

MatchAware

Introduction

Field and facility scheduling for any sports club of non-trivial size is one of the most complicated, monotonous, and error prone areas of youth sports management.

It is typical for any sports club to have dozens of teams or more, often playing in a range of different leagues. Scheduling the club's limited field space for league games, tournament games, team practices, training organization sessions, camps, clinics, scrimmages, tryouts, and beyond is a daunting task. Communication of schedules to coaches, players, game officials and parents in a timely fashion is critical to the success of any youth sports organization.

Rainouts or other weather cancellations have been known to throw the delicate balance of field scheduling into chaotic disarray, especially when every individual league may have different rescheduling policies and timelines that must be met.

Having one easy to use and powerful tool that provides accurate and error free facility scheduling, communication, game official assignment, and efficient game change request handling would greatly simplify the work of any youth sports organization. Such a tool would enable the organization to save time, money, and prevent headaches for a largely volunteer work force.

Expected List of Features

- **Focus on ease of use** – most youth sports organizations are largely staffed by volunteers who are already giving much of their personal time. Learning and working with a difficult toolset should not take up more of their time.
- **Field Administrator Interface**
 - provides functionality to add or import teams, coaches, leagues, training organizations, fields, and facilities.
 - setup for default game types, durations, league rescheduling timelines, field criteria (lights/ hours of operation/field dimensions)
 - add/import games, assign fields and times, in an easy to understand visual display.
 - automatic notification to referee coordinator to assign game officials to scheduled games.
 - handle notifications of game change requests.
 - close fields for weather conditions or other reasons, initiating automatic notifications to teams affected and referee coordinator.
- **Referee Coordinator Interface**
 - add or import referees

- receive notification of scheduled games and apply referees to games, initiating automatic notifications to selected referees and field administrator.
- submit game change request to field administrator (referees cannot cover game at that field)
- receive notification of, and review any assignment collisions (i.e., assignment of same referee in back to back games at different facility locations that does not provide suitable travel time)
- **Training Administrator**
 - request field slots
 - receive notification that slots have been accepted
 - assign individual trainers and teams to given time slots
- **Coach**
 - request practice field slots
 - view game and training schedule
 - view the overall field schedule and submit three (configurable) dates/times for game change requests (either because of a weather cancellation or other field closure)
 - receive notifications of rescheduled events
 - add/import team roster
- **Trainer**
 - view training schedule
 - receive notifications of training field cancellations or time/location changes
- **Parent/Player**
 - view game and training schedule
 - receive notification of cancellations or schedule changes

Market Survey

- **TeamSnap** – primarily utilized as a team management and communication tool, TeamSnap also offers a paid product that offers club game scheduling, but it does not provide interactive game change requesting from coach back to field scheduler. Also, TeamSnap does not provide interface with Referee scheduler.
- **TeamApp** – another tool primarily focused on team management, does not provide club-wide field scheduling or interface with referee scheduling.
- **LeagueApps** – more geared towards a club web presence, registration and web CMS platform. Offers scheduling but again, lacks the details of field scheduler/coach interplay and interface with referee assigners.
- **Thapos** – again, a primarily team focused app. Does provide scheduling functionality, but only from the team perspective, no interaction between field scheduler/coach/referee assignor.

Most apps with related functionality are all focused on the individual team and its management, or overarching club management focusing on web presence, player registration, and communications

rather than offering detailed support for a sports club's scheduling of limited field resources across multiple teams and other users.

References

TeamSnap - <https://www.teamsnap.com/>

TeamApp - <https://www.teamapp.com/>

LeagueApps - <http://leagueapps.com/>

Thapos - <https://thapos.com/>