

# AYSO Region 58

## VNSO Park Field Conditions Report

What	Many AYSO Region 58 parents have complained about the declining and unsafe field conditions at VNSO Park.	Who: 10 concerned parents 4 Board members
When	On September 28, 2012 at 7 pm, AYSO Region 58 Board of Directors hosted a special meeting to address those	City of Los Angeles' 4 <sup>th</sup> District Councilmember LaBonge's Valley Chief of Field Operations, David Ahern.

### Concerns:

#### *Safety:*

The fields have declined since a contractor was hired to renovate a portion of the fields. Improper landscaping materials have contributed to large rocks and other debris rising to the field's surface, creating unsafe field conditions.

Large portions of the fields are without grass, are hard clay-like surfaces, with surface rocks, glass and larger buried unmovable rocks and debris.

The remaining green areas are largely weeds that contribute to unsafe and unplayable terrain.

Other AYSO Regions are refusing to play at our fields due to their unsafe nature.

#### *Soccer:*

The unsafe field conditions increase the chances of injuries and inhibit soccer skills development. We have reports that some families are considering leaving Region 58 for other soccer programs with safer playing fields. The field conditions are inconsistent with AYSO's mission of "Fun, Fair, Safe".

### Problem:

There are many groups that use VNSO Park; Club and Adult Soccer leagues, VNSO Parks programs and other athletic groups. All park stakeholders should be concerned about the conditions of the fields and have a responsibility to contribute in solving the field condition problem. The City of Los Angeles' operating budget has been significantly affected by the declining economy.

Fun \* Fair \* Safe



## Immediate Action

City of Los Angeles, Councilman LaBonge's office will call a meeting between the Department of Parks & Recreation, Field Maintenance, and Community stakeholders.

Councilman LaBonge will personally review the park during the month of October and help investigate strategies to improve the fields. Thank you Councilman LaBonge!



## Short Term Actions

Field Conditions Committee formed to address long-term field condition strategy

Rock Walks: Buckets to collect rock and debris will be placed between fields.

Rock Walks: Buckets of soil to fill holes will be placed between fields.

City and AYSO Region 58 will request copy of the contract for the former Contractor's services for breach of contract.

Hold meeting with VNSO Park leadership regarding other short-term solutions.

Long Term Strategies list developed. For more information [www.ayso58.org](http://www.ayso58.org)

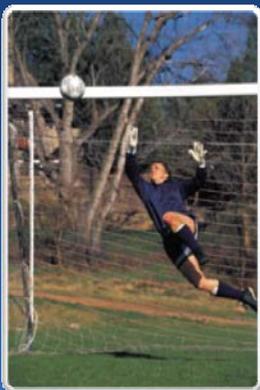
## How You Can Help!

Report unsafe field conditions to:

- (a) your coach during practices
- (b) Information Tent on Saturdays
- (c) Contact Us Form" on the Region 58 website: [www.ayso58.org](http://www.ayso58.org).

Rock Walks

Email your concerns and ideas to: [VNSOFixTheFields@gmail.com](mailto:VNSOFixTheFields@gmail.com)



## Long Term Actions

- Investigate if the fields can be tilled to break up the hardened ground for better grass growing.
- Explore putting the fields into rotation for maintenance. This means they will be inaccessible as the Maintenance department reseeds.
- Review procedures for “Request for Proposals” for City Contracts that affect field outcomes and encourage policy that public comments be incorporated into similar contracts.
- Review the City of Los Angeles’ Department of Parks and Receptions procedures for renovating parks, including addressing other concerns like parking and increasing access to restrooms.
- Find Landscape Architect specializing in sports field development and ask for an estimate on fixing the fields for long-term sustainability. Do you know someone?
- Develop a ‘Friends of VNSO Park Fields’ to explore fund raising options and to act as advocates to improve the safety and playability of our fields.