

# Field Hockey BC

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Vancouver Park Board Commissioners

March 13, 2023

## **Re: Proposal for a Second Synthetic Field Hockey Facility in the City of Vancouver**

Dear Vancouver Park Board Commissioners,

I write in support of all registered and organized Field Hockey Clubs currently operating in the City of Vancouver and also on behalf of the Provincial Sports Organization Field Hockey BC, to advocate for Park Board support for a new synthetic sports field in South-East Vancouver. Organized Field Hockey continues to make an active contribution to the City of Vancouver Sports Field Strategy and the ask on behalf of the sport of Field Hockey is for consideration of a second dedicated field hockey synthetic facility to be included for development, in this case within the South-East area of the City of Vancouver.

The Sport of Field Hockey enjoys considerable use of the one primary field hockey synthetic turf at Eric Hamber Secondary School and actively hires other field hockey facilities across neighboring Municipalities as well as privately owned facilities in order to cater to City of Vancouver residents. The identified area of South-East Vancouver would make an ideal location with which to serve current residential members but also provide an opportunity for more City of Vancouver residents to enjoy the benefits of active participation within organized sport.

The installation of a synthetic field hockey turf in South-East Vancouver would provide numerous benefits to the underserved community in the area. Many residents in the area do not have access to private or public facilities that offer these amenities, and a synthetic field hockey turf could assist in bridging this gap. I am sure the Khalsa Diwan Society, soccer, field hockey and kabbadi communities would see such a sports field initiative as a huge asset.

There is also the potential question as to the demographic that utilizes such facility provision within the City. The sport of field hockey across British Columbia attracts a large percentage of female participation. The ratio of male to female participants is currently 1:5 and the opportunity to have an even greater presence of female residents within the City of Vancouver involved not only in the sport of field hockey, but on a facility able to provide for a safe and enjoyable environment, is one we would encourage for Vancouver Park Board Commission support.

Our collective thanks in advance for your consideration of support in this matter. Field Hockey BC and its membership within the City of Vancouver eagerly looks forward to following the progress of the City Sports Field Strategy and the potential for a new field hockey synthetic turf in South-East Vancouver.

Yours faithfully

*Mark Saunders*

Mark Saunders  
Executive Director  
Field Hockey BC