

Name of Policy: Summer Inclusion Support Policy

Original Implementation Date: August 2019

Approved by: Angela Green,
Manager of Recreation
Programming

Date of Last Revision: August 2019

Approved by: Rhonda Dea, Acting
Manager of Aquatics
and Inclusion

Angela Green,
Manager of Recreation
Programming

Purpose:

To increase the opportunities for children/youth requiring one to one support to participate in HRM Recreation's Summer Day Camp Programs.

Background:

The policy had been developed in response to the overwhelming increase in demand for one to one inclusion supports for children/youth with disabilities, specifically during the summer months. Halifax Regional Municipality's Parks, Recreation and Communities is one of only a few service providers with a totally inclusive mandate, which supports and enables a wide variety of children/youth to participate in summer recreation programming. HRM is committed to continuing to provide quality inclusive programming opportunities to all children/youth wishing to attend a summer recreation experience.

Policy Statement:

In order to support the increase in the number of children/youth requesting one to one support, we require all individuals to register their children/youth online at <https://www.halifax.ca/recreation/programs-activities/programs-registration> no later than **April 12**, using the advertised **Inclusion Barcode** found at Halifax.ca/recinclusion. At the time of registration, families will identify their priority weeks/locations and any additional weeks being requested. Summer staffing resources are limited, however HRM staff will make every effort to try to accommodate as many requests as possible based on available resources and the amount of children/youth requesting one to one support. Any children/youth requiring support who has not registered by the deadline will be placed on a waitlist should resources become available.

If circumstances allow, and at the approval of the Community Recreation Coordinator (CRC), a family may choose to provide their own support person, at their own expense.

All arrangements must be facilitated through and approved by the Community Recreation Coordinator of the facility being requested. To be considered, the 1:1 support worker must successfully meet all requirements of a qualified “HRM Volunteer” two weeks in advance of the program or camp’s start date. CRC’s will have the authority to approve and review the effectiveness of this arrangement throughout the duration of the program or camp, and changes may be made to this arrangement by the CRC at anytime, should they deem it necessary.

Expected Outcomes:

- To increase the opportunities for children/youth requesting one to one inclusion support to attend a quality summer day camp program in their own communities
- To enable HRM staff the time to identify one to one support needs through Pre-Camp Intakes
- To identify possible staffing ratios prior to camp starting
- To identify staff training needs prior to camp starting
- To identify adapted programming requirements to ensure programs are inclusive

Contact

Questions regarding the policy should be directed to Angela Green, Manager of Recreation Programming green@halifax.ca