



April 3, 2026

City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor and Council

Fr: Andrew Smith, General Manager of Recreation and Culture

Re: Pickleball Court Fee's – Rentals and Pickleball Club

Recommendation:

That Council hereby approves an amendment to the Tariff of Fees and Charges bylaw, Schedule B-Recreation and Culture, to add pickleball court rental fees and pickleball drop-in rates; and further

That in accordance with public notices bylaw 160-2022 notice is hereby given that Council intends to amend the Tariff of Fees and Charges bylaw to add pickleball court rental fees at its April 28, 2026 meeting; and further

That bylaw number 24-2026 be hereby repealed; and further

That three readings be given to a bylaw for this purpose.

Background:

In 2019, Council authorized a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Kenora and the Kenora Pickleball Club for the conversion of the Garrow Park tennis courts into multiple, fully accessible, regulation-sized pickleball courts. The courts were completed in July 2019 and remain a City-owned asset, with the City responsible for ongoing operation and maintenance.

Since their completion, the courts have been available for free public use and have been heavily utilized, supporting the continued growth of pickleball within the community. However, over time, misunderstandings have occurred regarding court access, scheduling, and user priority. The introduction of defined rental and drop-in rates is intended to formalize and clarify usage, ensuring equitable and consistent access for all users.

Over the past several years, the Kenora Pickleball Club has played a significant role in the day-to-day upkeep of the facility, including clearing debris, adjusting nets, and contributing to the repair and replacement of fencing, windscreens, and minor surface cracks. The Club's membership continues to grow steadily and remains highly accessible, fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for both new and experienced players.

Now entering nearly seven years of operation, the introduction of a modest, mutually agreed upon user fee of \$55.00 per week, equivalent to approximately \$5.00 per session, is intended to support the long-term sustainability and viability of the courts, recognize the past investment in the courts, while also supporting the Club in their continued maintenance practices that assist the City in providing a high-quality space for everyone to use. This rate structure was developed in consultation with Pickleball Club members,

where several options were explored, with the weekly lump sum approach identified as the most fair and beneficial model for both the City and its users.

Hours of Play

With the introduction of defined hours of play, administration will begin utilizing the Activenet booking system to manage court rentals and scheduled play times. A link to the schedule will be posted at the pickleball courts and online, allowing individuals to check court availability prior to arriving to the courts. Online booking options will also be available up to one day prior to rental times, to ensure that there are no last second rentals causing confusion.

All non-booked hours, or hours outside of the designated rental times, are considered drop-in, and individuals may use the courts at their leisure. Tournaments will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Budget: This initiative is expected to have a positive impact on repairs and maintenance, estimated at approximately \$2,000 annually.

Risk Analysis: This initiative presents a low level of risk. The introduction of defined fees and scheduled hours may result in some initial adjustment for users; however, clear communication and accessible scheduling tools will help mitigate confusion. Establishing structured access is expected to reduce previous misunderstandings related to court use and improve overall user experience. The continued involvement of the Pickleball Club in daily maintenance further supports the quality and sustainability of the facility.

Communication Plan / Notice By-law Requirements:

An amendment to By-law 151-2026 will be required.

Strategic Plan or Other Guiding Document:

City of Kenora's Charting Our Course 2027 Strategic Plan, 2022 Parks and Recreation Master Plan