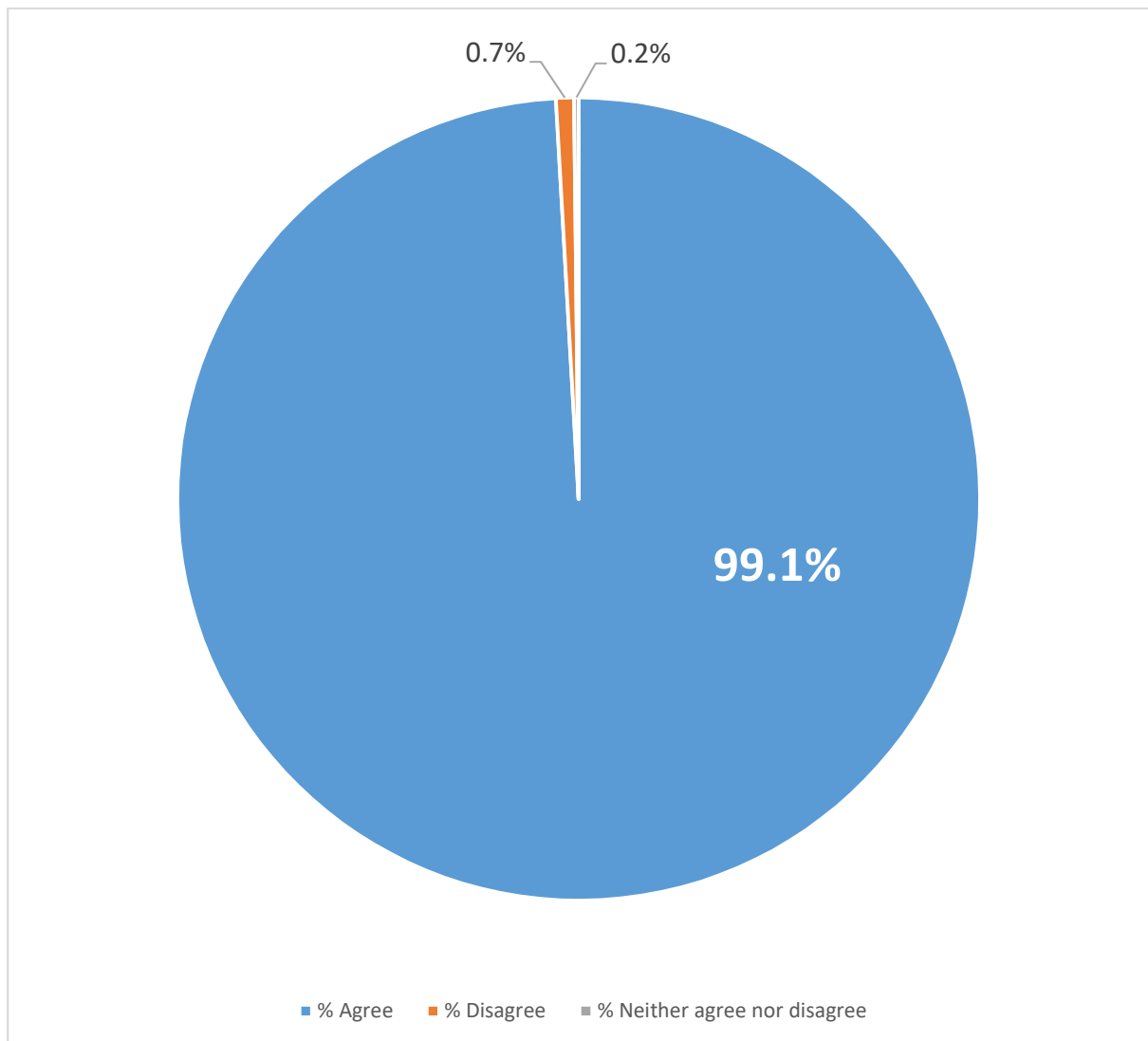


At 9am 24<sup>th</sup> June, 1101 responses have been submitted.

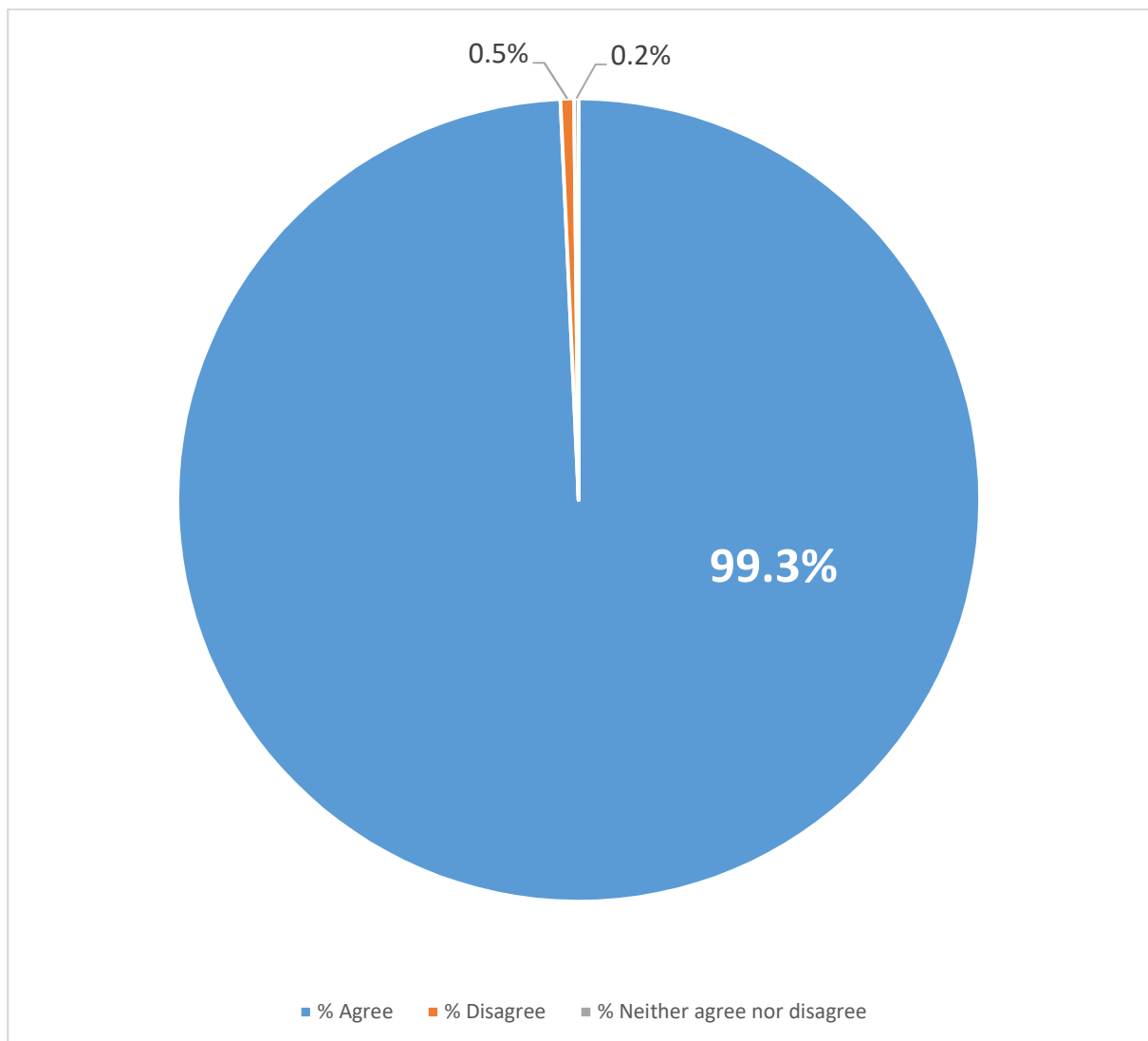
Council's decision to provide FootballSSG with insufficient sports field allocations will prevent one third of players (1,000 people) from participating in its Warriewood-based competitions. This decision is unacceptable and should be reversed, immediately.



"My daughters have been involved in football SSG at warriewood /rat park for the past 13years. This has been great for fitness, new skill development and creating new friendships. Stuart and his team run the most professional, inclusive and organised competition. The restriction of this competition will be a loss for the future of our community."

"The council should be doing everything in their power to allow ssg to continue in the same capacity as previous years. The children and adults need these sports and activities to keep them entertained. What will the kids turn to if they don't have sport on the northern beaches? We are already quite isolated and to take this away from the kids, they're more likely to be on the streets, up to no good! What is it with this council and sport? Always trying to make it hard for everyone. The fields are there for sport. Not looking at."

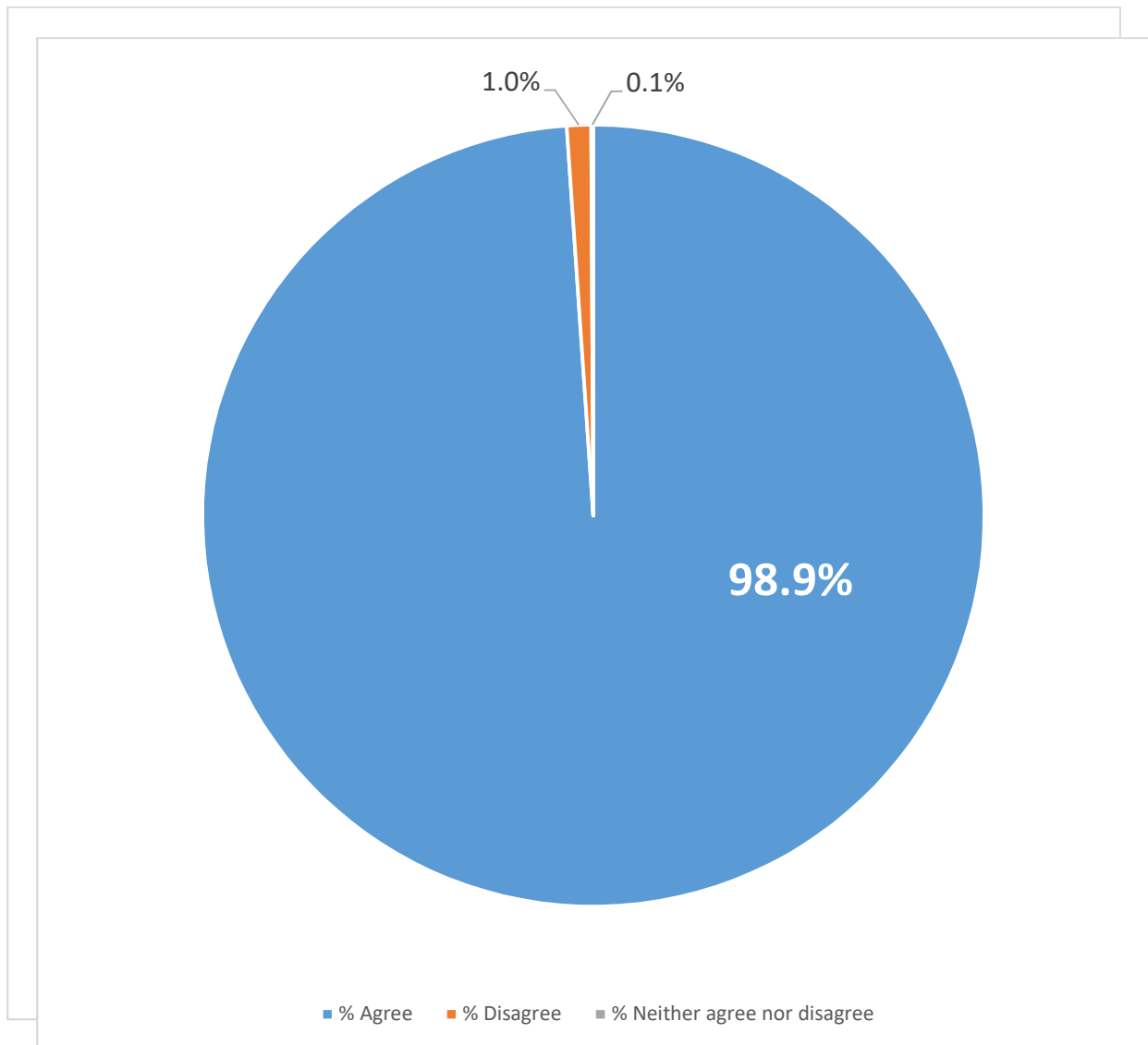
Council's decision to restrict FootballSSG's access to one demonstrably unsuitable sports field on which to operate its Warriewood-based competitions endangers the continuation of those competitions. This decision is unacceptable and should be reversed, immediately.



"This decision by the council is ludicrous and unacceptable. residential pay rates for public facilities and they should be entitled to enjoy them all three of my children have participated in ssg for over 10 yrs. it has brought all of them a lot of joy, not to mention a providing them with a healthy lifestyle away from screens Council use your common sense, we live in a high density area, wear and tear on fields is to be accepted. they are there for the sole purpose of the community playing on them"

"This decision by the council is both disappointing and ridiculous. The grounds are there for the purpose of sport. What is the point of having "sports grounds" if sport can't be played on it? Narrabeen High is completely unsuitable. Too small, nowhere to park. So many kids will miss out on a comp that is already very very popular. Listen to the community and overturn this stupid decision."

Council's refusal to instead allocate FootballSSG with one day per week access to three suitable grass fields on which to operate its Warriewood-based competitions is entirely inappropriate, particularly given Council's written advice to Councillors (Angela Casey, 7 May 2025) that one day per week of FootballSSG on a grass field is sustainable.

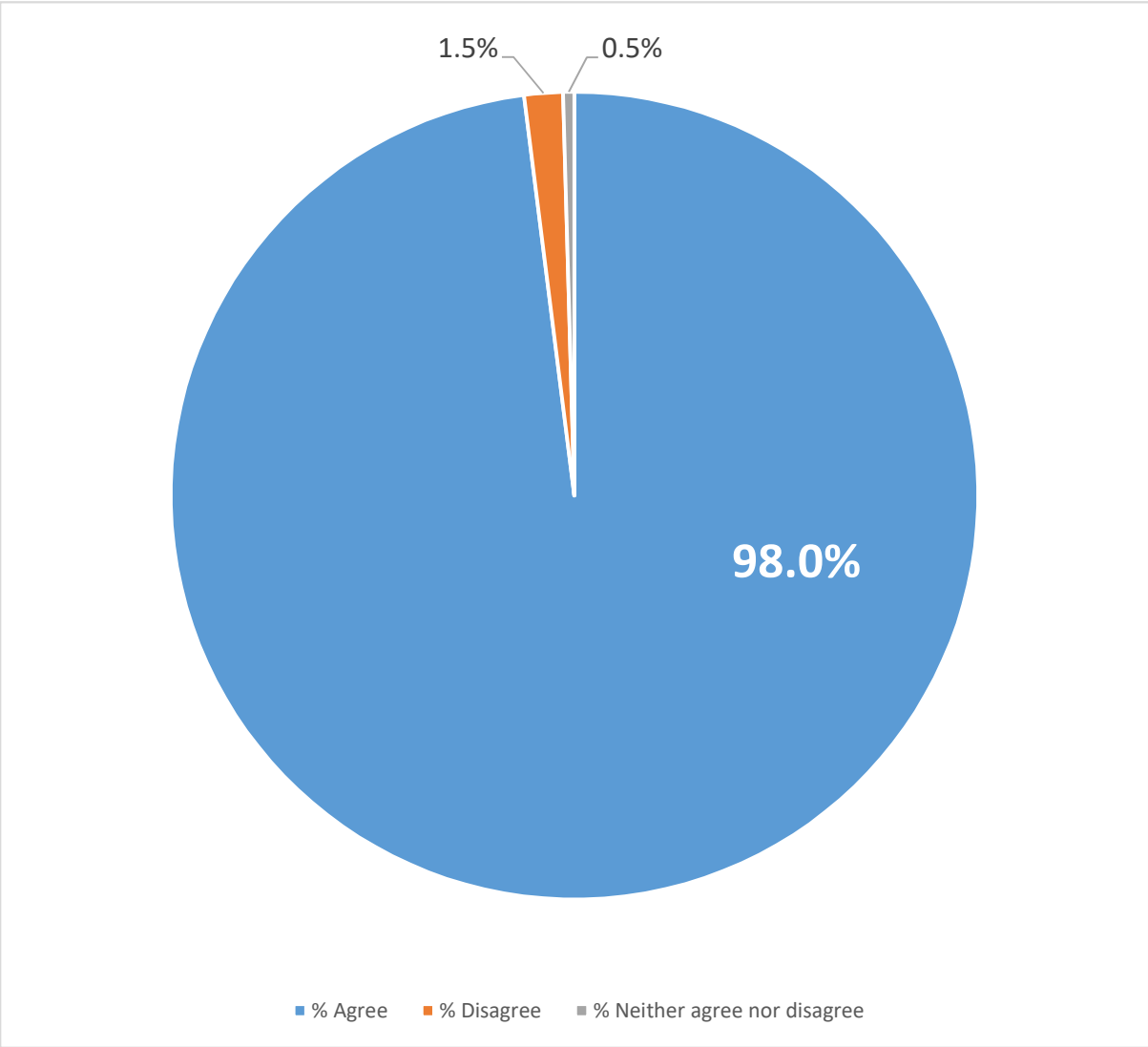


"Summer soccer is part of the northern beaches sporting culture. Let sport be played on grass turf and let our children be outside, playing sport and enjoying all that makes the Northern Beaches an amazing place to live."

"Surely, sporting fields should be available for playing sport, otherwise what are they for?"

"FootballSSG is the most well run sporting activity my kids participate in and it's so much fun for them and keeps them busy and fit when soccer finishes. It would be terrible for this competition to not be able to continue at the same park and in the same manner it always has been run"

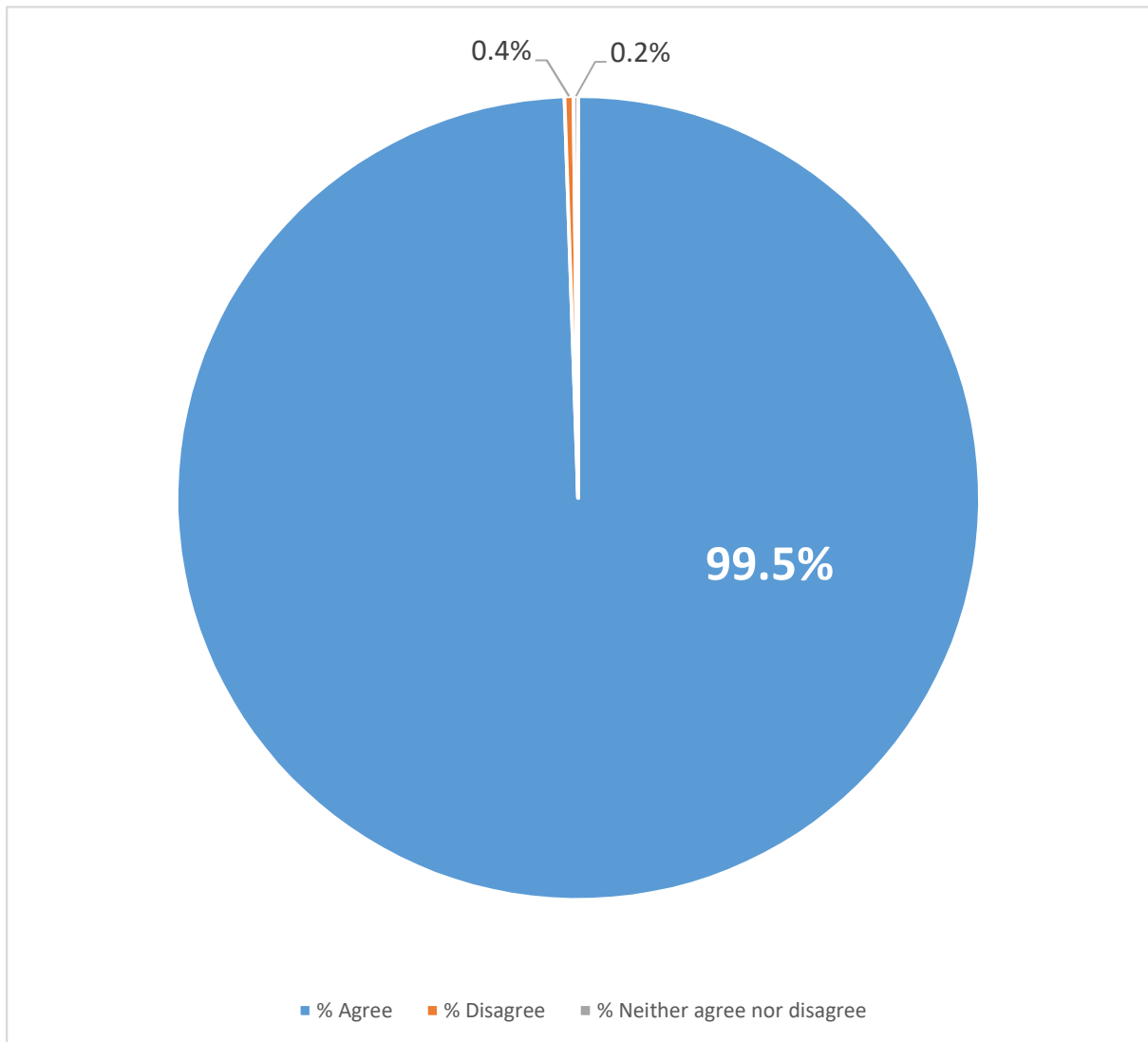
Council’s position that in future no sports that have a high impact on fields will be permitted to play on natural grass fields and rather will only be permitted to play on artificial turf fields is nonsensical and unworkable given the limited number of artificial turf fields that exist.



“With the proliferation of digital devices and mobile phones, Children more than ever need sport and team sports. The Northern Beaches does not have anywhere near enough synthetic pitches as other areas in Sydney - due to chronic underfunding by this council - so there is not enough options. This decision needs to be reversed as a matter of urgency.”

“I think this is so unacceptable, why would Council even think this is acceptable, for many years my son and his friends looked forward to SSG, it was so popular, seems like it is getting harder and harder for kids on the Northern Beaches to be able to participate any sport, you NEED to take a look at Sport out in the Western Suburbs and dont use the excuse Oh but they dont have the beach, have a look at the drug culture in northern beaches with kids wandering aimlessly around the streets with nothing to do, WAKE UP TO YOURSELVES and let the kids just enjoy their sport.”

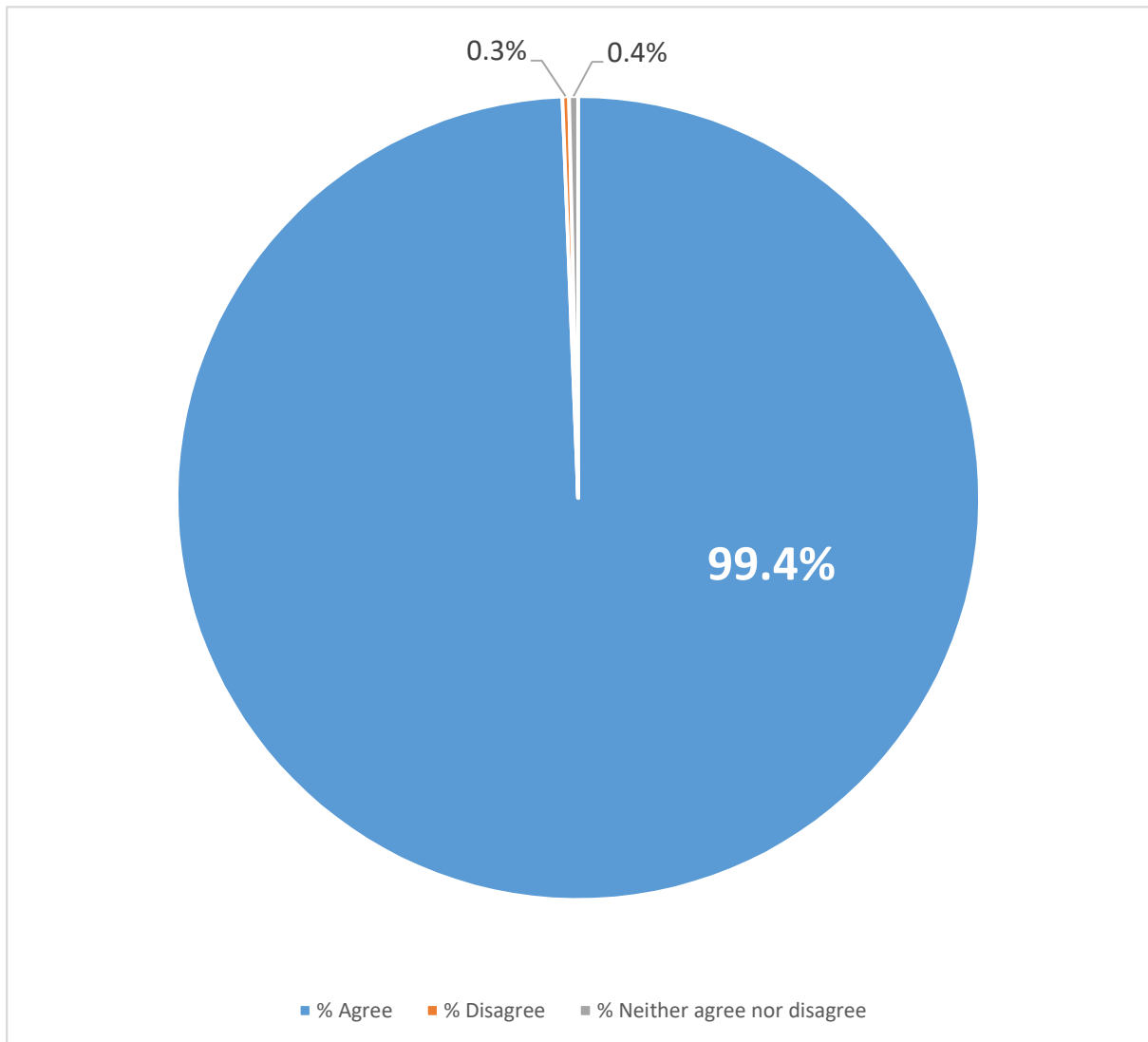
Decisions that limit access to sporting activities are detrimental to the community's physical and mental health and well-being.



“As a parent whose adult children have greatly benefited from access to Council-owned sporting facilities, I’m deeply saddened by this decision. At a time when mental health challenges are on the rise nationwide, and sport provides such a vital and positive outlet, it’s hard to understand why the Council would choose to reduce access to these important services.

“If council wants to support the overall mental and physical health of those who live in the area, they should put more time and effort into resolving issues like these so that more people are able to play social sports. Team sports are incredibly important for children, teens, and adult socialisation and help keep the Australian community healthy, which benefits our healthcare system.”

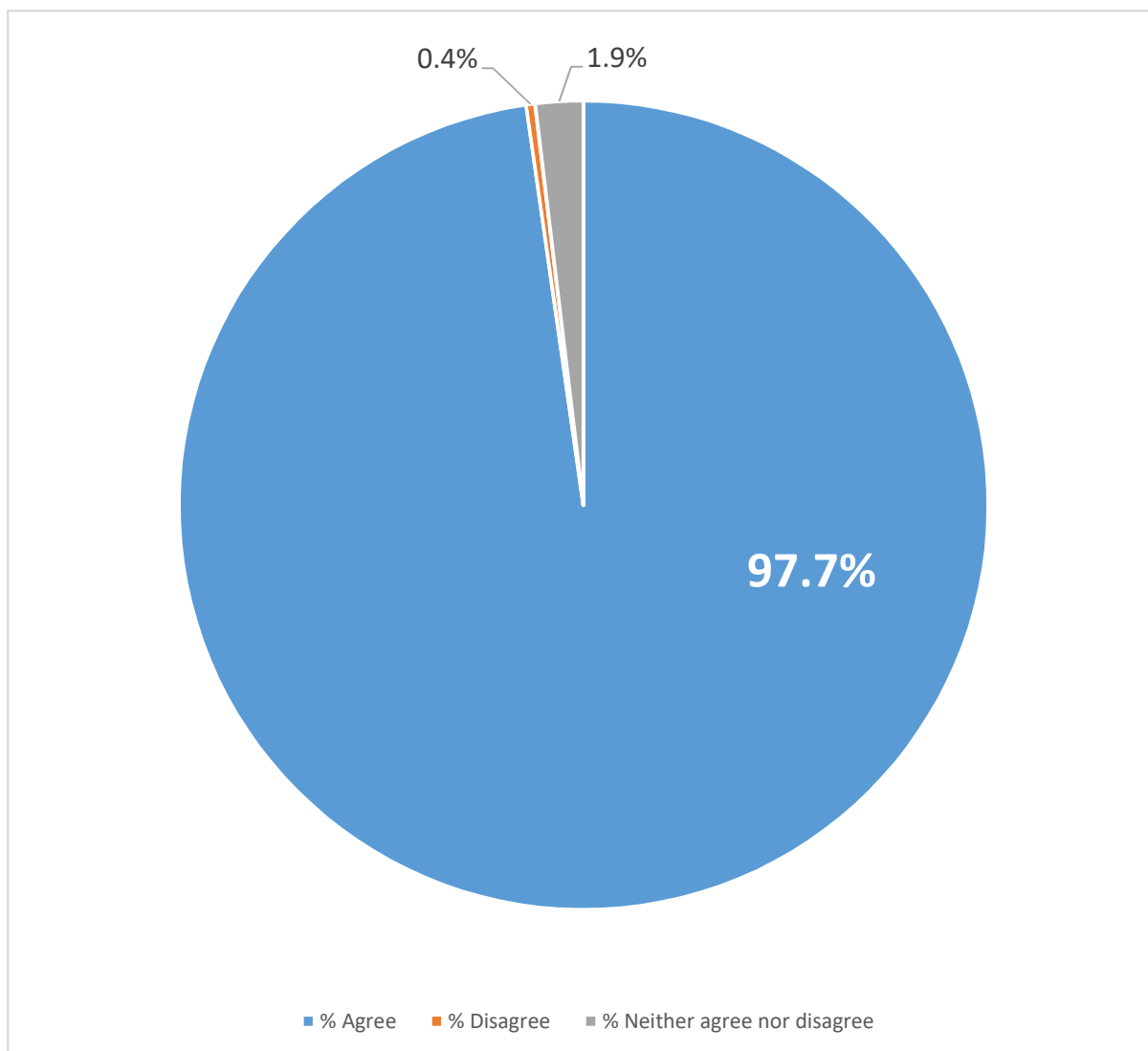
Restricting sport for youth could lead to negative social outcomes. A direct correlation can be drawn between children's and youth's participation in sports and their social development into adulthood and Council must support organisations that keep youth active and engaged.



"Come on council! This is for our community. Our young people. Keep them fit and healthy. When they are bored they could get up to mischief. Let's keep them fit and healthy. Plus SSG is such a great comp. Why would we want to lose such a good thing. HELP your locals please council!!!!"

"In a time where teenage and youth mental health issues and crime is on the rise, restricting numbers who could play this comp could lead to even more issues in our community. Team sport is a vital "fence at the top of a cliff" (vs ambulance at the bottom) for our young people."

Council has effectively dismissed FootballSSG's offer to help fund new facilities and/or to better maintain existing facilities for the benefit of all local sports groups. This is unacceptable.

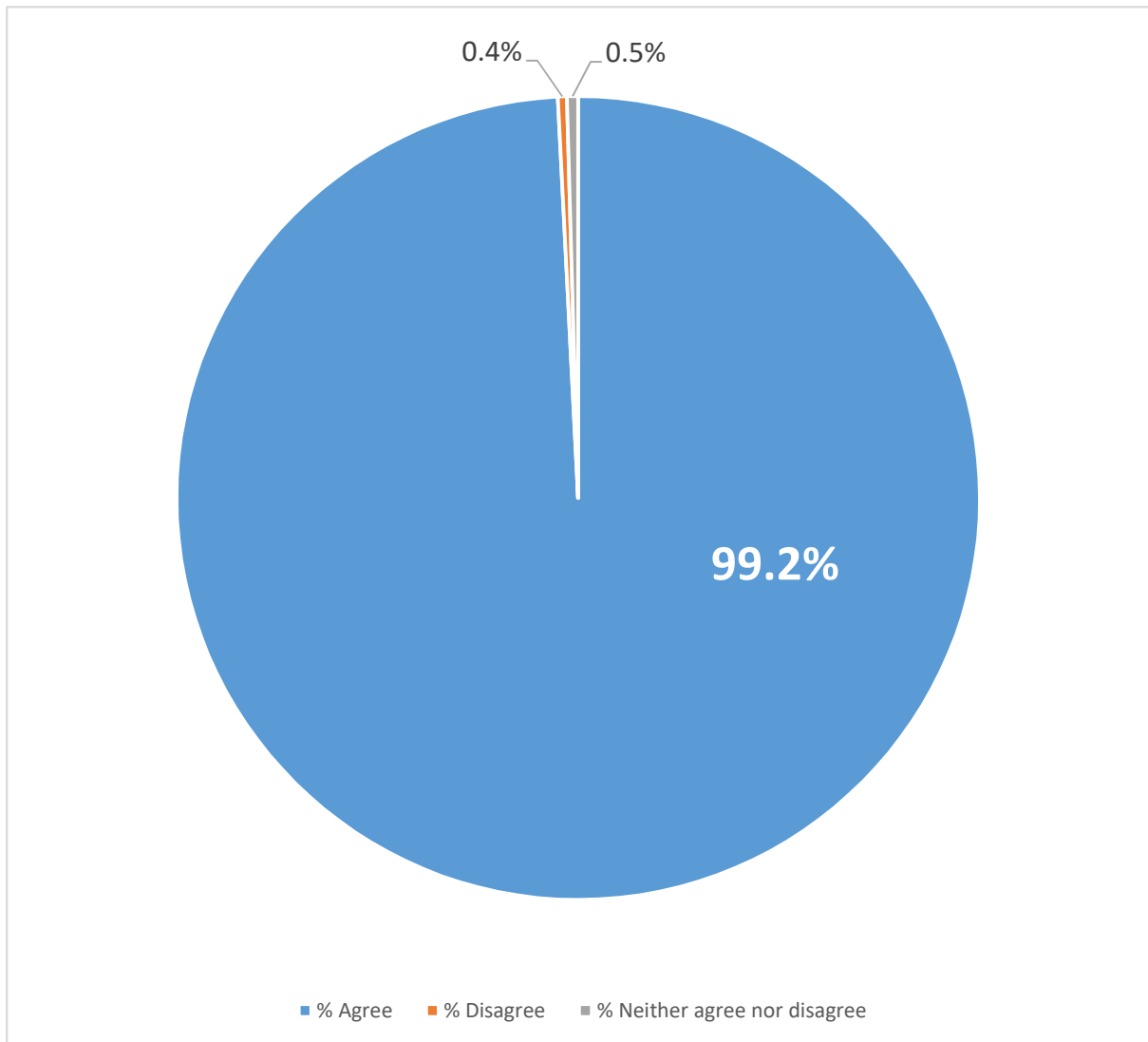


“There is a shortage of a lot of sporting facilities on the beaches. There needs to be more hard courts for netball and basketball along with multi purpose facilities so that high impact sports can still be played. We are trying to get our kids off the couches and away from screens yet all these decisions promote is mental health issues caused by lack of exercise, time of screens and bad social behaviour.”

“There is not enough artificial soccer fields to facilitate the number of young kids wanting to play. Disgraceful from council. We have plenty of grass fields we can use so our kids can continue to play the sport they love.”



Council must allocate FootballSSG with enough suitable fields so that everyone who wants to play can do so.

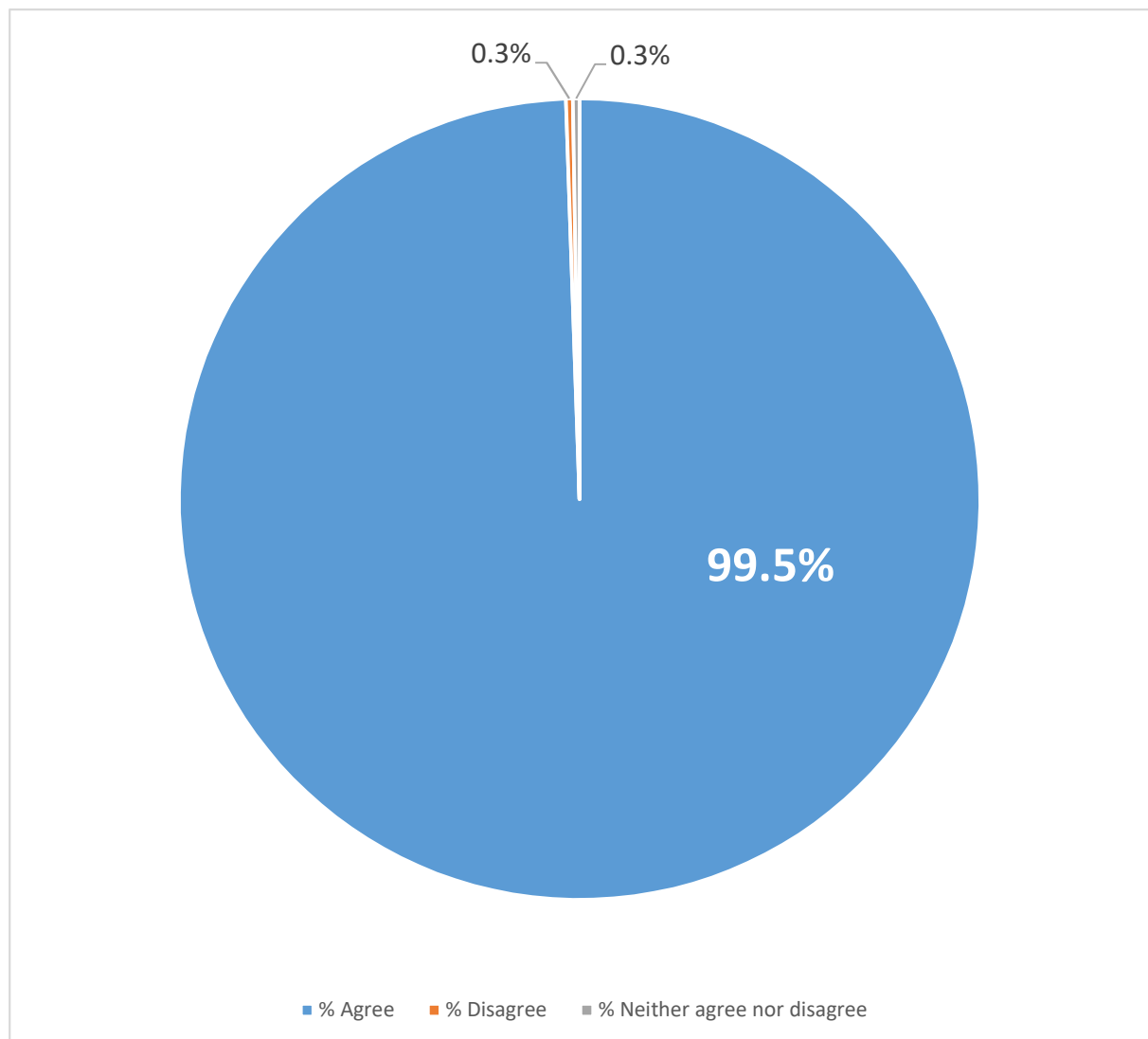


"Northern Beaches Council should really consider local sports as a key part of community engagement. Without providing adequate community services they are unfulfilling their role as a public authority to help improve local person ability to have easy and equitable access to exercise to improve both health and wellbeing"

"This is very important to our local community to have SSG Continue with sufficient fields to play on and we have many in our local area!"

"My son has played in the SSG competition for many years. It's an amazing competition and it would be devastating for the kids who can't play if the numbers are reduced"

I demand Council engage and collaborate with all sporting groups in good faith and with the objective of achieving the suitable and sustainable sports facilities that the community requires to maintain a physically and mentally happy and healthy lifestyle. I demand that Council continue to engage and collaborate until the objective is achieved.



## **All comments made**

### **In opposition of FootballSSG and support of Council**

FootballSSG are very self centre. They are only thinking about what THEY WANT not considering the costs to tax payers and the community as a whole. What about OTHER SPORTS, they are not carying on like a pork chop!

Allow the clubs that provide winter football the chance to provide summer football, not a private company

### **In support of FootballSSG and opposition of Council (all comments included)**

Summer soccer is part of the northern beaches sporting culture. Let sport be played on grass turf and let our children be outside, playing sport and enjoying all that makes the Northern Beaches an amazing place to live.

All the above

Along with the social and health benefits that playing soccer provides to participants of SSG its also provides casual work opportunities for many local teenagers.

Surely, sporting fields should be available for playing sport, otherwise what are they for?

Get the kids outside, playing in the fresh air, being apart of a team sport and having fun with their friends, for most kids this is their favourite part of the week, playing the games they love. Do not take it away from them

The local council needs to pull its head in.. so many issues in our area and we need to be prioritised instead od money making schemes.

My children have played this competition for 6 years and it is the highlight - we will really be impacted if it is not able to continue. Warriewood has always been the location, what has suddenly changed to justify this knee jerk ban?

As a parent of three sons who have all thrived playing SSG - and with one of them now refereeing - I've witnessed firsthand the confidence, teamwork, and lifelong friendships this competition fosters. It simply isn't fair that more than 1,000 local families could be locked out of the sport they love because Council lacks enough turf fields.

FootballSSG has already put forward a practical, in-principle plan to help fund and fast-track two new multi-sport artificial fields. Until those come online (which will take years), Council must immediately:

- Reverse its April 2025 decision to ban all high-impact sports from natural turf fields,
- Reinstate adequate Warriewood-area grass fields so every player and volunteer ref can participate safely,
- Work collaboratively with FootballSSG - and all local sporting groups - in good faith to secure permanent, sustainable solutions.

Come on council! This is for our community. Our young people. Keep them fit and healthy. When they are bored they could get up to mischief. Let's keep them fit and healthy. Plus SSG is such a great comp. Why would we want to lose such a good thing. HELP your locals please council!!!!

Please let our kids enjoy summer soccer and keep active and engaged

My 3 children play several sports throughout the year that would all be affected by your decisions. You have no right to potentially take that away from them. My family are 100% behind FootballSSG and the fight to prevent these ridiculous decisions being upheld by council. Would council members like to be the ones to tell the children that they can no longer play their favourite sports? You make these decisions sitting behind a desk with no consideration for the effect it could have to the community. Think of the children who run out each week to play as part of a team or our vulnerable community members who value sport for their mental health. Your decision would take away the opportunity for so many to participate. What you're doing is wrong.

Sport provided by public schools is woeful and inadequate therefore parents are forced to seek out and rely on established clubs and organizations to provide their kids with structured sporting activities. The benefits of team sports for kids is well documented, so the failure to provide sufficient facilities by NB Council to support these activities is a travesty and unjustifiable

Council are more than happy to waste money willy nilly on catering, food trucks, entertaining the idea of covid sculptures, but not invest in the maintenance and upkeep on community grounds, that we now have an increase in rates to pay for?!

The government wants kids to be out and about, being active, being part of a community, yet it seems the council just wants to admire green grass on empty fields?!

The grass all grew back on the Warriewood field last year! It didn't stay bare bones! You can not favour limited low impact sports like cricket, to the detriment of other sports!

Northern Beaches Council should really consider local sports as a key part of community engagement. Without providing adequate community services they are unfulfilling their role as a public authority to help improve local person ability to have easy and equitable access to exercise to improve both health and wellbeing

I also disagree with Council's desire to move to synthetic turf, this has been widely proven to be absolutely terrible for the environment and is not the way forward!

Council is meant to be FOR the people. In this instance... it seems to be AGAINST the people. How anyone can think it's a positive idea to limit kids playing sport is beyond me. Please reconsider this decision. Kids have way too much screen time, we have youth suicide all over the n beaches and sport is a great tool to create a healthier community. Thanks

This is very important to our local community to have SSG Continue with sufficient fields to play on and we have many in our local area!

Summer soccer has been very well organised over the years my children have been involved. To grow grass over the enjoyment,exercising and well-being of children is ludicrous. ....whom ever has made this decision should be ashamed... Please reconsider.

Council should be trying to support the needs of the community

Please can NBC reconsider their stance on this. Soccer is such a great activity for our children.

What are council "saving" grass fields for? People to look at? They are better to be used!! Who cares if they get a little run down - that is what they are for!

Put up our rates, yet cut services for us and our kids. This makes no sense. Just let us play on grass - problem solved. The benefits to kids, families and communities far outweighs the small cost to fix the field at the end of the season. Use some common sense!

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965> "The dark side of artificial greening: Plastic turfs as widespread pollutants of aquatic environments"

P18 of Council's Community Strategic Plan anticipates the population of 5-24yr olds declining (especially the 5-17 yr olds, the likely largest age group using sports fields) indicating the pressure will be relatively short-lived.

This is such a great run comp for all ages, but especially the young kids. My kids have played from 5 years old and it's their introduction to team sport. Please don't stop the comp!

Please allow Football SSG to use RATPARK so our kids can keep playing football on our local side , so important for our young people

How about build more sports areas instead of ugly housing as we have not enough infrastructure as it is!

Sports fields are made for sport.

Council need to undertake works to improve the drainage of sports fields in the Warriewood area to ensure that despite high foot traffic the grounds are able to drain effectively and recover

As a parent whose adult children, have greatly benefited from access to Council-owned sporting facilities, I'm deeply saddened by this decision. At a time when mental health challenges are on the rise nationwide, and sport provides such a vital and positive outlet, it's hard to understand why the Council would choose to reduce access to these important services.

This situation is extremely disappointing given council has just raised our rates by an extraordinary amount.

With the proliferation of digital devices and mobile phones, Children more than ever need sport and team sports. The Northern Beaches does not have anywhere near enough synthetic pitches as other areas in Sydney - due to chronic underfunding by this council - so there is not enough options. This decision needs to be reversed as a matter of urgency.

If council wants to support the overall mental and physical health of those who live in the area, they should put more time and effort into resolving issues like these so that more people are able to play social sports. Team sports are incredibly important for children, teens, and adult socialisation and help keep the Australian community healthy, which benefits our healthcare system.

The fields are for the community not for council to just mow and look nice. Kids have been running on grass fields since forever. Completely unacceptable . They should focus on fixing all the potholes.

Please refer to Question 6

So disappointing council. You are blocking kids from playing sport. We all pay enough rates this should not be an issue

This decision by the council is ludicrous and unacceptable. residential pay rates for public facilities and they should be entitled to enjoy them all three of my children have participated in ssg for over 10 yrs. it has brought all of them a lot of joy, not to mention a providing them with a healthy lifestyle away from screens Council use your common sense, we live in a high density area, wear and tear on fields is to be accepted. they are there for the sole purpose of the community playing on them

My daughters have been involved in football SSG at warriewood /rat park for the past 13years. This has been great for fitness, new skill development and creating new friendships. Stuart and his team run the most professional, inclusive and organised competition. The restriction of this competition will be a loss for the future of our community.

Absolute joke not allowing kids to participate in sport!

In a time where teenage and youth mental health issues and crime is on the rise, restricting numbers who could play this comp could lead to even more issues in our community. Team sport is a vital 'fence at the top of a cliff' (vs ambulance at the bottom) for our young people.

It's unacceptable that parents of children who play in this comp, are rate payers and then are not able to guarantee that their child or teen can play due to restrictions which would be imposed with only Narrabeen HS pitch as the ground.

The decisions made have clearly taken no consideration to the psycho social needs and risks to children and families.

This move significantly impacts our community, especially given the lack of suitable alternative facilities. FootballSSG plays a vital role in promoting health, inclusion, and community engagement - decisions affecting its operations should be made in consultation with stakeholders and with viable alternatives in place.

I urge you to reconsider or provide a detailed plan addressing these concerns.

There is a shortage of a lot of sporting facilities on the beaches. There needs to be more hard courts for netball and basketball along with multi purpose facilities so that high impact sports can still be played. We are trying to get our kids off the couches and away from screens yet all these decisions promote is mental health issues caused by lack of exercise, time of screens and bad social behaviour.

My kids have played in this soccer tournament since they were very young. It is where their love for soccer started. They have made friends continue to play soccer outside of the winter comp and remain fit in off season. Please reconsider your stance and allow this competition to continue on grass fields.

My son who is 8 years old and his friends love summer soccer and look forward to playing in a team every year. It is so important for their health and well being and social skills to be able to participate in team sport and not sit at home playing on their iPads. The parents also get to build connections with other parents on the sideline. I feel like this is so crucial for the northern beaches and the future of our kids.

There is not enough artificial soccer fields to facilitate the number of young kids wanting to play. Disgraceful from council.  
We have plenty of grass fields we can use so our kids can continue to play the sport they love.

Summer soccer is so well run and exciting for children to be with their friends outdoors. If the council take this away, the kids will be in the street causing trouble or at home playing video games. The council already ruin everything and now kids activities, well done northern beaches council for ruining our beautiful community  
Sports fields exist for the benefit of the community. To restrict Football SSG to a single synthetic field for its operation at Warriewood is entirely inappropriate. We have grass fields in our community for children and others to enjoy active sports. It is a sports field - let the community play sport there!!

There will be some wear and tear, and given a few weeks it will completely recover. This is a ludicrous situation. Please reconsider for the good of the community.

We pay enough in council fees as it is. Surely it can go to where we as paying residents want it to go. What is the point in having grounds that we cannot use!!? Kids in sport helps keep these kids out of trouble.

There seems to be a lot of money to fund road projects. Personally I'd be happy if the next part of Mona Vale road never happens. Funnel some of that money (I read 250 million in Jaqui Scrubys report) to community based projects like the one above. Public schools in the local area perhaps? Last time I checked councillors represent the local community. Would be nice to see that premise in action. Keep the kids outside, socialising and let them play!

Kind regards.

Stuart Colquhoun

Our kids love soccer and would be devastated to miss out. It's the best part of their week.

Rates rising by 25% and council are stripping the community of sports, it's an outrage.

This is a well established competition that keeps kids in sport.



The kids need sport, we live in a suburb with green space and it has to be used. It doesn't need to look pretty it just needs to be used. If summer soccer fails â€¦ there are consequences for the youth of our community

I do not understand why winter soccer and afl and rugby can be played on grass fields but this sport cannot after doing so for many years. This is a ridiculous outcome.

This decision by the council is both disappointing and ridiculous. The grounds are there for the purpose of sport. What is the point of having "sports grounds" if sport can't be played on it? Narrabeen High is completely unsuitable. Too small, nowhere to park. So many kids will miss out on a comp that is already very very popular. Listen to the community and overturn this stupid decision.

I won't be signing up for a space that is limited with limited parking. It is already hard enough getting from work to the games to park in time. My son needs this physical exercise for his adhd and behaviours, playing soccer and doing physical activity can help our whole night and his mental health for the better

We pay rates so you provide the fields for our kids

If not used for team sports, could council please inform the community on what they intend the natural grass playing fields be used for?

The council should be doing everything in their power to allow ssg to continue in the same capacity as previous years. The children and adults need these sports and activities to keep them entertained. What will the kids turn to if they don't have sport on the northern beaches? We are already quite isolated and to take this away from the kids, they're more likely to be on the streets, up to no good! What is it with this council and sport? Always trying to make it hard for everyone. The fields are there for sport. Not looking at.

Restricting Youth access to sport is unethical and detrimental to young people's mental health and overall physical and mental well-being. What's more important – the quality of a piece of ground or youngsters mental health.

Summer Soccer is a great form of exercise and builds teams and friendships amongst the kids who are faced with increasing technology use. For a healthy society council must make available fields for the community to allow appropriate sporting events such as these to continue.

I have two young children who have played football SSG for the last four years and thoroughly enjoy it. It's a great opportunity that we get out. Have a run social with other children and play competitive sport. It will be a real shame to see such a large well run. Event simply disappear due to councils failures. Negotiate and be approachable.

Sport is very important for all age groups from 6/7 year olds to over 45 year olds. It helps with mental health during school and exam times and later in life. It also helps build community.

Keep kids active and participating in sports. To limit this and deny suitable access to playing fields is an absolute joke! What an absolute disgrace that this is even an issue! Come on council. Get it right!!

The FootballSSG competition is a very well organised and much loved competition on the Northern Beaches. The kids love the format and it gives them an opportunity to continue competitive soccer once the winter comp has finished.

Having the competition held in one location every week is extremely convenient for busy parents, who don't want to travel and give up more weekend time.

FootballSSG is the most well run sporting activity my kids participate in and it's so much fun for them and keeps them busy and fit when soccer finishes. It would be terrible for this competition to not be able to continue at the same park and in the same manner it always has been run

How dare council do this to the youth in our area! This absolutely disgraceful, you should be ashamed. You simply MUST NOT DO THIS

Limiting access to this sporting ground will disappoint so many kids on the beaches who love playing summer soccer.

My son is in year 12 this year and continuing sport during this stressful year is essential for him to have some balance in his life. Without SSG he will have no fun physical outlet during his HSC exam time and will damage his chances to escape exam stress.

Yes

Let the children play.

Considering our rates are about to be raised by 40% providing adequate sporting fields is a must for the whole community!. WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS FOR SUMMER AND WINTER SPORTS IN THIS AREA!. Winter soccer has recently been impacted with game cancellations due to extreme wet weather. In the mean time use our extra rate money to replenish the fields (ie Rat Park) until new artificial fields are built and available!. Keep our kids engaged in sport!. All ages!. All year round!. No brainer really !!

As council rate payers we expect that our children should have access to fields to play their sport. Physical activity is essential to children's and adults wellbeing and to take away this opportunity for our kids to engage in a sport that they are passionate about will be very detrimental.

Please assist when keeping this organisation going as it important for the youth of the northern beaches

Our children's mental health and wellbeing need fields to play their sports. At this point the whole restriction of grass fields near where we live is absolutely ridiculous. What kind of future is this? For gods sake let us have the access to fields.

The amount of antisocial behaviour has been increasing in the northern beaches. There are various reasons for this but one is that adolescence are disengaged and bored. I have two young boys and very much think their ongoing involvement with sport and a sporting community, can help ensure they feel a belonging on the beaches. SSG is a big part of this and if this and other sporting opportunities disappear, I think in the years to come, we will be seeing even more problems arising from young teens.

We pay our council rates so that we can access and enjoy local facilities. So why is the Northern Beaches Council actively gatekeeping our access to local playing fields?

Our children need opportunities to be fit, healthy, and to develop important skills like teamwork through sport. Yet the NB Council is making it harder and harder for them to do that. Are we really going to force all sporting competitions - Touch Footy, Winter Soccer, Rugby Union, Rugby League, Cricket, Softball, AFL - onto artificial turf? These are high-impact sports; are you planning to replace every single field with synthetic grass?

What's the alternative? Limit access to fields and push kids away from positive, structured activities? That's the fastest way to end up with more kids hanging around the streets with nothing to do - and that's already a problem. Youth crime and gang activity are rising on the beaches. Removing safe, structured sports options like summer soccer will only make things worse.

Parents are trying to do the right thing: enrolling their kids in sport to keep them active, healthy, and out of trouble. But now you're making that harder, too. There are already far too few activities and facilities for teens on the beaches - why make it even harder for families who just want the best for their kids?

We pay our rates to support local facilities. NB Council: do better for our kids.

Summer soccer is a vital and valued activity enjoyed by thousands of children in the Narrabeen, Warriewood and Mona vale area. It is so well organized which always thousands of children to participate over various days.

It won't solve the problem this season but there is a large amount of flat grassed space that is mostly used to park cars at North Narrabeen Reserve. This should be converted to multi use synthetic space as soon as possible. Even if it becomes a training field, it will preserve the actual fields for games and provide spaces for uses such as SSG

Bloody ridiculous. What are they going to do replace every sporting field with artificial turf? And will this come from the rates income that they've already messed up anyway? That is the nature of sport - the fields take a hit but there is an off season for them to recover! What a woke world we live in!!! We pay taxes for a reason!!!! Seems a stupid idea to further limit activities for teens - forcing more kids to roam the streets - nothing good comes of packs of teens roaming the streets. My son has played in the SSG competition for many years. It's an amazing competition and it would be devastating for the kids who can't play if the numbers are reduced

The reason for having sporting fields is to play sport. Everything should be done to keep all existing sporting events and codes as well as pushing for more. Keeping kids and adults active should be a priority as we all know the research on obesity, mental health as well as community. Especially keeping kids on the northern beaches engaged in something healthy and productive. We see youth crime on the rise all over Australia. I gee up playing a lot of sport and this definitely kept me out of trouble. I have two young boys (7 and 9). I have al aye been concerned about keeping them engaged and with the right people. Sport was with me and is also for my boys the tool they need to learn hardwork, commitment, dedication, teamwork and respect. Making access to sport even harder will 100% leave young people in a position of choosing the wrong direction way easier. This is not what we need for our youth on the northern beaches. Natural turf pitches have been fine for decades. If this needs to change in the future, fine, but not until the infrastructure is first put in place. I grew up in Grafton where the pitches were rock hard dirt with minimal grass. In Brazil, India and many countries they play on dirt. Kids already have reduced their activity. This is the silliest decision I have ever heard. I pray you reconsider after understanding all the ways mplications.

Restricting access to football, one of the most popular sports in the world is honestly an embarrassing proposition from council. Sport reduces antisocial behaviour and keeps people healthy mentally and physically. Additionally soccer is a popular sport among women, does council really want to be behind more women dropping out of sport? This competition is vital to the culture of the northern beaches community and needs the necessary fields to keep a high participation rate.

My son plays social football and it's the only sport he has played since he was 2 years of age. Without this sport what will happen to his livelihood?

What's the point in Having pristine grass fields that no one can utilise.

My daughter looks forward to playing with her friends every summer. She will be so disappointed if she is unable to play this season. Playing soccer has helped my child be more social and play in a team.

Please review your decision now or the council will be responsible for the negative impact it has on the mental health and wellbeing of our youth in our area. If we don't provide them with engaging activities the boredom will lead to antisocial behaviour and the cost to the council will be way higher. This is the councils chance to pave the way in standing tall and providing the kids with a healthy active lifestyle and better outcomes for positive mental health!!

The councils decision is shocking. Especially as so much of the kids winter soccer competition gets washed out as council say the kids can't play on the wet grass!! I have been living on the northern beaches my whole life playing sport myself and my siblings and now my own 3 children. We never used to have this many cancelled games or council being so precious about the grass. These fields are meant for community sport use. Let the kids play!

Narrabeen sports oval is too small, both synthetic and grass. The grass one isn't flat enough, lots of unsafe holes, and the synthetic will be very hot in summer

This is absolutely not the right decision. Football SSG is an integral part of our lives.

Sport alleviates mental health! It's one of the biggest issues we are facing at this time. Don't deny our kids something that can give them a coping mechanism for their mental health, fitness, comraderie.

SSG soccer is a highlight of my children's year, please don't take that away.

Do the right thing

Very disappointing from the council. The football SSG competition has always been a tremendous opportunity for people of all ages to be outside with friends, having fun and exercising. Especially in a changing society which is being more oriented around screens, kids are growing up on ipads or gaming instead of being outdoors. The competition is a tremendous excuse for everyone to be outdoors having fun, which is substantially important for their health. It's also at a time where other team sports competitions are finished, so majority of kids spend their afternoons indoors. Such a shocking decision from a council which I thought was all for physical/mental health, and being outdoors. I am also feeling for stuart cole who has worked so hard year after year providing to our community with this incredible competition. So disappointing!

In politics, optics are everything. In this case, my view of this is that council is does not care enough to warrant appropriate review of requirements, but are quick to increase rates by an extraordinary amount.

Please support our local community to engage with sport and support our well being by giving more access to sporting fields asap

Unacceptable. Especially following winter season after season of washed out soccer/ league / rugby matches because many of the grass fields cannot cope with the deluge of water. The drainage is appalling and this problem will not go away. Wet winters are looking more probable and a workable solution must be implemented. That is either drainage, or its artificial turf sporting fields. This is the physical and mental health of our community at stake. Step up and take action that will positively benefit our community - especially one like the Northern Beaches where sport is an enormous part of most members.

This is no longer acceptable.

Season after season, we've watched soccer, rugby, and league matches get cancelled due to waterlogged fields - especially throughout our increasingly wet winters. The current drainage systems simply aren't coping, and this isn't a short-term issue.

It's time for a long-term, workable solution: improved drainage or the installation of all-weather synthetic turf fields. The physical and mental health of our community depends on consistent access to sport and outdoor activity.

On the Northern Beaches, where sport is central to so many lives, we need leadership that prioritises action - not just talk. Let's invest in the infrastructure that keeps our community active, connected, and resilient.

You are upping everyone's rates hugely but taking away something that parents and kids look forward to. Factor returfing into your enormous budget so our kids can play soccer. Seems like you're encouraging obesity in kids by essentially taking away sport.

The decision to restrict the fields is so detrimental to our community. First in first serve is not ok. So many kids will miss out. Soccer is often their first exposure to team sport and the summer soccer competition is especially good for that. In a world where we are trying to encourage kids to get off screens and out in nature this is the exact opposite of what we are trying for. If this decision holds it will be beyond disappointing.

Artificial turf is a poor environment choice, painful to fall on and more annoying to play on as the ball bounces and skids way too far. It's ridiculous to suggest that high impact sports should be played on it.

We need a local competition for summer soccer given the huge popularity in the sport, council needs to accommodate the large number that want to play

I am absolutely shocked and disappointed that northern beaches council have taken this position. It makes no sense. What are playing fields for? Physical exercise, particularly team sport help address and combat mental health and obesity issues which are both at epidemic levels in Australia.

My daughter Amalia has participated in footballSSG summer soccer for several season's. Last year was her most important as she was in yr 12 at Barrenjoey High and winter and summer soccer was her only sport activity away from the study grind of the HSC. It was absolutely vital to both her physical and mental health, as well as many of her classmates who also participated. She has continued to play soccer (open women's Div) since leaving school.

Govt. at all levels should be encouraging and incentivising participation in sport, not restricting or cancelling it. The long term cost and social benefits will be far greater if council work toward the community's best interests, rather than against it.

When I first moved to the Northern Beaches 8 years ago, I signed up for Football SSG (in my mid-teens). Years later, as a young adult, I am stilling playing FootballSSG. This summer soccer competition has been a part of my life for almost a decade, and I have built and maintained friendships through my participation in it. It has been a great physical outlet, from after school to after work, and during the winter soccer break. The idea that up to 1/3 of players may not get to participate if FootballSSG is moved to Narrabeen Sports High is not only very disappointing, but somewhat distressing as well, as I'm worried that my friends, or myself, might not get the opportunity to play this year or in future. The parking around NSH is wholly insufficient as well, and would put immense pressure on local residents and potentially pose a safety risk with people having to park on/so close to a main road. In a post-COVID, digitally driven world, it is more important than ever to keep children out and about playing sports. Try and picture the 1000 members of our local community, from young kids to adults, who will miss out on this fun and friendly competition. I urge Council to reconsider their decision and protect the needs of our community, and recognise the value that FootballSSG provides.

Our kids have already suffered enough social distancing from covid and when they're finally connecting again with their peers through sports, council wants to limit this? Summer soccer has been a huge part of our family health and wellbeing and it's a real shame it won't be able to engage all the community members that have been involved in the past years! Please allow Summer Soccer to continue in Warriewood, for our future generations mental and physical wellbeing!

How can council remove access to NBC parks and then dump this competition on an asset they don't even own/maintain? NSHS is owned by DoE and maintained by the school, how can council dictate that games should be held there without a concept of what is already held there. The NSHS turf is used morning/day/night 7 days a week already. What impact will this decision have on other sports? This 'alternative' doesn't make sense.

People's ability to practice sports should be expanded, not limited. Our health system is overloaded with mental health issues, and it's widely known that team sports are a great option to keep people healthy physically and mentally. What's the reasoning behind this decision? I cannot think of any good one. Has there been any consultation? We didn't hear anything. Team sports bring communities together, it seems you are trying to pull them apart - why?

Council has previously been advised that synthetic fields are detrimental to the environment and therefore Council are no longer willing to invest in synthetic fields. It would therefore follow that Council intends to ultimately deny all "high impact" sports from playing on any Council fields. This seems non-sensical. There must be a way to rotate the use of playing fields and other open spaces to ensure all members of our community can play the sports they love. As the density of housing increases. The demand on these spaces will increase. If there are organisations out there, who are willing to help fund initiatives to improve and maintain grass playing fields, why won't Council take advantage of that?

Shocking! Change this immediately - my kids have played for years and want to continue

Sport is important.  
More adequate fields are needed.  
Please support ssg and all sports

So we pay more rates only to have services taken away. Think of the kids not just your bonus package!

We need to encourage our kids to play team sports not take away opportunities for them

Dear Council, please allow Northern Beaches residents the opportunity to participate fully in their preferred sports by providing adequate access to playing fields, regardless of the surface. No children should be prevented to join a sporting competition or participate in sports that they love because Council has unreasonably restricted access to public space.

Before restricting access to grass playing fields, make more artificial fields available. In the meantime, please provide rate payers with access to their playing fields without these restrictions.

Rat park is perfect for SSG. It shouldn't be used only for rugby, it's a council owned facility that goes unused for large parts of the week and year. Time to use all council space fairly amongst codes. No parking and suitable bathrooms is completely ridiculous putting safety and cleanliness at risk.

The kids enjoy playing in the grass, fake grass fields are slippery, dangerous, hurt when you fall. As above there are not enough services on the fields suggested in regards to public toilets, parking, electricity.

I understand that maintenance of grounds for sporting events is getting harder with increased rainfall and participation levels. However, it would make sense to bring this rule in AFTER you have



worked with the private sector to build adequate facilities for the community to use. This doesn't have to be funded by council, but they should facilitate getting these sporting facilities approved quickly. Then you can pass the responsibility to the private sector to manage. Sports are incredibly important in keeping us fit and healthy, given the obesity and mental health challenges that face the community.

The Narrabeen Sports High School does not have the capacity or parking (have you thought where people would park?!), so this solution is impractical.

SSG do an incredible job of running this community based event and you need to be supporting organisations like this, rather than creating the usual council roadblocks. You have a highly paid executive team who should frankly be doing a better job.

Not supporting our children playing the sport they love, makes no sense! All my kids love the summer soccer and the continuity it gives them throughout the year. I fear the council decision could have negative impact on not only my children but many kids in the area. As the council we pay rates too - you must listen to your community. Do better!

There is plenty of evidence that grass is a safer playing surface than artificial turf

Strongly agree with all points raised by Stuart & All players and families. Do better council.

We need our kids to play. It has saved my daughter from depression and being lonely.

Please listen to your electorate, we need our sporting fields and work the groups who have offered to help.

Adults and children love summer soccer. As a coach and a player, it is by far the most popular game in terms of enjoyment. We need more summer soccer and not less.

Council should read its own Community Strategic Plan (CSP) which states that "Living well means...taking part in sports" (p19) and that its desired trend for "Ability to view and participate in sports...in the local area" is "Maintain/Increase" (p39). Preventing children and adults from continuing to play FootballSSG clearly goes against what is written in the CSP - so is it just lip service from Council?

I did not disagree with councils need to increase our council rates knowing things like our sporting fields need investment. All three of my kids play football and have missed already half of this seasons games due to poor ground at North Curl Curl - cannot handle any rain. It needs to be solved fo rour kids.

It's so lovely and important for our community to have competitions like this

If you do nothing, you will strengthen Council's resolve to take away from the community the opportunity to play FootballSSG and potentially various other sporting activities. They've said to me all high impact sports will be affected in future, so that's all summer soccer, all touch footy and Oztag, as well as, potentially winter soccer, AFL, rugby union, rugby league. I'm sure there are others that might also be affected"

It does not seem fair that we cannot use the fields that are set aside for sport! Does not make sense. We all look forward to summer soccer every year and would be devastated if it can no longer happen

n/a

Who is running this council!?! Certainly nobody with children or someone who ever had children / or did sports as a kid. I want to know who you are so we don't vote for your seat again when the time comes around. YOU should be ASHAMED!!

Why can't the kids just play soccer and other sports on less than perfect fields like we did when we were young? I don't understand what we are saving the fields for if not to allow our kids to use them. It seems though if you really want to solve the solution longer term perhaps actually resurfacing the fields to allow better drainage would stop the fields from getting destroyed as easily. As for artificial turf - it's well known that TURF fields lead to higher rates of injuries, so we should be encouraging grass. (and isn't grass better for the environment?)

Council should have more artificial turfs installed.

Why would Council want to restrict any of the community sport that our kids enjoy? It baffles me.

Many kids are struggling with their mental health in today's life, team sports is a critical avenue for them to connect, feel part of a community and also assist them in embracing a healthier lifestyle away from technology and phones. Being outside in NATURE, not on astra turf has been proven to boast feel good hormones and we should support our youth in making sports as accessible as possible

Given rising temperatures and summer soccer being by definition a summer sport, the proposal to run these activities on hot summer days could lead to heat/burn injuries as seen by other councils who have tried this. Sustainability wise, this is also a poor decision.

Australian society is founded in the principle that public sporting amenities are abundantly available for the community to use. The current stance of the council is at odds with this and not in the interests of the councils constituents.

Wasting council resources like the refurbishment of North Manly tennis courts that nobody uses and later complaining that there are not enough funds to maintain the fields shows that nobody is doing a good long term analysis of the necessities of the council. There are ways to reduce the expenses that don't impact the population of the northern beaches.

Council needs to address the drainage problems at so many of the sporting fields. They only need to look at Harbord Oval as an example of the positive impact drainage solutions create. If FootballSSG and other sporting clubs are open to contributing funding, the council should make it a priority to upgrade the drainage at all high use sporting fields. The solution is not to ban the comps, the obvious solution is to FIX THE PROBLEM.

It's ridiculous to take a competition like that away from children over spaces when in fact we have plenty of space just leave it alone council.

The reason we have so many numbers playing is because there's a lot of appetite for sport in this area. This is good! It makes it an enjoyable healthy place to live. If we can't use our parks for recreation what are they there for?

Completely unreasonable, upsetting and unrealistic view from Council that will significantly impact both the physical and mental health of our youth on the Northern Beaches.

Dear Council Sportsgrounds are there for sport. High use means the community is active and outdoors which is important for the health outcomes of our citizens old and young. We need to find solutions that keep the sports fields being open and able to be used by all - it is what they are there for!

Sportfields are there to be used. People using them is a good outcome for the community with health benefits and mental benefits. Competitions like soccer, outage, touch - they are a big part of our lifestyle on the beaches. Let's keep them running and use our sports fields. Find other solutions please

Forbidding high impact sport on grass fields while there is not enough artificial grounds, is a nonsensical decision, that leaves the community/players/youth with no plausible alternative. There ought to be a transition time, and a clear project to increase the number of artificial grounds while continuing to provide access to the community. Please, be sensible.

Ridiculous proposals by council

Sport plays a vital role in building strong, healthy communities by fostering connection, inclusion, and wellbeing. Ensuring access to council-run fields and facilities is a core responsibility of local government - this is exactly why councils exist: to support the everyday needs of their communities. Councils are here to serve the people. They manage shared spaces, invest in local infrastructure, and make decisions that reflect the values and needs of the community - ensuring everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

When communities begin to lose trust in their council's commitment to supporting healthy, active lifestyles, it undermines the very purpose of local government and weakens the social fabric they are meant to protect.

Council again demonstrates that it is happy to cram in Warriewood housing developments with out any NEW playing fields for the new rate payers and families and then finds out their Town Planning skills are so woefully inadequate that it has to limit access to existing playing fields! SSG has been providing a valuable outdoors sport for years before the developments commenced - its like moving next to the pub and then complaining about the noise.

SSG are offering additional payments for grass maintenance - read the emotion council work with the voters not against them.

Restricting Youth access to sport is immoral and detrimental to young people's mental health and overall physical and mental well-being. Artificial fields are not the answer, they are highly unenvironmentally friendly. The council should be investing in proper maintenance of grass fields all year round. It's not much to ask given our rates are higher than many other councils

Just get it fixed!

Our sporting fields were created for people tp play sport, summer soccer is one of the most inclusive sports on the Northern Beaches, FootballSSG is providing a community service, bringing community together for fitness and fun, please don't limit who can play in order to keep the fields looking pretty.

Feels as though Council are more interested in the impact on the fields rather than on the community.

Sports participation and adult fitness is based on participation and engagement at a community level early on. Affordable access is critical to this. Council needs to be forward planning and acting to accommodate sports for the whole community, across the year.

I would add that older players like myself find it very difficult to play on artificial turf as it is terrible for knees. I'm 56 and need to play on grass or retire. Thanks Stuart for making our voices heard. I think question 3 is a little unclear - should it read "not sustainable". I think that was what was being gone for.

My husband is a green keeper by trade and his love of turf I understand the concerns but with proper management it is possible. What else does WArriewood get used for that FootballSSG is obstructing. My other son played cricket in summer and field use didn't impact him. What will this field be used for other than a dog walker. And will you also not allow the local NNPS to use this for sport? I have a child at that school who also plays soccer every lunch time and a large factor in his happiness at school and creating friendships.

It is an absolute disgrace that the council feels they have the right to restrict access to facilities for young children when its socio-economic benefits have been proven time and time again to improve the economy and well-being of the community.

I have no further comments

Such an amazing competition for kids and adults, plus a great employer and training ground for young refs. An asset to the community and a disappointing decision.

All the kids love SSG it would be awful to stop it

Pleaae reconsider making changes that will directly effect communities on such large scale. Sport is the glue that binds us all, all should be done to maintain, develop and keep access to all fields.

NB Council is pathetic. Always display lack of collaboration with experts or locals and common sense is not applied when decision making. Where are the astro turf fields??????

NB council is oblivious to the on going effects of continuous bad decision making for our kids and the community. Never ending!.. My kids love summer soccer and summer touch football.

Playing on a synthetic turf in summer is very hot under foot especially for young children not to mention the grazing you get when falling on the synthetic turf.

What are we paying our increased rates for exactly?

I have two girls who were hoping to start playing this season and are not involved in any other sports, this is what they wanted to do and feels most accessible and familiar as a new player. They will be gutted they likely won't be able to play if these bans are enforced. It's not as simple as choosing a different sport as not every sport is suitable or of interest to every child, and as a parent I was happy they wanted to participate in this form of physical activity as part of a healthy lifestyle, and also for the opportunity for social development it provides.

I also actually oppose installing synthetic turf all over the NB. Synthetic turf is linked to environmental toxicity and health concerns and as a lifetime NB resident I would be horrified to see grass areas replaced with synthetic turf all over the NB, regardless of whether I had children in sport or not. Our playing fields should be left as natural grass which is better for people and the environment, they have served our community for decades and are there to be used not just looked at.

Removing access to fields for large numbers of the community just drives home the idea that the council places its own agenda and priorities above what the community actually wants and what our rates and sports fees pay for. So many projects have been proposed by council (with money spent on these proposals) that are rejected by the community (and were never requested by the community?), while existing resources currently used by large numbers of the community and with clear demand, are being taken away. Reducing access to sporting facilities is incredibly foreign to the culture of the Northern Beaches. "

I strongly feel that kids and youth won't be allowed to use sports fields will deepen the problems with youth mental health, youth behaviour, and also possibly with community safety.

It is all about health for everyone, a lot of people enjoy these activities, this is what we live in a lucky country - don't take it away - please work to preserve what is so valuable

Not only is FootballSSG an excellent provider of local sport, they facilitate a major community event through the summer soccer program. The community would be negatively impacted by removing or limiting this offering. It is the Council's responsibility to encourage and enable community engagement and particularly opportunities for youth and adult sport.

I don't understand the rationale for moving the sports to synthetic pitches. My strong preference is to put in adequate drainage and maintenance on the existing grass fields (Frank Grey and Mike Pawley fields as well as the recent drainage added to half of Harbord Park demonstrate it can be done) rather than build more synthetic pitches that have huge environmental impacts such as microplastic pollution and get extremely hot in the summer.

The football SSG competition is an integral part of our yearly sport commitments. It has given my son and his friends a stronger connection to other kids in their community, built their confidence and self esteem and provided them with an outlet throughout the year. To lose it would leave them (and plenty of other kids and parents) bitterly disappointed and seeking alternate outlets, most of which I'm sure will be far less beneficial to their long term social, emotional and physical health.

How can we not invest in kids' sporting activities, especially when they are more important than ever in today's world? Getting children out and active is not just about physical health, it is also about their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Sports like football offer so much more than just learning how to pass or score. They teach resilience, team spirit, communication and the value of showing up for others. They build confidence, discipline and a sense of belonging, which many kids are missing in our increasingly digital and fast paced lives.

We often talk about preparing our kids for the future, and this is part of it. Supporting grassroots sport is one of the most meaningful investments we can make.

Cannot believe Council is imposing these restrictions. Our poor young people have enough to deal with!

Sport is an integral part of young peoples (and older) lives on the northern beaches

Council should be doing everything it can to promote local youth participation in sports and outdoor activities including supporting competitions such as FootballSSG. FootballSSG is a well-organised community competition that brings kids and parents together. The social and mental health benefits of playing sport are well known, and FootballSSG also provides children with mentored opportunities to learn leadership and responsibility via refereeing.

Barrenjoey High School Oval is a great location to put artificial turf in so that SSG and other high impact sports can play. It would be great for council to collaborate with Barrenjoey so that this artificial turf is fast tracked and benefits the whole community.

With the population growth on the Northern Beaches over the past 40 years, there has been very little effort to create more sporting fields on the beaches in comparison to growth. So little in fact, that these days as soon as there is 10mm of rain, games are called off. That just proves that there is no investment in managing fields let alone creating more for the population growth.

The Northern Beaches Council's abrupt decision to ban high-impact sports like FootballSSG from natural grass fields isn't just tone-deaf - it's an outright betrayal of the families who fund these facilities through their rates. You've been given solutions (including financial offers to cover maintenance and new fields), yet you've chosen to ignore every compromise. Why?

You're Ignoring the Real Costs. This isn't about grass - it's about kids losing access to fitness, friendship, and mental health support. Studies prove team sports reduce youth anxiety and depression. Yet Council's response? ""Too bad.""

- Reverse this decision immediately until proper infrastructure is built.
- Publicly disclose field maintenance costs and long-term plans. If it's ""too expensive,"" show us the math.
- Our kids deserve better than excuses. Fix this.

I do not support play on artificial turf due to the environmental (microplastics) impact. The council need to reconsider and allow this competition to continue. It has been a very valuable experience for my son who can't participate in Saturday sports (due to shift working parents).

I believe the northern beaches council has become far too over protective of their natural grass fields over the last few years, to the detriment of community sport and spirit.

Let our kids play!!!!

For many girls in their last year of primary school and only playing summer soccer (not winter), and with a team they have stayed with for 5 years - if this competition was to cease, many will not continue with the sport at all which is a very sad, possible outcome. Council has the opportunity to ensure this doesn't happen!!

Council should provide suitable green space to suit all sports all throughout the year, especially soccer!

This comp is so important to keep our kids active and engaged in soccer in the summer. The fact that so many teams enter each year is testament to how popular this comp is. Please support it

Has council tried to negotiate access to all the private schools facilities?

The net ball courts in north curl should be used for five a side football in summer.

My son has been playing in the Summer Soccer Group since 2018, and it's been one of the highlights of his year. This year, my 6-year-old daughter is finally old enough to join too, and she's beyond excited. This is more than just a game - it's where kids build friendships, stay active, and connect with their community. Taking this away would be a huge blow to local families. Council should be supporting accessible, community-driven sport - not making it harder for kids to play. Please do the right thing and ensure SSG continues as it always has.

Sport is a fundamental component of wellbeing and community building. Don't take the opportunity away for thousands of people to exercise and socialise.

Rates are up by a third and services still being cut anyway. Why?!

I completely disagree with the Council decision in every way. Most shocking to me is that Council, in future, would prefer to have all high impact sports played on artificial fields. I strongly disagree with this and think that better drainage and restoration of the grass is a far better solution than installing artificial turf fields. They are horrible to play soccer and football on and limit the use of the land for others to use when games aren't in progress.



The council have already closed the North Manly artificial pitches and are not replacing them. Where can we play football?

I am appalled that my local council is refusing to listen and act on this incorrect and damaging decision. This decision is going to have a very negative effect on the community if not reversed

What is the thinking seriously!

We know sport is fundamental to the well being of children. It keeps kids active, improves mental well being, creates life long friendships AND develops children into good humans. It's UNACCEPTABLE for our councils to make decisions that will impact the health of our kids and our community in negative ways.

I understood Council was offering a similar level of service or better if Council rates would be allowed to increase as much as they do now (25.2% over 2 years -- following last decision). The above suggests something very different and is incredibly disappointing -- and entirely expected.

It is important for flexibility with natural turf as there are many competing companies that run soccer comps. We are restricting opportunity for all to compete and participate if we only use Astro turf. This is not acceptable for the health and well being of families.

Northern Beaches Council is once again letting their community down. Anything north of Narrabeen is a forgotten land. I'm sure you wouldn't see this happening around Manly. The council is more than happy to claim fame to sports people, artists or anyone who becomes famous but where is the support for the grass roots up and coming talent? Once again leaving nothing for the youth to do and wondering why crime and drugs are a problem for the kids. It's proven that lack of sport and physical activity is detrimental to mental health. Let's work together to prevent mental health issues and keep our community healthy and happy. Northern Beaches Council you should be disgusted with yourselves for thinking this outcome would be suitable

Better maintenance - as paid for by our rates - is the answer here, not restriction of services

A huge loss for Northern Beaches sporting

I think it's appalling and completely unrealistic what the council has proposed.

Council's decision seems to be clouded by their own need to control a situation. This will affect thousands of NB residents! What are they thinking???

Soccer is a crucial part of our family's weekend activities and we love Football SSG and don't want anything to change. It's a wonderful competition and nobody has ever been hurt in all the games that my child has played on grass across all northern beaches soccer! (100 + games over several years)

I have 3 daughters that have played this competition for over 5 years and all they talk about during the winter season is how they look forward to continuing to play in summer. Surely you can come up with some fields that we ALL can play on. Matt.

It would be a great shame to lose such a well loved competition for so many young families around the area. The kids (and parents) look so forward to this wonderful comp every summer season, it is so well run, fun and engaging.

Putting aside the upkeep of grass that can literally grow again or, upkeep fees that Football SSG has offered to assist with.

It's a huge part of our summer routine personally as a family.

Not only does it get the kids who participate active, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle but, it also, gets younger and older family members out as a community, volunteering, refereeing, spectating and even promotes getting siblings, friends, etc out and active on the sidelines! All of which improves health, fitness and mental and emotional health across all age groups! Why anyone would want to stop or put a dampener on any of this is beyond me!!

One can only assume that council has not attended any of these comps, because being a part of all of this, seeing the kids of all ages right up to teens, siblings from newborn to adult, friends and family of all ages down at the Football SSG comp, being outdoors, being active, being together as a community, having FUN and supporting one another, is truly something special.

FootballSSG is such a well run organisation with many many happy participants. We cannot allow Council to takeaway the many benefits gained by our youth by limiting the availability of grounds. The physical and mental well being of young people must take priority. Let's continue to get these kids off screens and enjoying more outdoor activities not less!

I think it's unacceptable to expect all contact sports to move to only artificial turf considering the limited number of fields available. It's irresponsible to be stopping people of all ages, and especially our community youth from enjoying a sport that benefits physical and mental health. FootballSSG in Warriewood has been such a big part of the community and has grown tremendously throughout the years and is beloved by so many in the community. It is the one sport I look forward to playing every year and I have been doing so since I was younger. It would be shattering to see this sport be taken away for so many and not be able to accommodate everyone who wants to participate. I hope this is reconsidered so everyone can enjoy this fantastic game!

This is a growing code and lives by so many children, women and men. Please reconsider this decision.

Soccer is the number one sport in the world & the fastest growing on the beaches. Utterly ridiculous that council are not working towards a solution to keep all kids active & in this game. Focus should be on keeping all players engaged with reliable fun competitions so that many continue into adulthood. Mental & physical health can only benefit. Both when compromised can lead to higher healthcare costs in future. Public schools seem to have an opt out approach so competitions such as these are vital for the community.

Council is completely delusional.

My son has played SSG for the last 6 years.

He gets so much enjoyment from it. The physical exercise, the maintaining of soccer skills over Summer and playing with his mates is just invaluable. It would be the biggest shame if he and every other player is denied this opportunity.

Our kids need more of these sporting opportunities, not less.

This is an extremely valuable and successful competition that deserves adequate facilities to ensure as many players as possible can participate. Reducing the number of players also reduces the number of young people who gain valuable employment opportunities and experience through refereeing in this competition.

Don't understand why they are changing things.

My children have enjoyed playing FootballSSG for many years. They've since outgrown their love of soccer but I can't believe that this incredible competition may not be available to so many children and families. Don't we want an active, healthy community? This decision seems counter productive to this and our way of life.

It is time to reallocated the land used for golf for access for the majority

Soccer and rugby should be played on grass Fields where possible. Artificial turf is not suitable for these activities.

"As someone who has struggled with mental health problems, football Ssg is an outlet for me to release some of that stress and I'm sure it is for many other people.

Also, what are the fields for if not to play football on? What is the point of having them if you are not allowed to run football competitions on them? "

We urge the Council to work with Football SSG toward an acceptable outcome.

Artificial turf is loses so many aspects of sport and nature, stay natural

Sport is so important for team building, social, physical fitness and will reduce the risk of kids playing on PlayStation and Xbox or even worse getting bored and running around looking for something bad to do.

Please listen to the community, that's your job. You will have many more problems with youth if you take sports out of them.

The council can not deny SSG or another field sports in the warriewood area. Every sport to some level damages the grounds, why are you picking on one sport? Will you deny all winter soccer, AFL, Rugby, cricket etc as well??

Wake up council and support the associations and sporting clubs that work hard to get out kids off the streets , promote health and fitness, and supports mental health in our youth.

My child will be devastated if Summer Soccer is closed as there is no alternative competition. Keeping children involved with sports as opposed to sitting on devices or roaming the streets must be preserved.

Sport is so important to the mental health of our young people. Council is essentially cancelling these activities for so many people and not replacing with a viable option. This is unacceptable.

It is ridiculous that the grass fields can't be used I can't understand why artificial turf is better

FootballSSG is a fantastic comp, our kids love it. Council is being ridiculous to change the comp again. Listen to your ratepayers!

I can't believe Council workers or actually anyone else can think that playing sport on artificial turf is beter than playing on natural one! Gee.

This is a ridiculous decision by the NBC. What is the point of having fields if no one can use them. Who determines what high impact is? Is the council clearing the way to sell off the fields to developers because it has been determined that they are no longer being used.

Fake grass is microplastic in the making. It's bad for players and the environment.

I live locally to these fields and enjoy hearing and seeing young people enjoying the fields for sport. That is why the fields are there. The fields provide community getting together in a safe environment . Come on council get your act together and be proactive for the community overall  
Liz Kelly

Keep football alive in the community. We want it, our children want it, make it happen. This isn't hard.

Summer Soccer has always been a highlight of the year for all of our three kids.

Given the youth issue the area is dealing with at the moment the more sport and activities we can engage them in will not only benefit them healthwise but also keep them busy and occupied. Sport also creates a community and this tends to build pride and community spirit where youth are proud and do not partake in damaging activities

My son and daughter both play in the football SSG competition and have done for years. This council decision has been so disappointing for myself and hundreds and hundreds of other families across the Northern Beaches. We are really saddened to hear that the council does not feel that this is a priority and that our children are the ones who stand to miss out. Do better for our kids please!

Another option would be to implement higher fees/registration to not disadvantage people who don't use these grounds.

Provide more indoor quality multilevel sports practice spots on the lower northern beaches, for indoor soccer practice and netball, then there less impact on the fields. Artificial turf is NOT the answer.

Limiting access to sport fields for group/team sports will have a massively negative impact on local youth and more.

Please reconsider that costs for real turf vs environmental & health costs relating to plastic fields. Please reconsider the issues mentioned above as the times and traffic will not suit us if we are forced onto the other fields.

"Utterly ridiculous that council are inhibiting kids and adults from playing sport which is so crucial to the general healthy and well being of our community. The council are being completely greedy and self motivated with their reasoning and not putting their citizens welfare first.

For a mostly fit & active community who are trying to keep their kids active, this is absurd

Restricting access to council-owned facilities and services can negatively impact communities by limiting recreational opportunities, hindering access to essential information, and potentially creating barriers to inclusion and participation.

Do better NBC

As a parent of two children who both play in this local soccer competition, I am deeply disappointed and dismayed by the council's decision to cut access to playing fields. At a time when young people are facing unprecedented levels of anxiety and mental health challenges, team sports like soccer offer critical outlets for connection, physical activity, and emotional wellbeing.

This decision is not just short-sighted - it's a profound letdown to the families who rely on these community programs to keep their kids active, supported, and engaged. Local sport is one of the few remaining ways that children and teens can build resilience, form friendships, and feel a sense of belonging.

For a council that is charging residents record-high rates, it's incredibly disheartening to see those funds not being reinvested in the wellbeing of our children. Cutting a much-loved and well-attended competition feels like a slap in the face to local families.

I urge the council to reconsider this decision and to demonstrate a genuine commitment to supporting young people in our community. Our kids deserve better.

Council needs to invest money on the drainage of our sporting fields across the Northern Beaches, particularly at Curl Curl playing fields, where thousands of kids train and play weekly. Due to climate change and more rain we need at least 2 artificial turfs in the Curl Curl area to enable more kids to play as soon as the rain starts in April, which is the start of the winter sport season. Our kids are feeling really low and disappointed when the long awaited soccer/AFL/Rugby/Netball season starts and their trainings and games are cancelled many weeks in a row. So I am shocked to hear that there is talk about restricting sports played on our playing fields, when the opposite should be happening, which is to create more parks and playing fields and also artificial turfs, so our kids can be outside, exercising, socializing and developing their sporting talent.

I have my full support of Football SSG, who is the only summer soccer program in the area and it is run smoothly, very popular and loved. I don't know any kids who hasn't played in this comp yet. It gives a fabulous opportunity for our kids to continue playing and practicing soccer through the year. We are very grateful for them. Please do not take away sport from us, all our kids do is go to school and play sport. Let them play more!

More artificial turf are needed in Warriewood asap especially with more and more unpredicted weather in the future. Boondah fields between NNPS and the square have no proper drainage. Other Boondah playing fields are uneven and full of holes see Field 1. The holes should be filled up with new turf to prevent injuries. Also surface needs to be evened out. Further all proper soccer fields should have underground drainage to allow play during rain and periods of extended rainfall. Please confider not just the health and social benefits for our children to play this sport, but also to the individuals who are employed to referee games who will also be affected by this decision.

I agree entirely with this survey and all it's points, especially the need for grass sports facilities on the Northern Beaches and the health and mental health benefits of sports, especially for youth.

FootballSSG is a fantastic local competition getting people of all ages kicking a ball, socialising and staying fit. To take this away is a huge disservice to the community and a local business. Either allocate more fields or put your money into creating more artificial pitches. For all sports.

The proposal to only play on astro turf without having an adequate number of fields available to meet the current and future demand is nuts, shortsighted and demonstrates that none of the Counselors who support this proposal actively participate in any "high impact" sport nor have kids who do.

This competition is vital to the wellbeing of our kids, they look forward to it every spring/summer. It is well run and is a great community event. Council needs to revisit their decision in this matter.

My kid had such an amazing time last summer. He is looking forward to this season. These comps are so good not only for the kids but for the parents and community.

Please don't jeopardise the well being of our children by restricting this important activity

Be great to find a solution where capacity for this great sporting organisation can be strengthened to enable more players rather than less, given its enormous popularity. Thanks

It is disappointing to think that a knee jerk reaction could have such long term negative effects on council payers and their children. Denying children the right to play sport seems ludicrous in an age where more and more children are looking at devices rather than playing outdoors.

SSG is providing a major 'public good', not only to health and fitness but also to community as it preserves wider social networks and connections.

Grass fields should be used for the exact purpose they exist - playing soccer. Not just growing and mowing grass.

My children have enjoyed playing these games,. Interacting with their peers socially while being physical activity. This is important for teenagers.

The council should open up more natural grassed areas so the existing ones are not over used as well as creating better drainage for all surfaces

My daughter had not played a team sport for the later part of high school and was reintroduced to it through FootballSSG - she loved it, gave her spark back and really has made a big difference to her mental health. Having a large playing base, in close proximity to many homes, meant interacting with lots of other friends and acquaintances that she otherwise would not have. Keeping the community based competitions like this viable is vital for the community at large. Please reconsider this decision.

My son benefitted hugely from participating in Football SSG last year- physically getting out to play, socially bonding with kids from school and mentally getting a confidence boost for his soccer skills. I would be hugely disappointed if we couldn't participate in future or if it was not in the same organised manner as last year.

Artificial turf is NOT the answer. We deserve the right to play sport on natural surfaces, grass. The micro plastic beads which form a large part of the artificial turf surface are a toxic marine hazard. Given the amount of rain and proximity to creeks, wetlands, the lagoon and open ocean, the council is being highly negligent in respect to the environment in addition to the mental and physical health of children, youth and adults who would be otherwise engaged in healthy outdoor sports on natural land, grass. This is nonsense of the highest order.

I've been playing & refereeing football on the northern beaches for 20+ years at Club level and playing & refereeing with Football SSG, PittwaterRSL Futsal courts, MWFA @ Cromer Park for the same duration. I have seen year on year Council disregard the public interest, blatantly lie and mislead your ratepayers (let's NOT discuss the wheelie bin fiasco or the unjustified pay increases while cutting budgets for other services) increase their own profits and line their own pockets at the detriment of the rate payers. Your short sightedness is an example of the consistent lack of integrity, engagement and respect that you the council have for ratepayers.

You have ceased engaging with club committees with respect to discussions, engagement and subsidies for artificial turfing at Club & public Grounds, yet you grant developers access to the limited green spaces giving them free reign to build unsustainable housing with limited resources and infrastructure.

Studies have clearly shown the necessity for better sports facilities where membership is increasing due to increased population and popularity of the sport. The Northern Beaches LGA is such an LGA and your decision regarding the cessation or restriction of high impact activities on grass, without having the proper alternative facilities or plan is another example to council corruption and ignorance to its ratepayers needs and feedback.

I commend & support Stuart for taking a stand and sincerely hope council take a long hard look at themselves, and reconsider their ill conceived decision.

Further to this, I wonder how many councillors family members (immediate or related) are affected by your decisions. I know there are a number of families who participate in SSG, and who are related to council members!!! I hope you can look those family members in the eyes at the next family gathering.

This competition is loved by so many local community members and offers young soccer players an opportunity to continue their favourite sport in the summer. If restricted to artificial grounds only, then the NBs council should provide more artificial grounds. This would also help the winter competitions during wet weather conditions!



Asking for higher rates but taking away essential facilities is unacceptable

My kids and I have enjoyed many seasons of SSG, a wonderfully run organisation

I have been a player of SSG for nearly 10 seasons. This is an integral part of summer sport. Other artificial grounds are already allocated during this period to other football clubs and the MWFA. The smaller private pitches are already at capacity. This decision does not make sense. You are displacing 1000's of people from accessing sport.

What else are the grass sporting fields there for if not sport???

We absolutely love this competition and would be devastated if it was to be cancelled

Pls save this competition

We live in a democracy. Council should make this stupid decision public and ask our opinion. They're paid crazy high salaries, make them do their jobs.

It is very important to keep our young people engaged and busy. There is already a lack of recreational activities for teenagers, no need to take this activity away!

Competition has been going for a long time and the boys and girls deserve to play.

The council should encourage and enable not limit sport activities for northern beaches residents

Our kids love Summer Soccer we are so sad that Council is considering this! There is the space and it looks like our rates are going up too in Northern Beaches! What the heck? Healthy active kids in our community are important! Come on Northern Beaches Council you can do better than this. This is really not acceptable. Thankyou

Agree

Football SSG and other community local sport are the heart of our communities and must be able to continue

Council decision is ridiculous. It's called sport for a reason, U can't stop access to public areas because ur worried about having to repair them isnt that just part of life

I would love to understand more why the council have made their decision. I can't understand it so I'm obviously missing something. Please can you inform me what factors lead to your decision?

There is so little up here for young people- FootballSSG has no barriers to participation, it is an equal playing field for all players- they don't have to be outstanding. So important for our community

NSHS field is entirely inappropriate for the competition. Way too small among other things. Anyone who has been a part of SSG for an amount of time knows the scale of ground required, and the amount of parking required.

SSG is a very well run and hugely appreciated competition in the Northern Beaches community, from tiny kids to teenagers. It is an integral part of the soccer journey for so many.

Let them play on the grass, as kids have been doing for generations.

Given the over use of technology and increases in mental health issues amongst our young people / others in the community- it is vital we have access to as many playing fields as possible. Sports keep the community engaged physically active and outside. Please continue to keep them accessible.

My 3 girls all love to play football ssg in warriewood. Its a fun, social & well organised competition

My son loves his team and his community when he is playing winter soccer. Council needs to make fields available for the growth and health of our youth

Please don't restrict our kids playing outside

The council must get realistic and in touch with the community. Another reason why a 3rd tier local government is a waste of the communities hard earned income!

As a rate payer I pay for the upkeep of the council fields to enable community sport. Soccer SSG is a popular community sport played on Council Sports fields. It seems outrageous that council are effectively working to stop a hugely popular community sport by blocking access to council sports fields that have the capacity to host the large numbers of kids that want to participate.

Artificial grass field will cause so many injuries to our young children. Please consider all children to be able to participate and enjoy the sport safely.

Grass fields is not the only area council is our failing to support our kids in sport. Council also need to address the lack of basketball courts for the NBs.

Also with the planned increase in apartments in Brookvale we need more fields both natural and synthetic to support the growing population of young families not less!

Council also need to address their poor management of some areas like the run down bowling greens next to Nolan's that have been left to ruin. Why on earth would you replace green space with gymnastics facilities given all the space in Brookvale for gymnastics warehouses.

We need to keep our kids engaged in sport we need to have these grounds so kids can play & be part of a team for them & their future mental health

I'm pretty sure there are also members of the council that participate in those types of sports and or have kids that do as well. They will and as all of us would benefit from this great idea.

This summer soccer program is very well organized and liked by many northern beaches families. It would be a shame if this issue could not be solved, a lot of kids would miss out on this opportunity to continue building their soccer skills and be outside and move! I find it unacceptable that the Northern Beaches council is not allowing SSG to organise such a popular activity that benefits so many of the people in the local community. I totally understand that the council has a responsibility to maintain these parks in good conditions for everyone and it costs money. However if SSG has offered to share these costs then the NB council has a responsibility to work with this offer and maybe consult the community before making such far reaching decisions.

Please go back to our previous allocated grounds

Football SSG is a much loved competition on the Northern beaches and one that is so important in our community. The excitement among children who participate in this competition is undeniable. To have competitions like Football SSG is extremely important for the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of our youth. Why do we have sporting fields if we are not allowed to use them for what they were designed for? The fields may get a little worn and dusty but the grass grows back and these competitions are not played year round. At the very least why can a compromise not be reached? Use of the artificial field as well as a rotation of the fields at Warriewood? Surely council, common sense must prevail. It is clear that the consequences and impact on our community outweigh the risk of some damage to grass.

FootballSSG is a fabulous sport for kids who spend too much time on devices. This sport and its locations are invaluable for kids who want to play but not in weekend, competitions

Council should consider all of the above. Please!!!!

Council must remember it is a servant to people in a democracy

To the Esteemed Members of the Council,

I am writing to express my profound frustration and grave concern regarding the reported reduction or removal of access to grounds that have historically served as crucial venues for Football Small-Sided Games (SSG). This potential decision is not merely an administrative adjustment; it represents a significant blow to the heart of our local football community and the well-being of countless young athletes.

For years, Football SSG has been an indispensable pillar of youth sports development in our area. Its benefits are not just theoretical; they are tangible and evident in the thriving participation and skill development we witness season after season:

1. Optimal Player Development: SSG provides a dynamic, engaging environment perfectly suited for young players. The smaller pitches and fewer players mean more touches on the ball, constant involvement in the game, and continuous opportunities for decision-making. This concentrated exposure is vital for honing technical skills, tactical awareness, and game intelligence in a way that full-sided games often cannot for younger age groups.

2. Maximised Participation and Engagement: The format of SSG inherently keeps all players engaged and active, minimizing standing around and maximizing actual playing time. This fosters a love for the game from a young age, preventing disengagement and promoting lifelong physical activity. It ensures that every child, regardless of initial skill level, feels valued and integral to the game.

3. Accessibility and Community Building: SSG leagues are often the first introduction to organized sports for many children, providing an accessible and less intimidating entry point into football. These programs are more than just games; they are community hubs where friendships are forged, sportsmanship is learned, and family bonds are strengthened on the sidelines. The grounds provided are essential for fostering this vibrant community spirit.

The continued availability of accessible, well-maintained grounds is absolutely critical for Football SSG to operate effectively and deliver these invaluable benefits to our children. To limit or revoke access now would not only undermine years of successful community engagement but also directly impede the physical, social, and emotional development of our youth.

I implore the Council to reconsider any decisions that would jeopardize ground access for Football SSG. Instead, I urge you to recognize and actively support the vital role these programs play in the fabric of our community. Investment in accessible sporting facilities is an investment in the health, happiness, and future of our children.

We stand ready to discuss this matter further and collaboratively find solutions that ensure the continued success of Football SSG in our region.

Sincerely,

-- Nathan Guerra

Council should do more to keep this competition running. We need to keep our kids active, we need more facilities and competitions, not less!

My children love FootballSSG and so do I! It's such a great community event where everyone is enjoying the sunshine and outdoors

To limit summer soccer, touch footy & Oz tag comps to artificial turf pitches only is crazy given the limited number of such pitches available versus the large number of participants wishing to play. Given the number of grass fields available it would be criminal to leave them unused for these sports due to them requiring maintenance - that's part & parcel of using a sports field. They're not there for looking at; they're for playing sport on..

I have 2 sons who need to keep active both during summer and winter months. The importance of being apart of a team is impacts their health and wellbeing. Council should be doing all they can to provide enough sporting facilities.

Grass fields are much safer to growing bodies than synthetic surfaces for injuries and therefore insurance claims to both SSG and council

This is a valuable sport that build our communities so they are strong and safe. Thanks.

Where are our kids supposed to play team sport?

This is deeply affecting young people we know.

There are no other use for those feilds in the afternoon so the council may as well let football ssg use them

I am stunned that we even need to fill in this form. Outrageous.

Come on council - don't demand a 40% rate rise and then not even provide the facilities you were already providing. Community sport is so important for our kids, for mental, physical and social wellbeing. It's unthinkable that you would even consider threatening the existence of summer soccer in Warriewood. Have you been there? Have you seen how many people are involved? This move is not a vote winner - and don't just consider votes from parents. Some of these kids will be of voting age soon and this is the sort of thing they will remember when it comes time.

I love the competition please allow us to continue!

Please consider our children. Their happiness and futures.

With more housing being built, kids need safe outlets and distractions from being bored and getting into mischief/trouble

Artificial turf fields are also toxic to children and community and pets. you can sight a lot of research here, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10262297/> and here <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35948114/> amongst other key reputable medical databases available online. Please consider these items moving forward, the NOrthern beaches is also a major catchment for up and coming Rugby players who utilise the fields ongoing and we have several professional clubs in the area and pathway programs available. futbol/soccer and rugby kids also dont play actual field games on artificial turf, it's grass when in competition usually, so that it's actually real. maintenance of turf fields is not only concerning regarding upkeep, draining and due to it's toxic nature will cause more harm than good and workers working around the turf are aware and will become aware of the implication of toxicity to their health.

More artificial fields needed

I also do not want to see the local area covered in artificial turf fields. It is environmentally destructive and not necessary.

Northern Beaches is a sporting mecca for kids on the weekends, providing an excellent opportunity for them to learn to work as a team, maintain good health and fitness, meet new friends etc. NB Council is asked to provide a very basic level of service and is requesting a 25% increase in rates from the community during a cost-of-living crisis. My sons have been involved in local sport for 18 years - why is this suddenly an issue ? Time for council to undertake a more robust prioritisation of where our rates are being spent and make sure the majority of the community's needs (like this one) are taken care of.

This is the only sport our boys play for exercise and cutting out access to the fields without an alternative seems premature. Please work to sort out alternative replacements before removing access to grass fields.

Sport is an essential component of wellness & is healthy for all ages, stop getting in the way of good things for your community, your job is to foster sport in community, not inhibit the progress.

Artificial turf heats up and has a higher than ambient temperature. It is not nice to fall on It smells like petrol. It is not robust. Shortsighted proposed policy done without research or thought. Must be discarded!

Make is better

Organised sport is an essential part of every community, particularly for children. Any attempts to limit access to much loved and wanted sports activities is completely unacceptable. We cannot teach our children that physical activity and movement, alongside community and working in teams, are essential parts of a good quality of life and then cut their access to these resources.

The proposals offered by FootballSSG to Northern Beaches Council need to be heard in full and taken in good faith for consideration. As a society we often ask for solutions to problems, rather than just whinging. This is what FootballSSG has done by consulting with their community as well as other parts of the Northern Beaches sporting community to find some appropriate solutions ... only for our Council to shut the door on any such discussions.

How can any council member "elected or employed" say they are working for the community when they behave in this manner? They can't.

The proposal to move to FootballSSG to Narrabeen Sports High's single synthetic field is mind blowing. This site has no parking, limited bathroom facilities and is unable to accommodate the number of players that wish to register for the summer soccer competition. It is not a viable solution to the intensity concerns Council is spouting as a reason for limiting the FootballSSG's access to community resources "it can't even accommodate the competition.

It is time for Council to sit with the FootballSSG organisers and the sporting community at large in good faith to hear some of the practical solutions that will enable everyone who wishes to participate in the summer soccer competition to be able to do so. These solutions combat the intensity concerns of Council and have been developed to ensure that kids (and adults) are able to participate in team sports within their communities.

Anything else is unacceptable.

Thanks for the effort, i hope it works!

Sport is a vital part of children's development and mental health. Extensive data globally supports this - next you will have them exercising in a concrete cell. Give them the space to be free, in nature - with natural grass that is the way life was intended. We have enough artificial in our world - let's preserve our right to play and enjoy sport outdoors in a natural setting. Question: would you like to be told you CAN'T play sport...especially if your still a child? Would you want to take a stack on astro turf and play on that surface in the summer heat? Support community health and happiness and retain access to our sporting fields.

It's essential that kids and adults be given opportunities to participate in organised, outdoor sports all year round. The physical and mental health benefits are unmeasurable! Last year was the first year my 8-year-old daughter played and she loved it. Don't take that away from her please.

Allow SSG back at Rat Park. This was the best location for the competition.

Corrupt monkey brains

This comp is fantastic and would be terrible to lose

It's bad enough that half of the winter games are cancelled due to rain. Why is Northern Beaches Council so precious about the fields/grass? Next there'll be signs up to stop anyone touching any grass anywhere at any time! Children and Adults have played on grass all over the world forever. Why would we want to stop them playing on a natural field and instead offer a plastic playing field. This is nonsensical, bad for the environment and mostly bad for children, families, and their mental health. I am shocked and appalled that this is even a conversation they are having. I would also like to understand exactly how the Northern Beaches Council have convinced themselves that they are representing their constituents making ridiculous and out-of-touch decisions like this? How distressing for all of the families impacted.

Playing on artificial surfaces is very different from playing on turf. If our sports players don't have this experience they will be disadvantaged to progressing to higher grades in region, state and national competitions

The amount of joy and excitement SSG brings to so many people will be extremely impacted by this decision. I have played SSG for 16 years and would be devastated to see it gone and for younger generations not to experience the excitement.

Artificial turf is awful for kids, causing a lot of burn injuries particularly for sports like rugby/football

Council - use some of your massive rates hike to install more synthetic fields.  
Let kids play sport!

Football SSG gives kids of all ages, genders and abilities the opportunity to continue to develop their soccer skills in a competitive but inclusive environment outside of the traditional soccer off season. This competition is extremely well run and the kids love playing in it. Government organisations should be encouraging the expansion of these types of initiatives, not blindly imposing restrictions and reducing player numbers. Grass roots soccer and other sports need all the support they can get!

The use of artificial fields for sports is completely unreasonable and unsafe. There is a proven greater incidence of ankle and knee injuries in sports played on artificial surfaces compared to natural grass. Additionally greater heat is generated by synthetic fields, thus increasing the risk to kids of heat related illness.

Council. You don't want to spend \$40,000 on field maintenance. Yet you will barge into Avalon & ruin a perfectly fine village & road. Using sub-standard contractors that will be rehired for years to come to resurface a road that worked perfectly before. Start making logical decisions on how to save money & leave our kids sport out of it!

My son is now 17 and has HSC but spent over 5+ years playing summer soccer and such a great activity during the difficult tween and teen years. Would hate other people's ability to play sports be curtailed



This sport is so well run and is a great outlet for all ages to engage in a team sport to boost their fitness, connection to community and wellbeing. Any move that restricts this will be detrimental to the community. Surely we can keep these grass fields maintained over the summer so kids and adults alike can remain engaged in something they love and brings the community together.

The very PURPOSE of a grass field is for SPORT TO BE PLAYED ON IT. Any decision by council to limit anyone, let alone children, the opportunity to participate in community sport is a gross and unacceptable misuse of power that does not align with the people that the council serve. Local sport is a foundational pillar of this community and opportunities should be expanded and more grass fields should be made available. Council needs to make clear an explanation for these plans because at this stage they are absolutely nonsensical and unacceptable.

It's amazing to see the community engagement in numbers with FootballSSG and i would hate to see children miss out because facilities are not available or suitable.

The concept of having sporting competitions effectively banned from sports fields is a paradox in itself. It begs many questions, such as who is it at the Council that makes these silly decisions and based on what expertise? Our children should be allowed to play as much sport as they wish - and no amount of red tape bureaucracy should be getting in their way!  
Shame on this Council!

Let the kids play! Make more sports fields available: who needs acres of golf courses, but not enough soccer fields or basketball courts.

I write on behalf of my grandchildren's future - being able to play football is essential to their development as a whole.

I arrived in Australia and had to leave my family in the UK for 6 months. I joined SSG and made numerous new friends, without SSG I don't know what I would have done. My family arrived and me and my son continued playing for years spring and summer comps. Also nothing compares to playing on real grass, the artificial pitches are ok but should only be used as a substitute

FootballSSG provides an avenue for everyone to get out, exercise, socialise and be involved with the community. Council should reconsider.

It's mind boggling that this is even being considered.. What is the purpose of these sports fields if no sport can be played?! Madness and needs to be put to the community vote.

This program is an important part of maintaining a healthy mental and physical lifestyle activity for both youth and adults alike.

On the northern beaches we have a lack of fields, so we all need to work together to make the most of what we have. Making a competition that has been so successful in the number of players take part in, have to reduce or hold a competition that is not as good anymore is not acceptable. We need more people playing sport so don't hinder the ones that want to do so.

The level of sporting facilities offered in our local council area is dismal compared with other areas of Sydney and even other regional areas. Given the high rate of youth crime and suicide in the area Council should be fully supporting organisations such as Football SCG and extending the level of facilities available for use, not restricting it. My son gained so much from playing Summer soccer last year - his confidence improved, his fitness improved and his sense of belonging to his local community improved. To take this away would be absolutely heartbreaking. The events are very professionally run and I agree with the organisers concerns to Council. Given the exorbitant rate increase this year I really don't see how Council can be taking away such important facilities from its residents. Please reconsider and find a middle ground so that no kids have to be disadvantaged by this decision.

Let us play soccer

Invest in the children

Don't change what already works

yes

Football (soccer) is one of the only sports that my complex neurodivergent child participates in and this type of exercise as well as opportunity for healthy social interactions is vital to his mental health. It beggars belief that ANY council would try to restrict a community sport that is so loved. Council should be ashamed of themselves.

Please keep access to sport alive for all to enjoy. It is important to our community well being and spirit. Our children need this.

In an age of increasing childhood obesity and other negative outcomes arising from sedentary lifestyles it is un-fathomable that Council should seek to reduce avenues for youth sports and activities.

As a rate payer in the immediate area this proposal is not acceptable. I already deal with the inability to leave my driveway during school pickup drop off times. Parents just stop in the middle of the road now and pickup and drop off kids playing sport or going to school. Without additional offstreet parking this is not feasible, I hope it doesn't take an accident for this to be reevaluated.

The fact we're even having to discuss this and fight for it is absolutely disgusting and the council should be ashamed of themselves. Good luck to them on the next elections because I will not be forgetting this.

It brings the community together. Please reconsider. Kids love summer soccer.

My son has been playing for many years with his mates. I find it ridiculous that there is always negative talk about kids being on screens, and when the majority want to be out playing sports council/ government are supportive.

Community wellbeing over grass aesthetic

What's wrong with you. Your job is to help the community and especially the kids. Just do it.

We live in one of the most developed countries in the world and yet we have to beg for our kids to have sporting fields to kick a ball around. Something is not right. Our council should care about our kids! This is a well loved competition that brings joy to young and old. In today's world where mental issues are costing the community enormous amount of money, surely providing quality sporting fields is a small price to pay.

Let the kids play! Provide enough space for them to have some fun.

As a player of SSG Football for many years and a father who watches my kids play weekly it saddens me to think this council proposal could even be considered. Humans need to play and be active for health reasons, fitness and of course the silent killer mental health. The excitement, pride and team camaraderie that football brings to not only the players but the family and friends spectating is second to none. Lets keep kids (and adults) off screens and playing on the fields we enjoy and pay for.

My teenage son has played soccer with FootballSSG for years and he loves it playing with his mates. It would be devastating if they were unable to play and I believe detrimental to their health and wellbeing.

We need more artificial turf fields. What's is the plan for Curl Curl that is closed all the time?!

This decision is unfair to residents surrounding Narrabeen SHS as having traffic and parking chaos four nights a week is unacceptable. I would prefer they only be given 2 nights a week at the High School and be allocated another night or 2 elsewhere.

"Council needs to work with all high impact sporting groups to find a workable solution that does not impact community participation. High impact sports generally also mean shorter duration sports - meaning the utility gained from available fields for such sports is much higher than other sports - eg cricket, where two small teams occupy an entire field for hours. Im not sure of exact numbers, but hundreds of high impact participants could play on the same field over a similar time frame. Summer soccer isnt just populated by winter soccer players. My experience is that it also attracts players who, either for fitness levels, anxiety or other commitments (including of their parents), do not want to play winter soccer. Its important we don't take this opportunity away from them. At the least, Council should consult on a forward plan to move to artificial pitches over a number of years and develop a transition plan that does not impact participation levels of high impact sports."

SSG is a great program. Let the kids play

Council of late is treading on thin ice - the general sentiment is that the council is hardly working for the community in many aspects. Here is your chance to do something good for this community. This means so much to so many. For me it helped me turn my post-natal anxiety around and meet an amazing group of mothers who I connect with - we cannot wait to play this upcoming season - our team would be absolutely devastated and disappointed with councils lack of empathy and commitment to our community if this were to occur. Please reconsider and put the community at heart.

Disgraceful council even suggesting this. We pay insanely high rates as it is and this is absolutely unacceptable. Without playing fields our kids will suffer greatly and it would be so detrimental for the whole community!!

Kids need their fields

This is so important for young people to have active ways of keeping healthy and developing a sense of community. There are also incredible mental health benefits and both my children benefit greatly from this type of community engagement  
Parking around north Narrabeen is already extremely tough and I think councils decision will only make this worse.

Current crowds and parking issues are already a huge problem at North Narrabeen.

Leave it alone!

Summer Soccer is the highlight of my son's sporting year and has been for over 8 years. to take this away for some short term preservation of pitches is apparently being decided by people who don't have children who play in this competition. Teenagers need sport to stay healthily engaged and this proposed shutdown will possibly break that continuation and be highly disappointing for them and socially damaging.

I'll be raising parking with council.

Access to sport is essential for the physical and mental well-being of a community. SSG provides access to football games of all skill levels outside of the winter season and should be enabled to continue with suitable grass fields.

We participated in Fotball SSG competition for many years, it became a regular part of my kids sports activity. We playing winter soccer and summer soccer and I can't imagine that this would change.

Sports are a big part of the northern beaches community. The kids require more fields not less. It's disappointing the response from the council.

Never should children's sport be limited it's a so important for there over all health and feeling of community

I have 2 children who play what you class as high-intensity sports multiple times a week. They live for their participation in these sports, and a chance to play with their mates as well as keeping themselves fit. I am stronly opposed to any decision to reduce the number of grounds for any sport, or to reduce the number of people who can take part. We should be actively encouraging as many kids to play as many sports as possible!

FootballSSG is non profit & also supports female & male youths in sport!! It's vital: plastic turf is not great for the environment it has plastic water run off & it's toxic to smell. It also is slippery and not natural. This is very concerning to our environment

Please allow our children to play soccer on suitable soccer fields.

I am a 55 year-old mother of two who has been playing small field women's over 35 Soccer with SSG for many years. The small grass field suits older people playing sport and playing on turf is difficult due to the speed of the game. I believe the access to grass fields is essential to enable children as well as adults to continue their sporting pursuits. It is fun and good for our mental health to continue sport into our 50s and 60s.

SSG sport is great for the kids and adults, gets them outside, playing as a team and being social.

Football is really good and helps me

My husband plays touch and AUA Tag and it is his life line to health and community. If he couldn't play he would get more migraines and worse mental health.

My 11 year old is hypermobile and the only active group team sport he can play is touch and he waits all year to play this .. it is detrimental to health health both physically and mentally

The increase in sports across all disciplines by rate payers and their families, needs to be supported by the council. a long term plan of how to provide fields and maintain the standard of these fields needs to be discussed by Council. The Greens council representative Miranda has said she would never support artificial turf fields. Her decision is in direct conflict with a lot of the rate payers. Council need to speak to the sport associations, the community groups - including schools who would utilise these facilities also and come up with a long term plan for The Northern end of the council area. Rather than spending millions on tourists for Manly!

Our girls have played Football SSG for over 10years. It's a fantastic, fun way to keep them active, and connected with their friends from other schools now that they're in high school. Football SSG is a bit for profit that should be supported.

We have been living with this synthetic field for a number of years. There is limited street parking for the amount of cars on week days and weekends using this facility. It's not just the oval but school traffic as well. Parents/users of the oval park illegally on footpaths and in no parking/no standing spots, stopping in driveways and speed is also a concern as well as there are always pedestrians around.

All participants should be able to enjoy their weekend sport.

Council needs to come to an agreement with the sporting groups. The street won't take more parked cars at these times.

The use of synthetic surfaces only is not ideal for growing players as the pitches are usually of hard compound which is not suitable for developing joints.

Synthetic fields generate a lot of excessive heat over the surface areas especially in the warmer months.

My boys have played in the SSG Warriewood comp for 6 years now and love it. It is very well run and is a great add on to my boys sport after the winter soccer comp finishes. It is keeping my boys active and out playing sports with their mates. Please don't let kids miss out.

FootballSSG is a fantastic community sport that is well run and provides a fun, healthy and enjoyable environment for everyone. Our family have been fortunate enough to have played in a few competitions over the past few years. We catch up with friends and my son and husband thrive playing in this summer soccer tournament. I feel that taking the natural grass grounds away from our community will hinder the mental, physical and social development that this sport provides. I understand there are futsal courts and indoor soccer fields but none are like SSG. Rules and guidelines are different. And to play on synthetic grass in summer is extremely hot for both players and spectators. Stuart is dedicated and passionately invested in SSG. This shows in his expressive and detailed emails when organising each season. I personally don't understand why the council has made this decision. Open natural grass fields are meant to be enjoyed by our all in our community and I can't imagine why maintaining a beautiful grass field where no one can use would be preferable. Any sport we have on the beach's will have heavy foot traffic and SSG offering to help maintain it is thoughtful and fair. Let's please rethink this decision and not make it one we regret down the line. Appreciate your consideration.

Summer Soccer was a huge part of my sons younger life growing up, a great way to play with friends, keep active and stay connected. This opportunity shouldn't be taken away or restricted. I have three children who have all benefited greatly from FootballSSG, they will miss it terribly if it can't continue.

Totally unacceptable - and no proposed action from council to resolve the issue. Removing a healthy sport option for kids and youths is unfathomable. Along with the opportunity for young kids to ref, learn new skills and earn a few dollars.

What happened to rat park? I can see that last years use of Warriewood fields damaged the grass by the end of the season. As stated, use of various fields 1 day a week should be a suitable alternative.

We pay enough so much money on rates, to be told our children can no longer play at the sporting field at Warriewood is unacceptable. My kids are 17 and 15 and have been playing summer soccer since before they started school, they love the social aspect and having fun with their friends. This decision is absolutely appalling on Council's behalf.

I think this is so unacceptable, why would Council even think this is acceptable, for many years my son and his friends looked forward to SSG, it was so popular, seems like it is getting harder and harder for kids on the Northern Beaches to be able to participate in any sport, you NEED to take a look at Sport out in the Western Suburbs and don't use the excuse Oh but they don't have the beach, have a look at the drug culture in northern beaches with kids wandering aimlessly around the streets with nothing to do, WAKE UP TO YOURSELVES and let the kids just enjoy their sport.

It's disgusting that such an affluent council is sitting on their hands and not looking after the community and future generations. So quick to claim anyone famous or successful but won't do anything to support up and coming talent. Take a page out of south Sydney or western Sydney's council. Embarrassed as to what this council is doing to our community.

Nsw

Football ssg is a great competition.

I am worried about more injuries across the board with playing on synthetic pitches as they create more damage to the body then playing on natural grass.

The fields at Warriewood were absolutely ruined last year, one day per week is acceptable for grass field use but running the whole program on grass ruins the fields for the whole summer

My kids and my myself have played SSG for the last 10 years & thoroughly enjoy it. We all look forward to it every season. This is really important for both youth & adults keeping everyone engaged in sport. If they stop playing soccer in the spring comp often teenagers don't also return for winter & they stop playing soccer all together - never to return! It's more than just a spring soccer competition it's keeping our kids & adults active all year round & continuing their soccer journey. It's great for mental health. The teenagers have been struggling to find things to keep them motivated & active. One night a week of spring soccer is perfect. Please give Football SSG suitable access to fields. Thankyou.

Sounds like the council has been bought or infiltrated

This is the most ridiculous situation I have ever heard. My son has had the pleasure of playing SSG since it started and has played with his group of mates every year. This is such a well run and respectfully set up competition. I am also a teacher at a local school and there are so many students who play and love spending time with their school mates. In a time where youth mental health is so high and rising, the Council is so completely negligent in not providing facilities for our kids to use. You go out to western and south western Sydney and their facilities are fantastic. I cannot believe that Council have the absolute gaul to increase our rates and then pull a competition from ratepayers families. They are a disgrace! Keep up the fight SSG - hopefully sense will prevail.

FootballSSG has been such a part of our children's lives for years and for many parents as well . We all engage in sport each week and get together as a community to cheer on our kids in a super well organized football club . The youth need this . My son needs sports as it one area in his life he does well in .

This is a great sport and well

Run organisation. I used to watch my brother play and he is now 31 and my children have thoroughly enjoyed this sport. Especially my eldest son who is reluctant to try most physical activities.

Same goes for MWBA! Basketball etc!!



This is a complete joke!! Kids and Adults need to play sports as its beneficial to the overall person and society as a whole. Shame on you Northern Beaches Council!! Maybe look at what your paying in Executives Salaries and put some of that money towards the up keep of fields. THAT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!!!

Sport is the best way to keep the kids out of trouble, the must support it at all cost, I coach volunteering 3 teams, and all kids love this tournament, so please don't stop it.

Are you really going to stop over 1000 people taking on in physical activity and prevent a long running social competition.

FootballSSG is enjoyed by many on the Northern Beaches and it's unacceptable that not everyone will be able to play with council's current proposals.

My daughter loves soccer so please keep the sports live.

Think of health, kids and social well being. The fields are for using and it's the communities right to do do

There is nothing wrong with grass fields! Historically it shows that they are the best and synthetic fields are so bad for sporting injuries and the environment! They don't last and become land fill! Come on Councils yes some common sense.

Any removal of a sport to save money at the expense of youth health and well being is unacceptable and should never be supported. Council must review this decision and remove restrictions on sport and grass fields.

Please listen

Is your Question 4 missing information, soccer in winter is high impact and we play on grass, could this be a seasonal thing?

4. Council's position that in future no sports that have a high impact on fields will be permitted to play on natural grass fields and rather will only be permitted to play on artificial turf fields is nonsensical and unworkable given the limited number of artificial turf fields that exist

I would like to see a public plan for the development of new artificial turf fields to sufficiently meet the community needs if grass fields are no longer suitable or allowed to be used.

Please do the right thing. The government and community want kids to be out and about, being active, being part of a community, yet it seems the council just wants to admire green grass on empty fields? Enough.

There is no valid reason to change anything. Don't punish the people that want to play sports.