

Appendix 30

Overview

That funding guidelines have changed is well established earlier in this report and supported in letters from the Minister of Department of Sport & Recreation and the Director General for the Department of Sport & Recreation (see *Appendix 11*). Changes to requirements and conditions associated with funding from various State and Federal agencies strongly falls in favour of proposals for multi-use facilities.

The bases for this rationale support:

- More efficient use of resources;
- Financial sustainability – better economies of scale;
- Opportunity for smaller and developing sports – not every club can have and afford its own facilities;
- Reduces the cost to members / users;
- Requirement of funding from the Department of Sport & Recreation;
- Obtain a higher standard of facility at a lower cost;
- Decreases pressure on Council resources to maintain, contribute to and construct/renew facilities that are sport specific;
- Alleviate construction of facilities that are not used to maximum capacity; and
- Avoid, in some cases duplication.

Some might feel that the funding rationale is new – it is not. Multi use facilities and co-location of clubs and associations have had a history of success.

What follows are examples of various facilities around the country (and particularly in Western Australia) that involve co location of sporting clubs at one venue (*refer to Appendix 3*). The majority of these cases involve a long term sharing arrangement, some going back more than 35 years, originally set in place due to a lack of demand or financial viability from participants to warrant construction of sport specific facilities.

Given the increased cost of building sporting facilities, the guidelines set by external funding agencies (such as the Department of Sport and Recreation) and the lack of

financial capacity of the clubs to contribute to any new facilities, these arrangements are likely to continue.

Leederville Oval - Perth

Discussions with Jeff Lind (CEO – Subiaco Football Club) and Alex Wilson (General Manager – East Perth Football Club) regarding the relocation and joint tenancy of Leederville Oval, have revealed that both clubs are now better off both financially and facilities wise, than they were at their previous home grounds.

While the clubs' board members knew the benefits of the relocation, their members were initially against the move. However, within 2 years of the move, the satisfaction rating of members surveyed showed that 98% were satisfied with the outcome and with the club itself (*for details of the operational plan between the clubs, refer to the MOU in Appendix 5*).

Sir Richard Moore Oval - Kalgoorlie

Two football clubs have shared this ground for in excess of 35 years, under the management of the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder. Clubs have access to another ground in which to train, which their junior clubs currently utilise. Currently one club is seeking to construct new facilities, however, there will still be a sharing arrangement in place with other co-users and the grounds. This development will only be to a community standard (ie not to host AFL matches etc).

Jubilee Oval - Northam

Two football clubs have shared this ground for in excess of 40 years, under the management of the Shire of Northam. Clubs play and train on the oval, however, the junior football association is an entirely separate entity that makes use of another ground in which to train. The major issue the clubs have with the sharing arrangement is the sharing of the function areas and the control of liquor licenses. This is not being proposed under the Wonthella Oval redevelopment proposal.

Capricorn Oval Complex - Newman

Four football clubs have shared this ground for in excess of 20 years, under the management of the Shire of Newman. Clubs

play and train (twice per week and share the ground on each occasion with another club) on the oval. The junior football association is an entirely separate entity that makes use of another ground in which to train, while playing games at Capricorn Oval on Friday nights. The clubs have indicated that there are no adverse effects in the pathway of juniors to seniors and in fact the competition amongst the clubs for junior players has increased the status and benefits to junior players. Senior clubs take turns in hosting the colts teams after games to create relationships with the players.

The Clubs involved have indicated that the current situation is working satisfactorily and do not propose any change in the future.

Apex Oval - Dubbo

Two clubs have shared this ground for in excess of 10 years, under the management of the Dubbo City Council, but under a memorandum of understanding with the clubs as to the responsibilities and costs for each party.

Rugby league and union clubs also make use of the ground that is of the highest standard in regional NSW. This facility has accommodated elite level NRL matches as well as various team training camps. As such, the stakeholder clubs have undertaken to not train at the venue. Each club has use of an alternative training venue and club room facilities, which includes their respective junior teams (although they rarely train at the same venue at the same time).

The clubs are very pleased with the current situation and feel that any negative aspects of the arrangement (such as training at an alternative venue and different line markings) are far outweighed by the benefits provided in using such a high quality facility.

There are many other examples of different sports or clubs sharing, not only a playing surface, but also the amenities of a sporting facility throughout the state. Most of these have occurred through necessity due to lack of other grounds, however in the majority of cases they are working successfully.