



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Request for use of Mallusk Playing Fields for Youth Soccer Tournaments NI
Date:	13 March 2014
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director Parks and Leisure
1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The department has received a request from Youth Soccer Tournaments NI (YSTNI) seeking free use of Mallusk Playing Fields including changing facilities from 15 to 17 August 2014.</p> <p>YSTNI have been organising youth soccer tournaments in Belfast for a number of years including the Belfast International Cup and the Christopher Shaw Festival which has accommodated teams from outside the United Kingdom.</p> <p>YSTNI is a voluntary organisation consisting of male and female members.</p>
2.	Key Issues
	<p>It is proposed that this year one tournament will be held which will include the Belfast International Cup, aimed at teams from under 12 up to under 19 and the Christopher Shaw Festival aimed at under 9 up to under 11.</p> <p>Basing the tournament in Belfast will increase access for local teams and will have less financial impact on local participating clubs.</p> <p>YSTNI has requested use of 12 pitches and changing facilities free of charge.</p> <p>The dates in August are pre season and will mean pitches will not have been rested for the full period and this could have a detrimental impact on the quality of the pitches for the season. Members should be aware that Committee has already given permission for the Northern Ireland Boys Football Association soccer tournament to take place on Saturday 23rd and Saturday 30th August 2014.</p>
3.	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> Free use of the facilities would represent a loss of income of £3,571.20 and approximate staffing overtime costs of £750.00.</p>

	<u>Human Resources</u> No implications <u>Asset and Other Implications</u> Potential damage to pitches in advance of the full playing season.
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4.	Equality and good relations implications
	This is a cross community event.

5.	Recommendations
	Committee is asked to consider the request for use of Mallusk Playing Fields and changing facilities free of charge for the dates requested and decide if they wish to grant authority for the tournament.

6.	Decision Tracking
	Fintan Grant, City Park Manager North

7.	Key to Abbreviations
	YSTNI – Youth Soccer Tournaments Northern Ireland

8.	Documents Attached
	None