
SoccerPlex Agreement Approved

Seeking to close out a year-long soccer saga, the Montgomery County Council approved changes this week to its agreement with the Maryland SoccerPlex. The amendments to the lease are meant to accommodate more players at the popular site in Boyds and shore up the facility's finances.

"More fields, more games and more kids playing," said Trish Heffelfinger, executive director of the Maryland Soccer Foundation, which operates the complex.

Last August, a half-dozen soccer clubs boycotted the first two weeks of the fall season because of fee increases. The chairman of Discovery Communications Inc., John Hendricks, donated \$6 million to the facility to try to quell the protest, and the county intervened.

The new agreement puts three additional fields into playing rotation. With more games, the facility will collect more fees, which will strengthen its financial position. The deal also sets standards to determine which soccer clubs should have priority on the 19 fields.

"We'll now have more kids playing more

games," said council member Steven A. Silverman (D-At Large) after the unanimous vote. "And it ends the internal food fight."