

OFFICERS REPORT**6.2 FEES AND CHARGES RELIEF FOR SPORTS CLUBS UNDER LICENCE**

Submitting Councillor: Shane McCluskey

MOTION

That Council:

1. Notes the significant interruption to community sport in Monash since the onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020 and the associated public health response and orders of the Victorian Chief Health Officer (CHO).
2. Notes the adverse effects on the ability of the administration of sports clubs operating in Monash community facilities under seasonal licence arrangements to remain viable and financially stable due to the interruption to business as usual due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. Congratulates sports clubs on their continued efforts in providing active recreation opportunities for Monash community members in such challenging circumstances.
4. Recognises the positive impact on our community of active recreation and the general improved health and wellbeing it promotes and provides, and the financial strain placed on clubs due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
5. Notes that due to the cancelled 2021 winter season, sporting clubs have been credited any fees and charges associated with this period.
6. Resolves to waive the future fees and charges for all sports clubs operating under licence from 1 October 2021 until 30 June 2022 inclusive and refund any fees already paid during this period.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The implication of the proposed motion is \$285,212 comprising of:

- Summer Sports Clubs - \$189,469 (covers the entire 2021/22 summer tenancy period October – February)
- Winter Sports Clubs - \$95,743 (covers the winter tenancy period – April to June 2022)

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

Council's fees and charges to sports clubs under licence are applied as a proportion of maintenance costs, notionally identified as 15%. Whilst Council has achieved some savings as a consequence of the 2021 winter season being cancelled, the majority of routine and preventative maintenance has occurred to ensure surfaces are maintained for the resumption of sport and for general community use including the preparation of turf cricket wickets for the summer season.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The Active Reserves Fees and Charges Policy is relevant to this Councillors Nomination. Its objectives include:

- Providing a framework for the allocation and charging of Council's sports grounds and pavilions
- Ensuring that the charges levied for the use of Council's sports grounds and pavilions are related to the cost of providing and administering the facilities and services; and,
- Providing equity in the process of allocating and charging for the use of Council sports grounds and pavilions.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

Licence fees have previously been discounted during lock down periods including a credit for the 2021 winter season, and for similar periods affected by COVID-19 related restrictions.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Council currently has 32 winter licence club holders with approximately 303 teams and 4,280 individual participants across Australian Rules football, football, rugby, baseball and softball. Similarly, there are 27 summer licence club holders with 297 teams and 3,244 individual participants across cricket, athletics, baseball and softball. While all clubs have been impacted by lockdowns, it is evident that there is a desire by these clubs and their members to resume participation as soon as possible.

Officers are aware that many sports clubs are actively preparing to resume training and competition, with considerable anticipation and enthusiasm evident. While the 2021/22 summer season will be shortened (typically beginning in October), it is expected that the 2022 winter season will operate as normal.