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CITY OF  
*Lethbridge*

## **SPORT & RECREATION POLICY**

### **PURPOSE**

Lethbridge City Council has a vision to work together with the community to ensure that Lethbridge demonstrates active leadership in environmental stewardship and innovation, and is recognized as being a safe, healthy, vibrant, prosperous, economically viable place where all people can fully participate in community life. The purpose of this policy is to recognize the significant personal and community benefits derived from a vibrant sport and recreation delivery system and the integral role that sport and recreation play in achieving our vision for the future.

The City of Lethbridge has identified the need to ensure that the citizens of Lethbridge have access to adequate sport and recreation facilities, services and programs.

### **PERSONS AFFECTED**

City Council/ Administration/Lethbridge Sport Council

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the City of Lethbridge to support and maintain a healthy and sustainable sport and recreation delivery system. Accordingly, the City will:

- a. Support community-based initiatives that promote wellness and facilitate accessibility to sport and recreation services for all citizens of Lethbridge
- b. Encourage and support sport and recreation partnerships at all levels within the community, including school districts, post-secondary institutions, health care providers, the private sector, community agencies and other levels of government
- c. Consult with the Lethbridge Sport Council, an independent body advocating on behalf of sport

- d. Align local sport and recreation initiatives with regional, provincial and federal programs to maximize community benefits
- e. Support and promote the organizational effectiveness of sport and recreation service providers and develop opportunities to recognize the contributions of volunteers
- f. Plan for and develop infrastructure at all levels that can readily adapt to changing trends

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

City Council to:

- a. ensure adequate lands are reserved for sport and recreation infrastructure development
- b. through the capital and operating program, review funding requests and recommendations
- c. approve related policies and practices for access to sport and recreation facilities, where required
- d. approve fee assistance structure and programs
- e. approve partnering/cooperative agreements

Administration to:

- a. facilitate implementation of the Sport and Recreation Policy mandate
- b. coordinate long term sport and recreation planning
- c. be community leaders in the provision of sport and recreation services, particularly in the areas of inclusion, diversity, climate change and promoting the benefits of sport and recreation.
- d. develop, negotiate and manage contractual agreements and partnerships
- e. coordinate space allocation and facility booking processes for the use of sport and recreation facilities
- f. manage the operation and maintenance, including life cycle requirements, of sport and recreation facilities
- g. facilitate business development support to sport and recreation organizations
- h. facilitate and/or coordinate sport and recreation marketing, when applicable
- i. coordinate municipal sport and recreation funding/grant initiatives
- j. consult with the Lethbridge Sport Council

Lethbridge Sport Council to:

- a. provide leadership for the enhancements and development of sports in Lethbridge
- b. advocate and promote sport and active recreation in Lethbridge
- c. provide leadership in and assist organizations in efforts leading to enhanced accessibility, inclusivity and diversity
- d. assist in attracting and promoting sports events that have economic and other benefits to Lethbridge and region
- e. assist sport organizations and individuals by linking them to, or providing them with, sport-related education, support services and business development opportunities

- f. provide benefits to our community, including but not limited to, opportunities in Training, Volunteer Organization Assistance, Research and Information Sharing, and Media Awareness
- g. provide input to the Municipal Capital Improvement Program and the Operating Budget when required by assessing sport needs
- h. communicate to City Council and/or Administration any issues, challenges or initiatives on an as required basis
- i. support community sport and recreation organizations regarding climate resiliency and their ability to deal with change

## **DEFINITIONS**

- **Recreation**: is all those things that a person or group chooses to do in order to make leisure time more interesting, more enjoyable and more personally satisfying (National Recreation Statement, 1987 adopted by Alberta Recreation and Parks Association 1993). For the purpose of this policy these are physical activities that may or may not involve competition and/or the intention of improving personal performance (for example, activities such as jogging and biking for exercise would be included, as would a pick-up game of 3 on 3 basketball)
- **Sport**: is an activity requiring physical ability, physical fitness, or technique and strategy and a set of rules, which usually, but not always, involves competition between two or more people. In this policy, the word sport will primarily mean amateur sport, but due to the nature of sport, there will be the understanding that professional sport is in the continuum

## **REFERENCES**

- Lethbridge Sport Council Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022
- Recreation and Culture Master Plan 2021

## **REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY**

- October 1, 2007: New Document
- July 20, 2015: Changed the definition of recreation