



Subject: Minor Soccer Association Agreement

To: Council

From: Corporate Services Department

Report Number: 2025-26

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Recommendation:

That Corporate Services Department Report 2025-66 be received; and

That Council approve entering into a renewed license agreement with Sir John Colborne Youth Soccer Club, attached hereto as Appendix A; and

That Council approve the introduction of a per registered player user fee as outlined in the attached license agreement.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's support to approve the license agreement for Sir John Colborne Youth Soccer Club (SJCYSC) which includes the introduction of a per registered player user fee to the Club.

Background:

Sir John Colborne Youth Soccer Club has historically operated as the minor soccer association in Port Colborne. Minor sport organizations are the primary users of City-owned sport fields and are given priority when booking indoor/outdoor sport facilities.

The previous agreement with Sir John Colborne Youth Soccer Club (SJCYSC) is expired.

SJCYSC made a 15-year financial commitment of \$150,000 between 2005-2020 towards the 4 soccer pitches and fieldhouse at the T.A. Lannan Complex.

User fees to SJCYSC have not been charged in previous agreements with the City in exchange for general maintenance of field house and soccer pitches and utilities costs.

This included items such as field house upkeep, garbage removal, field line painting and payment of hydro and water in field house and soccer pitches.

Discussion:

Staff identify that capital investments into the soccer pitches and fieldhouse are needed in years to come as the complex is now over 20 years old. These include but are not limited to: LED field lighting upgrades, field levelling, artificial turf proposals, fieldhouse repairs. We also identify the rising costs of staffing in maintaining grass cutting, field maintenance and cleaning.

To help offset these costs, the new agreement introduces a per registered player user fee which will be built into the user fee bylaw. The per player minor soccer fee is utilized by many municipalities including Fort Erie, Wainfleet, Lincoln and West Lincoln in Niagara. As minor soccer has agreed to provide some maintenance services, maintain equipment and cover hydro and water costs of soccer pitches and fieldhouse. Staff have proposed a lower rate than the average of the four Niagara municipalities that offer the per registered player fee.

Recreation staff have consulted with SJCYSC President (Melissa Murdoch) and its boards members throughout 2024 to discuss the terms of a new agreement and in February 2025 the board met to review and approve the new drafted licence agreement.

Highlights of the new agreement include:

- The introduction of per registered player user fee for minor soccer for 2025 that will be built into the user fee bylaw for 2026.
- An increase in general liability coverage maintained by minor soccer from 2 million to 5 million per occurrence.
- All equipment owned by the City shall be maintained by Minor Soccer including replacement of netting and replacement of equipment (goal posts, light fixtures, bleachers will be mutually agreed on between the City and Minor Soccer).
- Parks staff will cut pitch grass to municipal standards. Minor soccer will be responsible for field lining.
- Parks staff will maintain field house and garbage when not in use by minor soccer.
- Minor Soccer agrees to be active participants in the Parks and Recreation Master plan.

Internal Consultations:

Discussions with Public Works and Facilities staff helped identify upgrades that are needed in years to come and have received quotes on LED lighting upgrades to the City's two soccer pitches. Items such as fencing, bleachers, signage have been identified of areas for future improvements. One full time staff and seasonal student are dedicated to the grass cutting, top dressing, aerating and general maintenance of the T.A Lannan Complex throughout the season.

Financial Implications:

The licence Agreement with SJCYSC as outlined in Appendix A propose the following escalating per registered player user fee during the 5-year period of the licence term:

Term	Year	Per Registered Player Fee	Change
Initial 5 Year License Term	1	\$5	
	2	\$5	\$0
	3	\$7	\$2
	4	\$9	\$2
	5	\$11	\$2

In recognition of Minor Soccer providing maintenance and payment of utilities, the City will charge a per player registered fee below the regional average (13.68 in 2025) compared to other Niagara municipalities for youth soccer who charge a per player fee (Town of Lincoln, Town of West Lincoln, Township of Wainfleet, Town of Fort Erie).

In 2024 SJCYSC had 565 registered participants.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Welcoming, Livable, Healthy Community
 - Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure
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Conclusion:

In creation of a new licence agreement for SJCYSC, it was identified that introducing a per registered player user fee model would help fund the increasing costs and future requirements of the soccer pitches and fieldhouse to maintain exceptional sport opportunities for youth in the community.

Appendices:

- a. Minor Soccer Licence Agreement

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Zwiep
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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.