ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8-1 RELATING TO YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS AND USE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Article 6 (*Use of Athletic Fields*) in City Code Chapter 8-1 (*Administration*) is repealed and replaced to read:

ARTICLE 6. YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS.

§ 8-1-81 DEFINITIONS.

In this article, YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATION (YSO) means a non-profit organization providing recreational sports programs to individuals who are aged 19 or younger and are predominantly residents of Austin or live in households served by Austin Energy or Austin Water.

§ 8-1-82 AGREEMENT TO USE CITY-OWNED ATHLETIC FIELDS.

(A) The director may enter into an agreement with a YSO that allows the YSO to use one or more city-owned athletic fields if the YSO meets the requirements in Section 8-1-85 (*Authorized Applicant*) and agrees to provide youth recreation programs at city-owned athletic fields, improves the fields, and maintains the fields.

(B) A YSO that provides youth recreation programs, improves city-owned athletic fields, and maintains city-owned athletic fields is not required to pay the fees for use of city-owned athletic fields. The City will pay utility charges for a YSO's use of a city-owned athletic field unless the YSO exceeds the maximum amount per-year per-field, which is to be calculated using the method prescribed by rule and based on the annual City budget.

(C) All improvements proposed to be made by a YSO on a city-owned athletic field must be approved in advance by the director and are the property of the City.

(D) Except for annual renewals, an agreement with a YSO may not exceed one calendar year term.

(E) An agreement must:

(1) begin on January 1 and end on December 31;

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(2) require the YSO to serve predominantly City of Austin residents or those who live in households served by Austin Energy or Austin Water on city-owned athletic fields;

(3) require the programs offered by the YSO to be open to all City of Austin youth regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or athletic ability;

(4) require the YSO to comply with the City's water and energy conservation rules and regulations when improving, using, and maintaining the athletic fields;

(5) require the YSO to conduct background checks on its volunteers or paid employees who will interact with youth;

(6) require the YSO to provide financial assistance to youth in low-income households;

(7) include any other provision deemed necessary by the director and the City Attorney to protect the City's best interests; and

(8) require the YSO to provide indemnity and insurance in the form and amounts prescribed by rule.

§ 8-1-83 AUTHORIZED APPLICANT.

To apply for an agreement authorized by this article, an applicant must:

(1) qualify as a YSO;

(2) serve youth who are predominantly City of Austin residents or are customers of Austin Energy or Austin Water; and

(3) provide supervised, competitive athletic and recreational events for individuals ages 19 and under, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or athletic ability.

§ 8-1-84 APPLICATION REQUIRED.

(A) To renew or enter into an agreement authorized by this article, an applicant must file an application on or before June 1st for the upcoming calendar year term.

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(B) An application under this article must include:

(1) proof of non-profit status;

(2) proof that the youth served are predominantly City of Austin residents or are customers of Austin Energy or Austin Water;

(3) detailed description of the youth programs provided and the athletic fields to be used;

(4) proposed budget for water and electricity for use of the fields; and

(5) proof of liability and property damage insurance in the form and amounts prescribed by rule.

PART 2. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED

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_____, 2026 § _____
Kirk Watson
Mayor

APPROVED: _____ **ATTEST:** _____
Deborah Thomas
City Attorney

Erika Brady
City Clerk

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