
Subject: Persons with a Disability

Effective: August 16, 2007

Revisions: November 17, 2009

1.0 Purpose

The Sport and Recreation Policy for New Brunswick states the fundamental principle that “All citizens should have equitable, barrier free access to a broad range of quality sport and recreation activities.” It also recognizes that a role of the provincial government is “barrier breaking - aggressively identifying and helping to remove obstacles that hinder equitable participation.”

Studies have shown that persons with a disability are under represented in the sport and recreation system. People with a disability are under represented in positions of leadership, coaching, officiating and as participants.

It is clear that participation in sport, recreation and physical activity results in clear health and quality of life benefits. Conversely, non-participation in sport, recreation and physical activity is associated with a myriad of health problems.

This Policy provides clear direction for the Branch in its future decision making.

2.0 Application

This Policy applies to the Sport and Recreation Branch.

3.0 Definitions

Sport: is a physical activity involving large muscle groups requiring mental preparation and strategic methods whose outcome is determined by skill, not chance. It occurs in an amateur, organized, structured and competitive environment in which a winner is declared. Its primary activity involves interaction of the participant and the environment (air, water, ground, floor or apparatus). Therefore, competitions in which the performances of motorized vehicles determine the outcome are ineligible.

Recreation: is an activity that a person or group chooses to do to make their leisure time more interesting, enjoyable and personally satisfying. The Branch’s primary focus is on physical recreation.

Physical Activity: is all leisure and non-leisure body movement produced by the skeletal muscles and resulting in an increase in energy expenditure.

4.0 Authority

The Youth Assistance Act

5.0 Goals / Principles

To increase the participation of persons with a disability in sport and recreation in New Brunswick by:

- a. To increase the number, variety and quality of opportunities available to persons with a disability,
- b. To improve awareness of the opportunities to person's with a disability, and
- c. To reduce barriers to participation for person's with a disability.

6.0 Requirements / Standards

The Sport and Recreation Branch is committed to promoting the inclusion of person's with a disability as participants, leaders and volunteers through the provision of financial and consultative support towards equitable, barrier free access to a broad range of quality sport, recreation and physical activity opportunities from community to high performance.

7.0 Guidelines / Recommendations

The above Policy Statement will be used to guide Branch planning, program development, support and decision making.

8.0 Contact for More Information: Barry Wishart (506) 453-2532

Sign-Off: Roger Duval, Director, November 17, 2009