

# THE TOWN OF ANTIGONISH

## **INTRODUCTION**

With the onset of the COVID19 pandemic into our communities, our world has been fundamentally changed. Social Distancing and the idea of “flattening the curve” have introduced become the new norm. While looking to the future where restrictions will be lessened, it is important to note that Recreation Professionals will play an important role in guiding the community back to some semblance of normality. We can expect to see major shifts in traditional Recreational Programming as well as offerings at both our indoor and out-door facilities.

## **SCENARIO PLANNING**

The purpose of this exercise is to envision what Outdoor Facility Users will experience once the COVID restrictions are shifted, reduced or removed.

## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS**

All facility user groups were invited to the table to discuss their wants, needs, and barriers associated with each scenario developed. The round-table participants consisted of: Antigonish Minor Baseball; Antigonish Challenger Baseball; and, Antigonish Minor Softball. We have also consulted with the Public Health representative in the area as well as a representative from Sport Nova Scotia. It is important to note that each scenario will be dependent upon final directives from both the Province of Nova Scotia and Public Health officials.

## **FACILITY PREPARATIONS**

All facilities will have signage posted indicating safety procedures for usage. These signs will include: social distancing procedures; rules set by Public Health; protocols for numbers legal to gather; and Safe Operating Procedures. All facilities will have hand-sanitizing dispensers available for users. Prior to community use, all facilities must undergo an assessment of the risk of transmission. The assessment tool to be followed is the ‘Principles for a Phased Re-opening During COVID-19: Governance for Governors’ prepared by the John’s Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health Centre

for Healthy Security ( [https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs\\_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf](https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf) )

## **What Could The Future Look Like?**

### **Scenario A**

#### **Restrictions Remain in place:**

Only specific facilities will open from 8am-4pm Monday to Friday. This includes the Central Turf Field and the Sandlot Turf field as both are fenced and can be locked as needed. The openings will be unsupervised, and equipment will have to be brought to the facility. Antigonish Town Recreation staff will have equipment packages available for curbside drop-off for those who do not have their own.

#### **Implications:**

- This could cause financial hardship to the User groups as they will receive no registration fees;
- Loss of Facility revenue to the Municipality;
- Loss of summer leader positions

#### **Considerations**

- Need to determine who is to provide enforcement;
- Staffing requirements: Maintenance staff to open and close the facilities and provide garbage collection.

### **Scenario B:**

#### **Reduced Programming**

The Central Turf and the Sandlot Ballfield will be the only facilities available during this time. User groups are unable to provide programming of any kind but will provide a staff member to assist with the distribution and receipt of the equipment provided in the playboxes. Equipment from the play boxes will be available 8am – 12 noon Monday through Friday. From noon until 4pm, the facilities will have open times where users must bring their equipment. Antigonish Town staff will have equipment packages available for curbside drop-off for those who do not have their own.

#### **Implications:**

- Staffing is dependent upon receipt of Federal funding;
- Physical distancing practices must be enforced;
- Limited numbers of users on the facility at one time;
- A Communication Strategy must be developed and ready to be quickly rolled out.

### **Considerations:**

- Staffing requirements: Two summer leaders to distribute equipment. The leaders would be responsible for the disinfecting of equipment and storage in the play boxes. Maintenance staff will be responsible for opening and closing facilities and garbage collection;
- Enforcement needs to be determined;
- Approximate time for roll-out: The playboxes will be ready to place on the facilities. The leaders will be in place immediately. Signage will take 24 hours;
- A Communication Strategy must be developed and ready to be quickly rolled out.

### **Scenario C**

#### **Restrictions have been lifted to some extent.**

All sports facilities will be available to the user groups. All Facility user groups will be able to provide some form of programming. Participants will be monitored as they enter and exit the facility and no more than 50 will be allowed on at one time. An opt-out option will be available for any user group who is not yet comfortable returning to full-usage.

#### **Implications:**

- User groups may be able to recoup a small percentage of their registration fees;

#### **Considerations:**

- Facility User groups will provide leaders;
- Remain in contact with PSO's so the roll-outs will mesh;
- Legal liabilities must be determined;
- A Communication Strategy must be developed and ready to be quickly rolled out.