

“We can’t host anything here”: Space and facility needs for bringing regional and national ultimate (aka. Ultimate Frisbee) events to Halifax

INTRODUCTION

The sport of Ultimate (also known as Ultimate Frisbee) shares similar space requirements as other field sports (such as soccer, field hockey, and rugby). These sports require large open spaces that are free of obstructions. Organizations that run these sports in Halifax have, at some point or another, expressed **serious concerns about the shortage of adequate field space and field time in the municipality.** The lack of adequate space contributes to stagnating participation in sport programs.

WHAT IS ULTIMATE?

- Ultimate is a non-contact disc sport played by two teams of seven players. The object of the game is to score goals. A goal is scored when a player catches any legal pass in the end zone that player is attacking.
- Ultimate relies heavily on Spirit of the Game: where highly competitive play is encouraged, but never at the expense of mutual respect among competitors, adherence to the agreed upon rules, or the basic joy of play.



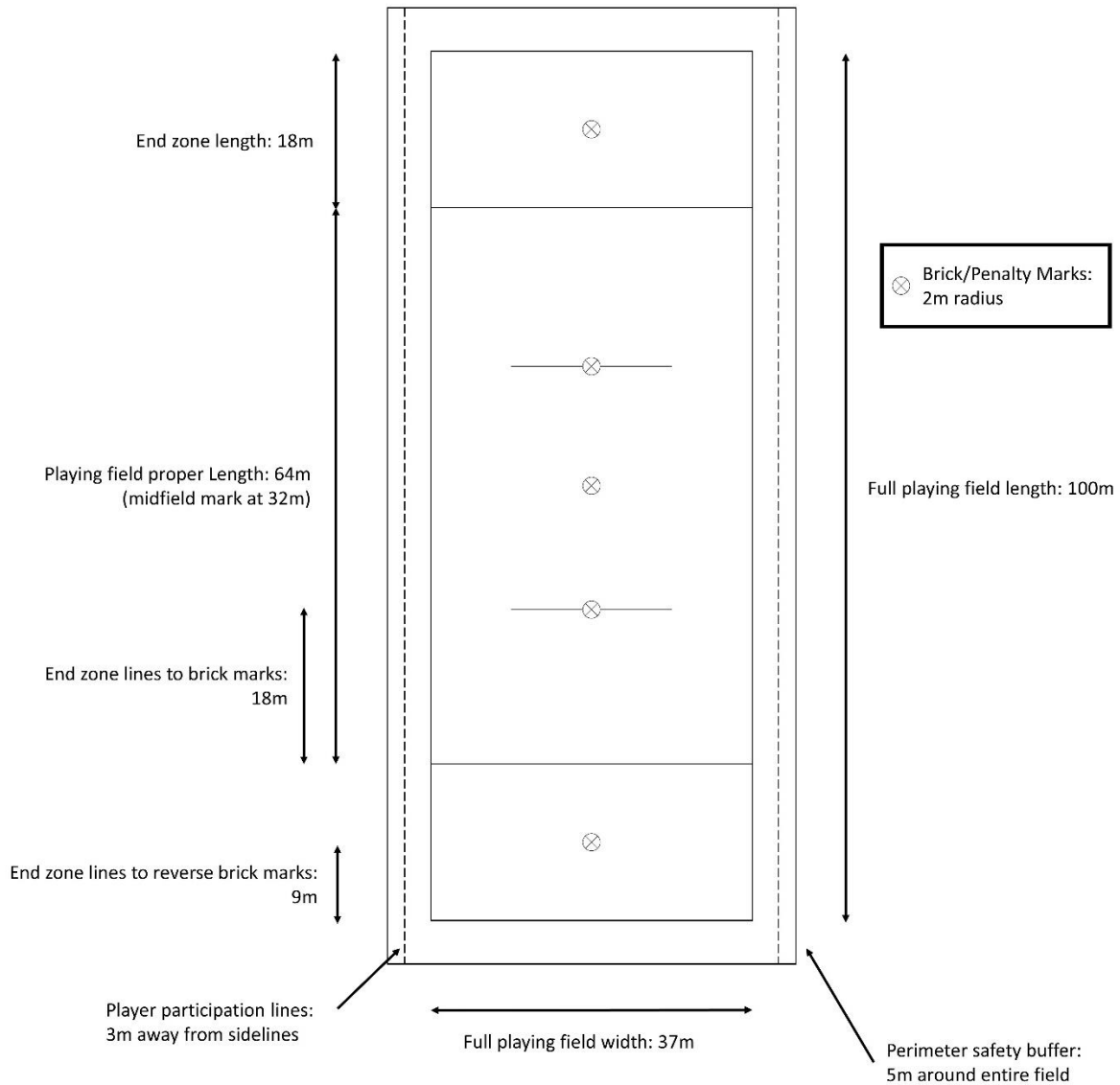
ULTIMATE IN HALIFAX

- Over **800 registered league players in Halifax** and surrounding areas
- Typically played 7v7 but with 5v5 and 4v4 modifications
- Year-Round programs with Indoor and Outdoor leagues run by Halifax Ultimate and Halifax Sport and Social Club
- **Men’s, women’s and co-ed divisions in different age groups** ranging from juniors (under 19) to masters (over 33 men’s/over 30 women’s)
- Three elite, touring teams in the Halifax Area that usually attend the Canadian Ultimate Championships every August.
- **Halifax is the defending national champion in the Mixed Division**

SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Ultimate needs large open spaces, free of obstructions (including bleachers, benches, and goal posts) to be played safely. An ultimate field is 100m x 37m. An additional 5m of safety buffer space is needed around the perimeter.

Standard Regulation Size Ultimate (Ultimate Frisbee) Field



WHAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS

Local, regional, and national championship ultimate events are tournament-based and require numerous games happening simultaneously and at same site. At a typical tournament, a team will play 3-5 games (with each game approximately 2 hours long) in a single day. In order to host these kinds of events, the community needs a multi-field facility in Halifax.



Figure 1 - Field Map from the 2015 Canadian Ultimate Championships in Winnipeg, MB. This facility incorporates football, soccer, rugby and ultimate in one location.

Current sport infrastructure in Halifax, including new artificial turf fields, does not permit simultaneous games to occur at the same site.

HOW HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL CAN HELP

The 2nd edition of the Community Facilities Master Plan identifies the lack of multi-field facilities as a barrier to participating in sport and recreation events:

With a few exceptions, sports fields and diamonds are located with one or two at a location. This makes it inconvenient for tournaments because teams must drive from one location to another during the tournament. Best practice is to have many fields/diamonds located together. (This is also an advantage for house league play because teams can always go to the same location rather than worrying about getting to different locations for each game and practice.)

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The ultimate community is able to work with Halifax Regional Municipality to identify space requirements. However, we require the leadership and support of the municipality in developing appropriate sites suitable for sport programs.