



**City of Sunnyvale
Department of Library & Community Services
Community Services Division
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN**



Special Use Agreement Fee Increases

The Community Services Division currently has Special Use Agreements providing nineteen (19) non-profit user groups with use of City and School District fields, park buildings, gymnasiums, pools and other City facilities. These agreements provide discounted facility fees and other preferential terms in recognition of the contributions these groups make to the community.

The agreements contain language allowing fees to be reviewed annually and revised if warranted. Beginning July 1, 2011, youth sports organizations will be paying higher hourly rates for use of facilities. These fees have not been increased since 2004 (six years).

Q: What groups were impacted by the fee increases?

A: The following youth sports organizations were impacted by the fee increases:

American Youth Soccer Organization	Sunnyvale National Little League
Lakewood Pony Baseball	Sunnyvale Pony Baseball
Sunnyvale Alliance Soccer Club	Sunnyvale Pop Warner Football / Cheer
Sunnyvale Gymnastics Club	Sunnyvale Serra Little League
Sunnyvale Girls Softball League	Sunnyvale Southern Little League
Sunnyvale Judo Club	Sunnyvale Sports Association
Sunnyvale Metro Little League	Sunnyvale SUNN Swim Club

Q: How were the new fees determined?

A: Staff throughout the City has been tasked with continuing to identify ways to reduce costs to the City's General Fund in future years. Included in these strategies is the need to reduce total expenditures and/or increase revenues for various programs and services the City provides.

The Special Use Agreements state that rental rates may be reviewed annually and revised as warranted. Sunnyvale's rental rates for the youth sports organizations have not been increased to Special Agreement groups in over six years and are significantly lower than the majority of Bay Area public agencies with comparable facilities.

The Community Services Division gave the potential impact of fee increases (both pros and cons) careful consideration. A number of factors were considered before the new fees were established. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- Recognition that these organizations are an asset to our community and serve thousands of Sunnyvale youth.

- What other Bay Area public agencies are charging for similar facilities, as well as the range of services the each municipality provides its renters.
- The community demand for use of fields, park buildings, and pools.
- The length of time Sunnyvale youth sports organizations with Special Use Agreements have been paying the current rental rates.
- Development of a pricing model that will continue to provide advantages to Special Use Agreement groups in order to help support the services these groups provide to the community.

Q: Can the fees be increased without Council approval?

A: Per each Special Use Agreement impacted by the fee increase, fees can be reviewed on an annual basis and revised if warranted.

Q: Why are fees being increased in this economy?

A: The City is faced with a significant structural imbalance in the General Fund. The Sunnyvale City Council continues to consider a number of strategies to mitigate the deficit including revenue enhancements, programmatic efficiencies, and one-time and/or ongoing service reductions across the City.

Q: Will other groups be impacted by fee increases?

A: All Special Use Agreement groups throughout the City are being evaluated and other potential adjustments may be implemented in the coming year.

Q: Are any other changes anticipated for the youth sports organizations with Special Use Agreements with the City of Sunnyvale?

A: In a separate but associated project, staff is also reviewing and considering potential changes in the Special Use Agreements in order to accomplish the City's fiscal and operational goals, as well as to clarify expectations and roles.

The focus is to continue offering a strong core of recreation services and programs in the most cost-effective manner, as well as safe and useable facilities and sports fields for community use. Partnerships with community groups are an essential part of our success.

Q: How can my organization become a Special Use Agreement group?

A: Staff is reviewing all of the existing agreements and is considering potential changes in the way agreements are structured to accomplish the City's fiscal and operational goals as well as clarify expectations and roles. Recreation related requests for new Special Use Agreements are not being accepted until completion of this major project (anticipated completion date December 2011).

For additional information, call the Community Services Division at (408) 730-7350.