



Mildura Rural City Council

Recreation Facilities Pricing Policy

Policy – CP101

Prepared	Reviewed	Approved	Date	Council Minute No.
Manager Parks and Recreation	ELT	Council	22 February 2024	2024/0020
Trim File: 18/02/01		To be reviewed: February 2026		
Document Owner: Manager Parks and Recreation		Review Frequency: 2 years		

1. The purpose of this policy is

To provide an overarching framework for the pricing of Council owned or managed recreation facilities and ensure a consistent and transparent approach to the pricing of such facilities. This ensures that users of recreation facilities understand what they are paying for and recognise that all groups are being treated fairly and consistently.

2. Policy Statement

Council's recreation facilities are primarily Public Open Space, such as ovals, playing fields and parks and need to be made available and accessible by the general community as part of Council's community service obligations.

All other recreation facilities and infrastructure, that are not publicly accessible (e.g. indoor spaces, oval lights), or recreation facilities that are used for the financial benefit of the user, are not considered a part of Council's community service obligations. These facilities are provided to benefit the specific user and therefore applicable hire charges will be applied in accordance with this Policy.

3. Principles

The principles of this Policy are to:

- Equitably distribute costs to those who benefit most.
- Equitably distribute costs to those with the ability to pay.
- Reduce financial barriers for participants of community sport and recreation organisations.
- Encourage junior participation in sport and recreation.
- Ensure long-term viability of sporting organisations.
- Ensure facilities can be maintained to appropriate standards.

4. Implementation

Manager Parks and Recreation
Recreation Planning and Development staff
Mildura Sporting Precinct staff

Roles and Responsibilities

Council accepts that it provides the following support to enable usage of recreation facilities for community:

- Facility maintenance of public areas and infrastructure when available for general public use.
- Cleaning and maintenance of public accessible toilets to service general public use.
- Utility payments for community facilities when available for public and community use.
- Park maintenance including irrigation, mowing and fertilising.
- Initial line-marking at the start of the season for service agreement users of outdoor playing fields (following spot marking by clubs).
- A collection public litter service from site to meet the needs of general public use.
- Offer additional waste collection services upon request by user groups, in accordance with relevant council policies.
- Supervision and safety inspections.
- Booking of facilities.

Clubs and organisations who require exclusive use of facilities for a specified period have the following responsibilities:

- Provide dates and times for booking requests to Recreation Support Officer as required.
- For facilities that attract no hire fee and relate to the benefit of the specific sport, maintenance requirements are the responsibility of the club. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Player shelters
 - Goal post padding
 - Behind the goal netting
 - Goal netting
 - Cricket wickets (training and playing)
 - Harness track
- Report all maintenance issues to Council.
- All other obligations listed within relevant agreements with Council.

5. Definitions

Commercial	An organisation that operates for the purpose of commercial gain and/or those whose activities result in income derived from gambling activities.
Individual	An individual who is hiring a facility for their own personal use and is not associated with a registered community group.

Community	A registered not-for-profit community organisation whose main purpose is to provide community-based sport and recreation. The group must be registered under the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 and/or registered as a non-profit group according to the Australian Taxation Office guidelines.
Government	An organisation which is considered a government agency or is primarily funded by the government (including but not limited to education facilities).
Fee Schedule	The Fee Schedule as approved in the annual budget by Council each financial year.
Service Agreement	A regular user of a recreation facility who has a Service Agreement with Mildura Rural City Council (or License Agreement at Mildura Sporting Precinct)

Fee Structure

The principles are achieved through the adoption of the following fee structure:

Category	Definition	Fee Allocation
1	Community group Admission charges Service Agreement	All facilities as per fee schedule*. Community rate.
2	Community group Free admission Service Agreement	Outdoor grounds/reserves – free. All other facilities as per fee scheduled. Community rate.
3	Community group Casual hire	All facilities as per fee scheduled. Community rate.
4	Commercial group or Individual Service Agreement or Casual hire	All facilities as per fee schedule. Commercial/Individual rate.
5	Government group Service Agreement or Casual Hire	All facilities as per fee schedule. Government rate.

Waiving Fees

Requests to waive fees under this Policy may be considered for one-off events which address specific objectives of the Council Plan. Waiving of fees requires approval from General Manager Healthy Communities.

Category 1 Discounts*

Clubs who share an outdoor oval during the season with the same competing sport will be provided a 25% discount. This acknowledges the impact to

change of use each season and the improved utilisation of the outdoor space and potential impact to condition.

6. Legislation and other references

6.1 Legislation

For further information related to this policy see:

- Local Government Act 2020

6.2 Documents

This Policy is implemented in conjunction with the following documents:

- Fees and Charges Policy CP046
- Fees and Charges Schedule as published each financial year in the Annual Budget

6.3 Risk Assessment Reference

Please tick the corporate governance risk(s) that this policy is addressing.

Risk Category	✓	Risk Category	✓
Asset Management	✓	Financial Sustainability	✓
Committees		Human Resource Management	
Compliance – Legal & Regulatory		Leadership & Organisational Culture	✓
Contract Management		Occupational Health & Safety	
Contract Tendering & Procurement		Organisational Risk Management	
Corporate Governance	✓	Project Management	
Environmental Sustainability	✓	Public Image and Reputation	✓