

CS01660: Edmonton Soccer Association - Facility Access, Maintenance and Performance

Edmonton

Executive Committee
November 1, 2023

History

- ESA formed as a not for profit in 1985 with a mandate to develop, operate, and maintain indoor and outdoor soccer facilities
- In 1995 City Council passed a motion recognizing Edmonton Soccer Association as its partner in developing, operating, and maintaining future indoor soccer facilities. (28 years of partnership)
- Edmonton Soccer Association has contributed over \$20 million to the capital costs of developing the three City-owned indoor soccer centres (West, East, and South) and the Bill Gilhespy Soccer Complex at Henry Singer Sports Park.

Current Status

- Over the past year ESA's current financial situation has faced ongoing challenge as they continue to recover from the pandemic impacts.
- The City is working with ESA to help support their financial recovery from the pandemic by:
 - ◆ Deferring lease payments for the South centre to be redistributed within their lease term
 - ◆ Reduce contributions into the capital reserve fund with a gradual return to full contributions by September 2028
 - ◆ ESA is exploring alternative uses of the indoor facilities to fill unbooked times with new activities and user groups

Community Outreach

- In June 2023 ESA and the City worked together to develop a set of questions to engage the main facility users of the indoor soccer facilities
- The topics of this engagement included stakeholder experience with allocation, facility usage, governance structure, summary of participation numbers, and future usage of the facilities
- The results of the engagement showed support of the current ESA governance structure, allocation process, and projected increase use as participation numbers continue to increase post pandemic.

Utilization

- ESA saw a 75% utilization rate of all prime hours during the 2022-2023 winter season.
 - ◆ This was an 8% increase from the previous two years
- Total utilization for the winter season in 2022-2023 was 64% across all three centres
 - ◆ Additionally total hours increased by almost 1000 hours due to the south expansion
- These utilization rates indicate there was ample prime and non-prime hours available for new and casual user groups to access the facilities in the 2022-2023 winter season