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LIGHTING YOUR BALLFIELD

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Proper lighting can reduce the likelihood of injuries and your liability exposure.

As the shouts of "Play Ball" echo around Canadian ball parks, so too come the shouts from neighbouring homeowners complaining that the lights are causing unacceptable glare to their homes. A common complaint is that lights are mounted too high on the poles and a request to simply lower the lights to solve the problem may seem reasonable. Such a step, however, would not solve this problem but, in fact, increase glare to the

neighbourhood and raise the risk of injury on the playing field!

While lowering lights may seem like a reasonable request, it is probable that raising the light would better solve the problem. In most cases it is the angle of the lighting, rather than the position on the pole that causes glare problems. By positioning the light to shine downward onto the field instead of across the playing surface, not only is the glare problem eliminated but so too is the risk of the lighting blinding the participants greatly reduced.

Some complaints are a result of lighting changing from one year to the next, and neighbours insist that the lights were changed over the winter. This situation often occurs in parks with wooden light poles. In a majority of these cases the lights have been untouched but the poles have slightly warped or twisted changing the effectiveness of your lighting.

Proper lighting of your playing fields can greatly reduce the likelihood of injuries occurring in your park and certainly reduce your liability exposure. 

Frank Cowan Company Limited
Canada's Insurance & Risk Specialists
4 Cowan Street East
Princeton, ON N0J 1V0

1 800 265 4000
T/ 519 458 4331 F/ 519 458 4366