. Reporting suspected abuse to local law enforcement is critically important in cases where there is the potential for violence.

Child Abuse is a hard thing to talk about, especially with victims. The most important thing to remember is to **show calm reassurance and unconditional support**. Avoid interrogation and leading questions. Understand that denial and embarrassment are common reactions. Don't display disbelief, shock, or disgust. Instead, be reassuring. Make sure the child knows that they did nothing wrong. Reassure them that this is not their fault and make sure they know that you take it seriously.

Interviewing children to investigate sexual abuse requires highly technical expertise. **Do not “investigate” an abuse situation. Do not interrogate the child.** The investigation will be undertaken by those who are trained to undertake that critical task. Instead report it immediately, as shown below. And finally, keep safety as the priority. If there is the possibility of violence against yourself or the child, get the appropriate professionals or agencies involved as soon as possible, and report the abuse to local law enforcement.

As noted above, it is highly recommended that, whenever possible, officials, employees and volunteers report the suspected abuse to both the N.J. Department of Children and Families and law enforcement at the same time, which is known as “dual reporting.”

For ALL elected officials, appointed officials, supervisors, department heads, full or part-time employees or volunteers of programs conducted by the CITY OF NORTHFIELD

1. Report the suspected abuse to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families. Please be prepared to include the following information to the extent the information has been told to you.
 - a. **Who:** The child and parent/caregiver's name, age and address and the name of the alleged perpetrator and that person's relationship to the child.
 - b. **What:** Type and frequency of alleged abuse/neglect, current or previous injuries to the child and what caused you to become concerned.
 - c. **When:** When the alleged abuse/neglect occurred and when you learned of it.
 - d. **Where:** Where the incident occurred, where the child is now and whether the alleged perpetrator has access to the child.
 - e. **How:** How urgent the need is for intervention and whether there is a likelihood of imminent danger for the child.
 - Call the Hotline established by the N.J. Department of Children and Families @ 1-877-652-2873. It is not the supervisor's role to decide whether a case should be reported. All cases shall be reported.

➤ For ***Law Enforcement Officers:***

- Immediately report any suspected or alleged cases of abuse or neglect to the New Jersey Department of Children and Families and to the County Prosecutor.

X. Important Information Regarding Reporting Suspected Abuse Under NJ Law:

The following guidelines have been established under New Jersey law, for those reporting suspected or alleged cases of abuse or neglect. The City of Northfield encourages all officials, employees, and volunteers in programs operated by the City of Northfield or affiliated programs or activities to report suspected cases of abuse with the following in mind.

- i. Any person who, in good faith, makes a report of child abuse or neglect or testifies in a child abuse hearing resulting from such a report is immune from any criminal or civil liability as a result of such action. Calls can be placed to the hotline anonymously.*
- ii. However, any person who knowingly fails to report suspected abuse or neglect according to the law or to comply with the provisions is a disorderly person.*
- iii. When a report indicates that a child may be at risk, an investigator from the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (formerly Youth and Family Services) will promptly investigate the allegations of child abuse and neglect within 24 hours of receipt of the report.*

XI. Acknowledgement of Receipt and Review of Policy:

All officials, employees/counselors, and volunteers shall sign and date an acknowledgement form that confirms they have received and reviewed the Policy Addressing the Protection and Safe Treatment of Minors, issued to them by the City of Northfield. The same process shall be used for any revised policy issued in the future.

Appendix A: Indicators of Child Abuse/Neglect

The New Jersey Department of Children and Families issued the following guidelines to assist in recognizing the indicators of child abuse/neglect.

Indicators of Child Abuse / Neglect

Different types of abuse and neglect have different physical and behavioral indicators.

Physical Abuse

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
<p>Unexplained bruises and welts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On face, lips, mouth • On torso, back, buttocks, thighs • In various stages of healing • Cluster, forming regular patterns • Reflecting shape of article used to inflict (electric cord, belt buckle) • On several different surface areas • Regularly appear after absence, weekend or vacation <p>Unexplained burns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cigar, cigarette burns, especially on soles, palms, back or buttocks • Immersion burns (sock-like, glove-like doughnut shaped on buttocks or genitalia) • Patterned like electric burner, iron, etc. • Rope burns on arms, legs, neck or torso <p>Unexplained fractures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To skull, nose, facial structure • In various stages of healing • Multiple or spiral fractures <p>Unexplained laceration or abrasions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To mouth, lips, gums, eyes • To external genitalia 	<p>Wary of adult contacts Apprehensive when other children cry Behavioral extremes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressiveness • Withdrawal <p>Frightened of parents Afraid to go home Reports injury by parents</p>

Physical Neglect

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Consistent hunger, poor hygiene, inappropriate dress Consistent lack of supervision, especially in dangerous activities or long periods Constant fatigue or listlessness Unattended physical problems or medical needs Abandonment	Begging, stealing food Extended stays at school (early arrival and late departure) Constantly falling asleep in class Alcohol or drug abuse Delinquency (e.g. thefts) States there is no caregiver

Sexual Abuse

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Difficulty in walking or sitting Torn, stained or bloody underclothing Pain or itching in genital area Bruises or bleeding in external genitalia, vaginal or anal areas Venereal disease, especially in pre-teens Pregnancy	Unwilling to change for gym or participate in PE Withdrawn, fantasy or infantile behavior Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual behavior or knowledge Poor peer relationships Delinquent or run away Reports sexual assault by caregiver

Emotional Maltreatment

Physical Indicators	Behavioral Indicators
Habit disorders (sucking, biting, rocking, etc.) Conduct disorders (antisocial, destructive, etc.) Neurotic traits (sleep disorders, speech disorders, inhibition of play)	Behavior extremes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compliant, passive• Aggressive, demanding Overly adoptive behavior: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inappropriately adult• Inappropriately infant

Appendix B – Grooming Behavior

Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them.

Here are some common characteristics of someone attempting to “groom” a child.

- Molesters often refer to their intended victims by pet names and use gifts to foster exclusivity and build a relationship while starting the practice of keeping secrets.
- The molester might begin to spend time with the victim outside of the regular program or schedule, contacting parents to become involved in a child’s life in some capacity, like babysitting. For this reason, many parents are shocked after abuse comes to light simply because the abuser seemed so good – too good to be true, in fact.
- Inevitably, the favoritism is not enough to keep the victim, and the abuser resorts to threats—threats that play off of a child’s guilt over the sexual contact.
- During the grooming process and abuse itself, victims often begin to show tell-tale signs including:
 - Sexual behaviors or strong sexual language that is too adult for their age.
 - Many children feel at fault after the abuse and begin to suffer guilt and depression, even resorting to self-harm.
 - Also look for cuts and scratches or other self-inflicted injuries.



USE OF FACILITIES AGREEMENT

The City of Northfield, a Municipality of the State of New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as

“**MUNICIPALITY**”, hereby agrees to allow _____
(Name of Person(s) or Organization)

hereinafter referred to as “**USER**”, to use the facility(ies) listed below:

Name and Location of FACILITY(IES):

hereinafter referred to as “**FACILITY(IES)**”, for the following use/purpose

(State the Use/Purpose) on the following date(s) / time(s):

The above **USER** shall inspect the described **FACILITY(IES)** prior to the use of the **FACILITY(IES)** and report any defective, hazardous or dangerous conditions found at the **FACILITY(IES)** to THE OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK (609-641-2832 extension 123) at **MUNICIPALITY**, and **USER** shall immediately cease the use of the **FACILITY(IES)** until such defective, hazardous or dangerous conditions are remedied. After the use of the **FACILITY(IES)**, **USER** shall immediately report to the **MUNICIPALITY** any and all defects, hazards, damages or dangerous conditions upon or adjacent to the **FACILITY(IES)**.

LIMITATION ON APPROVED USE

The above **USER** hereby agrees and acknowledges that the approvals granted herein do not include or extend to any other use/purpose, date, or time other than as specified above. **USER** further acknowledges that if the permitted use/purpose is not needed on any approved date or time, that the **USER** has no right to assign that date or time to any third party.

The City of Northfield has the right, in its sole discretion, to deny, limit, or revoke the use of requested facility(ies) when in the opinion of the City of Northfield the use presents a risk of unreasonable injury to persons or damage to property of the City of Northfield or others.

_____ *(USER Initial here to acknowledge)*

ADDRESSING THE PROTECTION AND SAFE TREATMENT OF MINORS

For activities where minors will be present, applicant verifies and asserts that all activities conducted at the FACILITY (IES) shall be in full compliance with (N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.21) which can be reviewed at: <https://www.nj.gov/dcf/reporting/links/>

_____ (USER Initial here to acknowledge)

For activities where minors will be present, all applicant/s, coaches, volunteers, and any others present on behalf of the USER have completed the Rutgers SAFETY Clinic course (*Sports Awareness for Educating Today's Youth*™) which is a three-hour program that meets the "Minimum Standards for Volunteer Coaches Safety Orientation and Training Skills Programs" under (N.J.A.C. 5:52), or an acceptable equivalent course, and all coaches and volunteers view the MEL Protecting Children video which can be viewed at: <https://melsafetyinstitute.org/safety-videos/>

_____ (USER Initial here to acknowledge)

For activities where minors will be present USER certifies that applicant/s, coaches, volunteers, and any others present on behalf of the USER have read the City of Northfield's "Protection and Safe Treatment of Minors" Policy which can be viewed at: <https://ecode360.com/documents/NO0505/public/611379873.pdf>, and that all participants will adhere to conduct requirements, including mandatory background checks for all applicant/s, coaches, volunteers, and any others involved in the activity on behalf of the USER.

_____ (USER Initial here to acknowledge)

NO ACTIVITY MAY TAKE PLACE UNTIL THE APPLICANT RECEIVES A RETURN COPY OF THE FULLY EXECUTED USE OF FACILITIES AGREEMENT

_____ (USER Initial here to acknowledge)

Indemnification

USER shall indemnify, save harmless and defend the **MUNICIPALITY**, its elected and appointed officials, its employees, agents, volunteers and others working on behalf of the **MUNICIPALITY**, from and against any and all claims, losses, costs, attorney's fees, damages, or injury including death and/or property loss, expense claims or demands arising out of **USER's** use of the named Facilities, including all suits or actions of every kind or description brought against the **MUNICIPALITY**, either individually or jointly with **USER** for or on account of any damage or injury to any person or persons or property, caused or occasioned or alleged to have been caused by, or on account of, any of the activities conducted by or caused to be conducted by **USER**, or through any negligence or alleged negligence in safeguarding the **FACILITY(IES)**, participants, or members of the public, or through any act, omission or fault or alleged act, omission or fault or alleged act, omission or fault of the **USER**, its employees, agents, volunteers, subcontractors or others under the direction, control or under any contractual relationship with the **USER**.

Insurance

Notwithstanding the indemnification and defense obligations of the **USER**, **USER** shall purchase and maintain such insurance described in the attached schedule and as is appropriate for the type of use and hazards present and as will provide protection from any and all covered claims which may arise out of or caused or alleged to have been caused in any manner from **USER**'s use of the **FACILITY(IES)**, whether it is to be used by the **USER**, its employees, agents, volunteers, subcontractors or others under the direction, control or under any contractual relationship with the **USER** or by anyone for whose acts any of them may be liable.

USER shall be required to name the **MUNICIPALITY** as an "Additional Insured" on the **USER**'s policy of commercial general liability insurance, and simultaneously with the delivery of the executed *Use of Facilities Agreement*, **USER** shall provide the **MUNICIPALITY** with a Certificate of Insurance indicating that the insurance coverage as described in the attached schedule, and as is appropriate for the type of use and hazards present, has been obtained and that the **MUNICIPALITY** has been designated as an "Additional Insured" and a copy of the Additional Ensured Endorsement has been provided where required. On or before the renewal date of said policy, **USER** shall be required to provide the **MUNICIPALITY** with a Certificate of Insurance indicating the continuation of insurance coverage and designating the **MUNICIPALITY** as an "Additional Insured" for the duration of this agreement.

The schedule of insurance and the limits of liability for the insurance shall provide coverage for not less than the amounts listed in the attached schedule or greater where required by law.

Signed by an authorized representative of the **USER** and the **MUNICIPALITY** on this ____ day of _____, 20____.

USER

MUNICIPALITY

**WITNESS OF SIGNATURE,
USER**

State of _____
County of _____

On this ____ day of _____, 20____,
Before me, the undersigned public notary,
personally appeared:

Name of User

Proved to me through satisfactory evidence of
identification or personally known to me, to be the
person whose name is signed on the preceding.

Signature of Notary Public

Commission Expiration date of Notary Public

**WITNESS OF SIGNATURE,
MUNICIPALITY**

State of _____
County of _____

On this ____ day of _____, 20____,
Before me, the undersigned public notary,
personally appeared:

Municipal Authority

Proved to me through satisfactory evidence of
identification or personally known to me, to be the
person whose name is signed on the preceding.

Signature of Notary Public

Commission Expiration date of Notary Public

Schedule of Insurance*

Notwithstanding the indemnification and defense obligations of the **USER**, the **USER** shall provide at its own cost and expense proof of the following insurance to the "**MUNICIPALITY**":

- General Liability including Products & Completed Operations Insurance with a minimum combined single limit of liability per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage of *one million (\$1,000,000) dollars** with a minimum annual aggregate of *two million (\$2,000,000) dollars**.
- **MUNICIPALITY** shall be named as an "Additional Insured".
- A copy of the "Additional Ensured" Endorsement shall be provided

Failure by the **USER** to supply such written evidence of required insurance and to maintain same for the duration of this agreement shall result in default of this agreement and **USER** shall be prohibited from using said FACILITY (IES).

The insurance companies for the above coverage must be licensed by the State of New Jersey and acceptable to the **MUNICIPALITY**. The **USER** shall take no action to cancel or materially change any of the insurance required under this Contract without the **MUNICIPALITY**'s prior approval. The maintenance of insurance under this section shall not relieve the **USER** of any liability greater than the limits or scope of the applicable insurance coverage.

Instructions for Obtaining Insurance

In order to facilitate the purchase of special event insurance our municipality allows you to do so on-line by using your own credit card. You may obtain a quote without obligation to purchase by following the instructions below:

1. Visit the Gatherguard website at:

<https://gatherguard.com/>

2. For the Venue Name: Northfield Birch Grove Park Facility Code is 4990-093.

3. Follow the site's remaining instructions. When you have paid for the coverage using your credit card our municipality will automatically receive the proof of insurance we require.

4. In the event you need to cancel coverage you may do so up until the day prior to the event and you will receive a full refund of the premium paid.

5. If further assistance is required, please call the TULIP help desk at 800-507-8414 Monday through Friday between 8:30 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Eastern Time.