

Grass Corner

April 24, 2020

It was full of promise, with alarm clocks going off on a Saturday morning. The excitement and nerves of a new season ahead came out of a winter hibernation on the first weekend of March. Just days after the first games of 2020, and just like the rest of the world, time seemed as if it had stopped. Thanks to Covid-19, the Hampton Roads Soccer Complex has been closed to any activities since March 12. As a result, barricades have been put up around all entrances around the complex as a friendly reminder to not use the fields.

In what is an unusual and difficult time for us humans, it is the opposite for Mother Nature. A positive that can be taken out of this disturbance is that our fields have a chance to thrive. Without consistent traffic, all the usual bare spots should grow in. This also includes goal mouths that are the most difficult areas to repair. Goals are off fields and deep tine aerification is being done on a regular basis to help assist in root growth. It is the goal to have the fields looking better than ever by the time games begin play again, whenever that will be.

In keeping with the safety requirements of the day, the small but mighty crew are able to keep HRSC looking good while staying healthy. With 75 acres, it is easy to social distance and only one person is allowed in a work vehicle. Even if there is no training or games, it is still our prerogative to keep the complex looking sharp and making it better than ever. This means painting fields every other week in order not to lose the markings of the fields as well as mowing every week.

A storm blew through in early April, leaving goals scattered and trees down. With winds close to 50mph, it was one of the strongest we've seen in a while that needed a much needed clean up.

A new addition is currently being created behind field 13. A 45x150 yard training field is hoped to be completed by the fall. The area, once taken care of by the City of Virginia Beach, will now serve as a space used for training only. This will ease traffic off the regular fields that can be used mainly for games.

All of us at the Hampton Roads Soccer Complex share in everyone's wish to get back to normal and begin play again. We look forward to seeing you in the future; whether it's to try to win that medal in the next tournament or to enjoy a cold drink with a friend after a game. Hope to see you soon.