

**VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**ICE RINK PROGRAMMING POLICY**

**(1989)**

**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

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.

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.

**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 previously receiving free non-prime time ice under the 30/30 formula.

### **CLAUSE 3**

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

#### **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 (12-19 players) with the following exceptions:

**23** hours for Pee Wee A and B Division teams

**23** hours for Bantam A and B Division teams

**22** 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 clubs shall be allocated one hour of prime time per week for every 14 skaters registers.
- c. A minimum of 5 hours per week of prime time community usage will be allocated to public skating.
- d. 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.
- e. 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 allocation is consistent with established Lower Mainland standards, and fits City-wide average

needs for figure skating programs.

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 sponsorship 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.
2. Non-subsidized rentals.

##### 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.

The concept of Board or jointly sponsored programs such as figure skating or hockey schools should offer quality programs to a large segment of the population at the lowest rates, and Community Associations who require ice for ongoing programs, particularly of a city-wide nature should be encouraged on a year round basis. In these cases subsidized rates will be in effect.

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 60 hours of free ice time each season to Community Associations for special events sponsored by the local Associations

#### Rationale

Community Associations and their affiliated groups need assistance in staging fund raising events such as hockey jamborees, tournaments, figure skating shows etc.

#### **CLAUSE 9 - 1989**

Junior AB@ hockey teams sponsored by local Community Associations may be eligible for a rental rate which is 50% of the approved non-subsidized rental rate. They may be allocated to a maximum of 5 hours of prime time per week and this allocation will be considered as part of the Associations=total ice allocation.

## **CLAUSE 9 AMENDED**

Where the Community Association is prepared to support and sponsor an ice sport program (e.g., women's 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 is equal to or greater than 20 percent of the total number of participants in the program, the subsidization rate of 50 % of the regular adult rate will apply.

### Rationale

Junior ~~AB~~ hockey teams provide an opportunity for minor hockey graduates to continue to play competitive hockey. If the team is sponsored by a Community Association the team should be eligible to receive a rental rate less than the non-subsidized rate. However, since players on these teams are recruited from other areas of the Province as well as Vancouver they should pay a fee in excess of the minor hockey rate.

## **CLAUSE 10 - 1989 POLICY**

Where the Community Association is prepared to support and sponsor a developing sport (eg. women's hockey, speed skating, women's ringette) the Association can make application to the Director of Recreation Services for the subsidized rate to apply for up to a two year period of time. Any extension beyond two years will require the permission of the Board.

## **CLAUSE 10 AMENDED**

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

## Ice Allocation Task Force Terms of Reference

In June 2002, staff met with ice rink stakeholders to develop the following terms of reference for the review of the Park Board's ice allocation policy. From these meetings, there was consensus that the review will be directed by a Task Force Committee composed of:

- C two Park Board senior management representatives.
- C Up to five Park Board staff representatives.
- C Up to ten (10) representatives of a cross-section of ice users.

Minor Hockey -	2 reps	Adult Rental Group	- 1 rep
Figure Skating -	2 reps	Public	- 1 rep
Speed Skating -	1 rep	Women's Hockey	- 1 rep
Ringette -	1 rep	Community Association	- 1 rep

It is important to note that this group represents a cross section of ice users. The Task Force will consult with the larger rink stakeholder group at various times during the review. We have commenced recruitment for the Task Force and it is expected that these positions will be appointed by September.

The Task Force will be supported by a team of staff, who will carry out the work program outlined in the Terms of Reference and develop draft policies and procedures for Task Force review. The Task Force members present at the June 25<sup>th</sup> meeting reviewed and approved the project's Terms of Reference and the Project's time line.

### Work Plan

The work program will be organized into two phases:

#### *Research Phase - Historical Benchmarks*

Use Assessment: listing of activities programmed; responsibility for program (Park Board, Association, Rental, etc.); allocation by sport and age group; ice use by time of day as well as by user group; seasonal factors (spring/summer ice).

User Demand: participation volume; current membership and waiting lists by sport; trend indicators including Lower Mainland and provincial trends; developmental and organizational requirements.

Financial Assessment: revenue and expenditures for the past five years.

Ice Allocation: current allocation: policy vs. practice.

*Analysis Phase*

Supply vs. Demand: current service capacity vs. present and future demand; shortfall/over allocation including access and equity issues; optimum service configuration; options for closing the service gap and/or increasing service capacity; efficiency of use and demand management;