

Sportsgrounds Management Policy

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1. PURPOSE

To provide policy guidance for the management of Council's sportsgrounds network.

2. STATEMENT

In the context of this policy a sportsground is public open space which council maintains for active recreation use (i.e. organised sports). A sportsground is not a natural area, park, beach streetscape etc.

3. PROVISIONS

3.1. Sporting Group Communications

- Council will receive sports planning, policy and funding recommendations from Shoalhaven Sports Board.
- Shoalhaven Sports Board will receive planning, policy and funding recommendations from the one Sporting Association/Peak Body based in the Shoalhaven. Where a Shoalhaven sports club has no Sporting Association/Peak Body based in the Shoalhaven, the Board will accept recommendations from the appropriate representative body for that sport.
- Sporting Associations/Peak Bodies are requested to assess sporting club planning, policy and funding requests prior to forwarding their recommendation to Shoalhaven Sports Board. These Associations/Peak Bodies are encouraged to formally meet at least once a year with relevant Council Officers to discuss current issues and development of their sport. Depending on the outcome of this meeting, Sporting Associations/Peak Bodies may be invited to present a report to Shoalhaven Sports Board.
- Sporting Clubs are requested to forward planning, policy and funding requests to their Sporting Association/Peak Body. Where a Shoalhaven sports club has no Sporting Association/Peak Body based in the Shoalhaven, the Board will consider recommendations from the appropriate representative body for that sport.
- Sporting Individuals are requested to forward planning, policy and funding requests to their Sporting Club or Association/Peak Body.
- Risk management issues associated with any sport played in or on a Council managed facility should be communicated immediately to Council.

- Sporting Clubs are requested to forward and confirm ground allocation requirements with Council before use of a ground.
- General planning, policy, legislation, funding and specific Shoalhaven based sporting information will be communicated to Associations/Peak Bodies, Sporting Clubs and sporting individuals via the Shoalhaven Sports Board. However, in some circumstances this may involve written correspondence to relevant Associations/Peak Bodies, Sporting Clubs and sporting individuals.

3.2. User Group Responsibilities

- Sportsground charges are applied as per Council's adopted Fees and Charges.
- User groups shall pay full costs associated with the lighting of sportsgrounds for the duration of their allocated use.
- User groups shall meet the cost of line marking (including the line marker/materials).
- User groups shall be responsible for the supply and maintenance of goal posts and seasonal removal and replacement where required. All posts must conform to Council requirements and meet appropriate guidelines and standards for each sporting code.
- User groups shall be responsible for the maintenance and preparation of turf wickets.
- User groups are responsible for cleaning amenity facilities (i.e. change rooms & canteen) after each use.
- Where a sportsground has a clubroom, the user group(s) is responsible for the cost associated with the maintenance of the interior of the building (i.e. cleaning, maintenance, utility accounts, general building improvements).

3.3. Glass Bottle Free Sportsgrounds

- Council prohibits the supply sale and consumption of drinks in glass bottles or glass containers on Council managed sportsgrounds.

3.4. Sportsground Closures

- During or following wet weather, a club/user group, which has been given a specific ground allocation, is responsible for determining the suitability of a sportsground for play/training and to advise its members/participants of a sportsground closure.
- During or following wet weather Council will determine whether a sportsground should be declared closed for a casual booking.
- During prolonged and/or extreme weather, (i.e. drought or flood) Council will determine whether sportsgrounds are suitable for use and advise clubs/user groups if sportsgrounds are not available for use.
- During or following hot weather conditions a club/user group, which has been given a specific ground allocation, is responsible for determining if the ground and weather conditions are safe for play/training and advise its members/participants of a sportsground closure.
- Where a ground is controlled by a Management Committee, the Committee may determine the suitability of the ground for play.
- Where a club/user group has determined a ground to be fit for play and excessive damage is caused to the ground. The club will be responsible for reasonable costs for repair of the ground. The Social and Infrastructure Planning staff will determine if the damage is excessive.

3.5. Sportsground Perimeter Fencing

- One fenced 'feature' sportsground be provided in each of the Northern, Central and Southern areas of the City by Council where an entry fee can be collected and the accessible by all legitimate hirers is not affected.
- Perimeter fencing of other sportsgrounds may be permitted in consultation with Council and where public access to the facility is not significantly affected and the fencing is provided by the Club.
- "Feature" grounds must be readily accessible by all legitimate hirers.
- Showgrounds are excluded from this policy as perimeter fencing is need to facilitate event usage.

3.6. Smoke Free Act

All sportsgrounds are non-smoking venues as outlined in the Smoke Free Environment Act 2000.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

The Finance Corporate & Community Services Group will administer this policy

5. REVIEW

To be reviewed within one year of the election of a new Council.

6. APPLICATION OF ESD PRINCIPLES

Natural Capital – Encourage the use of recycled materials and low energy alternatives in sportsground facility improvements. Examples are the use of REMS water, recyclable plastics and solar heating/lighting.

Social Integrity – Encourage community involvement in undertaking sportsground improvements

Ecological Integrity – Deter litter around and on sportsgrounds.