

September 4, 2024

Dear Mayor Carter and Members of Council,

On behalf of Ontario Tech University, I welcome this opportunity to again express our thanks and sincere appreciation for the City partnering with us to host the 2024 USPORTS Men's Soccer Championship this November. We are thrilled to be able to host this national event together to profile both the City and the University along with the associated benefits to the local economy.

We are proud of the impact we believe this tournament will have in supporting Oshawa businesses. We are pleased to share that we already have 170 hotel rooms booked for the full seven days just from the visiting teams. We believe that when families and guests who will be travelling to support the athletes are included, we will have well over 200 rooms booked for five to seven days.

Our expectation is that these guests will be looking for places to dine and local attractions to visit while in the City. The University is proudly working with partners to support promoting restaurant and recreation options here in Oshawa.

As you are aware, there are four fields in Oshawa with the required size and runout space to properly accommodate the games played during this event. One is our on-campus outdoor field (Vaso Field) and the others are the outdoor fields 1 and 5 and indoor fieldhouse located at the Civic Recreation Complex. Despite the championship being held in November, our intention and expectation is that all games will be hosted on-campus. However prudent planning requires us to acknowledge that there could be exceptional circumstances related to inclement weather that would make playing an outdoor game impossible on one or more of the days. Our indoor soccer facility does not meet the requirements for this level of soccer. It is well suited for recreational soccer uses. Hence our formal ask for use of the Civic Recreation Complex Fieldhouse in the event of such a circumstance.

We had very productive and collaborative discussions with City Staff in terms of possible contingency planning. Chief among these plans is that if inclement weather jeopardizes a game, we would swap facilities for that game window. This would entail City programmed recreational soccer bookings moving, free of charge, to our indoor soccer pitch on campus. The varsity soccer match would then be played, free of charge, indoors on the larger field at the Civic.

The university would work in partnership with City Staff to ensure exceptional communications with City booked field users around this possibility and to ensure it would be a smooth programming relocation on the remote chance that it might be required.

Our hope is that Council will endorse this approach of both organizations moving programming between locations if required at no cost to the other. Ontario Tech is more than happy to waive all fees that would normally relate to use of our facility and are hopeful the City would do likewise.

We appreciate your consideration of this request for the waiver of fees to use the Civic Recreation Complex fieldhouse should the need arise.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of Ontario Tech and our amazing students, and particularly your partnership in hosting this significant event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Barker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Barker  
Director of Athletics  
Ontario Tech University