

November 24, 2016

Council modifies sports field user fees

After a thorough review of rates in other municipalities and extensive consultation with sports groups and the City's Community Services, Recreation and Culture Commission, Council has approved changes to sports field user fees that sets hourly booking rates at \$5 per hour per field for youth teams and \$20 per hour per field for adult teams.

"To ensure the most efficient booking of sports fields, the City will move to hourly booking in 2017. It's important to emphasize that these hourly fees apply no matter how many participants are on the field," says Ross Milnthorp, the City's general manager of parks, recreation and culture. *"Even with this change, local fees for sports field bookings, will remain, on average, lower than in our comparison communities – where youth bookings range from \$9.56 to \$20.50 per hour, and adult bookings range from \$10.50 to \$35 per hour."*

- For youth bookings at a rate of \$5/hour/field, if 20 participants are using the field, the cost per participant would be equal to 25 cents per hour.
- For adult bookings, at a rate of \$20/hour/field, with 20 participants using the field, the cost per participant would be equal to \$1 per hour.

The new fees and hourly bookings will begin Jan. 1, 2017 for individual bookings and the spring/summer sports season. Sports groups playing during the fall 2016/winter 2017 season have already paid their fees based on the old system.

"With this decision, Council is re-affirming Campbell River's investment in sports and recreation, and all the related community health benefits," says Mayor Andy Adams. *"In particular, we are supporting our youth in sport, recreation and a healthy lifestyle – now and into the future."*

Fees from sports field bookings are re-invested into City field operations and maintenance and contribute to less than 10 per cent of costs associated with the facilities, Milnthorp notes, adding that, although school fields are booked by the City, they are maintained by the school district.

Highlights of fees for sports field bookings:

- Hourly game booking rates will be \$5 per field per hour for youth teams and \$20 per field per hour for adult teams.
- The same fee will be charged for natural grass and synthetic turf sports fields.
- Daily tournament fees are capped at eight hours (equates to \$160 per field per day for adult tournament bookings and \$40 per field per day for youth tournament bookings). Any hours beyond the first eight hours booked for the same day will be at no charge.
- Lighting fees are established at \$10 per field per hour (where lighting is available).
- Hourly practice booking rates will be the same as hourly game booking rates for specialized fields (Willow Point Park Homer Dome and All Weather Field, Robron Park Artificial Turf and Nunns Creek Lit Ball Diamond).
- Sports field user fees will be re-evaluated every two years.

###

Contact: Ross Milnthorp, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

250-286-5797