

Ball games advice



Playing ball games

Ball games are fun for those playing them, but they can be a nuisance for other people. By following our advice, there can be winners on all sides.

Where to play

Parks

Not everyone will enjoy your game as much as you. If you're going to play an organised or team game, you should play in your local park.

The street

If you play in the street, please use a soft ball to avoid any damage to your neighbours' fences, gardens and cars.

Try to play outside your own house and not other people's. If you need to retrieve your ball from somebody else's property remember to ask first.

Be considerate of others when you're playing and try not to be too noisy, and don't use any offensive language.

Don't forget about your own safety and that of other road users.



Small grassy areas

Small grassy areas are more suitable for younger children who need to be closer to home and watched by their parents. If you're a bit older, please consider going to where there's more space.

Look for any 'No ball games' or 'Considerate use' signs in the area. If you see any, you'll have to play somewhere else.

Let people know

Talking to your neighbours will help. If you can agree a time and place for your games everyone will be happy.

It's also always a good idea to let your parents know where and when you'll be playing.

Signs

Signs such as 'No ball games' or 'Considerate use' may discourage some games, but they are a polite request. They aren't something that can be enforced through a byelaw.



Problems with ball games

We understand that ball games can disturb people's peace and quiet, but by law they aren't classified as antisocial behaviour.

We see the issue of ball games as a social one. Open space is there for everyone to enjoy and generally any problems with ball games are best solved locally.

What you can do to tackle problems

Often the best thing to do is to talk to your neighbours and explain that the ball games are causing you problems. You could try to agree a time and place when it would be okay to play ball games.

If you need further advice, please contact our Community Safety team.

Things to consider

Parents or guardians may want their children playing in the local neighbourhood to keep an eye on them.

There may only be one grassy area close to home where children can play safely.

Sometimes it's better for young people to be using their energy on sports rather than doing other things.

If you live in a built-up area, it's only natural to hear children playing outside school hours.

It's legal to play ball games on grass verges or open spaces.

Contact us

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