

**Canadian Sport Policy Renewal
Consultations 2011
Background document on the “Definition” of Sport**

The following excerpts from the 2002 Canadian Sport Policy provide definitions of sport, and related activities, which were adopted for the purpose of the policy. The broad “definition” of sport adopted for the original Canadian Sport Policy did not impose that definition on any government or NGO that wished to endorse or support the policy. Rather, its broadness was intended as a means to attract support from the widest array of stakeholders for the widest array of activities. In this context, it was recognized that governments and NGOs had the freedom to contribute to the policy’s implementation using whatever definition of sport they had already adopted.

Introduction - Page 2

The Canadian Sport Policy draws on the broadest definition of sport, reflecting the collective determination of governments and the sport community to ensure that the Policy covers the widest array of activities. The Policy recognizes that for a sport system to foster a smooth transition from entry to excellence, each form of involvement is essential and contributes to the success of the other. The Policy therefore challenges all stakeholders in sport to create and support an integrated athlete/participant-centred sport model that ensures the seamless progress of athletes/participants to the full extent of their abilities and interests.

For the purposes of this document, "athlete" is generally used to describe people involved in competitive sport, "participant" to those involved in sport for recreation, and "athlete/participant" when referring to both.

The Policy Development Process – Page 7

The consultations reached the general conclusion that to be effective, a Canadian sport policy must recognize that:

- all forms and practices of sport are interrelated and contribute to a broad array of social and health benefits
- efforts to promote participation in sport activities - whether entry level, recreational, or competitive - affect all other levels
- sport development depends on the effectiveness of programs in sectors such as physical activity and sport in school settings, the promotion of recreation in general, and on the promotion of a physically active lifestyle for the entire population.

Goal 1: Enhanced Participation – Page 16

It is a goal of the Canadian Sport Policy that by 2012 ...

A significantly higher proportion of Canadians from all segments of society are involved in quality sport activities at all levels and in all forms of participation.

