Agenda – Standing Policy Committee on Community Services – April 14, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 7 New Fee for Adult Cricket Field Rental

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Athletic grounds standard rate of $97 per slot (before tax) for “Adult grounds – adult” be discontinued as of December 31, 2026.

2. That the Athletic grounds standard rate of $21.56 per hour (before tax) for “Adult grounds – adult hourly" be added to the 2026 Fees and Charges Schedule. This rate will be effective as of May 1, 2026.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: New Fee for Adult Cricket Field Rental

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Community Services - Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
D. Domke	J. Berezowsky	T. Graham	J. Dunford

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City currently rents athletic fields in four-to-five hour time blocks. Changing to hourly bookings would provide a more efficient and fair booking system.

The 2018 Athletic Field Review suggested changing to hourly bookings to maximize efficiency. The Public Service conducted a survey. It found that most users support a change from block to hourly bookings. The Manitoba Cricket Association was also in favour of hourly bookings.

For transition purposes, the Public Service recommends:

- the block booking fee remain for the rest of 2026; and
- a new pro-rated $21.56/hour rate (before tax) be added for adult athletic field bookings.

For the rest of 2026, users would have the option of which fee suited them best.

It is recommended the block booking rate be removed from the fees and charges schedule at the end of 2026. The hourly charge will remain for 2027 onwards.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Athletic grounds standard rate of $97 per slot (before tax) for “Adult grounds – adult” be discontinued as of December 31, 2026.

2. That the Athletic grounds standard rate of $21.56 per hour (before tax) for “Adult grounds – adult hourly" be added to the 2026 Fees and Charges Schedule. This rate will be effective as of May 1, 2026.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Adding a new fee to the Fees and Charges Schedule requires Council approval.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The overall impact of moving to an hourly adult fee is expected to be either revenue neutral or somewhat positive since additional users may have the opportunity to book athletic fields that did not have the opportunity previously.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Currently, Adult athletic grounds fees are booked or rented by an assigned time slot. Existing fees are $97.00 per slot (before tax) and are designated in the 2026 Fees and Charges Policy as “Athletic grounds standard rate.” The slots are set between 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and 6:00 pm until dusk. These time slots have been used for a number of years and customers for soccer, baseball, and other sports have become accustomed to their use.

On July 2, 2025, a direct report entitled a “New Fee for Adult Cricket Field Rental” was heard at the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services. This report recommended that a new daily fee for adult Cricket Athletic Field rental be approved for $222.00 (before tax) between the hours of 9:00 am to 7:30 pm. The Committee did not concur and received the recommendation as information.

On July 8, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee did not concur in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services and requested that the Public Service be directed to work with the Manitoba Cricket Association on the creation of half booking time slots that reflect the longer duration of cricket games, specific to Bridgwater Lakes Park.

Any booking system needs to treat all athletic groups equally. If one group is favoured in one type of booking system, it is likely that another group will want the same treatment at some time in the future. As a result, it is recommended that one type of booking system is used for all athletic field groups.

The Public Service held a subsequent meeting with the Manitoba Cricket Association in August 2025 to discuss half time booking time slots. Half booking time slots were supported by the Manitoba Cricket Association because it allowed better flexibility for a variety of cricket game lengths. During this conversation, an hourly fee for field rentals was also discussed due to a recommendation in the approved 2018 Athletic Field Review (https://legacy.winnipeg.ca/PublicWorks/parksOpenSpace/ParkAreas/NewProjects/PDF/athleticFieldReview/FINAL_AthleticFieldReviewReport.pdf). This recommendation was not implemented earlier due to COVID restrictions on booking fields for multiple seasons.

Recommendation 8 of the Athletic Field Review states that “the City should adjust the three hour booking block to maximize overall efficiency of the athletic field inventory. The report further states the rationale for moving to one hour bookings would result in less downtime (more efficient use of field time) for shorter duration games and practices.

Since the one hour booking enables even greater flexibility than the half block booking, the Manitoba Cricket Association supported an hourly charge during the meeting.

Since the most recent engagement on this took place in 2018, as part of the Athletic Field Review, the City chose to reconnect with athletic field user groups through a brief survey. The survey measured user groups' interest in shifting to an hourly fee for booking athletic fields. Appendix A provides the results for the short survey. It was sent out to 15 groups with 11 groups responding. Two questions are particularly pertinent to whether the City adopts hourly fees.

Question 2 asks, "If the City moved to hourly booking, would this be better or worse for your organization?" While 36 percent responded about the same, 27 percent stated it would be better or much better if a change were made to hourly bookings. On the other hand, a total 18 percent of the respondents stated it would be worse or much worse. Eighteen percent stated they were "unsure".

Question 5 asks, "Would you support moving from 4-hour blocks to hourly bookings?" In this case, 45 percent supported the move to hourly booking, while 18 percent neither supported nor opposed hourly booking. On the other hand, 27 percent opposed hourly bookings while 9 percent were unsure.

In consideration of this information, Question 2 suggests a neutral to positive sentiment toward hourly bookings. A majority of user groups either feel the change would have no impact or would be beneficial (63 percent combined), indicating limited downside for most user groups. A smaller portion of user groups expressed concern that hourly bookings would be worse (18 percent). This suggests there is an opportunity for additional follow-up to help mitigate any impacts on those user groups. Question 5 confirms moderate overall support for hourly booking with 45 percent supporting the change and 18 percent neutral. Although just over a quarter of respondents (27 percent) opposed hourly bookings, this points to the need for additional follow-up to better understand and mitigate potential impacts.

The hourly fee to charge athletic field users is calculated from the existing $97.00 (per slot before tax). The total number of hours from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm is 4 hours and from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm is 5 hours (the evening slot was not included in the calculation since the length of time is variable). In essence, there are two timeslots with a total of $194.00 in fees divided by 9 total hours equaling $21.56 per hour. The addition of the hourly fee is proposed to be implemented on May 1, 2026.

Athletic grounds adult - Fees and Charges
Proposal for hourly fee

Current Fees and Charges - time blocks	9:00 am - 1:00 pm	1:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Total
Hours	4	5	9
Athletic grounds - adult	**$ 97.00**	**$ 97.00**	**$ 194.00**

Proposed Fees and Charges - hourly fee	Hourly
Athletic grounds - adult	**$ 21.56**

Since some of the sport groups have already planned their time slots for 2026, the Public Service will either honour the existing block booking fee or transition to the new hourly fee as a transition in 2026. In 2027, the Athletic grounds standard rate of $97 per slot (before tax) for “Adult grounds – adult” will be removed from the Fees and Charges Schedule altogether.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** March 9, 2026

Project Name:

New Fee for Adult Cricket Field Rental

COMMENTS:

Any financial impact as a result of the change from a block booking format for athletic field rentals to a hourly booking format is not determinable at this time as the impact is dependent on the actual number of hourly bookings. As discussed in the report, the intention of the change is to facilitate a more efficient use of field time. It is not anticipated the proposed changes would have a material financial impact.

J. Ruby CPA,CA March 9, 2026
J. Ruby CPA,CA
Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with: N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

1.8 Accountable Revenue Generation based on predictable, equitable, and evidence-informed methodology that offsets service costs while achieving this Plan's sustainability goals.

1.15 Community Capacity Development Partner with community organizations and Indigenous governments to enable community development, leadership and empowerment opportunities, by leveraging municipal programming and service resources including recreation, libraries and the arts, in particular for systemically disadvantaged groups and for those living in areas of highest need.

4.11 Equitable Service Access Prioritize equitable access to recreation and parks systems, services, and infrastructure, in order to: enable active living; connect people and nature; create supportive environments; build community capacity; and achieve desired health outcomes, with a focus on children and youth.

Complete Communities G3. Goal 2 ensures that land and facilities designated for recreation services, parks, and open space can be developed to serve our changing population's physical and social needs.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The report is in accordance with:

- Goal 6: All City Services are Equitable, Inclusive and Accessible

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: David Domke / Darren Pell
Date: March 9, 2026

Attachment:

Final Survey Results