Rzone FAQ’s

**What is Rzone?**

* ***Rzone is, first and foremost, a proactive education and awareness strategy to promote respectful and responsible behaviour at recreation facilities***
* Originating in Oakville, the Rzone brand signifies “Respect and Responsibility” as personal qualities expected of visitors to Rzone designated facilities and locations.
* Rzone means that inappropriate behaviours such as bullying, belligerence, racism, discrimination, vandalism, violence, etc are prohibited and that offenders will be subject to consequences up to and including denying access to recreation facilities.
* A City of London Rzone by-law and policy now applies in all City of London recreation facilities and parks.
* Rzone has been adopted by 6 other Ontario municipalities and 1 U.S. municipality

**What is the objective of Rzone?**

The City of London wishes to promote the safety and security of attendees (including patrons, guests, clients, visitors, spectators, coaches, officials, players, members, parents, volunteers, invitees, participants and users) and staff at City recreation facilities (including recreation centres, seniors and community centres, parks, sports fields, sports parks, pools, golf courses and arenas). The City wishes to foster an environment in which there is **respect for others** and in which **individuals and organizations take responsibility** for their actions.

**Why do we need Rzone in London?**

* Incidents of bullying, violence, intimidation, vandalism, threats, discriminatory behaviour have unfortunately risen over the past number of years in London.
* Prior to Rzone, no City by-law or policy existed that provided staff with clear direction and authority to deal with issues that were not clearly criminal behaviours requiring police involvement.
* Municipalities who have adopted Rzone report a decrease in inappropriate behaviours (following a brief increase immediately after the policy is implemented – likely related to enhanced willingness of citizens to report violations and statement of nehaviours expected being posted.)

**What behaviours are considered inappropriate under Rzone?**

For the purpose of London’s Rzone Policy, prohibited inappropriate behaviours include:

1. Violence or harassment, including:
   * the exercise of physical force by a person against another person that causes or could cause physical injury to the other person;
   * an attempt to exercise physical force against another person that could cause physical injury to the other person;
   * a statement or behaviour that is reasonable for a person to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the person that could cause physical injury to the person;

* the use of profane or abusive language and racial or ethnic slurs;
* threats and/or attempts to intimidate;
* throwing of articles or objects in a deliberate or aggressive manner that endangers or causes injury or damage to any person or property;
* attempts to goad or incite violence;
* bullying, mistreatment, or teasing which intimidates, humiliates or demeans another person;

1. Vandalism, including vandalism to buildings, contents or personal property;
2. Possession of weapons or firearms prohibited under the *Criminal Code*;
3. Possession or consumption of illegal drugs, or of alcohol except as authorized by law;
4. Any contravention of other Federal or Provincial laws, Regulations, City By-laws or policies that constitute inappropriate behaviour;
5. Refusal to follow the rules established by the City for use of its facilities.

**How can I help implement Rzone as a citizen or recreation facility user?**

* report inappropriate behaviours you observe these while at a game, program, or using a recreation facility, to a City of London staff, providing as much information as you can about the incident.
* Tell others about Rzone: e.g. make sure that sport and recreation associations and groups you belong to are aware of Rzone; explain Rzone to your family and friends; pass on information about Rzone to visiting teams or recreation facility users.

**What will happen if I violate Rzone?**

* Upon observing prohibited behaviour or receiving a report of prohibited behaviour, City staff will follow up with you to discuss and/or investigate the incident.
* Where a finding has been made of a violation of the Rzone Policy, possible penalties may include the following: letter of warning, short term ban, long term ban or a written trespass notice. In addition, charges may be laid under the *Trespass to Property Act*. Where applicable, the City may seek compensation for the cost of damages, including materials, labour and an administrative charge.
* Groups who contract to use City of London Recreation Facilities must take steps to ensure their group members (and others invited to the contracted event) comply with Rzone as a condition of the rental contract.

**How does Rzone affect the responsibilities of referees and officials on the field of play?**

* Games are still regulated by the rules of the sport and these rules are administered by the designated officials while the game/match is in play.
* Rzone will not impact players participating in the game context. Rzone will apply to spectators observing games and will also apply to teams at tournaments who are not playing at the time of an incident.