

# PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

## POLICY

**SUBJECT: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FACILITIES**

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to prevent harassment and abuse in parks, recreation and culture facilities and programs through the development and implementation of prevention strategies.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Department works to provide residents with safe parks, recreation and culture facilities and programs. The City will work to create supportive, positive environments for Surrey residents participating in activities associated with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

The City will share information and resources with community groups to support their ability to create safe and positive environments for participants, staff, volunteers, officials, coaches and spectators.

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Department will develop, implement and evaluate strategies that help to create safe and positive environments.

Included in this commitment is an understanding that organizations that use City facilities must take PRIMARY responsibility for the behaviour of all associated with them, including but not limited to participants, staff, volunteers, officials, coaches and spectators.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Department believes in providing an environment in which all individuals are treated with respect and where all activity is safe, promoting equal opportunities and prohibiting discriminatory practices.

**APPROVED BY:**



Laurie Cavan, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

**DATE APPROVED:**

October 1, 2003

**HOUSEKEEPING DATE:**

June, 2006, June 2010

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This Code of Conduct identifies the standard of behaviour that is expected of all members, including participants, coaches, parents, leaders, directors, volunteers, staff and spectators. \*These key people are referred to as 'All' in the Code of Conduct.

1. Respect the dignity and spirit of all participants.
2. Treat all participants fairly and equitably.
3. Engage in Fair Play by respecting the rules of the activity and/or the facility.
4. Do not take part in or tolerate behaviour that frightens, embarrasses, demoralizes or negatively affects the self-esteem of anyone.
5. Promote language and behaviour that encourages participation.
6. Abusive, disrespectful or violent language or actions by anyone will not be tolerated.
7. Respect public property and the property of others.

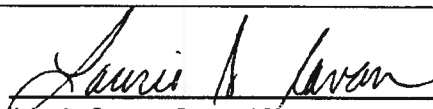
### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Participation in Parks, Recreation and Culture programs is an important element in the human development process.
2. A safe and positive environment provides maximum enjoyment and benefits from participation in Parks, Recreation and Culture activities.
3. Adherence to Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture's Code of Conduct will work to create a safe and positive environment.
4. Abusive, disrespectful, or violent behaviours, such as verbal threats and insults, attempts to intimidate, as well as physical assault will not be tolerated.
5. Positive and safe environments for all participants, staff, volunteers, officials, coaches, and spectators will be promoted through education and training.

### GOALS OF THE POLICY

1. To provide safe parks, recreation and cultural programs and services.
2. To decrease unsafe behaviours amongst participants, volunteers, staff, coaches, officials and spectators.

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3. To increase the level of understanding amongst everyone of the importance of creating positive and supportive environments for Parks, Recreation and Culture activities.
4. To provide and promote Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture's Code of Conduct guidelines to community organizations, staff, participants, spectators, volunteers and officials
5. To promote life-long participation in activities associated with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

### **What is Unsafe and Inappropriate Conduct?**

Unsafe and inappropriate conduct can include but is not limited to the following:

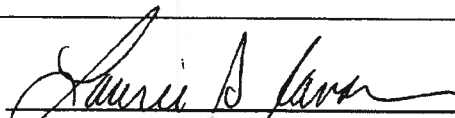
- Verbal assaults/ put downs/ name calling
- Threats and attempts to intimidate
- Throw articles in a deliberate or aggressive manner
- Aggressively approaches another individual
- Physical striking of another individual
- Attempts to provoke or incite violence in others
- Engagement in a course of offensive comment or conduct
- Display of abusive or offensive materials, words, images

These behaviours can be intentional or unintentional and can be between, but are not limited to, coach to participant, staff to participant, participant to participant, participant to volunteer, spectator to participant.

### **Enforcement Component**

The individual(s) and/or organizations who do not adhere to the Code of Conduct will be requested to leave the facility immediately. Depending on the severity of the incident, a further ban from all City facilities may be imposed by the General Manager of Parks, Recreation and Culture or designate under the City of Surrey's Facilities Suspension Policy, Child Protection Policy and/or Violence and

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Unsportsmanlike Conduct Policy or any and all other related policies of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. Recognizing that many groups have their own constitutions or rules dealing with inappropriate conduct, these groups are given the opportunity to deal with the situation internally. Staff may be required if the particular situation demands the interpretation and use of Parks, Recreation and Culture policies. The Surrey Parks, Recreation and Culture Department Code of Conduct in Facilities Policy will automatically apply for those groups that don't have a code of conduct policy of their own.

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