

City of Mississauga  
**Corporate Report**



<p>Date: November 20, 2020</p> <p>To: Mayor and Members of Council</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Meeting date: November 25, 2020</p>

## Subject

**Rental Fees for Indoor Sport Amenities with Restricted Capacities**

## Recommendation

That Council endorse the temporary adjustment to Recreation Fees as outlined in the report entitled "Rental Fees for Indoor Sport Amenities with Restricted Capacities" dated November 20, 2020 from the Commissioner of Community Services.

## Background

Since the initial closures in March of 2020, regulations for sports amenities have been revised on an ongoing basis as the Province responds to the continued increase in cases of Covid-19. Throughout the summer, although capacities were limited on outdoor amenities, user fees were not discounted as the City's operating costs remained unchanged. On November 18<sup>th</sup> 2020, three figure skating clubs requested that council consider a significant fee reduction to support the Clubs and their participants during stages with reduced capacities. Currently, although groups were limited to ten on the ice at a time, the clubs indicated that they have not increased the fees to their participants to offset the costs as other organizations have done.

## Present Status

Consideration of any fee reductions should be carefully considered given the scope of the impact and uncertainty in responding to the pandemic. If the City reduced arena rates, in an effort to ensure consistency and equity, indoor turf rates would also be need to be reduced. Additionally, the established restrictions as set out in the Province's Covid-19 Response Framework are a temporary measure and subject to change with an increase/decrease in positive cases. Affiliated clubs already receive preferential pricing through the Community Group Registry program. For affiliated ice users the approved hourly rate is discounted by approximately 30% at \$187 for prime-time, compared to the resident rate of \$278. This is already well below our cost recovery for ice of \$250- \$300 per hour. A fee reduction would mean further discounting when the City is currently incurring higher costs to keep facilities open.

## Comments

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on all Mississauga residents, including all sport groups, and unfortunately requires a level of sacrifice from the community. In the case of reduced capacities, it will cost individuals more to train and in some cases, organizations are making the difficult decision to pause services.

With increasing cases, the Region of Peel has moved into the Lockdown stage of the Provincial Covid-19 Framework as of Monday November 23, 2020. Prior to this, while in the Control stage, the City had continued to offer drop-in public skating opportunities at affordable rates to ensure physical activity remained accessible. Where financial means may be a barrier to participation, low-income individuals and families may also qualify for the Active Assist Fee Subsidy which can be applied to a skating membership. Other options for lower-cost access to ice arenas include: '5-skater rate', 'Last minute ice rate' and purchasing ice during non-prime times.

While previously under the Control stage, in addition to amenity capacities being limited to 10 people, no games or scrimmages were permitted and the City saw an increase of available ice time as a result. Typically, weekends are utilized primarily for game play and as such, arena utilization was at approximately 60-65%.

Although arenas and indoor turf will remain closed in the Lockdown stage, should the Region of Peel return to the Control stage with limited capacities, staff recommend applying the non-prime rates to weekends for both amenities to increase utilization and support user groups. There is no differentiation between prime and non-prime time in gymnasiums and as such this rate would not be included.

Applying the non-prime rates to weekends would benefit the figure skating clubs as all 3 clubs were already purchasing varying levels of weekend ice (Port Credit – 10 hours/week; Streetsville-Meadowvale – 6 hours/week; Mississauga – 3.5 hours/week). Based on the current usage of the clubs, the clubs would save \$850, \$500 and \$300 per week respectively, which is a substantial improvement over the October/November expenses incurred for ice. And additional savings could be realized if the clubs moved weeknight bookings to the weekend where feasible.

The hockey groups in Mississauga have been impacted significantly due to the restrictions as well, and this adjustment in rates for weekends would be of benefit to them and likely drive up ice bookings. Other ice groups that would benefit include sledge hockey and ringette. For indoor turf, soccer clubs and other field users would benefit from adjusted weekend rates as well.

## Financial Impact

Based on the most recent utilization, adjusting Saturdays and Sundays to the non-prime rate for arena and turf use would result in a reduction of \$7,500 per week in revenue to the city. The

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reduced rate would likely result in increased volume of hourly rentals, however it is unlikely that the full amount would be recovered.

## **Conclusion**

In order to support City arena and indoor turf users where capacities are limited and game play not permitted, it is recommended that the non-prime rate be applied to Saturdays and Sundays. The Director of Recreation has the authority to temporarily implement fee changes and is prepared to do so in the event arenas and indoor turf facilities are reopened under the 'Control' stage of the provincial framework.



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Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, Commissioner of Community Services

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