



5 July 2016

To the Shire of Denmark Council,

RE: McLEAN OVAL SURFACE DEGRADATION

The Denmark-Walpole Football Club (DWFC) is fortunate to have regular use and access to McLean Oval at the Denmark Recreation Precinct.

The DWFC attempts to provide a safe, family friendly environment for Denmark and Walpole youth and families. The DWFC is an Act-Belong-Commit Community Partner and has taken significant steps through the Good Sports Program to improve the club environment and ensure all people within the town can feel welcome. The DWFC has also tried to work with other sports that share the Denmark Recreation Precinct to improve the facilities. This included asking the Shire to have a children's playground built at the precinct to improve amenities for families attending the precinct facility.

This year has seen significant issues arise relating to the drainage of McLean Oval, leading to the severe degradation of the playing surface. The oval is severely water-logged and the playing surface is unstable underfoot; there are significant holes and patches without complete grass coverage and areas that have been degraded due to over-usage. This has led to a situation where:

- Concerns relating to player safety due to the playing surface have been raised with the DWFC and the Great Southern Football League (GSFL),
- Concerns have been raised with the DWFC from other clubs within the GSFL over the appropriateness of the playing surface for sport at this level,
- Other clubs within the GSFL have reported a significant increase in player soreness and lower limb injuries following fixtures at McLean Oval,
- The DWFC has recorded a significant increase in lower limb injuries, hip and soft tissue injuries this year compared to previous seasons relating to the surface,
- The DWFC has been forced to recently cancel training on the ground to minimise the risk to player safety,
- The DWFC has been forced to consider moving games away from the town in the interest of player safety, at significant loss to the club and local suppliers,

300 players

Soccer

cricket & athletics

The DWFC acknowledges that part of the issue relating to the playing surface relate to the redevelopment of the City of Albany Sporting Precinct, however the DWFC has only had one more round of games on the oval this season than 2015. There has been an increased participation in football at the DWFC this year, leading to more players on the surface. There is also significant wear on the surface due to the Denmark Soccer Club, who are also experiencing great participation numbers.

The DWFC understands and acknowledges that significant capital works to improve the draining of the surface have been attempted in the past. The DWFC also understands that subsequent capital works to appropriately address the improvement of the surface in the long term will come at significant cost and be a long-term planning project. In the short term, to ensure player safety and the financial viability of the DWFC, the DWFC ask the Shire to:

1. Waive the cost of utilising the Denmark Recreation Centre for training two sessions per week while the DWFC allows initial repairs to the oval to take place.
2. The Shire negotiate with local facility management groups to consider alternatives for junior sport training and games while initial repairs to the oval to take place.
3. The Shire waive the hire-fees that winter clubs have paid for the use of McLean Park, as the entire oval is currently not safe to use.

The DWFC would ask in the long-term that:

1. The Shire provide the DWFC with details on when the proposed Secure Playground Area will be completed (resolution 8.2.2, Shire Council Minutes 14th April 2015).
2. The Shire explore long-term plans to address the drainage and suitability of the McLean Oval surface, including resurfacing or redevelopment.

Yours Sincerely,



Glen Burton
President



Matt Candy
Senior Coach

To: Shire of Denmark
PO Box 183
DENMARK WA 6333

From: Denmark Walpole Junior Football Club
PO Box 710
DENMARK WA 6333

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: invoice no 19687 Mclean Park Oval hire 2016 season

Denmark Walpole Junior Football club would like to request a waiver on the fee charged for use of Mclean Oval in season 2016.

Due to the declining condition of the oval we have had to relocate or reschedule many of our home games this season, resulting in only 3 junior rounds being played at Mclean in 2016.

Our Auskick teams who would usually utilise the oval most Saturdays have been unable to use the oval at all this season, and have had to switch between use of the high school and primary school ovals, depending on availability.

This has significantly impacted our Canteen cash flow which is a major source of revenue for our club.

Our club supports the Shire in its endeavour to secure grant funding to refurbish the playing surface and we have forwarded a letter to Damian Schwarzbach. We hope that funding can be secured and work can be completed as soon as possible. We look forward to the 2017 season with anticipation that Mclean Oval will once again be in top condition for the use of all sporting clubs in Denmark.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Rowling

Secretary

DWJFC