

REPORT

TO: Community Services Executive Committee

FROM: Jason Kabel, Manager of Community Services

DATE: Friday, September 16, 2016

RE: **Roller Guards in Memorial Sports Centre**

Preamble

In January of this year the Ontario Recreation Facilities Association (ORFA) released an alert (attached) regarding the use of wheeled footwear and other similar devices in public settings. The alert notes that any device that increases the speed of a person in a public space, increases the potential of injury to both the users and the unaware general public. Controlling the use of these devices and the use of personal protective equipment for the user will fall to the owner, and will be mandated under the Occupier Liability Act.

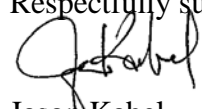
There has been growing popularity of wheeled skate-guards experienced in Memorial Sports Centre poses a risk similar to other wheeled devices that have come before (skateboards, wheeled shoes 'heelies', etc.) that have been prohibited in the facility.

The ORFA supports the restricted use of any wheeled footwear, or device indoors unless used as part of a structured program that is supported by trained competent persons. Further, the use of any wheeled footwear, or device on public property outdoors needs further risk evaluation to determine if controls are required in ensuring user and/or public safety. Any policy that can limit exposure to liability should be carefully considered.

RECOMMENDATION

The Community Services Division recommends to the Community Services Executive Committee to support the prohibition of roller guards at Memorial Sports Centre for the safety of all patrons of the facility.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Kabel