



Night Competition Games on Active Open Space Policy

Sutherland Shire Council

Document review and approval

This document has been approved by

	Name	Minute No	Date approved
1	Environment & Health Committee EHC273-98	935	23 February, 1998
2	Services & Facilities Committee SAF004-11	88	9 August, 2010

Revision history

Version	Author	Date	Revision
1	Sports Advisory Committee	August 1997	Original Version
2	Sport & Recreation Project Officer	26 July, 2010	Policy amended to allow expanded night use of grounds subject to meeting criteria
3	Manager – Active Communities	17 February, 2012	Policy reviewed as part of Annual Review process, no changes required.
4	Sport & Recreation Coordinator	22 January, 2013	Policy reviewed as part of Annual Review process, no changes required.
5	Acting Sport & Recreation Coordinator	31 December, 2013	Policy reviewed as part of Annual Review process, no changes required.
6	Sport & Recreation Coordinator	13 January, 2015	Policy reviewed as part of Annual Review process, no changes required.

Night Competition Games on Active Open Space

1. Purpose:
To provide direction for Council staff when considering new applications from community sporting associations and clubs in relation to the use of Sutherland Shire playing fields (active open space) for night competition games.
2. Application:
This policy will apply to any new application for the use of Sutherland Shire playing fields for night competition.
3. Definitions
Active open space – any parcel of land owned or under the control and management of Sutherland Shire Council which is used for organised community sport

Night games – the conduct of organised community sporting competition under floodlights
4. Principles

Council's night game policy was originally developed to manage the changing use of Council's sporting fields for night game use. The development of sports such as touch football, oztag and summer soccer required Council to provide facilities to enable these sports to conduct their competitions. As weekends were fully utilised by "traditional" codes, Council allowed the developing sports the opportunity to conduct competitions at night during the week.

The growth in winter sports has led to Council's playing fields being used to capacity during the winter season. Due to the grounds being used to capacity particularly for weekend competition there has been increased interest from winter sporting codes, in particular rugby union, football (soccer) and rugby league, to conduct night games either mid week or weekends.

The introduction of regular night games for the traditional winter sporting codes including football (soccer), rugby league and rugby union at suitable Council playing fields will lead to the freeing up of fields for additional weekend use and change the nature and enhance the popularity of these traditional sports.

The introduction of regular night games was a strategy identified in Council's "A New Game- Sutherland Shire Sports Fields- the need for sustainable practices for local delivery" and supported by the Playing Fields Taskforce

The conduct of night games will not be suited to every playing field site, each new application will be assessed to ensure the impact on the local community is kept to a minimum. The frequency of permitted night games per site will also be in the best interest of the surrounding residents.

5. **Procedure**

Sutherland Shire sporting associations and affiliated sporting clubs that have an interest in conducting night games on Council playing fields must complete an "application to conduct night games on Sutherland Shire playing fields" form.

Copies of the completed "application to conduct night games on Sutherland Shire playing fields" forms are to be provided to the relevant Ward Councillors prior to determination.

Council's Sport and Recreation Unit will assess new applications to conduct night games on a Sutherland Shire Council playing field based on the following criteria:

- Existing DA conditions associated with the site, that is, hours and days of floodlight operation
- Site car parking/traffic issues
- Proposed day and time of night games
- Proposed frequency of night games
- Proposed structure of night games - number of games per night, proposed timing of games, age groups, for example, juniors, men's or women's
- Proposed sale of alcohol
- Any existing issues associated with the playing field
- Existing floodlight levels onsite. Provide evidence that the floodlights meet Australian standards for night club competition or provide evidence of state body /local association approval to conduct night competition at existing light levels.
- Proximity of residents to site, existing use of site ie levels of training and competition
- Adequate security and crowd control is provided by the sporting group conducting the night competition game.

Based on the individual site assessment the following conditions may be applied before permission to conduct night games is granted:

- Upgrade of floodlights to meet Australian standards for night competition
- Conduct of a trial night game
- Neighbour notification and consultation

Following the outcome of the above and if all night game approvals are met, a formal letter of approval or disapproval will be sent to the applicant association or club.

6. **Responsible Officer**

Council's Sport and Recreation Unit staff will be responsible for managing applications for night games on Council playing fields.

7. **Review Date**

The night competition games on active open space policy will be reviewed following two (2) years of the adoption and implementation of the policy.