

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
DISTRICT 69 RECREATION COMMISSION
ADDENDUM

Thursday, September 21, 2017

2:00 P.M.

Oceanside Place

Pages

5. DELEGATIONS

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| *5.2 | J. Cooper & S. Beauchesne - Oceanside Youth Soccer re: Sport fields in Oceanside:
Availability and Allocation | 2 |
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Delegation: John Cooper, Registrar and Director, Oceanside Youth Soccer Society and Suzanne Beauchesne, President, Oceanside Youth Soccer Society

Summary: Sport fields in Oceanside: Availability and Allocation

There are currently too few maintained sport fields available in Oceanside to accommodate all the users. No new fields have been added for about 25 years. School District 69 fields are not sufficiently maintained and are consistently unsafe and are not at all playable for soccer during wet seasons October to April. The only fields that may be playable during the wet seasons are Parksville Community Park, Springwood and Qualicum Rec. Oceanside is the only major community on eastern Vancouver Island south of Port McNeill without an all weather "turf" field. Lack of an all weather field eliminates tournament options.

OYSS is the largest user group of sports fields in Oceanside in spring, fall and winter and yet was excluded from use of PCP in spring 2017 by the RDN field scheduler, even though we had used that field for three hours on Saturday mornings for over ten years for spring soccer. The scheduler gave exclusive use of the fields in prime time (weekday evenings and all day on weekends) to a single user group (softball).

In the spring of 2017, 219 children age 5 to 9 were without a field to play on until they were moved to Springwood temporarily where a double booking became apparent at which point the group was moved to Qualicum Rec. The unexpected cost of laying out new fields and moving nets was born by OYSS. Seventy children age 10 to 12 played at Arrowview Elementary School with coaches having safety concerns for players. Sixty three youth aged 13 to 17 played at Qualicum Elementary School, many of whom quit due to field condition issues. It is extremely difficult to offer programs for soccer players without some assurance of access to playable fields.

OYSS would like the Rec Commission to push for new sports fields, an artificial sport field complex, and to consult with the RON field scheduler for equitable treatment for sport field user groups. OYSS has a \$200,000 segregated fund set aside for the development of an all-weather field complex in Oceanside if partners are available.

- Action Requested:**
1. Pursue construction if new sports fields in Oceanside
 2. Pursue construction of an all-weather sport field complex in Oceanside
 3. Create a booking policy that allocates field time equitably between user groups without allowing blanket booking of all prime time by a single user group.