

**Date:** 2022-02-16

**Subject:** **Community Sport Group Policy**

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**Report Number:** Community Services-2021-621

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report from Anand Patel, Acting Director, Recreation, dated February 16, 2022, to the Council Meeting of February 16, 2022, re: **Community Sport Group Policy**, be received as a draft for consideration, which upon future approval, will replace the classification of Sport Groups laid out in the 2010 Community Group Affiliation Policy; and
2. That staff be directed to initiate the revision of the Sports Facility Allocation Policies; and
3. That staff return to Council to present the Community Sport Group Policy and Sport Facility Allocation Policies for final approval and implementation no earlier than the onset of the respective sport seasons in 2023 or an agreed upon suitable time.

**Overview:**

- **The City of Brampton created the Community Group Affiliation Policy in 1996, and has since made one update in 2010 (see Appendix B). The Policy is outdated, not inclusive or reflective of the current population and diverse needs of Brampton residents, and presents challenges to sport groups.**
- **Recreation staff engaged consultants in fall 2019 to revise and develop the proposed Community Sport Group Policy (see Appendix A) to better support public needs, improve fairness and transparency, ensure well-utilization of public spaces, align with the City's strategic priorities and reflect Brampton's diversity.**

- **Key proposed changes include expanding categories of sport groups, lowering residency requirements and permitting more than one affiliate per sport based on stakeholder input. A comparison of all changes is listed in Appendix C.**
- **The Community Sport Group Policy defines the levels of support provided by the City to each type of qualifying Community Sport Group, speaks to working better as one sport community, aligns with the principles of the Canadian Sport for Life model, and addresses the diversity, equity and inclusion of all sport participants.**

### **Background:**

Since its inception in 1996, the Affiliation Policy was only updated once in 2010 and is due for a review. Since the last update, the City of Brampton's population grew from 526,582 in 2010 to 721,237 in 2021, consisting of over 234 ethnic backgrounds speaking 115 different languages.

Beyond the demographic changes, sport groups raised key issues about the Affiliation Policy:

1. Barriers to Affiliation
  - a. The Affiliation Policy does not allow for affiliating groups offering the same sports, unless the existing affiliate agrees to or cannot meet demand.
  - b. For-profit organizations cannot affiliate at any level with the City.
2. Residency Challenges
  - a. Youth affiliates must have 100% of house league members be Brampton residents, with overall residency of 99% for team sports and 98% for individual sports.

In fall of 2019, the Recreation Division engaged Monteith Brown Planning Consultants Ltd. and Tucker-Reid & Associates (the "Consultants") to develop the Community Group Sports Policy (the "Policy"). The Consultants led a series of engagements with sport groups, including Youth Affiliates forming the Brampton Sports Alliance, Mayor and City Council, and Community Services staff, as well as benchmarked against other municipalities. The Consultants developed the Policy based on all the inputs and outcomes from the benchmark study, and reviewed the proposed Policy with sport groups and members of Council in virtual sessions in May 2021.

On July 29, 2021, staff had a follow-up meeting with members of the Brampton Sport Alliance clarifying and resolving a number of their concerns around the proposed updated policy. The groups acknowledged and appreciated the City's willingness to meet to discuss their concerns and implement some of their suggested changes. Staff committed to continuing to work with the sport groups to deliver quality, accessible and affordable access to sport opportunities within the City of Brampton.

## **Current Situation:**

### Five Categories of Community Sport Groups

The draft Policy expanded the previous two categories (Affiliated Youth and Affiliated Adult) to five categories according to priority, which are:

1. **Youth A – Not-For-Profit:** Affiliated with a Sport Governing Body, provides a house league (minimum 90% Brampton residents) and a continuum from house league to competitive play (minimum 80% Brampton residents)
2. **Youth B – Not-For-Profit:** Provides a house league or competitive program (minimum 80% Brampton residents)
3. **Youth B – For-Profit:** Provides a house league program (minimum 80% Brampton residents)
4. **Adult – Not-For-Profit:** Minimum 80% Brampton residents
5. **Adult – For-Profit:** Minimum 80% Brampton residents

Groups will be required to make every reasonable effort to ensure residents are not displaced. In addition, to qualify for affiliation, all groups must have a minimum of 150 participants for Team Sports or 25 participants for Individual Sports, meet with staff as required, and be compliant with the Policy. New applicants must also demonstrate that resident members have an interest in joining a new organization and are not deriving from an existing Community Sport Groups. Staff will also conduct a feasibility analysis including a capacity and infrastructure assessment to ensure new groups can be sufficiently accommodated.

These updated categories will continue prioritizing Brampton residents and emphasize the priority of Youth and Not-For-Profit groups within the City, all while strategically facilitating more Community Sport Groups as our infrastructure and population grow.

### Additional Updates to the Policy

Through consultation with stakeholders and consultant guidance, additional updates to the Policy are as follows (see Appendix C):

- Policy applies to Brampton-based sport groups
- City is no longer limited to one Affiliated youth group per sport
- Non-Resident surcharge of 50% of registration up to \$100 previously only applied to Affiliated Youths, now will apply to all groups unless otherwise noted in the annual User Fee By-Law, to apply the surcharge to groups that receive significant rate discounts
- Minimums were not required in the previous policy but have been added to ensure all groups have a significant user base

- Sport groups that support regional interests of a group representing persons with disabilities or a marginalized population are not required to meet the 80% residency or participant minimums to qualify for Youth A designation
- For-Profit groups were previously excluded but are now included
- Maximum age for Youth participation has been increased from 19 to 21 to support athletes in continuing in sports through post-secondary studies
- All Community Sport Groups are required to submit an application package every three years; previously only new groups were required to apply
- Deviations can be approved for up to three years for residency and participant minimums; previous approvals were only granted annually for residency deviations
- Termination of Community Sport Group status has been expanded to include not being in Good Financial and Legal standing with the City

The updates outlined above support more groups being able to be responsibly added to the City's Community Sport Group register, and provide tiered benefits for groups with Youth and Not-For-Profit groups prioritized. The approval of the draft Community Sport Group policy will allow staff to begin the revision of the Sports Facility Allocation Policies.

### **Corporate Implications:**

#### Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications at this stage, but will be assessed for the subsequent revision of the Sports Facility Allocation Policies.

### **Term of Council Priorities:**

The recommendations contained in this report directly support Brampton in achieving its priorities as a City of Opportunities, a Healthy and Safe City, and a Well-Run City.

### **Conclusion:**

The Community Sport Group Policy refreshes the current policy to promote fairness, diversity, and inclusion, and remove barriers for new and existing groups, while emphasizing responsible growth. This updated policy outlines the principles for the subsequent revision of the Sports Facility Allocation Policies, furthering the City's goal to ensure public spaces are utilized for the highest public good and ensure Brampton's growing diverse population continues to be well served and represented.

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**Attachments:**

Appendix A – Community Sport Group Policy (2022)

Appendix B – Affiliation Policy (2010)

Appendix C – Summary Chart of Community Sport Group Policy Changes