



AFFILIATION & ALLOCATION POLICIES

Park Board Committee Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2026



- Seek approval of Affiliation and Allocation Policies supported by user group engagement.
- Enables series of changes to deliver service improvements for 2027.



- *Affiliation* prioritizes access to facilities for groups based on public benefit, safety, equity and inclusion.
 - Connects taxpayer investment to highest public good.
- *Allocation* decides how a limited number of spaces are strategically, consistently, and equitably distributed among user groups.
 - Finds efficiencies through fair, transparent, and defensible process.
- **Opportunity to create a legacy for sport access in Vancouver with approval of these long-requested policies.**

- The [VanPlay Framework](#), approved by the Board on October 19, 2020, provides direction to develop allocation policies for fields, rinks, and pools.
- A [presentation](#) was provided to the Board on May 29, 2023, to introduce SafeSport and upcoming policies for affiliation and allocation.
- On June 10, 2024, the [Sport Field Strategy](#) was approved to guide city-wide sport field development, management, and maintenance.
- On April 14, 2025, the Board approved the [Comprehensive Fee-setting Framework](#), connecting level of public investment to delivery of public good.
- [Memo](#) provided to the Board on November 19, 2025, describing workplan, SafeSport, and intermunicipal collaboration; and, on March 30, 2026, an [update](#) on Affiliation & Allocation Policies was provided.

Current State	Future State
Youth and non-profit user groups getting fewer hours than they should.	Affiliated groups prioritized to grow life-long love of sport in youth.
Private, commercial, and non-resident users unconstrained at public facilities.	Time set aside for these groups but prioritized <i>after</i> affiliates.
Historic user groups may be 'hoarding' time they are not actually using.	Allocation matched directly to need, opening empty times for actual use.
Widely understood we have limited capacity but difficult to document.	Facility access gap is clearly demonstrated for Capital Planning.

- Historically, space was provided to user groups that were there first, without standards for guiding use.
- Policies from across the region and country and BCRPA guidelines were reviewed.
- Auditor General recommended Fee-setting Framework provides guidance for prioritizing taxpayer investment.
- Staff organized development of a shared framework for allocation with recreation leaders from the largest western Canadian municipalities.
- An interim approach was developed for aquatics due to closure of Vancouver Aquatic Centre.



Affiliation Criteria

- 70%+ participants are residents (and up to 80% by 2029).
- Committed to SafeSport*.
- Registered non-profit.
- In good standing with Provincial Sport Organization and Park Board.
- Compliance with Park Board/CoV policies.
- Accommodates participants facing financial barriers.

*Notes on SafeSport

- Affiliation is our main tool for building SafeSport in local sport.
- Staff engaged viaSport, and our policies reinforce each other's. Requiring PSO good standing acts as a second check.
- Audits for accountability are proposed as resources allow.

Principles

- Prioritize public good
- Equitable, inclusive, and safe
- Emphasize clarity
- Establish consistency across service lines
- Balance activity needs, events, and community
- Ensure practical, adaptable, and effective delivery
- Gather data and accommodate feedback.

Prioritization Order

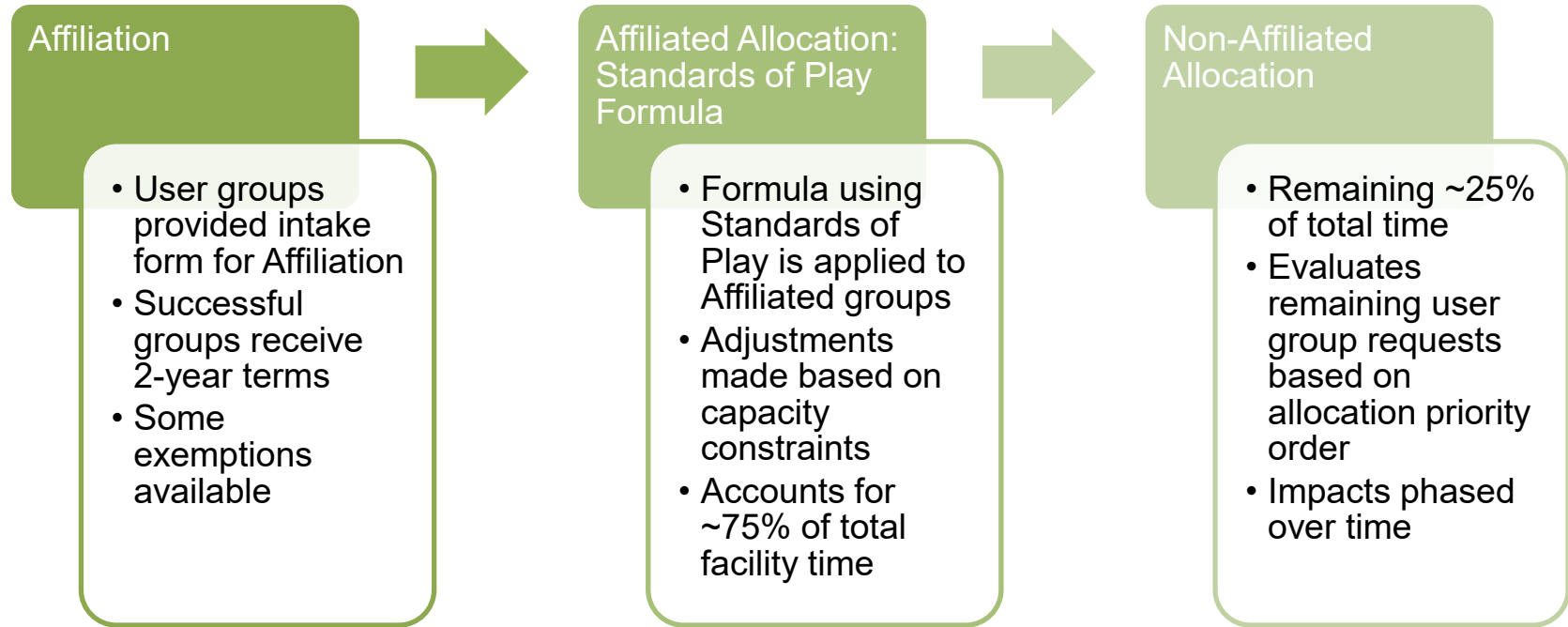
1. Park Board direct programs and services
2. Park Board supported programs and services
3. Affiliated minor
4. Affiliated adult
5. Non-profit minor
6. Non-profit adult
7. Commercial recreation
8. Commercial

Standards of Play & Allocation Formula

- **Standards of Play** were developed based on PSOs, other jurisdictions, and user group information and engagement to provide a clear and defensible baseline for allocation.
 - They include training requirements per age group, length of season, team size, practice frequency and duration, and match frequency and duration.
- **Allocation Formula:** replaces historic allocations using Standards of Play and registration information to determine entitlements.

Ice Hockey - Recreational / House League																	
Development Stage			Registration			Practices				Games				Entitlement (Calculated)			
LTD Stage	Age	Division	# of resident participants	Players per (min)	# of teams (calculated)	# of practices / team / week	Practice duration (hrs)	# teams per ice sheet	Practice hours / week / team	# games / team / week	Game duration (hrs)	# teams per ice surface	# hours for games / team / week	Total entitled hours / team / week	Total entitled hours / LTD stage /	# weeks in season	Total entitled hours / season
Fundamentals 1	M: 5-6 F: 5-6	U7		18	--	1	1	2	0.5	1	1	2	0.5	1	--	30	--
Fundamentals 2	M: 7-8 F: 7-8	U9		18	--	1	1	2	0.5	1	1	2	0.5	1	--	32	--
Learn to Play	M: 9-10 F: 8-9	U11		20	--	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0.5	1.5	--	32	--
Train to Train	M: 11-12 F: 10-11	U13		20	--	1	1	1	1	1	1.5	2	0.75	2.75	--	32	--
Train to Train	M: 12-16 F: 11-15	U15		20	--	1	1	1	1	1	1.5	2	0.75	3.75	--	32	--
Train to Compete	M: 16-17 F: 16-18	U18		20	--	2	1	1	2	1	1.5	2	0.75	2.75	--	33	--
					Total # teams (calculated):									Total hours / org / week:	--	Total hours / org / season:	--
					Total # teams (reported):	Provided by org											

Example table of formula using Standards of Play



- 75/25 split for Affiliated and non-Affiliated groups follows projections of current state.

- Initial engagement:
 - 2025 survey and launch workshop in December 2025.
 - Early 2026 meetings confirm principles, criteria, and prioritization.
- Recent engagement on formula approach and standards:
 - In-person workshops with user groups;
 - Demonstrated support for approach, draft Standards of Play, and mitigation measures.
- Interim aquatics approach followed its own engagement process:
 - User groups notified of main policy updates while interim allocation for Fall 2027 was finalized.

- Policies prioritize access and determine distribution of limited recreation spaces among user groups through a fair, consistent, and equitable process.
- Approved policy would be piloted for 2027, with improvements over successive years to limit disruption and include user input.
- Software and process changes would be rolled out per service line:
 - Spring/summer 2027 for Arenas and OSF.
 - Fall/winter 2027 for Aquatics following further engagement.



- A. THAT the Park Board approve the Affiliation Policy, as outlined in this report and attached as appendix A, to prioritize access to aquatics, arena, and outdoor sport facilities for user groups based on public benefit, safety, equity, and inclusion.
- B. THAT the Park Board approve the Allocation Policy, replacing the Ice Allocation Policy (2003) and historical allocation approaches in aquatics and outdoor sport facilities, as outlined in this report and as attached as appendix B, to decide how permits to recreation facilities are strategically, consistently, and equitably distributed along user groups.

