

## MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Policy: #41  
Effective Date: August 7, 2007

### **Lambton Shores Recreation Facilities Anti-Violence Policy**

Lambton Shores' recreation facilities – arenas, recreation centres, outdoor parks and playing fields – exist to provide residents with opportunities to participate in sport and recreational activities in a safe and positive environment. By implementing this policy, Lambton Shores shows its commitment to providing facilities which try to achieve an atmosphere where patrons can enjoy sport and physical activity and which values participation, teamwork, safety and fair play.

#### **Policy Objectives:**

- To reduce or eliminate violence and antisocial behaviour from recreation facilities (both indoor and outdoor).
- To ensure a positive, safe and encouraging environment for spectators, volunteers, staff and participants – a culture which supports safety, fair play and positive sport experiences for all those involved.
- To give facility staff and volunteers the authorization to deal with unruly and violent behaviour with appropriate sanctions.

#### **Guiding Principles:**

- Violent, abusive or antisocial behaviour, such as verbal threats and insults, attempts to intimidate as well as physical assault and battery have no place in Lambton Shores facilities.
- The sports and recreation programs in Lambton Shores are driven by hard-working committed volunteers and staff members who dedicate time and energy to allow participant safety in sport. These community-minded citizens contribute in many ways to the success of local sport and recreation activities and should have the ability to work in a safe and positive environment.
- Sport and physical activity teach participants important social skills such as teamwork, goal-setting and fair play and promote healthy lifestyles. Violence, harassment and antisocial behaviour can turn a positive experience into a negative one.
- Sport rules and regulations exist to protect the players. Referees and officials are charged with ensuring the fair and even application of the rules to ensure safety of the players and integrity of the game.
- Promotion of this policy and positive spectator behaviour will assist in the reduction of violent behaviours and contribute to a safe and fun sport experience.

## **Roles and Responsibilities:**

The rules of the game and officials of sports retain responsibility for managing excessive violence on the field of play. Associations and groups are responsible for managing the behaviour of coaches, volunteers, spectators and players. Lambton Shores' staff will be available and ready to support the officials, coaches and other volunteers and implement the ejection and banning component of the policy.

The responsibility of Lambton Shores to maintain safe facilities comes out of the *Occupiers Liability Act*, which generally requires all owners and occupiers of land and buildings to take care to ensure that persons will be reasonably safe when using their premises. In cases of assault and battery, the Criminal Code of Canada will apply.

## **Definition of Violence:**

Violence is seen as the following behaviour:

- Loud verbal assaults
- Threats and attempts to intimidate
- Throwing of articles in a deliberate or aggressive manner
- Aggressive approaches to another individual
- Physical striking of another individual
- Attempts to goad or incite violence in others

## **Consequences:**

Individuals who engage in any of the above behaviours will be subject to immediate ejection from the facility by a person(s) designed by the recreation facility and a further ban from all Lambton Shores' recreation facilities for a period of time to be determined by the person in charge of the recreation facilities (or a person authorized by Lambton Shores).

Incidents of a verbal nature may be tolerated initially with a warning from facility staff, but will be noted and reported to the organization using the facility.

Serious and physical assault incidents will be reported to the local police authorities.

Subsequent violent behaviours by individuals using facilities may prohibit their organization from future facility access.

If an individual asked to leave the facility refuses to do so, facility staff or an adult associated with the teams using the facility (e.g. referee, coach, commissioner) will stop the game until the individual leaves. If this doesn't work, the local police may be called in.

Administered by the Director of Community Services