

# **AYSO REGION 76 FIELD USAGE FEE FAQ'S**

## **An Overview of the Underlying Issues<sup>1</sup>**

**1. Q: Can you explain what this field usage fee issue is all about?**

A: At its July 7, 2009 meeting, the Beverly Hills City Council approved an ordinance that will charge all youth sports groups a fee for using the fields, courts and facilities in the City.

The basic elements of the approved ordinance are as follows:

- \$10 per resident participant.
- \$30 per non-resident participant.
- \$50 fee per non-resident over 40% of the total number of participants.
- \$4 per hour usage fee for fields, courts, meeting rooms, etc.

**2. Q: How much will this ordinance cost our youth sports organizations?**

A: The ordinance that the City Council passed is projected to generate a total of \$128,000 annually. The majority of the cost will fall on the three largest youth sports organizations in Beverly Hills – AYSO Soccer, the Beverly Hills Basketball League (“BHBL”) and Little League Baseball.

Based on the analysis prepared by the Department of Recreation & Parks (“R&P”), here are the amounts each youth sports organization will be paying this year:

- AYSO Soccer - \$73,230
- Little League Baseball - \$22,810
- BHBL - \$25,250

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<sup>1</sup> This is Part 1 in a series of FAQ's ("frequently asked questions"), designed to provide in-depth information to our participants on the subject of field usage fees. Additional FAQ's will be published in the near future, and all of them will be featured on our website, [www.ayso76.org](http://www.ayso76.org).

**3. Q: Did the major youth sports organizations submit an alternative proposal to the City Council?**

A: Yes – after receiving the proposal from R&P and prior to the July 7, 2009 City Council meeting, AYSO, Little League and the BHBL, which together account for 97% of all the children playing youth sports in the City of Beverly Hills, submitted a joint proposal to the City Council and R&P – the main points are as follows:

- \$15 per player fee – no distinction between residents and non-residents.
- No hourly usage fee.
- A limitation on the time the fee would be paid – this is intended to be an emergency measure in response to the unprecedented economic challenges facing our city.

**4. Q: How much money would this alternative proposal generate?**

A: About \$66,000, based on participation numbers over the past year.

**5. Q: Did the City Council consider and discuss the alternative proposal submitted by AYSO, Little League and the BHBL?**

A: No.

**6. Q: Isn't AYSO registration for this year almost complete?**

A: Yes – as of July 7, 2009, when the City Council passed the youth sports fee ordinance, AYSO was approximately 90% completed with registration for the upcoming season.

**7. Q: Did the City Council make any allowances for the fee to be paid this year?**

A: Yes – the City Council has set the fee to be paid by AYSO this season at \$40,000.

**8. Q: Does AYSO have enough money to pay the \$40,000 fee for this season?**

A: No – AYSO operates at a break even level. The operating reserves that our Region holds are less than 10% of our annual revenues – (2008 revenues of approximately \$300,000 and an operating reserve of approximately \$25,000). Maintaining a reserve at this level is prudent from a business standpoint and is in fact mandated by AYSO National.

The money to pay the \$40,000 fee approved by the City Council for this year can only come from increased registration fees or program cuts.

**9. Q: Will AYSO go back and charge everyone an additional fee for the upcoming 2009 season?**

A: No – it is not feasible to go back to our registered players and require them to pay an additional fee. We do not believe it would be fair to do so for this season, especially in these difficult economic times.

**10. Q: How does AYSO propose to pay the \$40,000 fee required by the City for the upcoming season?**

A: Our Board of Directors has decided to make the following cuts in program expenses for the upcoming season:

- Eliminate all trophies.
- Eliminate all Board dinners (monthly meetings and year end)
- Implement a charge of \$5 for yearbooks.
- Eliminate all non-capital donations to schools, etc.

**11. Q: What about the \$73,000 fee for next season?**

A: Unless the approved ordinance is amended, we anticipate having to make additional program cuts and increase registration fees.

**12. Q: How will this affect scholarships for players in need?**

A: There will be no effect this year. Scholarships will continue to be a priority for AYSO – we expect that requests for scholarships will increase this season because of the difficult economy. Requests are likely to increase next season if we are forced to raise our registration fees.

**13. Q: So how can we help AYSO and the other youth sports groups on these very important issues?**

A: For now – just stay in touch with us, and continue to read your emails regularly. We will be organizing a community-wide response in the very near future, and that is where we are likely to need your help.

*[Stay tuned for Part 2 of this series, entitled "Examination of a Flawed Process", which will follow within the next few days.]*