

Field Lining

NVFC teams play on many different fields throughout the season. It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure the field is lined properly. Field lining requirements vary from one age group to another; and some general information is listed below.

Artificial Turf fields:

Step number one – thank the soccer gods for assigning you AT for a home field! For “super 8” teams playing on AT, the small fields are marked using “saucer” cones. Use of lime is strictly forbidden on AT fields! For 11 v 11 games, using the entire field, marking of the corners is accomplished through special AT corner flags; or by using “pylon” cones. Use of corner flags which are designed to be sunk into the ground is also forbidden on AT fields!

Grass or Gravel Fields, small sided games:

For younger age groups playing small sided games on grass or gravel, “saucer” cones are used to mark the field of play. Generally speaking, the field is divided up into smaller areas, using saucer cones, and multiple, small sided games take place simultaneously.

Grass or Gravel Fields, 11 v 11 games:

If you are assigned a grass field for home games, you’ll also be assigned a gravel field as an alternate. You will have to apply lines to your field, and some general principles apply...

Fact number one – when it is your turn to line the field, it will be raining! You and your vehicle are going to get messy! Consider it a right of passage to becoming a true parent volunteer.

Lining of the field is accomplished using lime or “whiting” and a field - lining - machine, commonly referred to as a “liner.” The parks department is very specific as to which types of whiting are acceptable for use on their fields. For that reason, whiting is supplied by the parks department, and is the only type that should be used on any North Vancouver fields. The whiting is available to all, free of charge, and is stored in “whiting sheds” throughout North Vancouver. There are many types of whiting sheds, in several different locations. A detailed list can be found at www.northvanrec.com/facilities/fields/policies-conditions/whiting-sheds.aspx Keys to all these sheds are available for purchase from the Delbrook Community Centre for around \$5. Be sure to check the link above, and determine which key you will require for your preferred shed. From experience, a typical, full sized field will require about one and a half, or two bags of whiting.

“Liners” are the property of our club; and during the season, we store them in the same whiting sheds. Depending on the size of the shed, several machines can be stored at any given location. NVFC Liners are not all labeled the same. Most have markings from our founding clubs – Lion’s Gate, Lynn Valley or Mt Seymour. In addition, North Shore Girls also store their liners in the same sheds. We have a gentlemen’s agreement between clubs that we may use each other’s liners, provided that we return them to the sheds immediately after use. Remember, yours is only one of several games being played that day! Chances are some other poor volunteer is waiting to use the liner. Please return them to the sheds as soon as you are finished!

When using the liners, you will discover that each machine has its own personality. Most have a controller which regulates the amount of whiting being dispensed. Thicker lines translate into more

whiting being used. Nothing is more frustrating than running out of whiting with lines left to mark! Most often however, you are left with some whiting remaining in the machine, after you are finished. This can be a problem, especially if the whiting is wet. If left over night, wet whiting will harden, and will block the gear mechanisms inside the machine. This makes things very difficult for the next user, and can damage the machines. For this reason, we kindly ask that you empty the machine after every use.

Field lining is one of those thankless tasks that can go unnoticed. However, it is also a job that can be very rewarding. Though messy and time consuming, a well lined field can garner several compliments from the peanut gallery. One volunteer family should not have all the glory. Field lining duties should be shared amongst the entire team. Those who have lined before, can take another under their wing, and pass on their knowledge. Lining is not rocket science; but it is the kind of job you get better at after a couple sessions.

Happy lining!