

# Athletic Facilities

## Introduction

The Boston College Athletics Department (BCAD) offers a broad-based program of intercollegiate athletics involving 725 student-athletes on 31 varsity teams. In addition, BCAD offers intramural, recreation and club sports, each of which contributes to the University's Jesuit, Catholic educational mission to develop the whole person-- physically, intellectually, socially and



**Table 7-1 Seating Capacity of Baseball and Softball Facilities in the ACC**

<b>ACC Institution</b>	<b>Baseball</b> (number of seats)	<b>Softball</b> (number of seats)
Clemson University	3,500	N/A
Duke University	2,000	N/A
Florida State University	6,200	845
Georgia Institute of Technology	4,157	1,000
University of Maryland	1,900	1,101
University of Miami	5,000	N/A
University of North Carolina	2,000	500
North Carolina State University	2,200	500
University of Virginia	2,624	575
Virginia Tech University	1,033	1,082
Wake Forest University	2,500	N/A
<b>Average Seating Capacity of 11 Institutions</b>	<b>3,010</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Boston College (proposed)</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>500</b>

## Alternative Baseball Proposals

As part of its campus planning efforts, Boston College developed various scenarios to accommodate new baseball and softball facilities on campus including maintaining the existing facilities at Shea Field, and a new facility at the Brighton Campus. The site layout and program for the Brighton Campus was initially proposed in the Institutional Master Plan Notification Form (IMPNF). This section briefly describes those alternative baseball proposals.

### Shea Field

Currently, the baseball and softball facilities at Boston College share Shea Field with football and intramural sports. Shea Field is in high demand by various University athletic programs and is heavily used. Continuing to use Shea Field for baseball and softball does not meet Boston College athletic needs, and places the University at a competitive disadvantage against other ACC institutions.







## Intramural and Club Sports

BC offers a wide variety of intramural sports opportunities that allow students to stay active and physically fit. All intramural activities are overseen by an on-site adult administrator. Intramural men's and women's activities planned for the Athletics Center may include rugby, ultimate frisbee, soccer and lacrosse.

Club sports are student-run organizations that compete on an intercollegiate level against local competition. Under the supervision and through the guidance of University personnel, student leaders plan and organize every aspect of the team, including tryouts, practices, game schedules, travel, lodging and budget. Most clubs are very competitive within the region and several clubs travel to national competitions on an annual basis. All club sports competitions are overseen by an on-site adult administrator.

## Summer Programming

Summer programming at the Athletics Center will include sports camps and clinics. In addition to the existing football camp, the Athletics Center will host baseball and softball clinics.

## Schedule of Uses

The schedule of uses of the Brighton Athletics Center and the outdoor tennis courts is guided by limitations set forth by the NCAA, the academic calendar year, and respect for the adjacent community. Table 7-2 (at end of chapter) provides a calendar view of the anticipated uses of the Center. It is important to note that use of the outdoor facilities during the late fall months (i.e., November) and early spring months (i.e., February and March) are dependent on appropriate weather and facility conditions. The University values the safety of its students and student-athletes and will not schedule use of the outdoor facilities unless weather conditions permit. Additionally, the University anticipates ending field or court activities at 9:30 p.m. and a "lights-out" time of 10:00 p.m. The proposed time limit, however, does not preclude finishing a game in progress. When the fields are not in use, the lights will be off.

The following section summarizes the schedule limitations on the proposed users of the fields.

## Varsity Sports

The NCAA limits an institution's playing season in baseball and softball for all teams. The following limitations on baseball and softball field use and administration must be adhered to by the Athletics Department:

- y Playing season is 132 days





neighbors, while also providing safety for its students and student-athletes. This section describes the variety of lighting elements proposed for the Athletics Center and the outdoor tennis courts, and the University's plan to mitigate any negative aspects associated with nighttime lighting.

As shown in the schedule of uses in Table 7-2, nighttime lighting will be needed for varsity sports, intramural and club sports, and summer programming. The number of night baseball and softball games is undetermined at this point, and will vary from year to year. It is anticipated that the teams will play approximately ten night games. In addition, the baseball and softball team may practice under night game lighting conditions when needed. However, the proposed lighting design will provide a variety of lighting fixtures with varying degrees of intensity, which will allow the University to lower the lighting level for most scheduled nighttime use in order to reduce impacts to adjacent neighbors.

### **Baseball and Softball Lighting**

The baseball and softball fields are designed to include state-of-the-art technologies to minimize glare and light spillage. The proposed poles will be in the 80 to 100-foot height range. Contrary to common belief, higher poles allow for more direct on-field lighting, and further reduce light spillage. The baseball field and softball field will each contain eight poles to light the fields. It is anticipated that light levels for standard conditions, such as during practice and non-televvised games, will provide 70 foot candles (fc) at the infield, and 50 fc at the outfield. Light levels for locally and regionally televised games will provide 100 fc at the infield and 70 fc at the outfield, while light levels for any nationally televised games would be 125 fc at the infield and 100 fc in the outfield.

### **Tennis Court Lighting**

The proposed tennis court light poles will be in the 30-40-foot height range, and will require approximately 18 poles to light the six proposed courts. The cour



The lighting system may incorporate the follow



## Environmental Impact

The primary environmental concern, currently under debate, relates to the potential leaching of heavy metals from the recycled styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR) that is used as a component in the infill system. The rubber is

**Table 7-2 Schedules of Uses**

	Baseball Field			Softball Field			Intramural Field			Tennis Courts		
	Varsity Sports	Intramural and Club Sports	Summer Programming	Varsity Sports	Intramural and Club Sports	Summer Programming	Varsity Sports	Intramural and Club Sports	Summer Programming	Varsity Sports	Intramural and Club Sports	Summer Programming
<b>January</b>												
Monday												
Tuesday												
Wednesday												
Thursday												
Friday												
Saturday												
Sunday												
<b>February*</b>												
Monday												
Tuesday												
Wednesday												
Thursday												
Friday												
Saturday												
Sunday												
<b>March*</b>												
Monday												
Tuesday												
Wednesday												
Thursday												
Friday												
Saturday												
Sunday												

**Notes**

- Use of the outdoor facilities during the late fall months (i.e., November) and early spring months (i.e., February and March) are dependent on appropriate weather and facility conditions. The allowed time of activity would be similar to other months in which Boston College students are in session.
- The University anticipates ending field or court activities at 9:30 p.m. and a "lights-out" time of 10:00 p.m. The proposed time limit, however, does not preclude finishing a game in progress. When the fields are not in use, the lights will be off.



Notes

1. Use of the outdoor facilities during the late fall months (i.e., November) and early spring months (i.e., February and March



