

Community Use of School Sporting Facilities: Information for Councils

Councils

Did you know that there may be opportunities to partner with local schools for sharing school sport and recreation facilities?

Background

In many cases there are insufficient sports grounds and facilities to meet the demand of sporting clubs, which puts pressure on local councils to service the needs of these clubs.

However, many schools have extensive grounds and buildings which are ideally suited for community based sport and recreation activities. These facilities are often under-utilised outside of school hours and many schools do not have the resources to adequately maintain and upgrade the facilities.

How does it usually work?

- An agreement would typically involve council formally taking over the responsibility of the school ground(s) outside of school hours. This includes the booking process as well as retaining any revenue from sub-hire during this time.
- Council would be responsible for upgrading and maintaining the school ground(s) and the school would retain access to the (improved) ground(s) and any new facilities during school hours.
- Once council has identified a need for additional sporting facilities to help meet club needs, councils should contact the Facility Services Team, Department of Education as a starting point.
- A formal lease agreement can then be developed between council and the school to enter into a long-term lease with the Department of Education (DoE) or private school, and would typically cover the costs of any required upgrades or development works.
- Providing information to the school and wider community about club activities and available coaching courses.

Current as at November 2019



Benefits of a partnership agreement

- Assists in meeting facility needs of sporting clubs.
- Reduces the financial burden of providing new grounds.
- Increase usage of school facilities outside of school hours.
- Improved and better maintained facilities for school use.
- Builds stronger social networks between the council, school, club and community.
- Less opportunity for vandalism at the school through usage of facilities outside of school hours.
- Opportunities to encourage community involvement and increase participation at local clubs through events and initiatives involving school students and families.

How can clubs enhance school programs?

Clubs can be of great assistance to teachers in providing resources and information on particular activities and issues, including:

- Providing coaching as part of an expo/come-and-try program at the school.
- Providing assistance with coaching school teams.
- Providing advice on how to modify activities for different ages and abilities.
- Providing printed resources and/or practical demonstrations to advise teachers about how to conduct a particular activity.
- Providing information on appropriate equipment and where to obtain it.
- Providing assistance to organise sport and recreation events and training programs.
- Contributing to discussions and projects, for example history of sport in the area.
- Sharing the use of facilities.

Further information

For further information about this process or assistance in facilitating a partnership agreement, please email the Department of Education Facilities Services Team at facpropertyservices@education.tas.gov.au

Refer also to Community, Sport and Recreations *Clubs and Schools Working Together* Information Sheet which provides details on the benefits of partnerships between clubs and school.