

Rzone

Policy User Guide

What is the Rzone?

The Rzone Policy is a zero-tolerance approach to violence, abuse and other inappropriate behaviours at City recreational facilities and properties. It is a focus on respect for others, and responsibility to oneself, in an effort to create safe and welcoming spaces for everyone.

The policy promotes good behaviour and gives users, visitors, and staff the tools to ensure no individual creates a space that is threatening, negative or unsafe for others.

Who does the Rzone apply to?

The Rzone Policy applies to all attendees and staff to City programs, recreational facilities and recreational properties, including those owned by, but not operated by the City, such as the Meridian Centre. It applies to spectators, players, fans, coaches, officials, parents, volunteers, user groups and staff. Anyone in the building, or on the property, is bound by the Rzone Policy.

What behaviours are prohibited by the Rzone Policy?

Basically the Rzone Policy prohibits any behaviour that stands in contrast to the enjoyment of City facilities as positive, safe, enjoyable and supportive environments. Inappropriate behaviours and violence for the purpose of the policy include, but are not limited to:

- ✘ Verbal assault
- ✘ Inciting violence
- ✘ Threats
- ✘ Intimidation
- ✘ Physical violence or assault
- ✘ Theft
- ✘ Weapons possession
- ✘ Property damage
- ✘ Vandalism
- ✘ Alcohol use in non-licensed facilities
- ✘ Illegal drug use
- ✘ Racism and the use of racial, ethnic or other personal slurs
- ✘ Harassment
- ✘ Contravention of City by-laws or policies



Respect. Responsibility.

They're part of the game

What's my responsibility?

First and foremost the responsibility of all individuals and groups is to operate with respect and not engage in inappropriate behaviour.

Remember if at any time an individual or group feels personally threatened they should call police immediately.

Major user groups have a responsibility to encourage their members to act with respect and responsibility. These groups should have a representative on site at all times during use of the facility. That representative should be on hand to advise any person violating the Rzone that they are contravening operating procedures and to prepare an Rzone incident report.

I've witnessed a violation, what do I do?

The Rzone Policy sets out a clear procedure for instances of violence, abuse or harassment:

- First, without jeopardizing your own safety, advise the offending party to stop the activity immediately or they will be asked to leave.
- If necessary, contact the police
- If police are contacted, inform the identified party that the police have been called
- If the individual refuses to leave do not engage in an argument or physical confrontation, leave and wait for police to arrive
- Complete an Rzone Incident Report online at www.stcatharines.ca/Rzone or via the staff office
- City staff should only be asked to intervene after the major user group or individual has made reasonable efforts to request the offending individual to comply or leave

What are the consequences for violating the Rzone Policy?

The Rzone Policy takes a zero-tolerance approach, although consequences will depend on severity of the infraction.

Offending individuals could be barred immediately from the facility or even suspended for a period of time. That suspension could even apply to all programs, facilities and recreational properties if warranted.

Depending on the offence other actions could be taken, including a report to the police and charges to reimburse for the cost of City losses or damages in instances such as theft or vandalism.

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