

City of Mississauga  
**Corporate Report**



<p>Date: June 4, 2021</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p> <p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p> <hr/> <p>Meeting date: June 9, 2021</p>
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## Subject

**Commercial Bookings for Instructional Fitness and Recreation Activities in Parks**

## Recommendation

That the corporate report dated June 4, 2021 entitled "Commercial Bookings for Instructional Fitness and Recreation Activities in Parks" from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.

## Executive Summary

- Staff were asked to review the commercial fitness and recreational instructional rate in light of the continued closure of indoor fitness and recreation facilities.
- The 2021 Council approved rate for commercial instructional programs is \$39.41/hour. This rate is applied to all instructional programs including fitness, dance and martial arts program.
- Other approved commercial rates and parks spaces have not been available to commercial instructional program due to limited availability.
- Staff recommend permitting outdoor instructional programs at a wider variety of locations, utilizing existing commercial rates as low as \$9.52/hour until Stage 3 of the Provincial re-opening. Minimum booking hours will be waived during this period.
- This approach is consistent with other outdoor park users including community, resident and private groups.

## Background

Fitness, recreation and sport activities have been significantly impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic. Indoor recreational facilities and businesses have been closed under Provincial order since Fall 2021.

The Province released its Roadmap to Re-open on May 20, 2021 providing for a tiered return to sport, fitness and recreation. Sport and recreation permissions include:

Stage 1- June 14<sup>th</sup> (and meeting key health indicators)

- Outdoor sports, training and personal training (max 10 people, physical distancing required).

Stage 2- Minimum 21 days after Stage 1- earliest July 12 (and meeting key health indicators)

- Outdoor sports leagues and events, meetings and event spaces, larger gatherings up to 25 people.

Stage 3- Minimum 21 days after Stage 2- earliest August 2 (and meeting key health indicators)

- Indoor sports and recreational facilities can open, larger indoor and outdoor gatherings.

Outdoor park rates and fees are structured so that community groups are provided the lowest rates. Outdoor sport and park facilities are highly subsidized by the City.

Approved 2021 commercial rates are as follows:

<b>Fee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Park Permit – Instructional Classes Permit	\$39.41/hr	No minimum- applies to all fitness, dance, martial arts classes
Park Permit & Shelter Fee	\$176.49/day	Per area per day
Park Permit	\$122.13/day	Per area per day
Artificial Field	\$190.16/hr	2 hour booking block min. from 7-11 pm weekdays
Major Soccer Field	\$21.32/hr	2.5 hr min. booking block
Minor Soccer Field	\$9.52/hr	2.5 hr min. booking block

A number of commercial fitness and recreation businesses have contacted members of Council to ask for review of the commercial rate \$39.41/hour during the re-opening period to allow for greater usage of parks and outdoor space given the indoor facility restrictions.

## Present Status

Staff were asked to review the commercial fitness and recreational instructional rate in light of the continued closure of indoor fitness and recreation facilities until August 2, 2021 at the earliest (pending Provincial Stage 1 Opening date).

The current booking procedures for commercial instructional programs like fitness and martial arts program is to apply the instructional rate to defined bookable park space. The commercial rates for other categories including fields and shelters have not been available to commercial instructional fitness groups. Fields and parks shelters are allocated to community groups and

residents prior to being available for commercial use. Commercial field use rates are accessed by private sport organizations and camps.

Staff recommend permitting outdoor instructional programs at a wider variety of locations, utilizing existing commercial rates as low as \$9.52/hour until Stage 3 of the Provincial re-opening. Minimum booking hours will be waived during this time. Daily rates will also allow businesses to run multiple back to back classes over a longer period of time, thereby reducing the hourly rate.

Priority allocation will still be given to community groups and residents. Community sport organizations have begun to submit request for outdoor training requirements anticipated in Stage 1 of the re-opening. All groups using City of Mississauga parks for organized activities are required to obtain a permit.

## Comments

Staff from Recreation are engaging all of our indoor and outdoor sport users through a “Return to Sport” survey. Survey responses will allow us to better understand how the pandemic has impacted Sport and Recreation organizations operating in Mississauga. The survey will be used to gather information and identify needs that will be used to inform a plan for how the City can support our community organizations in the safe and successful Return to Play.

Being flexible in allowing different booking options for outdoor spaces is consistent with the approach used with our community and resident groups during the return to full operations. Alternate locations and booking options have been provided in order to minimize costs to the organizations.

## Strategic Plan

The flexibility with commercial bookings in parks aligns with the Connect and Prosper Pillar in Mississauga’s Strategic Plan.

## Engagement and Consultation

Staff in Recreation will consult with our Community Sport groups and continue to support these organization during the return to play period. Any exceptions requiring Council approval will be brought forward at a later date.

## Financial Impact

There is no direct impact to applying alternate commercial rates to instructional programs. Most businesses are currently not utilizing park facilities for their classes. Offering flexible options to commercial group may help mitigate revenue losses in other areas in parks.

## Conclusion

Staff are committed to exploring innovative solutions that can help provide support for all park users. Offering commercial instructional groups alternate booking spaces and rates will assist in engaging residents and help our local businesses maintain their presence in our community until indoor facilities are permitted to open.



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services

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