

Thursday 25 June 2020

COUNCIL PROVIDES FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR SPORTING CLUBS

The City of Ryde will waive ground hire and sports field lighting costs for the remainder of the 2020 winter sports season to help local sporting clubs recover from the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The unanimous decision from Council comes as community sport is set to resume on 1 July, more than three months after all community sporting matches were suspended as part of COVID-19 restrictions.

The suspension of community sport has had a serious impact on the finances of some local sporting clubs and organisations, with some struggling due to a loss in memberships, sponsors and ongoing fees.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, said the waiving of ground hire and sports field lighting costs will help ensure local sporting organisations survive the current crisis.

“Since the COVID-19 pandemic began this Council’s intention has been to provide support to those who need it. The waiving of these costs does just that by providing support to those clubs who have been impacted the most by the pandemic. Cllr Laxale said.

“By easing a financial burden, our community clubs can now concentrate on resuming play and getting locals back participating in the activities that they enjoy.”

Sporting clubs will need to formally apply with Council to have ground hire and sports field lighting costs waived.

In addition to the waiving of ground hire and sports field lighting costs, Council also unanimously resolved to extend the 2020 winter sports season to mid-October and to activate the lighting at some sports grounds to allow for weekday night games where permissible.

Cllr Roy Maggio, who put forward the motion proposing the changes, said he was delighted that Council was supporting the local sporting community.

“Community sport is something I am very passionate about, so I am proud that Council has unanimously agreed to provide assistance to local sporting clubs and organisations, some of whom are doing it extremely tough at the moment,” Cllr Maggio said.

Sport and Recreation and Wheeled Sports Advisory Committee Chair, Cllr Bernard Purcell, said the support offered by Council would be of great benefit to community sport in the City of Ryde.

“In what has been an extremely challenging year for everyone, the support that Council is providing will help the local sporting community recover and give it the best possible opportunity of completing as much of the 2020 winter sports season as possible, which is a fantastic result,” Cllr Purcell said.

The motion to waive all ground hire costs, extend the winter sports season and activate lighting at some sports grounds was supported by the City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, the City of Ryde Deputy Mayor, Cllr Simon Zhou, Cllr Trenton Brown, Cllr Edwina Clifton, Cllr Christopher Gordon, Cllr Peter Kim, Cllr Jordan Lane, Cllr Roy Maggio, Cllr Chris Moujalli, Cllr Penny Pedersen, Cllr Bernard Purcell and Cllr Sarkis Yedelian OAM.