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Approved by: 
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Page: 1 of 3



CITY OF
Lethbridge

SPORT & RECREATION POLICY

PURPOSE

The Council of the City of Lethbridge has a broad mandate to provide good government, develop and maintain a safe and viable community and to supply desirable and/or necessary services to the community. 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/Department of Recreation, Parks and Culture/Community Groups and Organizations/Lethbridge Sport Council/Volunteers/Coaches /Athletes /Participants/Citizens

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:

- 1) Support community-based initiatives that promote wellness and facilitate accessibility to sport and recreation services for all citizens of Lethbridge
- 2) 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
- 3) Consult with (the Lethbridge Sport Council) an independent body advocating on behalf of sport

- 4) Align local sport and recreation initiatives with provincial and federal programs to maximize community benefits
- 5) Support and promote the organizational effectiveness of sport and recreation service providers and jointly develop opportunities to recognize the contributions of volunteers
- 6) 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 structures and programs for those with special needs
- 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. develop, negotiate and manage contractual agreements and partnerships
- d. coordinate space allocation and facility booking processes to provide optimal use of sport and recreation facilities
- e. manage the operation and maintenance, including life cycle requirements, of sport and recreation facilities
- f. provide business development support to sport and recreation organizations
- g. coordinate sport and recreation marketing and information
- h. coordinate municipal sport and recreation funding/grant initiatives
- i. consult with the Lethbridge Sport Council

Lethbridge Sport Council to:

- a. provide leadership for the enhancements and development of sports in Lethbridge
- b. advocate for sport and promote sport in Lethbridge
- c. attract and promote sports events that have economic and other benefits to Lethbridge and region
- d. assist sport organizations and individuals by linking them to, or providing them with, sport-related education and support services (e.g. bidding process, resources, etc)
- e. provide benefits to members including and not limited to: Training, Volunteer Organization Assistance, Research & Information Sharing and Media Awareness

- f. provide input to the development of sport and recreation needs addressed in the Municipal Capital Improvement Program and the Operating Budget
- g. to communicate to City Council any issues, challenges or initiatives related to sport on an as required basis

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 for exercise and biking to work would be included , as would a pick up game of 3 on 3 basketball)
- **Recreation 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

REVISION/REVIEW HISTORY

- October 1, 2007: New Document