



Agenda Report

Fullerton City Council

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 5, 2019

TO: CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY

SUBMITTED BY: KENNETH DOMER, CITY MANAGER

PREPARED BY: HUGO CURIEL, DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JOHN CLEMENTS, PARKS AND RECREATION SUPERVISOR

SUBJECT: ATHLETIC FIELD USE AND ALLOCATION POLICY

SUMMARY

The City of Fullerton uses the Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy to manage the equitable allocation of sports fields for the Fullerton community's recreational uses. The revised draft policy has been reviewed by the community-at-large, including the City's Partner groups and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy.

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENT

This item matches the following Priority Policy Statement:

- Fiscal and Organizational Stability.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION

On September 9, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended approval of the Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy. The policy clarifies and strengthens rules regarding priority group qualifications, field allocation processes and rule compliance procedures.

In particular, some of the updates included clarifying Partner group status issues about compensation, establishing a Fullerton Competitive group field allocation meeting, creating a fourth-level violation for field use compliance and adding more Commission oversight to ensure rule adherence.

Since 1977, the City of Fullerton has employed the use of a field allocation policy to manage the equitable and safe use of City and Fullerton School District sports fields for the Fullerton community. This draft policy, a revision to the 2010 policy, was recommended for City Council's approval by Parks and Recreation Commission.

The growth of youth sports has increased the number of leagues, teams and players requesting fields, while the field inventory remains essentially the same. With this increased demand also comes the challenge of maintaining fields in a safe and playable condition.

The youth sports landscape has changed greatly with recreational sports now being offered in both spring and fall. Previously, standard field requests were for a single season. Competitive sports (also referred to as travel or club) are now played year-round as players look to develop advanced skills.

The revised policy is intended to better define the equitable allocation of fields and user group classifications with the challenge of having limited fields and resources in mind. It also describes the process of how the City prioritizes and allocates fields to various user groups. In an effort to be clear and transparent, the revised policy better defines the field allocation process, required documentation, violations and penalties, tournament procedures, field maintenance, concessions and code of conduct.

Staff consulted with several cities and conducted peer reviews for the proposed draft. The draft policy is the culmination of feedback from other cities, comments and concerns from the City's user groups, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the community-at-large.

The draft policy was distributed and made available for review through several sources including the City's website and sports group meetings. The Parks and Recreation Commission's Sports Group Representative and Chair played a significant role in shaping the policy which included sharing feedback from the community and participating in numerous critiques and reviews.

Some of the highlights of the revised policy are as follows:

- Priority Group Classifications
 - Redefine Partner Group (1st priority) requirements
 - Redefine Fullerton Competitive Group (2nd priority) requirements
 - Increase Rental Group (3rd priority) field access
- Field Permit Application Process
 - Clarify application rules and develop user friendly online forms
 - Restructure and strengthen application deadlines
- Field Use Compliance

- Ensure accountability to maintain permit in good-standing
- Define violations and penalties

The Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy has gone through an extensive review and has been modified numerous times to reflect the needs and concerns of the Fullerton sports community, the result of which is an improved and comprehensive policy.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – PowerPoint Presentation
- Attachment 2 – Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy