



**COMMUNITY & RECREATION**

**DOCUMENT NUMBER**

**RL-06**

**DOCUMENT TITLE**

**SPORTSFIELD SURFACE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>BY</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>REVIEW</b>
8 August 2006	Initial Issue	Council meeting	14 August 2006	14 August 2009

## SUMMARY

Council has over recent years invested significant funds to upgrade many sportsfield ovals, such as installation of irrigation systems, provision of alternative water sources and renovation of oval surfaces. As demand for oval usage steadily rises and risk management and injury prevention are increasing issues for both user groups and Councils, a management policy has been put in place, to determine sportsfield usage and the maintenance levels required to ensure oval standards are maintained.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Policy are:

- To provide Council and its appointed Section 86 Committees of Management with sufficient guidelines and information to ensure the long term health of oval facilities;
- To help minimize costly and undue repairs to turf surfaces and irrigations systems, due to the impact of activities not designed for modern sporting surfaces;
- To provide Council and its appointed Section 86 Committees of Management with appropriate documentation to assist in the development of Usage Agreements.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The usage table below is to be used as a reference that determines what activities can and cannot be performed upon renovated sports surfaces, and if the activity conducted is detrimental to the sportsfield surface health, then what measures can be taken to reverse any damage caused.

## SPORTSFIELD SURFACE USAGE

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Potential Damage</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Surface penetration – tent pegs, spikes etc.	Irrigation system breakages, surface disturbance.	Any erection, construction or other activity that requires driving pegs, spikes or other items into the oval surface is strictly forbidden.
Movement of livestock upon surface, cattle, horses, goats etc.	Compaction of soil profile and surface disturbance.	Livestock permitted on surface only in a limited area to be roped and restricted to a total square metre allowance (to be negotiated with the committee). A percentage of the total cost of vertidrain (aeration) operations to be paid for by user responsible for livestock relative to the percentage of the area used. Excessive damage (to be determined by the committee) will incur costs for fertilising (again, percentage of total cost against area damaged). Potential for committee to claim for significant surface repair works using aeration and cultivating techniques to repair turf damage, compaction and turf death caused by extreme livestock damage.

Activity	Potential Damage	Recommendation
Display or movement of heavy equipment, trucks or machinery.	Severe compaction, surface disturbance, irrigation system damage.	Heavy vehicles and equipment allowed on sports surface above 2000kg if moving across surface in gradual turning movements, avoiding irrigation system pipes and sprinklers. Vehicles and equipment heavier than 3000kg to access sports surface only using approved timber boards (ie. Committee approved structural ply wood) for better weight distribution. A total square metre allowance (to be negotiated with the committee) for access and display of heavy equipment will be used to determine level of repair responsibility. A percentage of the total cost of vertidrain (aeration) operations to be paid for by user responsible for heavy equipment relative to the percentage of area used. Excessive damage (to be determined by committee) will incur costs for fertilising (again, a percentage of total cost against area damaged). Potential for committee to claim for significant surface repair works using aeration and cultivating techniques to repair turf damage, compaction and turf death caused by extreme heavy equipment damage.
Concentrated foot traffic such as what occurs at food counters or areas requiring queuing.	Soil profile compaction, grass death or surface deterioration.	All concentrated foot traffic must be managed by the roping off of areas limiting the damaged areas to thin areas rather than large sections. Immediately at counters a cored rubber or PVC flooring material (such as grass cells or similar) are to be temporarily laid for the full width of the counter to an approximate depth of 2-4 metres.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Potential Damage</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Cooking, heating or lighting of fires	Burning of grass surface either directly or through the spilling of hot fats and cooking materials.	The lighting of fires, cooking of food or processing any material by the application of heat is banned from the sports surface.
Vehicular movement upon the surface in wet conditions.	Bogging of vehicles or creating of depressions by vehicle wheels. Soil compaction, surface disturbance and grass health deterioration.	Vehicles to access sports surface only when access is essential and unavoidable. In this case access to the sports surface can only occur using approved timber boards (such as approved structural ply timber) for better weight distribution. A total square metre allowance (to be negotiated with the committee) will be used to determine level of repair responsibility. A percentage of the total cost of vertidrain (aeration) operations to be paid for by user responsible for wet conditions access relative to the percentage of area used. Excessive damage (to be determined by committee) will incur costs for fertilising (again, percentage of total cost against area damaged). Potential for committee to claim for significant surface repair works using aeration and cultivating techniques to repair turf damage, compaction and turf death caused by wet conditions access equipment damage.

Activity	Potential Damage	Recommendation
Sports additional to the approved user groups beyond the usual football and cricket clubs	Contribution towards general compaction, surface disturbance, concentrated wear in goal squares and half forward and half back lines.	All sports activities additional to usual organized sport or training will be <u>expected</u> to contribute an agreed fee towards ongoing surface maintenance to assist with aeration works, irrigation repairs and maintenance, de-thatching, topdressing and fertilising.

## POLICY REVIEW

This policy should be reviewed by 14 August 2009.