

7.5 ADVERTISING OF NEW POLICY - SPORTSGROUND ALLOCATION - USE AND HIRE POLICY

Attachments: 1. Proposed Sportsground Allocation - Use and Hire Policy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council APPROVES the Sportsground Allocation - Use and Hire Policy, at Attachment 1, for the purpose of community consultation.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

For Council to approve, for the purpose of community consultation, the new Sportsground Allocation – Use and Hire Policy as detailed at **Attachment 1**.

BACKGROUND:

The requirement of provisions outlined in clause 1.3 of the Policy Development and Review Policy were presented to Council Members at Council Workshop 19 April 2022.

Feedback was received from Council Members and this feedback was incorporated into the draft proposed policy.

The City's draft *Public Health Plan 2020 – 2025* identifies Physical Activity as being one of the six priority health topics which are a focus of the plan with healthy behaviours (including physical activity) playing an important part of people leading longer healthier lives.

It is well documented that exercise and participation in sport remains an important part of our community's physical and mental health with communities that actively participate developing strong social bonds. Whilst the physical benefits of sport are widely known, regular exercise is also attributed to the reduction of the risks associated with emotional problems such as anxiety and depression. Regular exercise can also increase self-esteem and self-confidence, reduce social isolation and decrease stress.

Community sport offers an excellent vehicle for Councils to achieve key aims such as improved public health, building stronger more resilient communities, building better networks and supporting children, women, seniors, people with disability, and Culturally and Linguistically (CaLD) communities.

Local Government has a responsibility to provide for the wellbeing of its community including the provision of community and recreational facilities. This is achieved this through the provision of sportsgrounds, clubrooms, swimming pools, leisure centres and parks.

The City has eight sportsgrounds that are used throughout the year for active sporting pursuits. During summer, the City has one sportsground that is utilised for more than 50 percent (Charles Veryard) during peak usage times (4:00pm – 10:00pm Monday to Friday and 7:00am – 6:00pm Saturday and Sunday). The remainder of the seven sportsgrounds are not utilised 79 percent of the time during this peak time period.

In winter, two sportsgrounds (Forrest Park and Britannia Reserve) are used for more than 50 percent during peak usage times, with the remaining six sportsgrounds unused 85 percent of the time on average.

During the weekdays, most sportsgrounds are underutilised with the exception of periodic local school usage.

The City is preparing a Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan and ensures alignment between the conditions of [Policy No: 2.1.7 – Parks, Reserves & Hall Facilities – Conditions of Hire and Use](#) and the plan.

DETAILS:

The City's Policy on Parks, Reserves and Hall Facilities with Conditions of Hire and Use 2.1.7 is overdue for review. Administration is proposing to create a new policy relating to Sportsground Allocation as per the draft in Attachment 1.

Proposed objective of the new policy:

The draft proposed objectives of this policy are to:

1. Provide a framework for the hire and use of sportsgrounds.
2. Ensure diversity of access and allocation, considering factors such as age and gender.
3. Acknowledge and guide the balance of both 'active' and 'passive' recreation at sportsgrounds, considering the increasing and competing demands for the use of public open space in inner-city areas.
4. Ensure maintenance of Vincent sportsgrounds are managed optimally across the year and from season to season.
5. Appropriately manage off site impact on adjoining residents, and community use of parks and reserves, including traffic, parking and noise.

Requirement for a documented City position (including community need or legislative requirement):

A clear Council policy on sportsground allocation will facilitate the administration of our bookings approach given the increasing demands from clubs and the community on our sportsgrounds.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

In accordance with the City's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy, community consultation of all new and significantly amended policies must be provided for a period exceeding 21 days in the following ways:

- notice published on the City's website;
- notice posted to the City's social media;
- notice published in the local newspapers;
- notice exhibited on the notice board at the City's Administration and Library and Local History Centre; and

Public notice of this proposed new policy will be provided from 1 June 2022 to 30 June 2022.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Section 2.7(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 1995* provides Council with the power to determine policies.

The City's Policy Development and Review Policy sets out the process for the development and review of the City's policy documents.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Low: It is low risk for Council to undertake community consultation of the proposed new Sportsground Allocation – Use and Hire policy.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028*:

Enhanced Environment

Our parks and reserves are maintained, enhanced and well utilised.

Connected Community

Our community facilities and spaces are well known and well used.

Thriving Places

Our physical assets are efficiently and effectively managed and maintained.

Innovative and Accountable

Our resources and assets are planned and managed in an efficient and sustainable manner.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

This does not contribute to any specific sustainability outcomes of the *City's Sustainable Environment Strategy 2019-2024*, however it does demonstrate the benefit of the urban greening objectives of the strategy. In particular the shared use of the City's public open space by clubs and the community for enhanced community well-being, and community ownership of the City's green assets.

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

- creating opportunities for our community to have social connectedness, join clubs, and spend time with others.
- living in a built environment with access to community spaces that facilitate organised and incidental physical activity.
- having public open spaces that offer residents and visitors opportunities to be physically active and in turn increase mental health and wellbeing.

Increased physical activity

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The City generates income from reserve bookings which helps offset the cost of maintenance.

COMMENTS:

The content of this policy reflects a range of feedback received from community members, sport clubs and residents.



SPORTSGROUND ALLOCATION, USE AND HIRE

Legislation / local law requirements	City of Vincent Property Local Law 2008
Relevant delegations	
Related policies, procedures and supporting documentation	Public Open Space Strategy Public Health Strategy

INTRODUCTION

The City of Vincent's Strategic Community Plan 2018-2028 sets priorities to provide an Enhanced Environment, Connected Community and Thriving Places. Our vibrant places and spaces are integral to our identity and appeal. We want to create, enhance, and promote great places and spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Our public open space is an important part of everyday urban life, and it delivers a wide range of health, economic, environmental, and social benefits for our community.

Vincent's sportsgrounds are available for use by sports clubs based on a seasonal allocation process. In order to provide all users the opportunity to use these spaces and keep the grounds healthy, strict conditions apply.

PURPOSE

This policy provides direction on the seasonal allocation, use, and hire of sports grounds.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. Provide a framework for the hire and use of sportsgrounds.
2. Ensure diversity of access and allocation, considering factors such as age and gender.
3. Acknowledge and guide the balance of both 'active' and 'passive' recreation at sportsgrounds, considering the increasing and competing demands for the use of public open space in inner-city areas.
4. Ensure maintenance of Vincent sportsgrounds are managed optimally across the year and from season to season.
5. Appropriately manage off site impact on adjoining residents, and community use of parks and reserves, including traffic, parking and noise.



SPORTSGROUND ALLOCATION, USE AND HIRE

SCOPE

This policy applies to the formal process of allocation of public open space classified as a sports space for the purposes of structured community sporting activities. It considers the available use of sports space for passive recreation.

POLICY PROVISIONS

1. DEFINITIONS

Active Recreation refers to planned and organised sports training and competition

Passive Recreation refers to situations where the community are engaging in their own personal exercise activities, such as walking, use of exercise equipment, running and dog walking.

Seasonal shall mean the season of summer and winter.

Sportsground means a setting for formal structured sporting activities, such as team competitions, physical skill development and training. Most sport spaces can also be accessed by community members for informal sport and recreation. Vincent sportsgrounds are shown in Appendix 1.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SPORTS CLUBS

Allocations of grounds to sports clubs are prioritised on a seasonal basis, based on the following criteria:

PRIORITY	CRITERIA DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
1	Responsible club behaviour over the preceding season/s, including appropriately responding to complaints and concerns raised by the City	25%
2	Percentage of Vincent residents who are registered club members	25%
3	Degree to which the club supports and encourages participation of junior, women and people with disabilities within their sport	20%
4	Evidence of financial sustainability	20%
5	Programs or policies that promote healthy lifestyles	10%

3. SPORTSGROUND ALLOCATIONS

Sportsgrounds are allocated on a seasonal basis through a fair and independent process. This ensures everyone in our community can enjoy the benefits of participating in sport, recreation, and other cultural activities.

3.1 Allocating grounds to clubs

Sports clubs will be allocated to a sports ground at the discretion of the City of Vincent.

Sports clubs may also be reallocated to another sportsground at any time.

Vincent may allocate a reserve to multiple clubs at one time.



SPORTSGROUND

ALLOCATION, USE AND HIRE

3.2 Allocating for intensity of use

Vincent will consider the intensity of use when allocating clubs to sportsgrounds.

Intensity of use considers the adverse impact the sporting activity might have on the condition of the ground itself. While an active sports ground will generate noise and activity, monitoring intensity of use will also seek to minimise nuisance to the surrounding community and residents (as compared to disruption experienced around a typical sportsground).

Factors considered when evaluating and managing intensity include:

- the number of clubs or teams likely to use the ground concurrently
- the number of players on the ground
- whether the players are adults (higher intensity) or children (lower intensity)
- the wear and tear impact on the field
- the noise generated by the sporting activity, including whistles, sirens, and raised voices
- the duration and frequency of the sporting activity
- the size of the field
- the hours of use, particularly where this occurs before 8am or after 8pm (higher intensity)

3.3 Allocating clubs due to ground suitability

Vincent will allocate clubs based on ground suitability for the sporting activity.

The following factors will be considered when considering ground suitability:

- ground condition
- ground maintenance and renewal program
- facilities available, including toilets and changerooms
- time of day, and in particular, if lighting is available for night training

A sports ground will be unsuitable for sporting competition if does not have toilet facilities. However, it will still be suitable for club training for a maximum of 2 hours.

At any time, Vincent may decide that a ground that was once suitable for a sporting activity is no longer suitable.

3.4 Allowance for passive recreation

City reserves generally have sufficient space on the boundaries for passive recreation to occur concurrently with seasonal use of the sports ground (eg dog walking on leash, walking, running, general exercise).

Clubs will remain courteous to members of the public and will make unused space available for the public to use, particularly during the peak exercise times of 4pm to 7pm weekdays.



SPORTSGROUND ALLOCATION, USE AND HIRE

3.5 Casual hire

The City may hire sporting grounds to casual hirers. Seasonal allocation requirements are prioritised over casual allocations.

4. SEASONAL BOOKINGS

4.1 Summer Season

Applications Considered	August
Pre-season training commences	September
Season Begins	October
Season Ends	March

4.2 Winter Season

Applications Considered	February
Pre-season training commences	March
Season Begins	April
Season Ends	September

4.3 Club Applications

When submitting a seasonal application clubs will complete a Community Groups and Sporting Clubs Health Check with their application, that includes financial sustainability information, contact details, indemnity insurance, likely games schedules, fixtures (if available) and membership data. This information is required to prioritise club eligibility (refer above).

Clubs are required to submit their application on time, pay the required fees and charges, and clear any outstanding payments in order to be eligible for seasonal ground allocation. Late submissions may be considered by City Officers if grounds remain available.

The application process is revised annually, and application requirements may change from year-to-year without notice

4.4 Hours of Use – Active Sportsground

Monday to Thursday	4pm to 9pm
Friday	4pm to 10pm
Saturday, Sunday & Public Holidays	7am to 6pm

4.5 Hours of Use – Pavillion

Monday to Thursday	4pm to 10pm
Friday & Saturday	7am to Midnight
Sunday & Public Holidays	7am to 11.30pm



SPORTSGROUND ALLOCATION, USE AND HIRE

5. CLUB OBLIGATIONS

The club will comply with hire conditions set by City officers, including any ground specific conditions.

Clubs will:

- Be considerate to the needs of local residents, especially considering noise levels when arriving and leaving the reserve.
- Educate their members on the hire conditions for the location.
- Immediately report damage to grounds or facilities. Clubs may be liable for damage to premises, including any unauthorised installation or modification to fixtures and fittings in built structures.
- Not copy or change locks or keys for built structures.
- Monitor and manage anti-social and nuisance behaviour from club members and spectators.
- Ensure pavillions are in a clean and tidy state at all times, and when they are vacated at the end of the season.
- Respond to any requests from City officers.

6. BREACH OF HIRE CONDITIONS

If a club breaches the conditions of hire, including site specific conditions and requests from City officers, their booking may be suspended or cancelled.

The City may choose the following actions relating to a breach (or breaches) of hire conditions:

- Issue a caution or warning to the club that further complaints may result in suspension or cancellation of the booking.
- Suspend the club's booking for a period of time.
- Permanently cancel the club's seasonal booking.

7. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Any complaints relating to this policy may be lodged with the Chief Executive Officer, in accordance with Policy No. 4.1.3 Customer Complaints Management and Procedures

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Responsible Officer	Executive Director, Community & Business Services
Initial Council Adoption	14 April 1998
Previous Title	Policy 2.1.7: Parks, Reserves & Hall Facilities – Conditions of Hire and Use
Reviewed / Amended	22 February 2011
Next Review Date	

SPORTSGROUND ALLOCATION, USE AND HIRE



APPENDIX 1: ACTIVE SPORTS GROUNDS

