



**Meeting Date:** April 3, 2024

**Prepared By:** Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services

**Report No:** CMS-01-2024

**Subject:** Ice Allocation Policy & Procedure

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Report CMS-01-2024, re Ice Allocation Policy & Procedure be received;

AND THAT Policy No. CMS-01-2024 appended to this report be approved.

**Purpose:**

To seek Council's approval of the Ice Allocation Policy & Procedure.

**Background:**

The existing Ice Allocation Policy was adopted in 2011, prior to the opening of the Komoka Wellness Centre. Over the years, staff have looked to revise the policy. However, to do so may result in a significant shift to how ice is allocated across all the major user groups.

With the needs of our user groups changing and registrations increasing in youth ice sports, the demand for a fair allocation of ice is more important than ever. Although sports like minor hockey are in the decline overall in Ontario, southwestern Ontario continues to have a high demand for ice needs.

Middlesex Centre has three ice pads. The Komoka Wellness Centre has two ice pads that are typically open year-round and the Ilderton Arena ice pad operates from mid-August to the beginning of April. Hours of operation are seven days a week and ice is available from 6:00 a.m. to midnight each day. This equates to 150 prime-time hours each week across the three ice pads. Currently prime time is defined as Monday to Friday from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday's from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Through the Community Services Master Plan consultation, all minor sport ice users indicated their need to increase their access to ice time. As the population of Middlesex Centre grows, so do registration rates. Priority needs to be given to those youth who reside in Middlesex Centre to ensure equitable and adequate access to ice within their own community. As a result, a priority recommendation in the 2023-2027 Community Services Master Plan (CSMP) was identified: “Update the current Ice Allocation Policy to prioritize a ‘youth first’ access to ice time focusing on those who reside in Middlesex Centre.”

### **Analysis:**

On January 10, 2024, Council approved the Project Charter appended to this report. The goal of the project was to engage and collaborate with the major ice users to develop a new policy that assists the municipality in the equitable allocation of ice to various user groups based on their residency and participation rates with a focus on prioritizing a ‘youth first’ access to ice time.

A working task force was assembled made up of representatives from minor sport groups and from some adult user groups.

This working group met three times to review the objectives and seek consensus on a revised and up to date Ice Allocation Policy that sets a clear procedure and process in the allocation of ice time beginning the 2024/2025 Fall/Winter ice season that guides and supports municipality’s efforts in providing equitable and fair access to ice time that meets the needs of Middlesex Centre residents.

Appended to this report is the Ice Allocation Policy which was developed with consensus from the members of the working task force. Some of the updates from this Policy include:

- Clear definitions which provide an understanding of key stakeholders;
- A cascade of ice-allocation based on user priority;
- Process that is equitable and allows for input – acceptance from user-groups with opportunity to meet and review the upcoming schedule.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications related to this policy.

### **Strategic Plan:**

This matter aligns with following strategic priorities:

- Engaged Community
- Sustainable Infrastructure and Services
- Responsive Municipal Government

**Attachments:**

- 1) New Ice Allocation Policy & Procedure
- 2) Ice Allocation Policy Update – Project Charter