



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: March 20, 2025
TO: Mayor and Council
THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager
FROM: Nathan Ulyot, Director
DEPT: Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: City of Reno Athletic League Rates

The Reno Parks and Recreation Department offers adult athletic programming through sports leagues, tournaments, and facility access. Over the past two years, staff have been working to improve the cost recovery rate for these programs, aiming to cover 100% of direct costs and some indirect costs. Progress has been steady, with a 5% increase in cost recovery each year, but staff are now looking to accelerate this process to reduce the general fund subsidy supporting adult athletics.

To achieve this, staff will communicate with participants about upcoming fee adjustments and provide context on how these changes impact individual players.

Proposed Fee Adjustments & Impact

With these adjustments, the cost recovery rate for Athletics leagues and programs is expected to increase from 67% to approximately 93%, assuming participation levels remain consistent with the past two years. If softball participation continues to grow—as it did in the 2024 summer season (from 120 to 140 teams)—cost recovery could exceed 93%.

The remaining 7% needed to reach full cost recovery will be achieved by implementing some or all of the following strategies:

- Hosting a city-run softball tournament
- Switching to a three-season softball schedule
- Adding volleyball tournaments
- Adding kickball tournaments

These fee adjustments fall within the approved fee schedule and do not require City Council approval. However, given that the increase is more substantial than the usual incremental annual adjustments, staff will present the changes to the Recreation and Parks Commission to allow for public input and discussion.

Below is the message that will be shared with players to inform them of the fee changes, which will take effect during the Summer Registration period starting in April.

Message to Players:

If you haven't heard, the City of Reno is facing a budget shortfall due to lower revenue and rising costs. To ensure we can keep our leagues running, the Athletics Division is taking steps to make our programs financially sustainable.

Unfortunately, this means an increase in fees to cover the costs associated with operating these leagues and programs.

While we understand that no one welcomes price increases, we want to be transparent about why this is necessary and what could happen if we don't meet our cost recovery goals. If the City's budget reaches a critical point, programs that could be run by outside organizations would likely be the first to be impacted—just as we saw with youth sports during the 2008 recession. While these proposed fee increases are modest, private operators would likely charge even more to maximize profits.

Our goal is to continue running these leagues at affordable rates while still providing a valuable service that supports both physical and mental well-being.

This decision was not made lightly, but it is necessary to secure the future of adult athletics in uncertain times. As you'll see below, the increase amounts to less than \$1 per player per game. Moving forward, any additional increases will be small—typically \$5 to \$10 per season—to keep up with rising costs and inflation.

New League Fees (Starting Summer 2025):

Sport	Previous Team Fee	New Team Fee	Cost Per Player Per Season (Est.)	Cost Per Game (Est.)
Basketball	\$600	\$650	\$7.15	\$0.90
Volleyball	\$225	\$280	\$7.00	\$0.70
Softball	\$580	\$650	\$5.00	\$0.50
Kickball	\$390	\$425	\$2.50	\$0.25

Why Are Costs Different for Each Sport?

Each league has different expenses based on the services provided:

- Basketball requires contracted referees for safety, increasing costs.
- Volleyball does not use referees, making it more affordable.
- Softball and Kickball share fields and umpires, but Softball includes a post-season tournament, requiring additional resources.

- Softball also has higher equipment costs, needing multiple game balls per game, while Kickball only requires one durable ball.

We appreciate your understanding and support as we work to keep adult sports available for everyone. Thank you for being part of our leagues! Staff will be presenting this to the Recreation and Parks Commission on March 25th. If you would like to share any concerns and have an opportunity for public input, please let us know and we will get you more information on attending virtually or in person.