CONSULTATION SUMMARY FOR ALLOCATION POLICY FOR FIELD DIAMONDS AND ARENAS

Consultation was conducted with all Affiliated Minor Sport Organizations through a variety of methods. In addition, an initial meeting and feedback sessions were held specifically for non-affiliated organizations, to ensure that they were involved in the process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Consultation</th>
<th>Number of Organizations</th>
<th>Arenas</th>
<th>Diamonds</th>
<th>Fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interviews</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport-specific Group Meetings</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group Meetings</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feedback Sessions (Affiliated)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feedback Session (Non-Affiliated)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interviews

Interviews were conducted with schedulers and/or executive members from 27 Affiliated Minor Sport Organizations, including 9 diamond users and 18 field users. These interviews were held to gather background information about allocation methods utilized internally by organizations, as well as to discuss information sharing and organizational strategies for addressing growth and attrition. The primary themes that emerged were as follows:

- Partnerships, both formal and informal, already exist between organizations that generally compete for players and facilities;
- Coordination of information sharing is challenging for organizations, as they often have to provide field or diamond availability to their leagues and other partners within specific timelines which may not align with City timelines;
- Facility quality concerns were raised, but are not the focus of this Policy;
- Centralization of bookings to one or two facilities or sites is desired by many organizations;
- Complaints about blanket booking and misuse of City facilities were made by organizations about other clubs in the City;
- Concern about accessing additional fields and diamonds in areas of the City that are growing;
- Boundaries imposed upon organizations by their parent associations and leagues can impede their ability to meet the City’s affiliation requirements;
- LTAD is utilized by some organizations, but there is hesitation by others to formally adopt the guidelines (although some are employing practices that align with LTAD); and,
- Organizations made a number of suggestions, including an offer to serve as a pilot for a new policy, booking games for all organizations first to ensure programs are satisfied, elimination of subletting, and honouring historical bookings.
Sport-specific Meetings

Once interviews were completed, City staff hosted three separate meetings with Affiliated Minor Sport Organizations (ball, soccer, and other field sports) to ensure that the concerns of all sports were heard, particularly those that are less common and historically have had fewer hours booked. These meetings were attended by a total of 23 organizations. Once the need for including ice allocation in the policy was identified, a meeting was held at which all affiliated minor hockey organizations were represented and another with all affiliated figure skating clubs. At these meetings, City staff presented the draft formulas, a summary of the primary policy components, and a summary of the consultation and research done to date. No major concerns were brought forward by hockey users.

The primary findings from the field and diamond meetings included:
- Concerns regarding field and diamond quality;
- The need for differentiation between hardball and softball diamonds;
- Interest in opening some diamonds early for tryouts and some fields for sports other than soccer;
- Consistency of bookings;
- Interest in more hours on turf fields;
- Consideration should be given to lower affiliation requirements regarding residency; and,
- Concerns about losing bookings held historically by organizations.

The primary findings from the figure skating meeting included:
- General satisfaction with existing allocation;
- The majority of ice is for practice rather than competition;
- Skaters move between competition levels throughout the season;
- Registration numbers are relatively consistent from year to year;
- Fear of not getting time back if given back to the City; and,
- There are not defined teams, which makes a formula difficult to apply.

There were no preliminary findings raised from hockey. They agreed with the process and policy.

Working Group Meetings

Working groups were created for diamond users and field users to provide opportunities for organizations to play a more active role in the actual crafting of the policy. The primary task of these groups was to assist in the creation of the formulas for each sport that uses that asset, as well as providing overall input into the process, policy content, and issues for future consideration. Two meetings were held with the diamond users and three were held with field users. The working group members were also invited to feedback sessions once the policy had been drafted.
Primary points of discussion for field users included:

- Concerns regarding field quality as there are a variety of sports that use the same assets, which can lead to wear patterns and lining issues;
- Possibility of booking space rather than fields to allow for configuration based on need;
- Game fields could be booked first, followed by practice fields for all organizations;
- Different needs for house league and competitive leagues; and,
- Public Works Department Parks Division should get priority to book maintenance time prior to booking being opened up to organizations.

Primary points of discussion for diamond users included:

- Diamond type (e.g., softball or hardball) must be considered when allocating time;
- Consider growth within formulas;
- Formula works for organizations;
- Concerns regarding data collection timing in order to allocate accurately;
- Interest in adding rainout percentage to bookings;
- Select program allocation (perhaps weekends);
- Prime time hours are in high demand; and,
- Interest in a district-specific rainout policy.

Feedback Meetings

Following the drafting of the Allocation Policy for Fields, Diamonds, and Arenas, three separate feedback meetings were held for the following groups: affiliated field and diamond users, affiliated ice users, and non-affiliated organizations (ice, field, and diamond). A total of 18 affiliated organizations and 17 non-affiliated organizations attended these feedback meetings, at which the draft policy was presented, including key policy components, a review of contributing research, a summary of consultation efforts, and an example formula.

Primary points of discussion from the affiliated organizations included:

- Overall support for formulas;
- Concern regarding girls hockey requirements differing from boys hockey;
- Competitive program registrations are completed long before the season, but house league registration continues up to opening day and sometimes into the season;
- Inquiries regarding timelines for implementation; and,
- Opportunities for better communication from the City to organizations through the website.

Primary points of discussion from the non-affiliated organizations included:

- Need for new ice pads in growing areas of the City;
Timing of bookings on diamonds by some organizations limits others from booking back-to-back games, which is the norm in adult softball;

Suggested a post-season review by City staff to discuss organizational needs;

Concerns that the policy does not address non-affiliated adult users directly; and,

Potential for data collection from district or provincial organizations to facilitate allocation similar to affiliated organizations.