

Outdoor Fitness Activities

Noise Pollution

Noise from outdoors fitness activities and training groups can cause a nuisance to residential premises, disrupt their sleep and interfere with daily activities. If loud enough, noise can also affect their health. This fact sheet may help you reduce noise and meet legal requirements.



Be a Good Neighbour

Consideration should be had for any residential premises located nearby when undertaking outdoors fitness activities as this can often prevent any problems from arising.

The Law

The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 includes requirements relating to offensive noise. Ballina Shire Council can use this legislation to issue Noise Abatement Directions to prevent individuals or fitness group operators from generating offensive noise. On the spot fines for non-compliance are \$200 for an individual or \$400 for a corporation.

Please Note: Commercial operators are also required to obtain a licence from Council to operate on Council's parks and reserves and they must comply with the terms of their licence at all times.

The Criteria

When investigating a noise complaint, Council will consider:

- The loudness of the noise, especially compared with other noise in the area,
- The character of the noise,
- The time and duration of the noise,

- Whether the noise is typical for the area,
- How often the noise occurs,
- The number of people affected by the noise, and
- Any other relevant criteria.

Ways you can reduce noise

Limit hours of use

Avoid undertaking activities that are noisy near residential premise prior to 7.00am on weekdays and prior to 8.00am on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Select location carefully

Some activities may be unsuitable at certain locations. Noisy activities such as boxing should be undertaken well away from residential premises and other sensitive locations.

Avoid loud equipment/activities

Amplified music or amplified audio equipment, whistles, loud shouting or other intrusive noise generating activities are not suitable for outdoor fitness training.

Further Information:

Public and Environmental Health
Ph: 02 6686 1210.

Licences: Council's Commercial Services
Ph: 02 6686 1239.