


# COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

 CITY OF <b>DES MOINES</b> OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER	Number:	<b>24-501</b>	Meeting:	<b>December 9, 2024</b>
	Agenda Item:	<b>55B</b>	Roll Call:	<b>24-1687</b>
	Submitted by:	<b>Benjamin R. Page, Park and Recreation Director</b>		

## AGENDA HEADING:

Approval of updated City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Rules.

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend approval of changes to Parks and Recreation Rules, including these substantive changes which incorporate new rules that reflect the advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department since the adoption of this document in 2023 and clarify intent of select, existing rules:

- Sections III, IV, and V: Clarifies that driving and parking may only occur in designated areas.
- Sections IV, V, VII, VIII, IX, and XII: Adds language from permit agreement to support enforcement of the permit requirements.
- Section VI: Removes limitation on messaging permitted on clothing, rules associated with floatation toys that once were permanent pool fixtures, and the exception for staff holding ID related to equipment check-out and adds inclement weather and closing rules.
- Section VII: Adds inclement weather and closing rules.
- Section VIII: Additions clarify types of fishing permitted and that pets are not allowed on rented watercraft.
- Section X: Clarifies types of fishing allowed and adds requirement for current insurance to be on file with the department.
- Section XV: Modifies the age allowed without supervision, clarifies language on grouping foursomes, reduces time allowed to look for lost balls, expands upon required golf attire, and adds that gates will be locked during the season.
- Section XVI: Removes limitation on messaging permitted on clothing, lowers the age allowed to use the weight room and cardio area with supervision.
- Section XVII: Clarifies when signs must be removed.
- Section XX: Removes limitation on messaging permitted on clothing.
- Section XXII: Adds Disc Golf and Foot Golf rules.

**FISCAL IMPACT: NONE**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- The Parks and Recreation Rules is a separate, yet complementary, document to Chapter 74 of the Des Moines Municipal Code, which is dedicated to the organization and management of the City parks and recreation facilities and outlines the role of the Parks and Recreation Board, the authority of the Parks and Recreation Director, operation of City parks and recreation facilities and the fees for use of facilities and programs.
- In addition to the Municipal Code, rules are needed for specific City parks and recreation facilities to regulate use. Although rules are not always included in the City’s Municipal Code, they are enforceable when approved by the City Council.
- The rules, when combined with the Municipal Code, govern the use of the City’s parks and recreation facilities. Wherever possible, rules do not duplicate what is addressed in the Municipal Code.
- On October 22, 2019, the Parks and Recreation Board, via Resolution No. 19-080, approved for the first time the Parks and Recreation Rules as assembled into one (1) comprehensive document.
- This is the fifth update to the rules document and incorporates changes that reflect advancements of the Parks and Recreation Department. These are described in succinct detail below. Additional minor changes are proposed to improve formatting, consistency and clarity, but do not modify the meaning of the existing rules language.
- Elected and appointed leaders should use this communication as a guide to the changes, but still read in detail the proposed modifications shown with “track changes” on in the copy of the Parks and Recreation Rules provided in their meeting packet. Substantive changes include:
  - *Sections III, IV, and V:* This proposed change in three (3) sections clarifies that driving and parking may only occur in designated areas to assist with enforcement of removing vehicles in non-designated areas for support of safety, maintenance, and operations.
  - *Sections IV, V, VII, VIII, IX, and XII:* These proposed changes in six (6) sections adds language from permit agreements to support enforcement of the permit requirements to assist with enforcement of agreed to provisions to support safety, maintenance, and operations, including transferability, cancelations, availability of electricity, cleaning, alcohol, illegal activity and permanent markings.
  - *Sections VI, XVI, and XX:* This proposed change in three (3) sections removes limitation on messaging permitted on clothing to align with first amendment provisions.
  - *Section VI. Swimming Pool and Aquatic Center Rules:* These proposed changes:
    - Remove rules associated with floatation toys that once were permanent pool fixtures and have now been removed from all facilities;

- Remove the exception for staff holding patrons' IDs when checking out equipment as this is applicable at these facilities; and
  - Add inclement weather and closing rules to assist with enforcement of these important safety protocol.
- *Section VII. Wading Pool, Splash Pool, and Sprayground Rules:* This proposed change adds inclement weather and closing rules to assist with enforcement of these important safety protocol.
  - *Section VIII. Gray's Lake Park Rules:* These proposed changes clarify the types of fishing permitted at the park and that pets are not allowed on rented watercraft both to support the safety of patrons and assist staff with enforcement.
  - *Section X. Birdland Marina Rules:* This proposed change clarifies that only rod and reel or pole fishing are allowed and adds the requirement for current insurance to be on file with the department for all vessels moored in the marina to assist staff with various administrative requirements.
  - *Section XV. Golf Course Rules:* These proposed changes:
    - Modify the age of players allowed without supervision to help support youth programming and in turn grow the game of golf;
    - Clarify the language on grouping to create foursomes to maximize tee time availability and revenue;
    - Reduce time allowed to look for lost balls from five (5) minutes to three (3) minutes to support a positive pace of play;
    - Expands upon required golf attire to also include shirts, pants/shorts/skirts and clarify that permitted shoes are either tennis or golf shoes to support safety and comfort of all patrons and staff; and
    - Adds that maintenance gates will be locked during the season to support safe access to the courses during active seasons of play.
  - *Section XVI. Community Recreation Center Rules:* This proposed change lowers the ages allowed to use the weight room and cardio area with supervision to expand positive use of the facilities to additional patrons.
  - *Section XVII. Multi-Use Recreation Trail Rules:* This proposed change clarifies that any approved signs must be removed immediately following the event by the group or individual permitted to place the signs supporting the efficient maintenance and operations of the trail system.
  - *Section XXII. Disc Golf and Foot Golf Rules:* This proposed change adds a new section to include rules for the activities of Disc Golf and Foot Golf as an advancement in our system. These rules are informed by the industry standards for each activity and will support safe play and general etiquette resulting in an enjoyable experience for park patrons and players alike.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):**

Date: December 18, 2023

Roll Call Number: [23-1805](#)

Action: [Approval](#) of Updated Des Moines Parks and Recreation Rules. ([Council Communication No. 23-559](#)) Moved by Voss to adopt. Second by Coleman. Motion Carried 7-0.

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S):**

Board: Golf Advisory Committee

Date: October 10, 2024

Action: Motion by Nassif to support C-Corp's proposed fee increases and additions and support changes to the golf rules except remove collared in reference to shirt required. Second by Potter. Motion carried.

Board: Parks and Recreation Board

Date: November 26, 2024

Resolution Number: 24-076

Action: Motion by Fanter to approve the parks and recreation rules. Second by Davis. Motion carried.

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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