

Dear Sports Field Manager,

Noosa Council is offering organisations that maintain sports fields around the shire a free audit to assist in the maintenance of your sports field, to complement council's sports field maintenance funding. The audit, conducted by a professional Sports Turf Consultant, will provide all of the information below and will be given to you in an individualised report, and a proposed 12-month maintenance plan for your organisation to follow. It will be followed up on by an Open Forum where you can ask questions and receive expert advice from the consultant. This forum will be held **6-8pm, Thursday 28 July at Tewantin Council Chambers Committee Room**. We highly recommend you attend this forum and ask that you RSVP to megan.marks@noosa.qld.gov.au.

The audit will cover:

- **Soil Testing** - Taking core samples of the soil, test the nutrients and identify areas of concern. This may include: nitrogen levels, organic matter, sulphur, zinc, chloride and sodium levels. Recommendations will be given on supplementary nutrients needed, ie fertilisers, aeration etc.
- **Turf Undulation** - Measure surface undulation across the fields and recommend remedy works to improve conditions and level out surfaces; this may include returfing areas within goal mouths/high traffic areas. Annual top dressing may be recommended.
- **Turf Quality and Cover** - Quantity and quality of the turf ground cover including areas of concern, i.e. bare patches of dirt, overused and high traffic zones.
- **Surface Hardness** - Test the hardness of the playing surfaces. If high readings are identified the likelihood of significant head injury is high and the playing field may be unsafe to play. De-compaction work may be required to reduce surface hardness, increase airflow within the soil and promote root development
- **Turf height** - Measure the height of the turf and advise recommended turf cut and frequency for the species of turf present.
- **Irrigation and Soil Moisture** - Soil moisture and infiltration rates and recommended irrigation requirements to improve turf health, reduce surface hardness and compaction levels within the field.
- **Weed Identification** - Desired turf species across the sports fields and identify the weed species. These may include: Kikuya, Crowsfeet, Wire grass, Nut grass, and Broadleaf carpet grass. This identification will assist the club in ensuring a correct program of spraying of pre-emergent and post emergent weeds is carried out.

At this stage you do not need to do anything. The consultant will visit your field/s and send you the finalised report for your field/s. The work will be carried out the week commencing 6 June 2016, and if you notice the consultant on your field/s, feel free to introduce yourself.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any queries you may have, and we look forward to seeing you at the open forum. Don't forget to RSVP to commdev@noosa.qld.gov.au.

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