

Draft Fair Access Policy

Preamble

Bass Coast's Fair Access Policy (the Policy) seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure. The Policy aims to progressively build capacity and capabilities of Bass Coast Shire Council in the identification, and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs, communications, and delivery of services in relation to community sports infrastructure.

As a defined entity of the Gender Equality Act 2020, Bass Coast Shire Council was required from 31 March 2021 to conduct Gender Impact Assessments (GIA) on all new policies, programs, communications, and services, including those up for review, which directly and significantly impact the public (Gender Equality Act 2020).

Starting in July 2024 the eligibility criteria for Victorian Government funding programs relating to community sports infrastructure will require that Council's have an adopted gender equitable access and use policy in order to receive funding.

Policy objective

To build the capacity and capability of Bass Coast Shire Council and its community to identify and eliminate the systemic causes of gender inequality in the areas of sport and active recreation. This will include new and existing policies, programs, communications and the access and use of community sports and recreation infrastructure.

Principles

Council will adopt the Fair Access Policy Principles which have been developed by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation. They aims to:

1. Ensure community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive.
2. Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation, including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.
3. Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure:
 - a. of the highest quality available and most convenient.
 - b. at the best and most popular competition and training times and locations.
 - c. to support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sports and active recreation opportunities.
4. Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles.

5. Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport and active recreation infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices

6. Prioritise access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.

Council considers that these principles provide clear direction, while also enabling adaption to the specific environment of Bass Coast. The details of how Council will roll out this Policy are listed within the Fair Access Action Plan.

The scope of the Policy is to support Council to take positive action towards achieving gender equity in the access and use of community sports infrastructure.

Additional documents

Bass Coast Fair Access Policy Action Plan 2024

Reference to other documents

The Policy enables effective and efficient integration of the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020, the Local Government Act 2020 and the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and other legislative frameworks.

This Policy has been developed in line with and consideration of the following Guidelines, Plans, Strategies and Policies:

Gender Equality Act 2020

Local Government Act 2020

Equal Opportunity Act 2010

Bass Coast Shire Council Gender Equality Action Plan 2021

DRAFT Bass Coast Shire Council Recreation Service Agreement

Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grant Program Policy 2023

Bass Coast Shire Council Partnership Policy and Framework 2023

Bass Coast Shire Council Active Bass Coast Plan 2018-2028

Bass Coast Shire Council Leasing and Licensing Policy 2019

DRAFT Bass Coast Shire Council Sports Facility Capital Development Guide

Bass Coast Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

Bass Coast Shire Council Plan 2021-2025

Bass Coast Shire Council Long Term Financial Plan 2015-2025

Review process

Both the Fair Access Policy and Action Plan will be reviewed every 24 months or as any relevant legislative changes are made.

Accountability process

The Manager Recreation and Transport is accountable for the proper application of the Policy.

Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) Statement

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been undertaken when developing this policy.

Approval

For Council policies -

Adopted by Council at its meeting held on

Date day month year

Signed by the Mayor (Name)