

## Sport Tourism Input to the Southwest Community Centre Project

The Southwest Community Centre (SWCC) has the opportunity to build two gymnasiums that could meet the standards to host sport tourism events. The facility will provide a space to service the community, but can also be a sport facility that accommodates provincial tournaments.

The main sports of focus for the SWCC will be (but not limited to): basketball, volleyball and racquet sports (pickleball, badminton). The surface area of the proposed two gymnasiums will meet the field of play standards for the respective sports. But recognizing the constraints of the existing lot, spectator seating would be limited to 100-150 seats per gymnasium via moveable bleacher seating.

### 1.0 Basketball

The proposed gymnasiums will incorporate two senior (U15-U19) and four junior (U10-U14) sized basketball courts.

Provincial standards, as outlined in [Basketball Ontario 2022-23 Sanctioning Guidelines](#)<sup>1</sup>, require:

- Minimum court size of: 44 ft. x 74 ft. for U10-U12 & U13-U14 and 50 ft. x 84 ft. for U15-U19.
- End walls must be padded with a minimum height of 8' and width of 10'.
- Ontario Basketball recommends that league hosts take spectator seating into consideration for each gym and to consider gym spaces that are accessibility friendly.

The International Basketball Association (FIBA) standards, as outlined in [Official Basketball Rules 2022](#)<sup>2</sup> state:

- The floor shall include the court area surrounded by a further boundary lane free from obstructions with a minimum of 2m.

\*Note: the proposed design is to include four Junior basketball courts. These four courts do not meet Basketball Ontario specifications and are measured at 42 ft. x 74 ft.

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<sup>1</sup> Basketball Ontario 2022-23 Sanctioning Guidelines can be viewed at <https://basketball.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022-23-Sanctioning-Guidelines-Manual.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Official Basketball Rules 2022 can be found at <https://basketball.on.ca/competitions/rules-regulations/>

In consultation with Brantford CYO Boys Basketball and Brantford CYO Girls Basketball as well as a member of the Brantford Norfolk Basketball Officials' Association, their recommendations are as follows:

### **1.1 Brantford CYO Boys Basketball**

- Build to the larger court size to accommodate all age categories.
- 100 seats per court (regional), 300-500 per court (provincial). CYO currently can't hold provincial tournaments as the City does not have enough courts that meet requirements.
- Seating should be along the whole length of the court. If only at one end, very difficult to see action at the other side of the court. This is for both spectator and team bench seating.
- Safety issues, end-wall padding must be in place.
- Parking needs to be reflective of the number of spectator seating within gymnasiums.

### **1.2 Brantford CYO Girls Basketball**

- Spectator seating: as many as they can get. They always run out of space no matter what venue they are using. Suggested a minimum of 75-100 as their tournaments draw a large viewing crowd.
- Change rooms: 2-4. They ask their teams to arrive 30 minutes prior to game time so there isn't overcrowding. Change rooms are for teams to settle in and get ready prior to game time. This is something they do not have now at their current gymnasiums.
- Scoreboards/shot clocks: Both are needed. And in order to host anything above U14, shot clocks are required.
- Miscellaneous: CYO Girls feel that there is a desperate need for a basketball facility in Brantford. The addition of a tournament standards facility could boost tourism by allowing CYO to host Ontario Basketball League games as well as many more tournaments and possibly an Ontario Cup. CYO Girls quoted on the Ontario Cup together with Tourism Brantford several years ago, but could not gain facilities needed for that weekend because the Community Use of Schools could not guarantee the space.

### 1.3 Brantford Norfolk Basketball Officials' Association

- Lighting is very important.
- Adequate sideline space between court and spectators (spectators stretch out their legs and referees trip over them).
- Score clock and team benches on the same side. Spectators on the other side. When spectators can't see the score clock, they distract the refs for that information.
- Separate Officials change room.
- Inbound area (North Park Collegiate is small and there is no room to move).
- Adequate warm-up space for teams.

## 2.0 Volleyball

The proposed gymnasiums will incorporate four full sized volleyball courts.

Provincial Standards for hosting a tournament include:

- 3 courts, it is preferred to book into a facility with three courts when they can.
- Standard court size is 9m by 18m.
- Space between courts greater than 4m.
- Sideline are at least 2.5m away from wall.
- End line free space at least 2.5m from wall/bleacher.
- Ceiling height at least 7m.

Gymnasiums are scored based on certain criteria (size, height, space between courts, cost to rent facility, officials lounge, etc.) as outlined in the [Ontario Volleyball Association Tournament Hosting Application](#)<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Ontario Volleyball Association Tournament Hosting Application can be found at [https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/6ff5-1589630/Hosting\\_Application\\_Form\\_2019.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*t50uum\\*\\_ga\\*NDUzOTM3MDEuMTY3NjQ3OTE5MQ..\\*\\_ga\\_PQ25JN9PJ8\\*MTY3NjQ3OTE5Mi4xLjEuMTY3NjQ3OTIzOS4wLjAuMA..#\\_ga=2.128567242.750944600.1676479194-45393701.1676479191](https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/6ff5-1589630/Hosting_Application_Form_2019.pdf?_gl=1*t50uum*_ga*NDUzOTM3MDEuMTY3NjQ3OTE5MQ..*_ga_PQ25JN9PJ8*MTY3NjQ3OTE5Mi4xLjEuMTY3NjQ3OTIzOS4wLjAuMA..#_ga=2.128567242.750944600.1676479194-45393701.1676479191)

In consultation with the Brant Youth Volleyball League, their recommendations are:

- Spectator seating: Up and down the sideline, not at the end. They average 50 spectators per game (more at younger age groups). Provincial games would need more.
- Flooring: Wood or rubberized. Tile not preferred.
- Change rooms: Not necessarily needed for teams, but needed for officials.
- Wall divider: Solid wall as opposed to a curtain to separate courts. There are sound issues between courts with respect to hearing the official's whistle, coach's call of play and spectator sounds.
- Posts, padding for posts, ref stands, nets, antennae (club does have some).
- Area for teams to go when they aren't playing.
- Separate room for officials.
- Free parking.
- Bathrooms (both genders).
- Concession area.

### 3.0 Pickleball

The proposed gymnasium can incorporate up to eight pickleball courts or six wheelchair play courts.

Pickleball Ontario, Pickleball Canada and the USA Pickleball Association follow the International Federation of Pickleball Rules. Based on the [USA Rulebook 2023](#)<sup>4</sup>, these standards include:

- The court shall be a rectangle measuring 20 feet wide and 44 feet long for both singles and doubles matches.
- All lines should be 2 inches (5.08 cm) wide and the same color, clearly contrasting with the color of the playing surface.

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<sup>4</sup> USA Rulebook 2023 <https://pickleballontario.org/rules-and-regs/#1497987483492-7a061023-9000>

- The minimum playing surface area measures 30 feet wide and 60 feet long. A 10-foot (3.05-m) surrounding margin measures 40 feet (12.19 m) by 64 feet (19.51 m) by 64 feet (19.51 m). USA PICKLEBALL Official Rulebook (2023)
- The recommended playing surface area for Wheelchair play is 44 feet wide and 74 feet long.

Other recommendations for playing surface dimensions are:

- New Construction: 34 ft. (10.36m) x 64 ft. (19.5m)
- Tournament Play: 34 ft. (10.36m) x 64 ft. (19.5m)
- Wheelchair Play: 44 ft. (13.41m) x 74 ft. (22.56m)

The opportunity to hold a regional or provincial pickleball tournament at this location would be of benefit to the City of Brantford. There is great interest in this sport on a recreational level in the City and an enhanced gymnasium would provide the opportunity to host higher level competitions. However, in order to host a larger competition with an ample amount of courts, it would require the proposed facility to move or bring in additional moveable bleacher seating. The facility would need to take into account ample spectator seating as well as seating for participants waiting for their game to commence.