WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

SYNTHETIC SPORTSGROUNDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Background

This Management Plan has been prepared to satisfy Council's requirement for a Plan to manage use of all synthetic sportsgrounds within the City of Willoughby.

Use of all sportsgrounds is governed by Conditions of Hire in the Licence Agreement. Where this Plan is in conflict with the Conditions of Hire, this Management Plan will prevail.

Council Policy 96/1311 Sporting Fields- Sunday Use for Competition does not support the Sunday use of council sportsgrounds, except in specific circumstances. The Management Plan is complementary to the Policy in that it allows Sunday use of all synthetic sportsgrounds in the City.

Land to which the Plan applies

This Plan applies to the synthetic sportsgrounds located within the City of Willoughby. To date these are:

Northbridge Oval, Sailors Bay Road, Northbridge
Thomson Oval, Reserve Road, Artarmon.
Chatswood High School Oval, Eddy Road, Chatswood (CHS).
Gore Hill Oval, Pacific Highway, St Leonards (scheduled 2018/19).

The NSW Department of Education is also proposing to build a full-size synthetic sportsground at Willoughby Girls High as part of staged upgrading of the school site.

There are no current plans to convert another Council sportsground to a synthetic surface, but this decision may be reviewed given population growth and an increasing demand for access to sportsgrounds.

Basis for management

The Council's Willoughby City Strategy 2013- 2029 is the guiding document that describes what the community aspires the City to be as a result of collective efforts. The Strategy's Vision and Principles are:

Vision: - Willoughby: the vital hub of the region, where residential, commercial, cultural and environmental interests are respected and balanced, and our communities enjoy a diversity of lifestyles.

Principles: - Council's overarching principles, which underpin its actions, are:

- Sustainability
- Social justice

DRAFT

Sustainability

- **Maintenance of grounds**

Synthetic sportsgrounds require maintenance to keep the grass fibres and infill safe and even for play, and to withstand daily sports use.
Cleaning and maintenance is scheduled for weekday mornings from 7am:

- Normal fortnightly service which is up to 4-5 hours in one day.
- Twice yearly deep clean which is up to 6 hours in one day.

- **Minimisation of traffic and parking**

Hirers of synthetic sportsgrounds will undertake to inform and encourage all clubs, players and members to use alternative transport options to get to their designated sportsground and to car pool wherever possible.

Other options are walking, cycling, and public transport. Council website under Environment & Sustainability/ Transport provides maps and guides to assist in minimising car use/ 'sport miles'.

- **Litter / Rubbish**

Hirers will ensure that synthetic sportsgrounds and the amenity buildings are left clean of all litter after completion of their hiring period/s. Spot checks of the site will be carried out by Council staff after hiring periods.

Social justice: equity, access, participation & rights

Equity

- At least one Willoughby LGA based team must participate in each Competition Match booked for any synthetic ground.
- Willoughby LGA based teams have priority for training allocations on any synthetic ground.
- Women/ girls sport competitions are to have equal access to synthetic sportsground bookings as mens/ boys competitions on weekends.
- On one Sunday of any month, the synthetic grounds in residential areas at Northbridge, Thomson and CHS will not be booked for any formal sporting activity. These Sundays when the grounds will be rested are negotiated with Council so that residents can be notified.

Access

- **Hours of use**

	Gore Hill Oval	**Chatswood High School Oval**	**Thomson Oval**	**Northbridge Oval**
Mon – Fri	6am – 10pm	4.30pm - 9.30pm	7.30am – 9.30pm	7.30am – 9.30pm
Saturday	8am – 9pm	8am – 7pm	8am – 7pm	8am – 7pm
Sunday	8am – 6pm	9am – 6pm	9am – 6pm	9am – 6.30pm
Public Holidays	Not available for sport booking; community use only.	Not available for sport booking; community use only.	Not available for sport booking; community use only.	Not available for sport booking; community use only.

DRAFT

Note: with night bookings, there is an additional 15 minute lighting period for the last booking, so that there is a safe exit for players from the field.

- **Public holidays**

The synthetic grounds are not available for competition match hire on any of the following ten (10) public holidays:

- New Years Day
- Australia Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday
- Easter Monday
- Anzac Day
- Queens Birthday Holiday
- Labour Day
- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day

- Sportsgrounds hired for Competition Matches have a minimum curtilage/ run-off of 4 metres around the marked playing surface; this is required to ensure the safety of players, game officials and the community.

  The areas outside this curtilage can be accessed by the community who are not to be alienated nor actively discouraged by hirers, game officials and players.

Participation

- **Community Liaison Contact**

During all periods of competitive play, the hirer shall ensure that a Community Liaison contact is present at the site at all times.

The Community Liaison contact or their agent will during periods of competitive play:

- Be available and visible in a fluoro vest to local residents and users to discuss any concerns.
- Regularly visit the designated car-park and surrounding streets to encourage compliance with parking restrictions.
- Identify if cars have parked illegally and attempt to locate vehicle owners to move vehicles so parked if the driver is associated with the use of the sportsground.
- Act as a conduit to Council Rangers as appropriate.
- Communicate and attempt to resolve matters with local residents in an amicable basis.
- Encourage users to consider local residents after games and when leaving the sportsground.
- Provide a means to dispense information to visitors to the sportsground.

Rights

DRAFT

- **Neighbourhood parking restrictions**

Hirers will reinforce to all clubs, players and members the need to respect the authorised parking signs in roadways around each designated synthetic sportsground, and ensure that driveways at all times remain clear of parked vehicles.

Council Rangers will patrol the areas around these grounds if required.

- **Noise and alcohol**

Whilst it is acknowledged that many recreational activities do result in noise, hirers undertake to:

  - Manage the noise level at all times and in particular encourage users to promptly leave the site within thirty (30) minutes after the conclusion of training and competition.
  - Actively prevent the introduction of alcohol to the site and actively discourage alcohol consumption, particularly post-game.
  - Reinforce to visiting teams the need to be considerate of neighbours.
  - Note the future potential of sanctions if users, visitors and players do not make reasonable attempts to manage noise for local residents.

Council during each sports season will investigate any noise issues arising from use of the grounds and consider management measures, if appropriate.

- **Player and Spectator Code of Conduct**

All sports codes have a Player Code of Conduct. These are to be available on the respective sport code/ club websites. The hirer's Community Liaison person will be able to inform members of the community the process of how to make a formal complaint under the respective code.

For the purposes of this Plan, players, game officials, visitors and spectators are required to behave in accordance with their Code of Conduct in dealings with local residents and other users of the respective sportsground.

- **Review of this Plan**

The community may make recommendations to Council concerning the use of synthetic sportsgrounds. Council may determine to make changes to the Plan to improve the management of these sites. Future reviews of this Plan will be undertaken on an 'as needs' basis.

Contact Numbers

Council and Rangers – all enquiries – 9777 1000 - 24 hours a day – 7 days per week

Chatswood Police - 9414 8499

Willoughby City Council
Culture and Leisure Unit

Draft: August 2017. Amended: January 2018

Adopted by Council: (insert date)

DRAFT