

# Creating Affordable Sports

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To create affordable anything, whether its sports, housing or daycare it has to be city run. Why you ask? To create affordability overhead must be low and by having the city run these programs from its facilities eliminates rent, mortgage and taxes from the equation, one of the biggest costs.

Growing up, we didn't play teams named the Leafs or the Blue Jays; we played against teams like U.E.W, Sherwood Bowling Alley and Artic Refrigeration. By having local businesses sponsor teams, for the cost of uniforms, in their area does a few things; gives the business advertising and shows the parents what businesses are in their area that they may not know existed and it allows the businesses to help out the kids of their communities. This now eliminates another cost in organized sports.

With two of the bigger cost now taken care of, the city can set registration fees in accordance to the community income. You can't expect a family in the lower city to pay the same registration fee as a family in the well to do areas like Ancaster or Dundas. By doing so, it makes for a stressful family when a child wants to play hockey but mom has to decide whether she puts \$125 to hockey or pays her bills and feeds the family. The later of the two usually prevails. Now if a child came home and said "mom, can I play hockey, its \$50, \$25 when I register then \$25 when I step on the ice". This makes for a happy family and child playing hockey.

Yes there are programs out there to help out with these situations but they are geared more to the families on O.W and O.D.S.P, leaving the blue collared families on their own.

The following formula is based on one season of hockey in the lower city. The league consist of 16 players per team, 6 teams per age group and 5 age groups; atom, pee-wee, bantam, midget and juvenile. Registration fee \$50.

$16 \text{ players} \times \$50 = \$800 \text{ per team}$

$6 \text{ teams} \times \$800 = \$4800 \text{ per age group}$

5 age groups x \$4800 = \$24000 per 6 month season

\$24000 should cover 6 months worth of “hours of operation” per season. By playing games through the week, 3 hrs. per night, 5 nights a week, frees up the weekend for practices, where reasonable ice time can be charged and public skate. Keeping in mind, arenas in better off communities would pay more and where there are multiple ice surfaces like Chedoke and Mohawk, multiple leagues, of the same age groups, can be run. At the end of the season, it's the city that pays the cost of operation and this formula should cover that cost plus, creating affordable hockey for everyone.

Outdoor sports like baseball and soccer can follow the same formula at a lower cost, generating more income, since the only overhead for summer sports is a weekly grass cutting. Rec Centre memberships, also geared to community income, can act as a discount for indoor winter sports like basketball and volleyball leagues.

By creating community income registration allows for everyone to play, Leaving no Kid Behind.