

Bill 5

The Sports Participation Act

WHEREAS “Being involved in team sports allows for beneficial character traits such as; teamwork, leadership, honesty, responsibility, accepting mistakes, appreciating different levels of achievement, self-confidence, tranquility, respect for teammates, respect for other players, respect for referees, and lessons from coaching and parenting.”¹ and

WHEREAS “Being involved in sports at a young age encourages a healthy lifestyle, promotes self esteem, goal setting, experience in team work, time management skills, dealing with adversity, and promotes having fun.”² and

WHEREAS “Team sport offers unique experiences that teach life skills and contribute powerfully to the fabric of Canadian society as an unparalleled sense of national pride.”³

THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) As of January 1, 2013, the Government of Canada shall establish Sports Teams Advancing Respect and Teamwork [**START**], responsible for ensuring that all Canadian youth participate in organized sports free of cost.
- 2) **START** will be responsible for administrating, funding and sanctioning all youth sports organizations in Canada.
 - a) Leagues will be divided into age groups and into 3 tiers, based on level of skill and time commitment:
 - i) Teams in the highest tier, designated S1, will travel a minimum of twice per month to National or International competitions.
 - ii) Teams in the middle tier, designated S2, will participate in a minimum of one regional competition per month.
 - iii) Teams in the bottom tier, designated S3, will participate in an annual regional tournament
 - b) Athletes must maintain a minimum academic average of 65% to be eligible for S1 or S2 teams.
- 3) **START** will only sanction organized sports that fall into the following categories:
 - a) Sports recognized by the International Olympic Committee
 - b) Sports recognized by the Paralympic Sports Association
- 4) As a condition for advancing to the next academic grade level, all Canadians from grade 2 to grade 12 or CEGEP 1 will be required to participate in 130 hours of **START**-sanctioned sports per academic year

¹ <http://www.ethics.org/resource/reflecting-how-sports-influences-character>

² <http://www.y-coach.com/involve.html>

³ <http://www.sportlaw.ca/2009/12/full-team-ahead-the-benefits-of-team-sport-to-canadian-sport/>

- a) To ensure compliance, a time-sheet signed by an **START**-sanctioned coach must be sent to **START** once every 6 months
- b) Those suffering temporary injury or illness will be exempted from participating in **START** sanctioned sports for the duration of their injury or illness upon provision of a letter from a certified physician.
- c) Those suffering permanent injury or illness which prevents them from participating in any organized sport will be exempted from hours or required to act as a score keeper, assistant team manager, or chaperone of an **START** team to the extent permitted by their certified physician.