

2.1 REVIEW – COMMUNITY SPORT, PREMIER LEAGUE AND ELITE SPORT FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS (MAY 2015)

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note that an officer review of the Premier and Elite Sports Framework Conditions (May 2015) has been completed; and*
- 2. Endorse the updated policy titled 'Community Sport, Premier League and Elite Sport Framework Conditions' (Attachment A) which will supersede the guidelines for Premier and Elite Sports Framework Conditions (May 2015).*

INTRODUCTION

An officer review of the *Premier and Elite Sports Framework Conditions (May 2015)* has been completed and an updated policy document has been prepared for Council consideration. This Policy sets out the different conditions that apply to community, premier level and elite sport across the City of Monash.

BACKGROUND

Council endorsed a *Premier and Elite Sports Framework Conditions* framework at the 26 May 2015 Council meeting and resolved to:

Extend the conditions that are currently in place for soccer clubs that apply for a National Premier League Victoria licence to encompass all sports codes and clubs that approach Council with an application to join a premier league or similar professional sport competition framework. These conditions are:

- 1. A guarantee that there will not be any displacement of existing junior players.*
- 2. Funding requirements for all infrastructure improvements will be at the cost of the licenced club and the relevant State or National League/Organisation.*
- 3. Prior approval from Council is required during all stages of the application process.*
- 4. Community clubs will be given priority access to sporting facilities and grounds that are shared with a licenced club.*
- 5. Council will not enter into any licence agreement beyond 1 year with a licenced club.*

This policy position is due for review, especially given the implications of more contemporary policies that have been endorsed by Council.

This policy has now been updated to reflect Council's current position in relation to the provision of community sport facilities and infrastructure at community sport venues under the care, control and management of Council as reflected in:

- Active Reserves Facility Hierarchy
- Monash Sports Floodlighting Policy
- Active Monash Sports Club Framework

- Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework
- Cricket Wicket Policy
- Monash Football (Soccer) Plan.

The purpose of this Policy is:

- (a) To define community and elite sport.
- (b) To ensure community sports facilities and infrastructure are fit-for-purpose and appropriate for the level of sport being played.
- (c) To ensure junior, female and Monash-based community clubs are not disadvantaged or displaced by elite sport.
- (d) To ensure continued and sustainable investment into community sport as a priority to encourage active local communities and sports clubs.

The updated policy clearly outlines the differences between community, premier and elite sports and clarifies Council's community sport provision standards.

DISCUSSION

The policy has been reviewed and updated to provide a clear and transparent framework for the introduction of elite or professional sport leagues, academies, clubs and/or teams in Monash. Fundamental principles embedded in the policy include –

- safeguarding the provision of local community sport (Monash based clubs) from potential displacement or impediment to their sustainable operation as a result of the introduction of elite or professional sports;
- ensuring Council's continued sustainable investment into community sport as a priority to encourage active local sports clubs and healthy communities; and
- reaffirming Council's position that elite sport is required to fund any sport facility and infrastructure improvements required to meet their competition standards over and above Council's community sport provision standards.

The main changes that have been considered and incorporated into the updated policy include:

- Integration of definitions for community, premier level and elite sport
- Application of the definitions by including examples in Monash
- Alignment with contemporary Council-endorsed policies, plans and frameworks to recognise current sport facility provision standards e.g. Active Reserves Facility Hierarchy, Active Monash Sports Club Framework, Monash Sports Floodlighting Policy, Cricket Wicket Policy and Monash Football (Soccer) Plan
- Clarification that any State or Federal Government grant provided directly to Council for the provision of community sporting facilities and infrastructure will constitute Council funding (i.e. not a club contribution)
- Confirmation that Council will not support any new applications for National Premier League (NPL) licences within the municipality other than for women's NPL at the existing NPL venues, noting that this is in accordance with the Monash Football (Soccer) Plan recommendation 3.4 which states *Jack Edwards Reserve and Gardiners Reserve to service the community as Monash's only two Senior NPL venues.*

- Clarification that funding requirements for all infrastructure improvements over and above Council's community-level provision standards will be at the cost of the sport and/or externally funded i.e. funded by the sport league, academy, club, State Sporting Association (SSA) or National Sporting Association (NSA) etc.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report recommends Council endorse the updated policy provided in Attachment A - Community Sport, Premier League and Elite Sport Framework Conditions.

If endorsed, this policy will supersede the *Premier and Elite Sports Framework Conditions (May 2015)*.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendation complies with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

CONSULTATION

Internal consultation with the key stakeholders has been undertaken as part of the review process.

It should also be noted that Council's current policy positions as detailed in the Active Reserves Facility Hierarchy, Active Monash Sports Club Framework, Active Monash Capital Works Priorities Framework, Monash Sports Floodlighting Policy, Cricket Wicket Policy and Monash Football (Soccer) Plan also involved extensive consultation with Monash sports clubs and the broader community, and are reflected in this policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Under the new policy, sports associations/clubs/teams will be responsible for the funding any capital costs associated with providing sports facilities and infrastructure over and above Council's sports provision standards.

CONCLUSION

Officers have completed a review of the 2015 *Premier and Elite Sports Framework Conditions*.

Following this review, it is recommended Council endorse the updated policy provided in Attachment A - Community Sport, Premier League and Elite Sport Framework Conditions. This policy clearly outlines Council's policy position in regard to the future provision (and funding responsibility) for any costs associated with delivering sports facilities and infrastructure over and above Council's current community sport provision standards.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A - Community Sport, Premier League and Elite Sport Framework Conditions.