



Sport for Life

Impacts of COVID-19 on Local Sports Organizations – Saskatchewan Report

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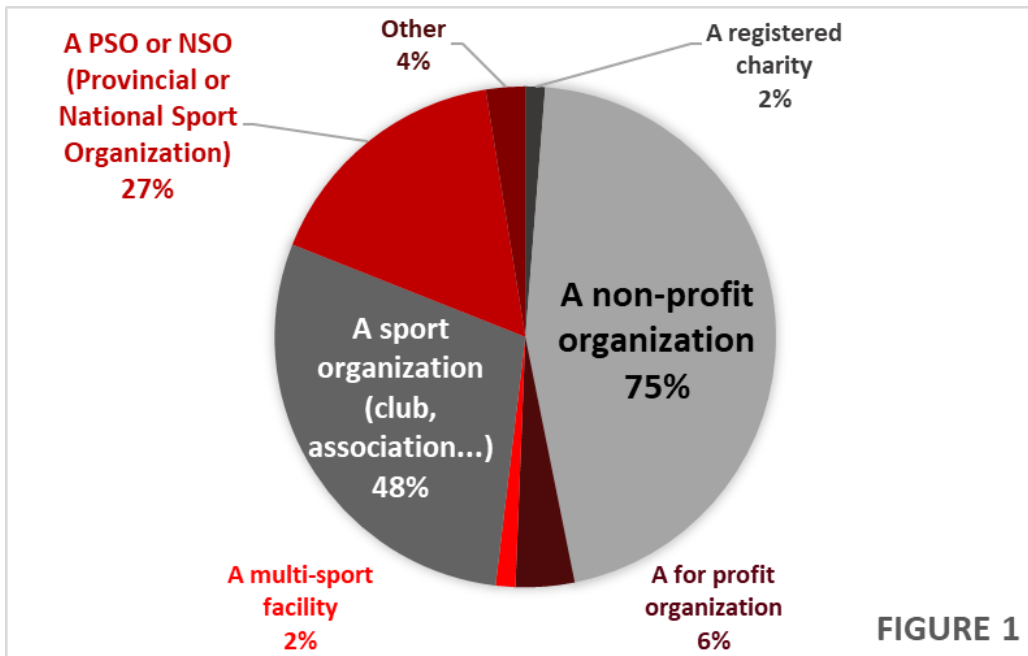
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1.0 Survey Demographics – Saskatchewan

1.1 Jurisdiction

Saskatchewan sports organizations represent 48 of 1,300 survey responses, or 4% of the nationwide data. More than 10 communities throughout the province responded to the survey, representing more than 101,907 members, including:

- Assiniboia
- Christopher Lake
- Delisle
- Estevan
- Kamsack
- Leader
- Melfort
- Prince Albert
- Regina
- Saskatoon
- Vanscoy
- Weyburn
- Yorkton



1.2 Organization Profile

Survey respondents indicated all (multiple) applicable ways to classify their organization. As Figure 1 demonstrates, three quarters of the Saskatchewan organizations are non-profit.

The Organizational profile of Saskatchewan survey respondents differs from the national survey results in that more Saskatchewan respondents indicated they belong to a Provincial or National sport organization (which accounted for only 13% of the national results).

1.3 Sport Distribution of Survey Responses

As Figure 2 demonstrates, 55% of survey responses in Saskatchewan were generated from Archery, Curling, Football, Canoe and Kayak, and Diving organizations. Only Curling is reflected in the top 10 sports in the national survey results.

Sport	%	Sport	%	Sport	%	Sport	%
Archery	21%	Gymnastics	4%	Equestrian	2%	Soccer	2%
Curling	10%	Swimming - Artistic	4%	Figure Skating	2%	Speedskating	2%
Football	10%	Other	4%	Ice Hockey	2%	Tennis	2%
Canoe and Kayak	8%	Athletics	2%	Karate	2%	Wheelchair Basketball	2%
Diving	6%	Broomball	2%	Ringette	2%		
Multisport	4%	Cycling	2%	Rugby	2%		

FIGURE 2

1.4 People and Communities Served

Survey respondents indicated all applicable communities they serve as part of their mandate, and Saskatchewan responses included children (0-12 years old), youth (13-19 years old), adults, older adults, Indigenous community, LGBTQ+ community, people with a physical disability, people with an intellectual disability, newcomers, women and girls, and/or other under-represented populations.

Saskatchewan organizations surpassed the national data in all areas; 96% reported they provide service to youth, in comparison to 79% at the national level. Further, 48% indicated they serve Indigenous communities (compared to 19% at the national level), 65% serve Women & Girls (compared to 38% of national responses), and 31% serve people with a disability (compared to 18% at the national level).

2.0 Operational and Financial Impacts of COVID-19 on Sports Organizations

2.1 Organizational Operations

95% of Saskatchewan sports organizations have been impacted by COVID-19 although the status of their organizational operations differs slightly from the national survey results. 52% of respondents said their organization has been temporarily closed. 35% reported their organization is operating but with modification.

The majority of Saskatchewan sports organizations said their organization will continue to be impacted by COVID-19 for the next 7 to 12 months, which aligns with the national findings. However, 13% indicated they anticipate impacts for more than a year. 59% will be impacted into 2021.

2.2 Financial Impacts of COVID-19

Saskatchewan organizations reported experiencing decreased revenue from sales of goods, membership and participation fees, fundraising, and sponsorships. Decreased revenue from registration and participation fees has had the greatest impact on Saskatchewan’s sports organizations, which aligns with the national results. Although, decreased revenue from fundraising was also reported to be currently affecting more than half of Saskatchewan organizations; it’s anticipated that this will have an impact on more than half of the sports organizations beyond July 1, 2020.

Saskatchewan organizations’ annual operating budgets align with the national findings; 29% of respondents said their organization operates on less than \$100,000 a year. However, 29% said their organization operates between \$100,000 and \$249,999 per year.

In comparison to the national results, Saskatchewan sports organizations seem to have been less successful in reducing their fixed and variable operating costs; 2% said they reduced their fixed costs (compared to 16% nationwide) and 19% confirmed they'd reduced their variable costs (compared to 24% nationwide). 98% have not been fully able to reduce their fixed costs and 81% have not fully reduced their variable costs.

2.3 Emergency Funds and Other Needs to Maintain Operations

31% of Saskatchewan organizations said they would need less than \$20,000 in emergency funding to maintain operations and meet the demand for services, whereas 29% said they would need between \$20,000 and \$49,999. 8% would need more than \$100,000, which is lower than the national results (11%).

Beyond funding, 45% of Saskatchewan respondents expressed wanting more clear communication and specific guidelines around Return to Play (RTP) from their sport-governing bodies. Many felt strongly that there should be *one* unified message around return to sport developed by Saskatchewan sport leaders and health authorities. In comparison to national results, 12% of Saskatchewan sports organizations indicated they want a better indication from their sport governing body or the government of the longer-term funding options that will be made available to support sports organizations as the province gradually returns to sport. Long-term funding only accounted for 7% of the nationwide responses. Affordable and equitable access to indoor and outdoor training facilities was another common response among Saskatchewan survey respondents.

2.4 Organizational Sustainability in Current Conditions

In tandem with the national findings, 46% of Saskatchewan organizations felt they could remain afloat for more than 6 months. However, 33% felt they could not sustain operations beyond 6 months.

2.5 Typical Employee Demographics

Most Saskatchewan organizations reported having between 1 and 4 staff, either full time, part time, contract or others. On average, 7% indicated having 0 staff, and 61% indicated "Not applicable" for one or multiple employee ranges.

18% of Saskatchewan respondents indicated they're predominantly or entirely volunteer-based and therefore do not qualify for the current federal and provincial emergency initiatives. 18% also indicated their sport is currently in the off season therefore they haven't had to modify their operations yet. 56% of Saskatchewan respondents indicated they have not laid off any staff because they do not have any paid employees.

72% of Saskatchewan organizations with staff have or will be laying off employees. Only 25% in Saskatchewan know they'll be able to hire their staff back based on current federal or provincial COVID emergency funding. However, 47% indicated rehiring staff was not applicable to their organization, either because they are volunteer-based, or because they never laid off staff in the first place.

All employee demographics are similar to the national survey results.

2.6 Use of Federal and Provincial Initiatives

More than a third of Saskatchewan organizations are not eligible for one or multiple of the current federal or provincial emergency initiatives. On average, 15% of Saskatchewan sports organizations have made use of one of the emergency initiatives put in place by the government. 10% reported to have used the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (75%), 15% intend to use the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (10%), another 15% intend to use the Business Credit Availability Program and 23% indicated they intend to use the Federal Emergency Sport Funding. Being that 27% of Saskatchewan respondents indicated being part of a provincial or national sport organization, there could be a correlation between those organizations and the relatively high percentage who intend to make use of the Federal Emergency Sport Funding.

2.7 Summer Initiatives

93% of Saskatchewan organizations that run summer camps may or will not run them this year due to COVID-19. 83% of respondents indicated their organization did not apply for Canada Summer Jobs.

2.8 Building Support Networks

75% of Saskatchewan organizations have reached out to another organization – whether it be their sport governing body, other local organizations, other organizations operating in the same sport or other sports organizations, to work together and/or support one another in starting initiatives. This is reflective of the national findings.

Most Saskatchewan respondents explained they're working with their sport governing body or other organizations within the same or similar sports to make long-term plans:

"We are well informed from our NSO and our funding partner who are working in collaboration government and organizations that support sport. We will be reaching out to our member clubs to help identify the needs across the communities that have clubs."

"We do weekly meetings with Sask Sport where all PSGB's are present."

"I started a Saskatoon based barn owners' group in February 2020, we've since grown to include more stables across the province. The group was started pre-covid19 to work collectively to address issues in our industry, but has been invaluable in providing support through these difficult times."

2.9 Organizations' Responses to COVID-19

As was identified in the national results, most Saskatchewan organizations are taking steps to create long-term plans and adjust their program delivery models to meet the COVID-19 safety measures and guidelines. 54% of Saskatchewan respondents are developing contingency plans or making operational updates in compliance with RTP guidelines and/or creating and working to implement an RTP strategy.

27% of Saskatchewan sports organizations are waiting for additional information to make long-term plans.

2.10 Concerns of COVID 19's Future Impact

Primary concerns among Saskatchewan survey respondents echo the national results: 32% of respondents are concerned about membership retention and growth as restrictions begin to be lifted and people can return to modified sport programs and services.

"We are concerned about the loss of membership we might experience in the fall. We expect it but have no idea as to how many. The loss of revenues and interest in programming is concerning but we won't know until it happens. Very hard to plan."

"COVID-19 prevented our sport organization from operating this year. We rely on volunteers within our community to make our program successful, and worry that not running for a year could make recruitment difficult when we are hopefully able to restart next year."

Another 32% indicated they're concerned about the long-term operational impacts of COVID-19 and their ability to recover:

"If phase 4 of reopening in Saskatchewan is delayed beyond the summer we won't have an organization to reopen."

“We will be significantly impacted if we cannot access the federal programs and are anticipating a very difficult 6 months to 1 year ahead as we try to maintain the viability of our program and maintain the employment of our highly trained coaching staff.”

Despite operational and financial concern, twice as many Saskatchewan respondents expressed this being an opportunity for sport to change and adapt – 16% of Saskatchewan organizations, compared to 8% of the national findings.

2.11 Organizations’ Messages to Grant Administrators, Investors and Sponsors

Messaging to grant administrators, investors and sponsors from Saskatchewan organizations mirrors what was reported at the national level. Key messages include:

“Sport is such an important part of our lives and it would be a shame to see so many different clubs and organizations not be able to open after COVID.”

“That the need for our organization and the sport in particular is essential to the well being and health of those involved. The phrase ‘Sport is More Than a Game’ is so real and a perfect depiction of the influence we have on society and the making of a great well-rounded individual.”

“We are planning and implementing processes to keep our athletes, coaches and communities safe. There will be many hurdles and lessons we will learn along the way, but our goal is to bring back our sport community, giving kids a place to thrive all while ensuring we keep a safe and healthy training environment.”

41% of Saskatchewan organizations emphasized the social and economic importance of amateur sport for communities, and 27% indicated how needed and appreciated funding is at this time.

Additional Information

Sport for Life would like to sincerely thank Sport Calgary for allowing us to use and disseminate this survey to local sports organizations nationwide.

For more information about Saskatchewan results from the national *Impacts of COVID-19 on Local Sports Organizations survey*, please contact francesca@sportforlife.ca.