



November 8, 2024

RE: AU - JACOBS FIELD
AUNP Summary of Unannounced Field Audit of Amplified Event

On September 20, 2024, I, a representative from MBP, performed a field audit of the scheduled woman's field hockey game at Jacobs field at American University. The game was an amplified noise event with the PA/sound system used for pre-game announcements and player introductions, the playing of the national anthem, and other announcements made throughout the game, half time, and post game. The sound system is also used to control the game clock buzzer that sounds and the end of quarters and also the end of warmup and half-time periods. The game audit was unannounced to the Athletics department, but timing and event selection was coordinated with Planning and Project Management.

It is noted that on the day of the scheduled 4 pm game, Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities & Operations Brian Chepulis was not present (paternity leave) nor was Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities & Operations Angela Rookey, the regular operator of the sound level meter and the conductor of the pre game sound system test routine. On this day, current Business Office Assistant Robby McFarland performed these duties.

The speaker setup was witnessed and speakers were found to be positioned and aimed in their correct locations (away from 4710 Woodway Lane). Though the approved speaker layout consists of four speakers on the spectator bleacher side of the field, one was not working and, therefore, only three were used.

The pre game sound system test was witnessed to be performed generally in accordance with the operating prodical, with MBP offering suggestions on meter usage and collecting the data. It is worth noting that the sound level meter used by AU was selected for its ability to calculate average levels (integrating) and record audio. Such a meter is more sophisticated than a basic model, offering additional features, which makes it more complex to use, especially for individuals who are not acoustics experts.

While sound system testing and documentation were observed to be in general accordance with the prodical, we recommend increased attention to ensuring that only approved sound sources are utilized during events. Further training is also recommenced to ensure that all relevant athletics staff fully understand the purpose and components of the operating protocol. An additional recommendation is enhancing the method by with wind speed and other weather conditions are recorded. MBP will be

willing to discuss possible options at the follow up training session with athletics. Finally, we recommend increased attention and effort be given to noting on the check list when deviations or abnormalities of any kind are encountered during events.

With the game on a Friday afternoon, the sound data collected to the meter was not processed until the next business day (Monday), and was provided to MBP shortly thereafter. Reviewing this data, it appears some settings on the data management software may have been changed when moving the software to a different computer. We will work with athletics to adjust the software settings accordingly.

Please contact us if there are any questions.

Sincerely,



Douglas P. Koehn, M.S.
Senior Consultant