

CITY OF POWELL RIVER

DEPARTMENT POLICY 001

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

The City of Powell River (hereby referenced as “the City”) wishes to create and maintain a safe environment where all persons can enjoy City-owned parks, recreation and culture facilities, programs, and services without interference from others. This policy provides a procedural outline to address prohibited behaviour in City-owned parks, recreation, and culture facilities.

PURPOSE:

The City’s Parks, Recreation and Culture department enhances community wellbeing through the provision of services and equitable access to parks, recreation, and culture opportunities.

The Patron Code of Conduct is a statement of expectations required of all persons accessing City-owned or operated Recreation Facilities. Patrons are to take responsibility for maintaining a safe and respectful environment for all persons, including the public and City employees.

This policy also applies to the relationships between the City and members of community User Groups.

This policy defines prohibited behaviours in Recreation Facilities and outlines the measures of enforcement to be used to address it.

PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT:

The Patron Code of Conduct applies to all persons engaging in activities within City-owned or Recreation Facilities including, but not limited to:

- Recreation Complex
- Community and Neighbourhood Parks
- Trails

- Sports Fields
- Willingdon Beach Campsite
- Beaches
- Dwight Hall

The Patron Code of Conduct statement is as follows:

- I am responsible for and in control of my actions at all times or I will leave the Facility.
- I will treat all others and this Facility with respect.
- I will interact in this Facility in a safe and courteous manner that respects the rights of others.

PROHIBITED BEHAVIOUR:

The following behaviour is prohibited, including but not limited to:

- Vandalism
- Substance Abuse &/or Intoxication
- Alcohol Use without Proper Permitting
- Harassment
- Discrimination
- Physical Assault
- Abuse
- Neglect
- Disturbing the Peace or Unruly Conduct
- Contravention of other Federal, or Provincial laws, City By-laws or policies that constitute inappropriate behaviour

REPORTING PROCEDURES:

Municipal Privacy Act

Any collection, use or disclosure of personal information by the City of Powell River shall be in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP).

Reporting Methods

Prohibited behaviour under the Patron Code of Conduct Policy witnessed by Community Youth/Minor Sport Groups, User Groups or patrons, and in accordance with the Occupiers' Liability Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Trespass to Property Act, the Criminal Code as well as City by-laws and policies, the incident shall be reported to the City immediately.

Reports can be made in person or by phone at the Recreation Complex or City Hall, or online on the City's website.

Reports are logged by City employees and will be dealt with by the City directly, or in some instances, directed to the appropriate user group or organization for follow up.

Criminal Acts

All acts of a criminal nature must be reported to the RCMP immediately. Under no circumstances should City employees or public attendees at City Recreation Facilities place themselves at risk in the event they observe or are advised of a criminal event. If at any time attendees or employees feel threatened or fear for the safety of others, they are not to intervene and are to contact the RCMP at "911" immediately.

ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES:

The City, in association with Community Youth/Minor Sport Groups, User Groups and other stakeholders, will conduct educational campaigns with the goals of raising awareness of the Patron Code of Conduct Policy, outlining the core principles of the Patron Code of Conduct Policy.

The following are tools used by the City to enforce the guidelines set forth in the Patron Code of Conduct Policy. These tools are not subject to enactment in order of appearance.

Education

Where possible, City employees and stakeholders of this policy should work to educate Facility users about this policy and outline any behaviours in question.

Dismissal From Property

City employees may ask the individual(s) to leave the facility or property.

Written Notice of Warning

The City may issue a written notice of warning to attendees or User Groups who exhibit behaviours contradictory to this policy, or other City policies, Federal or Provincial laws or City By-laws.

Compensation

The City may seek compensation for the cost of damages, including materials and labour, as well as an administrative charge for damage to the facility or property. The attendee or user group that they represent may be billed directly.

Ban

Attendees or User Groups who fail to abide by this policy or other City policies may be issued a ban notice at the discretion of the City. This notice may or may not be preceded by a written notice of warning and may come at any time when deemed appropriate by the City. The length of the ban will be determined by the City.

Assistance From the RCMP

Where applicable, assistance from the RCMP may be required to address a situation or remove individual(s) from the facility or property.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS:

Organizations and User Groups making use of City-owned and operated Recreation Facilities are responsible for:

- Educating their attendees and members about the City of Powell River Patron Code of Conduct Policy
- Educating their attendees and members about behaviour expectations
- Complying with requirements of City contracts and permits regarding Patron Code of Conduct
- Addressing Patron Code of Conduct violations with their attendees and members

TRAINING:

Parks, Recreation and Culture department employees will receive training respective to their roles and responsibilities set forth in this policy.

User Group executives will receive a copy of this policy and are expected to share the message and principles with their membership.

POLICY REVIEW:

This policy will be reviewed and updated as required. This policy must be reviewed by the stated review date and approved by the department responsible.

DEFINITIONS:

The following terms are defined as they pertain to the City’s Patron Code of Conduct Policy:

Abuse means to hurt or injure by maltreatment.

Alcohol Use means the consumption or possession of alcohol except as authorized by law or from a written exemption from the City.

Discrimination means making unjustified distinctions between people based on the groups, classes, or other categories to which they belong or are perceived to belong.

Harassment means any vexatious comment or conduct that is unwelcome, such as inappropriate language or gestures, aggressive speech or body language, and bullying.

Substance Abuse means the observed use of drug paraphernalia or substances, and/or visible impairment or intoxication due to substance or alcohol use.

Neglect means to fail to care for properly.

Physical Assault means inflicting physical harm or unwanted physical contact upon a person.

Facility (or “Recreation Facility”) means City-owned recreation spaces that include indoor or outdoor parks, buildings, sites, or other facilities which are dedicated to serving the recreation needs of community.

User/User Group means any individual, organization, committee, event, membership, or other designation that has been approved to use and engages in an agreement with the City for the use of City-owned Recreation Facilities.

Vandalism means the malicious, willful, and deliberate destruction, damage, or defacing of property.

Date Approved:	March 30, 2023
Date Revised:	
Department Head Approval:	<i>Tara O'Donoghue</i>