

Thank you for the opportunity to support Queen's University's application for permanent exemption to Noise Control By-Law 2004-52 on behalf of the Kingston Womens Soccer Club (KWSC).

The KWSC has more than 800 members aged 16 to 60 who are registered to play outdoor soccer. For the past several years our club has depended upon Queen's University for field usage without which, it would be impossible to meet our ever-increasing membership demands. Queen's has been instrumental in this regard, and it is important to note here that it isn't only the student and staff at Queen's University who benefit from using these well-maintained fields. The community at large benefits, including clubs like KWSC and other Southeastern Ontario Soccer Association sanctioned clubs and many other user groups throughout our city.

Since 2009, we have secured field rental contracts with Queen's including Tindall, Nixon and many fields at West Campus. We run programs and leagues on these fields Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays between the hours of 6 and 11 pm, May through August and then again in the Fall. Enforcement of the current noise bylaw at West Campus would result in the loss of at least 2 or 3 games per week for a minimum of 20 weeks; that's a staggering 40 to 60 games, conservatively speaking. Quite simply, we would not be able to offer our members the same opportunities to play outdoor soccer on a field of this quality if the exemption is rejected. In fact, we would likely have to restrict membership at a time when leading an active, healthy lifestyle should be promoted and celebrated instead of hindered.

The City of Kingston has publicly acknowledged the need to improve the condition of its current fields as well as construct new ones in order to meet the demands of our very vibrant soccer community. Without this exemption the City of Kingston would be taking a step backwards in that regard.

As you are aware, it is the policy of the City of Kingston to give field rental priority to youth leagues and clubs, as well as a lower hourly rate. Rental rates are higher for adults, and in general, the only option for clubs such as ours to run their leagues is during the later evening hours and on weekends. These later evening hours are considered prime time and as such, the rates are higher than non-prime hours. Over and above the higher prime time rates, later evening user groups have to add on an extra cost for lights to make the outdoor fields safe for use. The reality for adult clubs like the KWSC is that we already make numerous concessions in order to support, develop and promote youth athletics in the Kingston Area. If the noise bylaw exemption is not supported, adult clubs such as the KWSC and their members will be negatively impacted yet again, and not simply in terms of cost.

While we sympathize with the residents who feel that noises emanating from the West Campus fields between 9 and 11 pm may be bothersome at times, we sincerely hope the city counselors will approve the noise by-law exemption request made by Queen's.

The KWSC Board of Directors on behalf of the KWSC members fully support the application by Queen's University for a permanent exemption to Noise Control By-Law 2004-52 as described in the Public Notice.

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Kingston Womens Soccer Club