



Sport and Recreation Reference Group

Report SR02 – 16 March 2020

Attachments:
Nil

SUBJECT: Winter Season 2020 Sportsfields Allocation

AUTHOR: Rob Emerson, Director Open Space & Environmental Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides information regarding usage of Council's sportsfields for the Winter season 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Nil.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Winter Season 2020 Sportsfields Allocation report be received.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

Direction: 1. Our Living Environment
Outcome: 1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs

BACKGROUND

The allocation of North Sydney's sportsfields for the forthcoming season has been effectively completed by the Council's Customer Service (Bookings Team) and the sportsfield hirers provided with confirmation of their bookings for Winter 2020.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The sustainability implications are of a minor nature and did not warrant a detailed assessment.

DETAIL

Applications from sporting clubs and local schools for the use of Council's sportsfields for the 2020 winter season (March to August) closed on 7 February 2020 and the Council's Customer Service (Bookings Team) have effectively completed the allocation process and with the help of the sportsfield hirers, resolved all the booking conflicts that existed.

In determining the allocation of requested bookings, staff took into consideration the identified criteria including:

- The number of players/participants represented by the hirer;
- If the booking is for training/competition/social (priority will be given to training/competition over social);
- A fair distribution of hours between the respective hirers;
- Whether the hirer has previously complied with Council's bookings conditions of hire; and
- The impact of a sport on the grounds during the maintenance and growing periods.

In an effort to accommodate the community's needs and maintain the playing surface in a safe condition, North Sydney limits the use of sportsfields to a maximum of 32 hours of organised sport bookings per field per week. Anderson Park is limited to 25 hours per week due to this field's poor drainage, shade cover from the large trees on the park's perimeter and the generally poor growing conditions existing to maintain adequate grass cover. Cammeray Park has a durable synthetic surface and is not restricted to the 32 hour per week maximum.

Further, it is noted that Council's booking policy applies the following condition:

"In calculating the total usage on a ground for allocation purposes, primary school bookings will be counted as half the actual usage due to their lower impact on the ground (i.e. two hours will be counted as one hour)."

It is noted that the accepted industry standard for use of natural turf sportsfields for organised sport is set as a maximum of 25 hours of sport per field per week to ensure the playing surface can be maintained in a safe and playable condition. Most Councils impose this standard of a maximum of 25 hours of organised use for the sportsfields that they manage.

This winter the fields in North Sydney will receive on average, the following hours of use per week:

Sportsfield	Average Hours Per Week
Anderson Park	23.75
Cammeray	71.75
Forsyth #1	29.75
Forsyth #2	27.5
Primrose #1	32.65
Primrose #2	28.3
Primrose #3	31.65
Tunks #2	23.85
Tunks #3	20.1
Waverton Park	29.25
Bon Andrews Oval	30.2
North Sydney Oval	25

The demand for the limited North Sydney sportsfields particularly for the winter season sports continues to be very high and is expected to continue to increase with current and projected increase in population.