



Chapter Development



How KidSport™ Came to Be...

In 1993, Sport BC initiated the KidSport™ program to help financially disadvantaged children and youth participate in sport. Its mandate was straightforward: combat rising user-fees; help provide access to key growth and development tools inherent in sport; empower community leaders and educators to provide a confidential process aimed to help children and youth participate in sport – bringing the *fun* back to sport.

There are over a dozen local KidSport™ chapters throughout Ontario. KidSport™ Ottawa, established in 2004 by leaders in the community, is one of the most recent.

The Growth of KidSport™

KidSport™ was established as a program of National Sport Trust Fund, a Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association (RCAAA), and fund of the Canadian Council of Provincial Sport Federations (CCPTSF). With this structure, KidSport™ becomes the only RCAAA allowed to create provincial chapters and issue charitable receipts for income tax purposes. As a result of this structure, when someone receives a receipt from KidSport™ Ontario, they are actually receiving a receipt from KidSport™, the national program of the National Sport Trust Fund.

In 1993, provincial amateur sport governing bodies – members of the CCPTSF – began to apply for the use of KidSport™ program and its charitable tax status.

KidSport™ Ottawa

Today, KidSport™ is a program of all ten provincial sport federations and one territorial federation.

Since its inception, KidSport™ Ottawa has helped over 600 kids participate in sport. Over the past five years, the chapter has developed strong support from the public sector as well as support from other non-profit partners. The program has also developed strong ties with major amateur sporting events. For example, the Montreal Ottawa Toronto Hockey Tournament and the Women in Sport Volleyball Tournament. Today, the program is growing rapidly throughout the city.

KidSport™ Ottawa Tomorrow

The KidSport™ Ottawa goal is a city where all kids can play! To this objective, KidSport™ Ottawa will continue to grow and expand into areas where Ottawa kids do not have the opportunity or access to participate in sport. It will continue to address the economic needs of a community and expand into addressing the specific social needs that are also intertwined into the fabric of a community (for example, women in sports, first nation involvement in sports, drug use in sport, and the role of the adult/coach in amateur sport).



So ALL Kids Can Play!



The Crisis:

Our children and youth currently face challenges and barriers in organized sport such as the lack of facilities, the cutback of after-school programs, the reduction of physical education programming in schools, the lure of multi-media, the sharp rise of user/registration fees and equipment costs. As a direct result, childhood inactivity has increased, and today's children and youth are the least healthy and least active in Canadian history!

Importance of Sport:

Physical activity enables a child the opportunity for optimal growth and development. It creates a platform for improved health, the strengthening of bones and muscles, and an increase in the flow of oxygen through the body. Furthermore, it lowers the risk of heart disease, diabetes and some forms of cancers. Sport also helps build key social skills – self-esteem, leadership, teamwork, commitment, honesty, discipline, sacrifice, and how to set and achieve goals.

Sport provides children with the opportunities to set realistic goals and to strive to be the best that they can be...Sport provides young participants with opportunities to dream.

Through sport, young participants learn that their life is not dependent of others. They learn how to cope with the impact that other people, such as other players, coaches, and parents, have on their lives.

Every child, no matter who they are, should be able to have fun participating in sport. Children should feel there will always be a place for sport in their lives and that sport will always have a place for them.

However, as a result of today's barriers, the 'right' to play sport is becoming a 'privilege'. A crisis exists and the time to act is now!



About KidSport™



What is KidSport™ Ottawa?

KidSport™ Ottawa is a children's charitable program, which helps Ottawa's kids overcome social and economic barriers preventing or limiting their participation in organized sport.

KidSport™ Ottawa is a local chapter in the province of Ontario. The Ottawa Chapter is a volunteer, non-profit organization. KidSport™ Ottawa is a children's charitable program that has unique RCAA status as per the *Income Tax Act*.

KidSport™ Mission:

KidSport™ helps disadvantaged children and youth overcome social and/or economic barriers preventing or limiting their participation in organized sport. This is accomplished through the issuance of registration fee and/or equipment grants.

KidSport™ Ottawa is about...

Social, Community, and Economic Responsibility - KidSport™ Ottawa is a social solution to the problems associated with children and youth; makes the community a better place to live by having all children and youth participating in positive activities giving them a better opportunity to become contributing, healthy community leaders; recognizes that health and education costs associated with idle youth exceed those that keep children healthy, active and challenged.



Take Action!



Donate - KidSport™ is a Registered Canadian Amateur Athletic Association, and has the right to issue tax receipts for all donations. KidSport™ Ottawa accepts both financial donations, and donations of used sports equipment.

Volunteer - KidSport™ has a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for enthusiastic volunteers of all ages, in Ottawa. Volunteers are needed to help at all events and to help run this new local chapter.

Visit - www.kidsport.on.ca/ottawa to learn more about donating, volunteering, and our grant opportunities.