



Date: February 12, 1999

TO: Board Members - Parks and Recreation
FROM: General Manager - Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: ICE RINK SUBSIDIZED RATES & PROGRAMMING POLICY

RECOMMENDATION

- A) THAT the Board approve the Ice Rink subsidized rates for community associations and minor sport groups as described in Appendix A.**
- B) THAT the Board approve the revised Ice Rink Programming Policy included in Appendix C.**
- C) THAT the Board receive the Rink Task Force request for an additional ice surface adjacent to Sunset Ice Rink to be included in the 2000-2002 Capital Plan.**

POLICY

It is the Board's policy to consider staff recommendations for the next year's Fees and Charges Schedule after the information has been circulated to all interested parties and groups.

The Board's present Ice Rink Programming Policy was adopted on April 3rd, 1989.

BACKGROUND

The Board approved the Fees and Charges Schedule for 1999 at their meeting on November 30, 1998. However, the Ice Rink subsidized rental rates for community associations and minor sport groups were deferred to enable a further consultation process with the affected groups.

At the Board Workshop on October 13th, 1998, staff were requested to strike a Rink Task Force made up of representatives from community associations/minor sport user groups to deal with issues related to ice allocation standards and subsidized ice rental rates.

The following Term of Reference were developed for the Rink Task Force:

1. To review and update the Board's Ice Rink Programming Policy
2. To develop a schedule for subsidized ice rental increases for community associations and minor sport groups over the next two years.
3. To consult with all affected ice user groups on recommended changes and rates.
4. To make final recommendations to the Board.

DISCUSSION

The Board operates 8 Ice Rinks, each of which schedules an average of 100 hours per week during the winter season for a variety of programs and rentals. Roughly one-half of this time is considered prime time (weekdays 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; weekends 8:30 a.m. to midnight). Minor sport groups use the majority of this prime time.

The Rink Task Force was formed in October 1998, comprised of two staff and representatives from the following organizations:

Killarney Community Centre Society
Kitsilano Community Association
Grandview Community Association
Thunderbird Community Association
Grandview Minor Hockey Association
Killarney Figure Skating Club
Kerrisdale Figure Skating Club
Sunset Figure Skating Club
Vancouver Ringette Association

After several meetings, the Rink Task Force reached general agreement on the following recommendations:

- a) revisions to the Park Board's Ice Rink Programming Policy as described in Appendix C. Of special note is Clause 8 which reduces the free ice time granted each season to community associations for special events.
- b) ice rental rate increases for subsidized community associations and minor sport groups, phased in over the next two years as follows:

a 10% rate increase from \$48.00 to \$52.80 per hour for prime time effective April 1st, 1999, OR reduced to a 7.5% rate increase to \$51.60 per hour if block booked from mid-September to mid-March.

a 10% rate increase to \$57.60 per hour for prime time effective April 1st, 2000, OR reduced to 7.5% rate increase to \$55.20 per hour if block booked from mid-September to mid-March.

the block booking option will be described in a special contract with each community association/minor sport group, and will contain terms similar to the sample attached as Appendix B. These groups may also purchase additional hours outside the specified contract hours at the block hourly rate.

- c) request the Park Board to include in the 2000-2002 Capital Plan an additional ice surface adjacent to Sunset Ice Rink, in order to address the present shortage of prime time ice for minor sport groups through out the city.

These Task Force recommendations received general support in meeting with the minor sport groups during January, in light of the “rationale for rate increases” described below. The major issue raised at these meetings was that there is not enough prime time ice available at Park Board Rinks to meet the allocation standards set out in the Programming Policy; this restricts their registration as they are required to rent additional ice at private facilities just to meet their requirements for players presently registered. Staff will attempt to reduce this problem through efficiencies in scheduling and programming the Rinks more regionally next season, but the only real solution appears to be an additional ice surface.

A meeting was also held with Killarney Minor Lacrosse representatives to discuss rate increases for summer dry floor that are comparable on a percentage basis with those proposed for minor sport ice rentals. The block booking time frame for dry floor rental groups will be from mid-April to mid-July.

Rationale for rate increases:

- a) A market survey of 1998 minor sport ice rental rates in surrounding municipalities indicates that Vancouver rates are considerably lower than all others:

1. Surrey	\$82.95
2. Burnaby	\$65.27
3. Delta	\$58.85
4. Richmond	\$58.00
5. Coquitlam	\$57.25
6. North Vancouver	\$55.25
7. New Westminster	\$52.25
8. Vancouver	\$48.00

Vancouver is presently subsidizing minor sport ice time at the highest level in the Lower Mainland. The proposed 20% increase over 2 years to \$57.60/hour (or 15% increase to \$55.20 for block bookings) would bring Vancouver more in line with the market rate, although still among the lowest in the region.

- b) The revenue generated from non-subsidized adult ice rentals has decreased in recent years, as these groups have been attracted to new private facilities with earlier ice times and social amenities. As a result they are providing less offsetting financial support for the subsidized minor sport groups within Rink budgets.

Due to heavy demands for additional ice by minor sport, most of the prime time ice slots vacated by regular adult groups (\$185/hour) have been allocated to minor sport groups at the

subsidized rate (\$48/hour).

The net result of these factors over several years has been a severe revenue shortfall of \$200,000 in Park Board Rink budgets. The 15-20% increase to minor sport rates over 2 years would generate an additional \$15,000 in 1999 and \$40,000 in the year 2000.

Other initiatives taken to reduce the revenue shortfall problem include: a general 5% increase for 1999 to all other Rink rental and admission rates, aggressive marketing of non-prime ice and dry floor space, maintenance efficiencies to reduce operating costs.

ICE RINK PROGRAMMING POLICY

Updates and additions to this Policy have been negotiated with the Rink Task Force. Any new statements or changes have been underlined in the Policy included as Appendix C, and the rationale for changes has been stated within respective clauses. The following clauses are of particular importance:

Clause 3 - Establishes the maximum allocations to minor sport groups based on registration numbers. Note that due to the shortage of prime ice time at Park Board Rinks, some groups (esp. minor hockey) are operating with less than the stated maximum allocations, by purchasing ice time at private rinks such as UBC, Richmond 6 Rinks, Burnaby 8 Rinks. This Clause has not been significantly altered.

The Ice Allocation Schedule for each Rink is included as Appendix D.

Clause 8 - Authorizes Recreation Managers to grant an established maximum of free ice time each season to community associations/minor sport groups for special events. The proposed changes reduce the maximum from 60 hours to 40 hours per season, with a special allowance in the 1999-2000 season for 50 hours as the reduction is phased in. Also, some new restrictions have been added on maximum free ice per event and to minimize disruption of other revenue-generating programs.

These changes will assist in addressing the Rink revenue shortfall with minimal impact on the community associations/minor sport groups. Last season the maximum 60 hours of free ice was only allocated at two Rinks - Killarney and Trout Lake.

SUMMARY

The proposed Ice Rink subsidized rate increases over the next two years will assist the Board in addressing the revenue shortfall due to the decline in non-subsidized ice rentals at Park Board Rinks. The minor sport rates will still be on the low end in comparison with rates in surrounding municipalities.

The proposed revisions to the Ice Rink Programming Policy reflect changes that have occurred over the past 10 years and reduce the free ice time granted to community associations for special events.

Prepared by:

Queen Elizabeth District
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Vancouver, BC
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APPENDIX A

ICE RINK SUBSIDIZED RATES - 1999 & 2000 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS & MINOR SPORT GROUPS

HOURLY RATES

		<u>Regular</u>	<u>Block Booked</u>
1999	Prime Time Ice Rentals	\$52.80	\$51.60
1999	Dry Floor Rentals	\$18.70	\$18.30
2000	Prime Time Ice Rentals	\$57.60	\$55.20
2000	Dry Floor Rentals	\$20.40	\$19.60

Note:

Non-prime time ice rental rates are 50% of prime time rates.

Subsidized rates include all ice cleans during the rental block of time.

Rates for community associations and minor sport groups are effective April 1st each year.

APPENDIX B

VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS & RECREATION
TERMS OF AGREEMENT

ASSOCIATION
BLOCK BOOKED ALLOCATION OF ICE TIME
1999/2000 SEASON

1. Contract for ice time to cover a period of twenty-seven (27) weeks commencing Saturday, September 18, 1999 and ending Friday, March 17, 2000. Adjustments to be made for special Christmas Schedule.
2. Attach ice time schedules for respective Rinks included.
3. Association to receive _____ hours of block ice time (scrapes included) on a weekly basis.
4. Association to be billed the total of \$_____ For ice time covered within the contract. Payment schedule from the Association relative to this contract:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Payment</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Sept./99	\$	
Oct./99	\$	
Nov./99	\$	
Dec./99	\$	
Jan./2000	\$	
Feb./2000	\$	
Mar./2000	\$_____	
Total	\$	

5. If ice time covered by the contract is returned to the Park Board and resold to another group, the monthly billing to the Association will be reduced accordingly at the Association block hourly rate.
6. All ice time acquired by the Association outside the specified contract hours will be billed at the Association block hourly rate.

APPENDIX C

VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

ICE RINK PROGRAMMING POLICY

**REVISED BY PARK BOARD
FEBRUARY 1999**

Please note: Changes and additions are identified by bold print and underlining.

CLAUSE 1

The program staff and the Community Association representatives (Joint Planning Committee) shall be responsible for planning all community-oriented programming in the ice rinks. For the purpose of this policy, community programming will include the following:

- Minor Sports
- Public Skating
- Skating Lessons
- Community Special Events
- Community Sponsored Adult Programs

Public skating sessions will be coordinated between adjacent rinks to achieve the most efficient use of ice and staff while providing a balanced program.

All usage not included within community programming will be planned on the basis of evaluation of local and city-wide needs, with the involvement of Association representatives when required. **In special circumstances where minor sport tournaments or special events require cancellation of public skating or commercial rentals, Park Board historical net revenue lost for the affected time may need to be protected through a negotiated settlement involving the Recreation Manager.**

Rationale

The local Community Associations are responsible for ensuring that a variety of recreation opportunities are available to the residents of their communities. This can most effectively be done through a joint planning process. The Park Board is responsible for ensuring that recreation opportunities are available to all members of the public etc. and this kind of planning requires a city-wide understanding of needs and interests.

Consequently, two types of planning processes should be in place in the development of ice rink programs. It is proposed that Association representatives be involved when required.

Cancellation of Rationale Clause

Cancellation of public skating or commercial rentals should only occur for exceptional events, so as not to disrupt regular programming and revenues.

CLAUSE 2

Community Associations will be entitled to purchase, at subsidized rates, up to 55 hours of prime time per week in blocks of time which include ice cleans. Affiliated minor hockey associations, figure skating clubs and other minor sport groups will be eligible for subsidized rates through their parent Community Association. Adult sport groups are not eligible for the subsidize rate except those approved through Clause 9 & 10.

Rationale

It is clear that many recreation programs associated with ice rinks require subsidization and support well above the costs incurred by the Park Boar to operate these facilities. Community Associations with large numbers of participants require the bulk of ice time available each week.

Subsidized prime time rates for Community Associations will be charged at the following times:
Monday to Friday - 6:30 p.m. to midnight
Saturday, Sunday and Statutory Holidays - 8:30 to midnight

Times other than these will be classified as non-prime time and will be available to Community Associations at 50% of the subsidized prime time rate, during the normal season, September to March.

The lower rate for non-prime time will encourage use of non-prime time by Community Associations and will reduce the financial impact on figure skating clubs and minor hockey associations.

CLAUSE 3

The following program standards will be utilized by the ice rink programming committees in preparing program schedules.

- a. During the following times:
Monday - Friday, 5:00 p.m. to midnight
Saturday, Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to midnight

Minor hockey associations will be allowed a maximum of two hours per week for each registered team 15 - 19 players) with the following exceptions:

- 2¼ hours for Pee Wee A and B Division teams
- 2¼ hours for Bantam A and B Division teams
- 2½ hours for Midget and Juvenile Division teams

Such allocations will include all ice cleans required during or between successive games/practices. Where more than one rink is used regularly by an association, representative teams (A and B Divisions) should be distributed among the rinks used.

- b. Figure skating **& speed skating** clubs shall be allocated one hour of prime time per week for every 14 skaters registers.
- c. **Ringette associations will be allowed a maximum of 1.5 hours per week for each registered team (11-16 players).**
- d. A minimum of 5 hours per week of prime time community usage will be allocated to public skating.
- e. Five hours per week on weekday evenings should be made available in each rink for adult recreational hockey. Where possible these ice slots will be put into blocks for programming purposes.
- f. Minor hockey associations will submit to the Rink Programmer a list of team rosters by February 15th which represents the players and teams currently registered; figure skating clubs will submit a list of registered skaters. These lists will be used to allocate ice for the upcoming season in September. For hockey, a second list of teams will be required October 15th verifying the numbers for that current year. An adjustment will be made if numbers vary significantly from those submitted in February.

Rationale

To ensure that all residents of Vancouver are offered equal opportunities to be considered in the allocation of ice rink time, these standards are established to assist staff and Community Association representatives in the planning of ice oriented programs.

Due to PCAHA requirements, minor hockey cannot start representative team and house league games before 8:30 a.m. on weekends or 6:30 p.m. on weekdays. Practices and house league games can be scheduled at earlier times.

This allocation allows minor hockey adequate time for house league and rep team games in prime time, based on PCAHA requirements. It allows for some practice time to be scheduled in prime time, but encourages use of non-prime time for practices.

The figure skating/speed skating allocation is consistent with established Lower Mainland standards, and fits City-wide average needs for figure skating and speed skating programs.

The ringette allocation reflects the shorter games and smaller teams in comparison with minor hockey.

The Programmer needs to know early how much ice time will be used by minor hockey and figure skating in order to program the remaining ice time for other user groups.

CLAUSE 4

The Rink Programmer and Community Association representatives must agree on endorsement of various programs before a program commences.

Rationale

Either the Community Association or the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation should agree to endorse programs within the general community allocation except for public skating sessions as previously stated. However, the organization which agrees to endorse the program must be prepared to accept responsibility for program leadership, program design, and financial responsibility. The other partner is expected to provide as much support as possible.

CLAUSE 5

All programs are to be reviewed twice throughout the winter season by the Joint Planning Committee. This review should take place in mid-November and mid-March of each year. Program planning should be completed by June 15th for the following year.

Rationale

As with all recreation programs evaluations should be done during each program season period. The March review will enable the succeeding Fall program to be planned. The November review will allow for adjustment to be made for the Winter program commencing in January.

CLAUSE 6

The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel programs of user groups for special city-wide events. When this occurs the Board will attempt to provide alternate accommodation. In all cases substantial notice should be given to Community Associations and to field staff.

Rationale

There have been and there will continue to be occasions when special use programs should be offered by the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation as part of a city-wide celebration or to demonstrate a new activity.

CLAUSE 7

Programming of ice usage during a spring and summer period (April 1 to September 15) will be allocated on the following priority basis in the rinks where the Board annually determines that ice will be maintained.

1. Board or jointly sponsored programs (e.g. hockey schools)
2. Non-subsidized rentals.

The Community Associations will be charged the subsidized prime time rate for all ice booked during the spring and summer period.

Rationale

To operate an ice rink in the summer season requires a large operating budget. It is, therefore, important that the Board maximize the non-subsidized rentals of the rink and at the same time offer needed services to the citizens of Vancouver.

As mentioned earlier, it is necessary to offer as many non-subsidized rentals as possible to raise the required revenue.

CLAUSE 8

Area Recreation Managers may grant up to **40** hours of free ice time each season to Community Associations for special events sponsored by the local Associations **(50 hours for transition 1999-2000 season only)**. **A maximum one-third of total ice used or a tournament or event may be allocated as free time. Free ice time must not display commercial rentals or public skating sessions except as stated in Clause 1. Allocations must be finalized by Dec 15th for each season.**

Rationale

Community Associations and their affiliated groups need assistance in staging fund raising events such as hockey jamborees, tournaments, figure skating shows etc. **New restrictions will reduce the impact of free ice time allocations on Park Board revenues.**

CLAUSE 9

Where the Community Association is prepared to support and sponsor an ice sport program (eg. female hockey, women's ringette, speed skating) in which the participants are of a mixed age range and the participation rate of individuals under the age of 21 years is equal to or greater than 20 per cent of the total number of participants in the program, the subsidized rate of 50% of the regular adult rate will apply.

CLAUSE 10

The Community Association will be authorized to allocate ice time within their weekly ice time entitlement, described in Clause 2 of this Policy, to other sport programs which they sponsor. The applicable rental rate will be 75% of the regular adult rate.