

Sport User Fee FAQ for Gahanna Junior League Sports

What is the sport user fee?

The sport user fee is \$15 paid by each recreational sport participant for each season paid to the City of Gahanna Department of Parks & Recreation. Sport user fees reduce the subsidy or tax burden of Gahanna tax payers. This is based on the Department's Fee policy approved by the Parks & Recreation Board and Gahanna City Council, which allows the city to collect fees and attempt to recover between 20% and 50% of the costs incurred by its Parks and Recreation Department to care for fields used by the sport recreation organization.

Who pays sport user fees?

Gahanna Parks & Recreation has agreements with recreational organizations in Gahanna that utilize Gahanna Parks & Recreation sport facilities (such as Gahanna Soccer Association, Gahanna Boys Lacrosse, Central Ohio Elite, and Gahanna Junior League Sports). As part of these agreements, participants pay the sport user fees. All other organizations using Gahanna Parks & Recreation facilities pay fees per field use as renters.

Where do sport user fees go, how are they paid, and what are they used for?

Sport user fees are paid to Gahanna Parks & Recreation at the end of the sport season by Gahanna Junior League Sports. Fees are deposited into City accounts into a Field User budget line, which is reviewed annually by City administration and used to meet the subsidy level for this program. Sport user fees will be used to assist in the improvement of City facilities utilized by Gahanna Junior League Sports, including operating expenses such as infield dirt, capital improvements, and improved turf maintenance. These user fees will allow Gahanna Parks & Recreation to provide a better service to Gahanna Junior League Sports participants.

How often do participants have to pay the sport user fee, and is it per registration or per household?

Sport user fees are paid for each season a player participates. The fee is paid by each player at the time of registration. There are no household discounts or multi-player discounts.

Do non-residents have to pay the sport user fee?

Yes. The sport user fee of \$15 is in addition to the \$20 non-resident fee.

Do all sport programs and participants pay to use City facilities?

Yes. All youth and adult sport organizations, teams or programs that schedule organized activity on Gahanna Parks & Recreation facilities pay either a per user fee or hourly rental fees. This includes but not limited to Gahanna Soccer Association, Gahanna Lacrosse, Central Ohio Elite Soccer, Gahanna Christian Academy, Gahanna Revolution, Jump Start Sports, and i9 Sports.

Why is there a sport user fee and why now?

The Gahanna Department of Parks & Recreation is tasked with cost recovery goal in accordance with the City's annual budget allocation and financial conditions. The Department sets fees and charges to achieve these recovery goals by considering market rate conditions, benchmarking, demand, and industry trends. Gahanna Junior League Sports is a Level 2 recovery level, which requires the league to pay for minimum 20% of the expenses incurred through operations and maintenance. Gahanna Parks & Recreation works within the City of Gahanna's Sustainable Operating Model, which is a systemized method to reduce the burden to Gahanna tax payers, allowing tax dollars to be stretched and used for other City programs and projects including street maintenance, park improvements and business development. For the past 4 years other recreational sport participants have been asked to pay sport user fees, and in the last year Gahanna Parks & Recreation has worked with other organizations, including Gahanna Lacrosse and Gahanna Junior League to bring all organizations to the same level.

Will this cost go up annually?

The sport user fee is based on an agreement made between Gahanna Parks & Recreation and Gahanna Junior League Sports. The current agreement is a 3 year agreement, with sport user fees set at \$15 per player per season until 12/31/2020.