

COUNCIL POLICY



SPORT & RECREATION POLICY

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Sport and Recreation Policy



1. Introduction

This Policy is intended to:

- increase community participation in sport and recreational activities, and
- facilitate development of high quality sporting and recreational facilities across the Adelaide Hills Council area.

Sport and recreation contributes significantly to the Adelaide Hills being a vibrant and active place for all who live, work and visit the area, as well as making a major contribution to the cultural and social wellbeing of our Community. The economic importance of sport and recreation in the Adelaide Hills is also significant through tourism and event based visits.

2. Definitions

Recreation: recreation is defined as any activity that a person chooses to participate in during their free time for the purpose of enjoyment. This can mean many things, but would include activities such as walking, jogging, hiking, bike riding, mountain biking, fitness classes, dancing, horse riding, playing tennis or sailing model boats at Woorabinda. In general, recreational activities are less structured than organized sporting activities. Recreation also includes activities relating to art, culture and entertainment. However this policy focuses specifically on the areas of community recreation, sport, fitness and outdoor recreation.

Sport: sporting activities are generally more structured and involve teams, competitions and opponents. They generally require specific playing facilities such as an oval, wicket, pitch, courts or playing surface. Organised sports also typically hold regular training and coaching sessions, and often have a permanent location, club room or changing facilities.

Policy Statement 1: *The Sport and Recreation Policy focuses specifically on the areas of community recreation, sport, fitness and outdoor recreation.*

3. Benefits

Council appreciates that there are significant benefits from broad participation and enjoyment of sport and recreational pursuits including quality of life, personal development and community, economic and environment benefits. These derive from good health, skill development, social interaction, community integration, employment opportunities, development of sport and recreational facilities, increasing visitor numbers stimulating economic activity and more. Volunteers support the establishment and development of recreation infrastructure, and organize and run many of the activities.

4. Council's Role

Council recognizes that it has a key role in providing leadership and in the planning, development, provision and maintenance of community sport and recreational facilities.

Policy Statement 2: *The Adelaide Hills Council intends to play a key role in the planning, development, provision and maintenance of sporting and recreational infrastructure across the District working in partnership with the community, sporting and recreational groups, and the State and Federal Governments.*

5. Funding

Council recognizes that it has a key role in funding the development, improvement and maintenance of community sport and recreational facilities. However as in many sectors of government, funding is limited and Council must prioritise the use of public funds.

Policy Statement 3: *Council will prioritise funding for the development, improvement and maintenance of community sport and recreational facilities.*

A critical factor in achieving success, both to date and in the future, is the outstanding contribution from volunteers, individuals, groups and clubs who provide their time, resources and raise funds for the betterment of sport and recreation opportunities in this District.

Policy Statement 4: *Council will adopt funding guidelines which encourages user pays and shared funding responsibility between Council, user groups, State and/or Federal governments.*

Policy Statement 5: *Council will continue to seek contributions from community, sporting and recreational groups, and the State and Federal Governments to plan, develop and fund sport and recreational projects and facilities.*

Council recognises that many community, sporting and recreational groups across the District have invested time, energy and resources into developing sport and recreational facilities for their communities, often with little or no assistance from Council. It therefore recognized that future improvements, development and maintenance of these 'community owned' facilities should be supported by Council in a similar manner to the support provided to Council owned facilities.

Policy Statement 6: *Council will support community owned facilities in a similar fashion to its own facilities where such facilities are available for general community benefit, in line with prioritized needs.*

6. Sporting Facilities - Priorities

Many of the sporting and recreational facilities across the Hills were built in the years following the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Facilities were often built in every town or village, and reflected both community pride and the fact that travel between towns and villages was often difficult or slow. A trip to a neighbouring town for football, cricket or tennis was a major social event and one which would often take the whole day.

However in our highly mobile, time poor 21st century, the community's needs are increasingly towards larger, more sophisticated multi-use facilities with all-weather playing surfaces, lighting, car parking and social facilities. Indoor facilities will play an increasingly important role by allowing participants to join in sports or recreational activities at night, particularly during the week, reflecting a move away from traditional weekend recreational and sporting

activities. Smaller clubs are also finding it harder to attract officials, players and coaches as the choices available beyond the more traditional sports increase.

Policy Statement 7: Council will classify sport and recreational facilities, with priority for major “hubs” and district level facilities whilst continuing to support local facilities.

Policy Statement 8: Council will continue to maintain a network of local sporting and recreational facilities where such facilities demonstrate a reasonable level of ongoing community use or benefit. Where a local sport or recreational facility no longer demonstrates reasonable community use or benefit, and if Council deems the facility to be of no further strategic use, then it will be offered for community ownership in the first instance. If the local community is unable or unwilling to take ownership, the facilities will be offered for sale or be closed.

It is also clear that as the larger clubs and facilities improve, there is increasing congestion for access to playing facilities. When combined with the move away from traditional weekend playing times, the demands for more facilities and for lighting to allow existing facilities to be utilized at night are increasing.

Policy Statement 9: Council will support the installation of high quality lighting at key facilities to expand the use of these facilities, particularly for use on mid-week nights.

7. Support for New Clubs

Council recognises that newly established organisations (or group of organisations) require special consideration in order to establish a minimum level of facilities for their members. Under these circumstances, Council will consider a funding and support package on a case by case basis. Once the organisation is established, Council’s general funding guidelines shall be followed.

Policy Statement 10: Council will support newly formed organizations on a case-by-case basis.

8. Funding Guidelines

Council’s Sport and Recreation funding guidelines are detailed in Tables 1 to 6 attached.

Where the funding guidelines indicate a potential range of funding support or where there is no specific guideline, Council’s Sport & Recreation Advisory Committee will recommend a level of funding based on Council’s policy, the general principles of funding, community needs and benefits, and project merit. Other factors which may be taken into account include:

- a) Priority will be given to projects that maximize external funding support and meet Council’s strategic sport and recreation priorities.
- b) Funding priority will be given to projects that support larger user groups.
- c) Funding priority will be given to projects that principally cater for young people or the elderly, rather than those that cater predominantly for adults particularly where supported by licensed club or facility.
- d) Council may provide limited funding support in cases where services/facilities that would ordinarily be supported Council are being provided by another organization - eg if a school makes its sports fields available for a sporting group that cannot otherwise be located at a Council or community facility, then Council may provide assistance to

develop the sporting facilities even though they are located within a school or similar facility. Each funding request will be determined on a case by case basis.

9. Other Grants

In cases where an external grant has been received for a particular capital works project (eg State and/or Federal Government funding), the percentage distributions apply to the balance of the costs for the particular facility (eg oval upgrading or court reconstruction) as follows:

50% Grant
25% User
25% Council
100% Total Cost

TABLE 1 – Council Owned Facilities/Facilities on Council Reserves

Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
Oval Maintenance – Multi-use facilities	Oval preparation, grass cutting & other maintenance charges	50	50
	Note: applies where facilities are genuinely multi-use - ie. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> readily accessible to general community when not utilised for competition/training facilities are used for a range of purposes Charges based on % actual costs and are in lieu of an annual rental or usage charges. Council may establish an upper limit amount		
Oval Maintenance – Not multi-use facility	Oval preparation, grass cutting & other maintenance charges	20	80
	Note: applies where a facility is not genuinely multi-use – ie. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an enclosed facility not easily accessible to the community, or a single use facility such as soccer pitch Charges based on % actual costs and are in lieu of an annual rental or usage charges. Council may establish an upper limit amount		
Irrigation	Costs of oval irrigation (incl electricity costs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-use facilities Not multi-use facilities 	50 20	50 80
	Note: Users will be charged for excessive &/or unreasonable water use or costs.		
Cricket	Cricket pitch surface replacement - on an oval or practice wicket	50	50
	New cricket practice wickets (including fencing), provided that at least one remains readily accessible to the general community	40	60
Public Toilets	Defined as toilets required by Council to be accessible to the general public		
	Capital costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> base structure to Council design club requested additions (such as integrated change rooms, canteen, storage, verandas) 	100 50	Nil 50
	Maintenance & cleaning costs (toilet facility)	100	Nil
Club Toilets	Defined as toilets that are usually locked and only available for use during events		
	Capital costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> base structure to Council design club requested additions (such as integrated change rooms, canteen, storage, verandas) 	50 50	50 50
	Maintenance costs (toilet facility)	Nil	100
	Cleaning costs	Nil	100
Storage Sheds		Nil	100
Social Clubrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlicensed facilities – all types Licensed facilities – all types Maintenance costs 	Nil to 25 Nil Nil	100 to 75 100 100

Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
Floodlights	Limited to ovals, tennis courts, netball courts. Council to agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • need for lighting based on policy • final design (incl illumination levels) 		
	Initial installation or upgrading	50	50
	Maintenance	50	50
	Electricity Costs	0	100
Access Roads at Reserves	To Council design	100	Nil
Car Parking & Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial construction (to standards determined by Council) 	100	Nil
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major upgrading including sealing (to standards determined by Council) 	50	50
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carpark & drainage maintenance (as determined by Council) 	50	50
Facility Upgrading &/or Improvements	Other facility upgrading &/or improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where work is required by Council in accord with Council strategy (Council to determine standards) 	100	Nil
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where requested by Club & work meets Council's service & design standards 	50	50
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where requested work is beyond what are appropriate standards for multi-purpose facilities or where provision is to suit requirements of particular organisations (eg turf wicket) 	Nil	100
Specialised Single Use Facilities	Such as equestrian	Nil to 25	100 to 75
Scout/Guide Halls on Council land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New buildings, extensions etc. 	Nil to 30	100 to 70
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance 	Nil	100

TABLE 2 – Community Owned Facilities

Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution	
Oval Maintenance – Multi-use facilities	Oval preparation, grass cutting, fertilizing, and top dressing.	50	50	
	Note: applies where facilities are genuinely multi-use – ie. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> readily accessible to general community when not utilised for competition/training facilities are used for a range of purposes Council may provide an annual maintenance grant which reflects a proportion of club's costs in undertaking oval maintenance.			
Oval Maintenance – Not multi-use facility	Oval preparation, grass cutting, fertilizing, and top dressing.	20	80	
	Note: applies where a facility is not genuinely multi-use – ie. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an enclosed facility not easily accessible to the community, or a single use facility such as soccer pitch Council may provide an annual maintenance grant which reflects a proportion of club's costs in undertaking oval maintenance.			
Irrigation	Council will reimburse a club for cost of electricity for running oval irrigation:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-use facilities Not multi-use facilities 	50 20	50 80	
Cricket	Cricket pitch surface replacement on an oval or practice wickets	50	50	
	New cricket practice wickets (including fencing), provided that at least one remains readily accessible to the general community	40	60	
Public Toilets	Toilets that are required by Council to be accessible to the general public.			
	Capital costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> base structure to approved design club requested additions (such as integrated change rooms, canteen, storage, verandas) 	100 50	Nil 50	
	Maintenance & cleaning costs (toilet facility)	100	Nil	
Club Toilets	Toilets that are usually locked and only available for use during events. (construction, maintenance or cleaning)	Nil	100	
Storage Sheds		Nil	100	
Social Clubrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlicensed facilities – all types Licensed facilities – all types Maintenance costs 	Nil to 25 Nil Nil	100 to 75 100 100	
	Floodlights	Provided used for training and/or night competition in accord with Council's sport & recreation policy. Limited to ovals, tennis courts, netball courts. Council to agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> need for lighting based on policy final design (incl illumination levels) 		
	Initial installation or upgrading	50	50	
	Maintenance	50	50	
	Electricity Costs	0	100	

Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
Access Roads	Provided endorsed by Council and to Council standards	25	75
Car Parking & Drainage	• Initial construction (to agreed standards)	25	75
	• Major upgrading including sealing (to agreed standards)	25	75
	• Carpark & drainage maintenance	Nil	100
Facility Upgrading &/or Improvements	Where facility upgrading &/or improvements are determined by Council to be:		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an appropriate standard for the facility and meets genuine community need • beyond what are appropriate standards for multi-purpose facilities or where provision is to suit requirements of particular organisations (eg turf wicket) 	50 Nil	50 100
Specialised Single Use Facilities	Such as equestrian	Nil to 25	100 to 75

TABLE 3: Tennis/Netball Courts on Council/Community Owned Reserves

Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
New courts	Construction costs (excluding lighting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multi use • single use 	50 25	50 75
Resurfacing/fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multi use • single use 	50 25	50 75
Flood lighting	Refer to Table 1 or 2		
Public Toilets	Refer to Table 1 or 2		
Club Toilets	Toilets that are usually locked and only available for use during events. (construction, maintenance or cleaning)	Nil	100
Social Clubrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction / upgrading • Maintenance costs 	Nil to 25 Nil to 25	100 to 75 100 to 75
Access Roads at Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council facilities • Community owned facilities 	100 25	Nil 75
Car Parking & Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial construction (to agreed standards) • Major upgrading including resheeting or sealing (to agreed standards) • Carpark & drainage maintenance 	50 50 Nil	50 50 100
General Improvements	Seating, shelters	Nil	100
Playgrounds	As approved by Council	100	Nil
Minor court maintenance	Up to \$5,000	20	80

TABLE 4: Casual Access Facilities (ie swimming pool, gymnasium, BMX track, skate facilities, playground)

Indicative Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
Swimming pool	Upgrading &/or major improvements	75 to 100	0 to 25
	Maintenance of fixed plant & facilities	Fixed annual grant plus one-offs	Balance
	Grounds maintenance	Nil	100
Gymnasium/indoor facilities		Council to consider on case by case basis	Balance
BMX track/skate park	Initial construction (on Council land)	75	25
	Maintenance (on Council land)	100	Nil
Playgrounds	In Council reserves	100	Nil
Walking Trails	Where fully Council owned & in accord with Council's Trails Strategy	100	Nil

TABLE 5: Facilities not normally supported by Council (ie bowling clubs, golf clubs, scout halls, school facilities)

Indicative Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
Bowling & Golf Clubs		Council to determine if any funding assistance to be provided based on level of community need, level of access and community benefit.	Balance
Scout Halls	Where not located on Council land.		
School Facilities			
Horse and/or Mountain Bike trails			
Other facilities not specified			

TABLE 6: Joint-use Agreement Facilities (ie facilities that are jointly funded by Council and other agencies such as Education Department)

Indicative Facility	Details	% Council Contribution	% User Contribution
As per the terms of the individual agreements.			