

Date: 7/17/2026 2:20:13 PM

From: Tammie Greig

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

I am a: Parent/Caregiver

Message:

I am writing as both a parent and a member of the Rutland community to respectfully request that the Central Okanagan School District prioritize significant improvements to the athletic grass field at Rutland Senior Secondary School. City Counselor Mohini Singh recommended reaching out to you directly after sending this email to the general school district email address and not receiving a response.

The current condition of the field is concerning. It is uneven, with numerous holes, divots, and inconsistent playing surfaces that create unnecessary hazards for students participating in athletics. Our children should be able to compete, train, and represent their school on a field that prioritizes safety rather than increasing their risk of injury.

In early June, my son suffered a fractured growth plate in his knee and damage to his ACL while playing football on the Rutland field. During play, his foot caught an uneven surface, causing his leg to hyperextend and resulting in a significant injury. While injuries are an accepted risk in sport, preventable injuries caused by unsafe playing conditions should never be considered acceptable.

Since his injury, we have been working with a highly respected local physiotherapist who specializes in treating athletic knee injuries. Through their experience treating athletes across our community, they have observed what they believe is a concerning correlation between knee injuries and the condition of the field at Rutland Senior Secondary. While this observation is anecdotal, it reinforces the concerns many families and coaches have expressed regarding the safety of the current playing surface.

Beyond safety, there is also a broader community issue. It is disheartening that Rutland Senior Secondary's football teams must travel to West Kelowna to play what should be their home games. Home games are about much more than competition – they are opportunities for families, students, alumni, and neighbours to gather, build school spirit, and celebrate local athletes. Rutland deserves the opportunity to support its teams on its own campus.

Kelowna has demonstrated that our community embraces football. The city has proudly hosted BC Lions CFL games, showcasing both enthusiasm for the sport and the community's ability to support high-level football events. If we value football enough to host professional teams, we should also ensure that our youth have safe, quality facilities in which to develop their skills.

I encourage the school district to create a long-term vision for Rutland Senior Secondary's athletic facilities. This should include:

- Resurfacing the existing field to provide a safe, level, high-quality natural grass playing surface free of holes, divots, and other hazards.
- Installing field lighting to allow for safe evening practices and games, particularly during the fall football season when daylight hours are limited.
- Replacing the end-zone goal posts and modernizing the football facilities to create a welcoming venue for athletes, families and spectators.
- Developing the field into a community gathering place where residents can come together to support local youth athletics.

Rutland Senior Secondary has a proud football tradition. Many of its student athletes have gone on to compete at the university level, demonstrating the strength of the program and the opportunities it creates. High-quality athletic facilities are not simply an investment in sport – they are an investment in youth development, health, teamwork, leadership, and future opportunities. They provide young people with the environment they need to pursue ambitious goals while fostering pride throughout the community.

Every student deserves the opportunity to participate in sport on a field that is safe, well maintained, and reflective of the value we place on youth recreation.

*I acknowledge that by submitting this form, the correspondence provided may be listed in the Board Correspondence item on an upcoming Public Board Meeting agenda, and a copy may be uploaded to the District's website under "Board Correspondence". (Any personal information such as address and email will be redacted). Some correspondence may be considered as "incamera" and will not be made public. If you have questions regarding this process, please call 250-860-8888).*



Yes, I acknowledge this process.