



Agenda Date:	October 16 th , 2017 – Committee of the Whole
Subject:	Draft North Grenville Municipal Centre Helmet Policy
Attachments:	Appendix 1: Draft Helmet Policy

RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation is provided for Committee of the Whole consideration:

That Committee of the Whole acknowledge receipt the Draft North Grenville Municipal Centre Helmet Policy and direct staff to undertake stakeholder consultations prior to seeking Council approval.

BACKGROUND

Ice rinks are inherently unsafe facilities if safeguards are not implemented. Sport specific precautions should be taken to minimize the risk of serious injury. For activities where there is a greater potential for injury (such as hockey), the Municipality requires that participants wear sport specific equipment including a CSA approved hockey helmet. Although all participants are strongly encouraged to do so, wearing a CSA approved helmet has not been mandatory during Municipal public skating programs and private skating bookings.

ANALYSIS

At this time, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture is proposing the introduction of a policy which would see helmets made mandatory at the North Grenville Municipal Centre, with reasonable exceptions. (**Appendix 1**) Research demonstrates that head injuries can have a significant impact on individuals - cognitively, physically, emotionally and socially. Although parents are diligent in the protection of younger children with helmets, we see many older children and adults ignoring the risks and choosing not to wear helmets to protect themselves from injury. Fall incidents often go unreported as people downplay the injury due to embarrassment or shake off the “bump” and move on. They may not even feel serious symptoms of concussion until sometime later.

Should the Committee of the Whole support this initiative in principle, the Department is seeking direction to undertake stakeholder consultations for the purpose of understanding the impact and barriers such a policy will have on ice users.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Committee of the Whole may direct staff to maintain status quo, and therefore no stakeholder consultation would be required. This is not recommended as the Department believes strongly in the need for helmets to protect clients as well as reduce Municipal liability.

2. Committee of the Whole may recommend Council adoption of a policy without undertaking consultation. This is not recommended as changes which affect large numbers of stakeholders are strengthened through engagement, allowing all sides to learn from different vantage points.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

This item has been identified in the 2017 budget: Yes No N/A **X**

This item is within the budgeted amount: Yes No N/A **X**

Staffing implications, as they relate to implementing Council’s decision on this matter, are limited to the existing staff complement and applicable administrative policies as approved by Council.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

5.4 Recreation & Community Amenities: The Municipality will work with community partners to satisfy the recreational needs of all age groups.

Prepared by:

Reviewed and submitted by:

Tammy Hurlbert
Recreation Coordinator

Original signed _____
Mark Guy
Director of Parks, Recreation
& Culture

**Recommendation submitted for
Committee of the Whole
consideration by:**

Original signed _____
Brian J. Carré
CAO

 POLICY			Policy #
		Approval Date:	Revision Date:
Title:	North Grenville Municipal Centre Helmet Policy		
Applies To:	Ice Sport Participants at the North Grenville Municipal Centre		

POLICY STATEMENT:

The mandatory wearing of a Canadian Standard Association (CSA) approved helmet for ice sports by all participants at the North Grenville Municipal Centre is necessary to ensure their protection and safety. Therefore, the Municipality of North Grenville, through this policy, aims to ensure the safety of the participants who engage in ice related activities at the North Grenville Municipal Centre by requiring such equipment to be worn.

SCOPE:

This policy shall apply to participants of ice sports at the North Grenville Municipal Centre.

DEFINITIONS:

- a) "Participant(s)" means an individual or group who is engaging in ice related activities at the North Grenville Municipal Centre.
- b) "Helmet" means a Canadian Standard Association (CSA) approved protective helmet designed specifically for ice activities and generally includes hockey helmets, ski helmets, snowboarding helmets and ice halos.
- c) "Arena" means the ice skating rinks located in the North Grenville Municipal Centre.
- d) "Arena employees" means the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture, the Facilities Superintendent, the Facility Lead Hand, Arena Operators, Facility Attendants, the Recreation Coordinator, Recreation Programmers and Recreation Program Coordinators.

PROCEDURE:

1. All participants of ice related activities at the arena shall be required to wear a CSA approved helmet.
2. Notwithstanding the above, the following participants and persons are exempt from wearing a helmet:
 - a) Figure skaters who are registered with Skate Canada, have successfully completed Stage 5 of the CanSkate program and are participating in events, competitions, and/or training activities hosted by their respective Skate Canada sanctioned organization.
 - b) Coaches and trainers of Kemptville 73's Junior "A" hockey team.
 - c) Persons administering emergency first aid.
3. An individual exemption to this policy may be requested on the basis that

- a) the wearing of a helmet would interfere with the observance of a religious custom;
- b) the wearing of a helmet would interfere with an individual's accessibility or assistive devices; or
- c) a user group assumes liability coverage and provides evidence of same.

Application for such an exemption must be made to the Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture in writing.

Granting of such an exemption will require the applicant to provide a signed North Grenville Municipal Centre Helmet Policy Waiver prior to participation in any ice activity.

4. This policy shall be enforced by arena employees.
5. Arena employees shall ensure signs are posted in conspicuous places throughout the arena which advise participants about this policy.

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