

## INFO-24-104

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**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 11:31 AM

**To:** clerks <[clerks@oshawa.ca](mailto:clerks@oshawa.ca)>

**Cc:** ROBERT GREPE <[robert.grepe@ddsb.ca](mailto:robert.grepe@ddsb.ca)>; Pichette, Michel <[mpichette1@cscmonavenir.ca](mailto:mpichette1@cscmonavenir.ca)>

**Subject:** Item for Committee Review

Dear City of Oshawa Clerk:

We are asking for your assistance in sending this email to the appropriate Committee for review. We are requesting an audience with the Committee that would consider a review of fees for hosting a major event at the Oshawa Civic Recreation Complex. Below is the note we would like to send to the appropriate committee.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that we notify you that Lake Ontario Secondary School Athletics (LOSSA) has been awarded the 2025 OFSAA Track and Field Championships to be run on June 12-14, 2025. We are proud to say that Oshawa is the location where we will be hosting this prestigious event. OFSAA Track and Field is one of the largest high school track and field meets in North America. Due to this, Oshawa would be the spotlight for many live streaming services across the continent.

We have already been working with city employees at the Oshawa Civic Recreation Complex to make plans for hosting the event. Staff in the Facility Booking Office have informed us, through the regular fee schedule made out by the city, that the cost for hosting the event at the Oshawa Civic Recreation Complex would be in the area of \$15,000 after taxes. This would include the use of all outdoor facilities, the use of the indoor field house, and Bobby Orr Lounge. We have also been informed that this would also take place during the annual pool shutdown for maintenance for the Oshawa Civic Recreation Complex.

The \$15,000 fee for the use of the facility from Wednesday June 11 to Sunday June 15 is a costly amount for what the event would bring to the City of Oshawa, Durham Region, and the Greater Toronto Area. **We are requesting, at minimum, a reduction in the fee yet hoping for a total elimination of the fee to host the Championship here, in Oshawa.**

Below are reasons why the fee should be eliminated or significantly reduced:

1. You will find four different Economic Impact Estimates in the hyperlinks below created through [Ontario's Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport Tourism Regional Economic Impact Model](#). Each estimate has a different outlook yet all demonstrate a significant positive impact to the local economy. With roughly 10,000 people and 2300 athletes guaranteed to be walking through the gates of the event over the course of the Championship, the snapshot of the outlook looks as such:
  - [Aggressive outlook](#) where 80% of people attending would require overnight accommodations for 2 nights: **Total Visitors' Spending - \$2,360,161**
  - [Moderate outlook](#) where 65% of people attending would require overnight accommodations for 2 nights: **Total Visitors' Spending - \$2,090,717**
  - [Conservative outlook](#) where 35% of people attending would require overnight accommodations for 2 nights: **Total Visitors' Spending - \$1,551,829**

- The fourth outlook shows the [Economic Impact for the Greater Toronto Area](#) with 35% of people attending would require overnight accommodations for 2 nights: **Total Visitors' Spending - \$3,295,096**
2. The event will generate anywhere between 12 to 19 jobs producing anywhere between \$600,062 to \$950,016 in labour income for the City of Oshawa.
  3. The event will generate anywhere between \$1,074,402 to \$1,668,437 in Gross Domestic Product.
  4. The lasting impact of having a major Provincial Championship here, in Oshawa, will leave behind a legacy to an already rich history of sport in this city. Previous OFSAA Championships have seen several athletes rise to become Olympians. Just a few to note:
    - Matt Hughes, graduate of Paul Dwyer CHS in Oshawa
    - Perdita Felicien, graduate of Pine Ridge S.S. in Pickering – World Champion in 100m Hurdles in 2003
    - Pricilla Lopes-Schliep, graduate of Father Leo Austin CHS in Whitby
    - Andre de Grasse, multiple Olympic Medals, including the 2020 200m Gold Medalist
  5. The Oshawa Civic Recreation Complex will gain renewed assets and infrastructure from hosting the championship. If costs become minimized enough, such assets as starting blocks valued at over \$4000. As well, new infrastructure, such as a new accessible shotput circle for para-athletes. This may lead to other types of championships and/or events being hosted in our beloved city.

We would gladly welcome the opportunity to attend a meeting where we can further discuss the amazing opportunity of hosting an OFSAA Track and Field Championship in the City of Oshawa and why there is a need for minimizing the cost to host the event at the Oshawa Civic Recreation Complex.

Thank you,

OFSAA 2025 Track and Field Championship Convenors

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