

**District of West Vancouver
Sport and Active Recreation Policy DRAFT 1 v2
FOR DISCUSSION & REVIEW**

West Vancouver is an active, healthy community, with a natural environment that makes active outdoor pursuits readily available to the community. The District of West Vancouver's mission states, "We champion the opportunities that demonstrate our deep commitment to enrich community vitality, health and understanding through integrating physical activity into our daily lives".

Provision of activities to support physical and mental wellness to the community is one of the most frequently-accessed services provided by the District of West Vancouver. Activities such as swimming lessons, learning how to play a team sport, how to exercise without causing injury, Tai Chi at the Seniors' Activity Centre or walking on the Seawalk touch most residents at some point, and are an important part of community life for many. They are essential to community health and enhance quality of life.

Background

Sport and active recreation opportunities in West Vancouver are delivered primarily by the District of West Vancouver, often in cooperation with local sport and recreation providers. These opportunities may be delivered directly by the District (for example, swimming lessons for children or access to fitness facilities), or through cooperative arrangements with local community sport and active recreation providers, accessing facilities or lands owned by the District (for example, the West Vancouver Minor Hockey Association at the West Vancouver Ice Arena offers youth hockey opportunities; the West Vancouver Soccer Club at sport fields in West Vancouver offers youth soccer opportunities).

Many of West Vancouver's sport and active recreation opportunities also benefit from oversight by a citizen-based board of directors at the West Vancouver Community Centre, as well as advisory committees at both the Seniors' Activity Centre and the Gleneagles Community Centre.

Glossary

District: refers to the District of West Vancouver;

Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers: refers to an organization not owned by the District that delivers or assists in delivering sport or active recreation opportunities in conjunction with the District;

Board: refers to the West Vancouver Community Centres Society Board of Directors;

Advisory Committees: refers to the Seniors' Activity Centre Advisory Committee and/ or the Gleneagles Community Centre Advisory Committee.

Principles

During 2016, through workshops with stakeholders, a survey and consultation with the community, the citizens of West Vancouver articulated principles on which provision of

sport and active recreation opportunities is based. The principles the community prioritized are:

- Provide or support a diverse range of high-quality activities that benefit residents' physical and mental wellness, lifelong learning, physical literacy and life skills;
- Encourage participation in sport and physical activity which facilitates connectedness with others, inclusivity and a sense of belonging;
- Engage volunteers at all levels;
- Continue to support creation of excellent facilities indoors and outdoors, which helps facilitate participation in sport and physical activity for all ages, safety, inclusion and pride in our community;
- Engage with youth positively and proactively;
- Recognize that participating in a spectrum of activities, particularly for children, is a healthy part of development and long-term wellness;
- Encourage continued positive collaboration between Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers and the District;

The principles of fairness, access, harmonious relationships and collaborative decision-making are central to this policy.

Policy

The community of West Vancouver highly values diverse opportunities for sport and active recreation. This Sport and Active Recreation Policy formalizes District provision of and support for programs, services and opportunities for sport and active recreation, and helps guide decisions for the provision and support of these services through the following policy statements:

- 1) The District provides opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity through provision of active recreation programs, lessons, access to facilities and fields, and space for collaborative programs with Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers.
- 2) The District provides, supports and facilitates opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity through:
 - A continuum of sport and active recreation opportunities from introductory through to more advanced sport and active recreation opportunities;
 - Partnership opportunities with Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers.
- 3) The District ensures responsiveness to community needs by working in conjunction with the Advisory Committees, Board and with Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers to provide feedback on relevance of programs and services provided by the District and community partners.
- 4) The District continues to seek and collaborate with Local Community Sport and Active Recreation providers to augment opportunities for residents.

- 5) Decisions about space or support of new or emerging activities will be made in a collaborative manner, respecting the principles noted in Section XX of this policy. A balance between existing and new activities will be actively sought.

Supporting Documents

In addition to community feedback, the Sport and Active Recreation Policy draws on other District policy documents, which provide a backdrop for the provision of sport and active recreation opportunities. The other District policy documents include:

- Sport Field Master Plan
- Parks Master Plan
- Healthy Communities Partnership Agreement
- Blueprint for Social Responsibility and Change
- Access and Inclusion Policy

These documents are available on westvancouver.ca.

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