

Canada Games Centre Summer Camps 2020

Parent Handbook



WELCOME!

The Canada Games Centre Summer Camps Program is happy to welcome you and your family to our facility. Thank you for entrusting your children with us. We will provide them with a safe and fun environment to spend time with new friends and learn new things. This handbook contains the policies and procedures for our Summer Camps and will provide you with all the necessary information you need when sending your children to camp with us.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Centre Address:	26 Thomas Raddall Drive, Halifax, NS.	
Centre Hours:	Monday – Friday:	5:30am – 10:00pm
	Saturday – Sunday:	7:00am – 10:00pm
Centre Customer Service:	902.490.2400 ext. 7	
Summer Camp		
Office Hours:	Monday – Friday:	8:00am – 5:00pm
Camp Office Phone:	902.490.2934	

WHERE TO FIND IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

WELCOME INFORMATION	
Admission Policy	p. 3
Drop-Off and Pick-Up Information	p. 5
CAMPER EXPECTATIONS	
Behavioural Guidelines	p. 8
Pool Guidelines	p. 9
What to Bring to Camp	p. 10
Lunches	p. 10
Medication and Anaphylactic Allergies	p. 11
CENTRE GUIDELINES	
Cancellation Policy	p. 12



Welcome Information

In this first section, you will find the standard policies and procedures for all of our Summer Camps at the Canada Games Centre (CGC). Any clarification of policies should be directed to the Recreation Coordinators.

ADMISSION POLICY

The CGC Summer Camps offer an array of interactive activities for school aged children. Our camps currently accommodate children aged 5.5 to 12. **Children must have turned 5 by December 31st, 2019 to attend camp.**

The CGC Summer Camps consist of four age groups; ages 5.5 to 7, ages 6 to 8, ages 7 to 9, and ages 9 to 12. Our facility is able to accommodate up to 235 participants per week in a variety of camps.

In addition to the age stipulations mentioned above, please note:

- Registration will close at 10pm on Sunday for camps that begin the next day. Registration is not available on the first day of camp. Be sure to register early to ensure you your spot in camp.
- Parents must have completed all camp forms (transportation, medical, permission) prior to their child attending any camp.
- We welcome children of all abilities in our summer camp programs. Our inclusion program is available for campers requiring extra support due to a physical, medical, behavioral and/or developmental disability. Campers will receive one on one support from an Inclusion Counsellor who is charged with meeting the camper's personal and developmental needs, making every effort to include campers in adapted activities, and ensuring their overall safety and happiness while in our care. For more information about this program and how to apply, please visit the Camp section of our website. Application deadline is April 5th.



CAMP GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The Canada Games Centre commits to:

- Providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all children
- Ensuring that all participants have fun, while actively engaging in a variety of activities
- Treating all participants with dignity and respect

Please be sure to discuss any special medical, dietary, cultural, and/or personal needs your child may have to help us create a comfortable environment for them.

To support [Physical Literacy](#) within our community, we continue to align our Summer Camps to the [Sport for Life \(S4L\)](#) model to help children get an active start in life. Children will be engaging in daily physical literacy based activities. We've designed games and trained our staff to actively engage our campers in acquiring these skills. We are excited to offer this to our campers and hope to be a part of raising the next generation of healthy children who will be active for life.

CAMPER TO STAFF RATIO

Each CGC Camp of 30 children will have a minimum of three (3) full-time camp counsellors as well as an additional part-time counsellor with the group. Volunteer counsellors-in-training (CIT) will also cycle through camps regularly. If participants are leaving the CGC grounds, the number of staff will increase depending on the individual activity and size of the group.



DROP-OFF & PICK-UP INFORMATION

All participants must be accompanied into the Centre and signed into camp daily by a parent/guardian.

Only the individuals listed on the Transportation form will be permitted to sign your child out at the end of each camp day. Please let us know if you would like to change this list by notifying us in writing at camps@canadagamescentre.ca. Each individual will be asked for photo identification before a child is allowed to leave camp with them.

Summer Camps run from 8:15am to 5:00pm daily. Should you need to pick up your child from camp before 4:00pm, please inform the Summer Camps Office by calling 902.490.2934. As children may be in the pool or off site, getting your child out of camp may take up to 20 minutes if you arrive unexpectedly. Please assist us in avoiding any delay in your schedule should you need your child to be ready to leave outside the designated times.

Please ensure participants are dropped off on time for camp. It is very important that your child is dropped off promptly so that all structured activities can begin on time. Should a camper arrive outside of the drop-off times, you may be delayed while we locate your child's camp and have you sign them in appropriately.

If you are contacted to pick up your child for illness or poor behaviour, we are able to accommodate a 30-45 minute grace period. We understand that many parents will have to come from work, but please respect that having a child outside of camp impacts the number of counsellors able to deliver the program to the remaining children. Please discuss any concerns with the time limit if contacted by staff.



EARLY DROP-OFF & LATE PICK-UP INFORMATION

The CGC is happy to provide an early drop-off and late pick-up service for our Summer Camps.

Parents/Guardians must pre-register children to use this service. Please register early as these spots fill up very quickly. Registration for early drop-off and late pick-up will open at the same time as regular camp registration.

Early drop-off and late pick-up services will be available every week. This time will be used for free-play, reading, and games. Camp Counsellors will not lead organized activities during this time.

- Cost: \$15 per week for **either** early drop-off or late pick-up.
- Cost: \$30 per week for **both** early drop-off and late pick-up.
- Times: Early drop-off will start at 7:30am and continue until regular drop-off begins at 8:15am. All children must be dropped off by a parent/guardian. Late pick-up begins at 5:00pm and ends at 5:45pm. All campers being picked up during this time **must** be enrolled in the late pick-up program. If a child is not registered in the late pick-up program, there will be an \$12.55 charge for every 15 minutes the parent is late. If children are not picked up by 5:45pm, emergency contacts will be phoned to pick up the child.



Camper Expectations

This section will outline the expectations of each child enrolled in our Camps, as well as safety guidelines and what you can expect from our staff. We are charged with the safety of many children, and these expectations are important to ensure a fun and respectful place for all participants to enjoy. Please take the time to review these expectations with your child so they know what to expect while at camp.

CANADA GAMES CENTRE CAMP GUIDELINES

Respect for Property:

- Camps, CGC Property and other campers belongings should be respected at all times.
- The CGC and the Camps are not responsible for lost or stolen items such as: toys, cell phones, laptops, iPads, gaming systems, money, jewellery, etc. The use of these items is not permitted during camp hours, so please leave all electronic devices, toys and valuable items at home.

Respectful Language:

- Profanity and Foul Language will **not** be tolerated.
- Verbal harassment/bullying of any kind will **not** be tolerated.

Providing a Safe Space:

- Campers should be aware of the others personal space, as well as boundaries and respect when other campers verbalize their limits.
- Children will be removed from camps if caught using inappropriate and excessive physical contact, language, harassment, or bullying.
- Participation in all camp activities, meal time, and camp clean-up is expected.
- To protect your child's personal privacy, we ask your permission to take photos for promotional materials on our permission form. These photos will be protected, and your children will not be named online. If you have any concerns, please speak with your child's Counsellor.



BEHAVIOURAL GUIDELINES

The following guidelines may be used if a child is unwilling to participate or cooperate while in camp:


- Limits will be set and enforced consistently and fairly.
- A brief break period may sometimes be required. A participant may be removed from an activity for a period of quiet time. This may be enforced when a participant is distraught and/or is emotional and needs a brief period of time to cool down. They will remain under supervision and will not be placed outside camp parameters or in harm's way.
- Reinforcement of positive behaviour will be used at all times; staff are encouraged to refrain from simply saying 'no', but rather explain why something should or should not be done.
- Staff are to assist participants in resolving conflicts that arise and redirect participants to another activity before issues may occur.
- Parents will be called if behavioural problems persist, and the next course of action taken will be up to the discretion of the camp staff.

DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

After above noted corrective measures have been taken to deter inappropriate behaviour, any child who continues to disrupt daily camp activities, is disrespectful of other campers or staff, or bullies other campers will be subject to the below consequences. These will be issued at the discretion of the Recreation Coordinators and will be discussed thoroughly with parents/guardians.

First Warning: The participant will be taken aside and spoken to about their behaviour. It will be explained that the behaviour must not continue, why it is not acceptable at camp, and what further consequences may be if the behaviour continues. Participants may be taken away from the group into the camp offices for a period of time if necessary. At the end of the day parents will be made aware that we gave the child a warning verbally.

Second Warning: Should the same behaviour continue, the child will be removed from camp and meet with the Recreation Coordinators in order to discuss why the unacceptable behaviour is continuing. This meeting will be documented, and the parent/guardian will be given a written copy of what was discussed. The parent/guardian will be required to sign off that a camp staff spoke with them about their child's continued behavioural challenges.



Dismissal: After the above attempts are made to address the behavioural concerns of a participant, s/he will be removed from camp. This will occur after a meeting with the Recreation Coordinators, the participant and/or the camper's parents/guardians. Depending on the severity of the inappropriate behaviour, the participant may not be allowed to participate in future activities and/or programs hosted by the Canada Games Centre.

Automatic Dismissals: A participant may be automatically dismissed from camps for any other extreme behaviour that staff deems intolerable and not able to be corrected.

POOL GUIDELINES

All our summer camps swim daily. Please send your child with swimming attire for each day they are at camp. Each swimming session will be supervised by NLS Certified lifeguards, as well as Camp Staff who will be in the water with participants.

Our Camps will swim during open swim times. Because we will be sharing the pool with the general public and the pool can get quite busy at times throughout the summer, a swim test is completed each Monday beginning at 9:00am in order to assess the child's ability while in the water.

The swim test consists of the following:

- Swim one length/width (20 metres) of the competition pool then tread water for 1 minute. If the child cannot complete both tasks confidently, they must wear a life-vest/safety belt in both the pools.

Even though your child may have completed swim lessons, they may still have to wear a life jacket or a life belt. This is because the lifeguard staff feels that without direct and personal supervision (such as in a swim class) they may not be strong enough to keep themselves above water for the duration of their swim time. This is not to discourage children and their abilities, but to ensure proper safety, as we will not be the only group in the pool. If a participant refuses to undergo the swim test, then they will be required to wear a life jacket or life belt for the duration of their Summer Camp. Children will only have to complete a swim test once throughout the summer unless they would like to challenge for a non-life-belt band.

OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES

During the course of the day, we will have use of several areas in the immediate proximity of the CGC. Children will be accompanied by the Summer Camp Staff and have means of communication with the Centre if necessary.



WHAT SHOULD CAMPERS BRING?

Children should be dressed appropriately for the weather, as we would like to be able to bring children outside as often as possible rain or shine. As the weather can change drastically from morning to afternoon, please be sure that your child comes to camp prepared for all types of weather. Please send the following items to camp daily:

- Appropriate outdoor gear depending on weather
- An extra change of clothing in case of accidents or spills
- Athletic wear, including indoor, non-marking sneakers, shorts, T-shirts, etc. Please refrain from sending your child in sandals or Crocs as they are not safe for most activities and are not permitted on the field house floors.
- A bathing suit and towel
- A water bottle
- Lunches and snacks.
- Sunscreen with a minimum of SPF30. Please apply sunscreen each morning before your child arrives at camp.
- A hat. If children are not properly protected, we cannot spend as much time outside as we would like!
- **We recommend labeling each of your child's belongings with both first and last names.**

LUNCHES & SNACKS

Parents/Guardians are responsible for packing nutritious snacks and lunches. Our camps are very active so please ensure you pack enough food to keep your child's energy up throughout the day. Children will not have access to a refrigerator or a microwave. Please use insulated bags and ice packs where necessary.

All lunches must be nut-free as we have children with severe airborne anaphylactic allergies. Camp staff will do a check of lunches daily for any pre-packaged snacks that do not have the "nut-free" logo. Should your child have such a snack, they will not be permitted to eat it, and it will be sent home with a notice that the food item should not return to camp for the safety of others.

If you send your child with a soy-butter product, please label appropriately. These are easily mistaken for nut-butters and your child will not be permitted to eat the item without a proper label.



SUBWAY

The Canada Games Centre is working in close partnership with Subway Restaurants and is excited to offer a healthy lunch option for those wishing to take advantage of our food services. These will be at an **additional cost**, which is not included in the Summer Camp fees. Subway orders can be placed online or in person at the customer service desk. We still encourage you to pack two daily snacks for your child.

- Subway Guidelines: Once an order is placed, we cannot make any changes. Food will be discarded the day of if the child is not at camp. Refunds will not be issued.
- Purchasing Subway directly from our vendor is not an option during camp hours for participants. We do not have the proper amount of staff to accompany children to the Subway should they forget a packed lunch. Please understand that should your child forget a lunch, we will have to call you to bring one, as we will not be able to provide Subway for them.

MEDICATION

Camp staff is only permitted to give prescription medication if a medical form is filled out and signed by a parent/ guardian.

- Camp staff are only permitted to give prescription medication authorized by a physician. Staff are not permitted to administer a non-prescribed medication (i.e. Advil, Tylenol, anti-histamines, etc.) All prescription medications must be labelled and in their original container with the child's name, prescribed dosage and doctors name clearly visible.
- All medications must be given directly to a staff member each day for proper dosage. Medication **cannot** be stored in your child's bag as the risk of improper dosage by children is extremely high.

ANAPHYLACTIC ALLERGIES

The CGC is an allergy aware facility. As we become aware of the types of allergies our participants have, we will make parent(s)/guardian(s) aware of any food and/or product that cannot be brought to the facility. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to discuss their child's individual allergy needs with staff, as we need to be aware of any problems that may arise. All lifesaving devices such as an Epi-Pen, asthma inhaler, etc. are required to be with the participant at all times.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Children with obvious symptoms such as fever, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, persistent cough and/or breathing difficulties must be symptom free for 24 hours before attending or returning to camp.

If you are contacted to pick up your child for illness, we are able to accommodate a 30-45 minute grace period. We understand that many parents will have to come from work, but please respect that having a child outside of camp impacts the number of counsellors able to deliver the program to the remaining children. Please discuss any concerns with the time limit if contacted by staff.

LOST & FOUND

It is your child's responsibility to keep their belongings together and safe as the camps move throughout the building. Before any camp leaves a designated area, a sweep is done and any unclaimed items are placed in the lost and found. The CGC is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. We ask all parents/guardians to check the lost and found on a regular basis if you suspect that your child is missing items. Due to the high volume of items left throughout the year at the Centre, the CGC donates all items in the lost and found to an outside agency two days after being found.

Centre Guidelines

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation notice must be received a minimum of 14 days prior to the first day of camp to qualify for a refund. Refund will be processed for the full amount of the fee paid, less an administrative charge of 10% of the program fee.

The Canada Games Centre will credit your account for the cost of the program up to 7 days before the program start date.

Any cancellations received within 7 days of the program start date will not receive a credit.

A camp may be cancelled due to insufficient registrants. The Canada Games Centre monitors registration levels prior to the start of programs to ensure quality programs are offered. A great camp could be cancelled if there are not enough registrants. Register early to avoid program cancellations.



PARKING

The CGC is adequately equipped with parking for our patrons. The CGC is not responsible for accidents and/or theft that may occur in the CGC parking lot. Parents are asked to not park in the fire lane or the adjacent library parking lot as it is a private lot, and they do ticket and/or tow vehicles not using their facility.

CHILD ABUSE PROTOCOL

By law, all persons are required to report suspected child abuse. The duty to report suspected child abuse and neglect overrides the confidentiality of all professional relationships and includes information considered to be privileged. Every person in Nova Scotia is required by law under the Children and Family Services Act to report child abuse and neglect. If any child reports suspected abuse to a CGC employee, we will report the accusation to the proper authorities.

COMMENTS, CONCERNS & SUGGESTIONS

The CGC Summer Camp Staff are always happy to hear feedback from you about the quality of our programs. If you have anything that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to call the Summer Camps Office at 902.490.2934 or email camps@canadagamescentre.ca.