

WHAT WE HEARD: SURREY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

SURVEY REPORT / 2025

PHOTO COURTESY SURREY ARCHIVES



What We Did:

This report is a summary of the results from a city-wide survey seeking input from the community on the development of the Surrey Sports Hall of Fame. The online survey asked participants to share their engagement with sport in the city before moving into questions regarding their expectations for the Sports Hall of Fame. Questions ranged from feedback on a definition of sport and the nomination categories to what topics should be covered in Sports Hall of Fame displays at Museum of Surrey.



Who We Heard From:

1,159 responses (1,032 complete and 127 partial responses) were received to the online survey between March 1, 2025 and April 6, 2025.



Demographics:

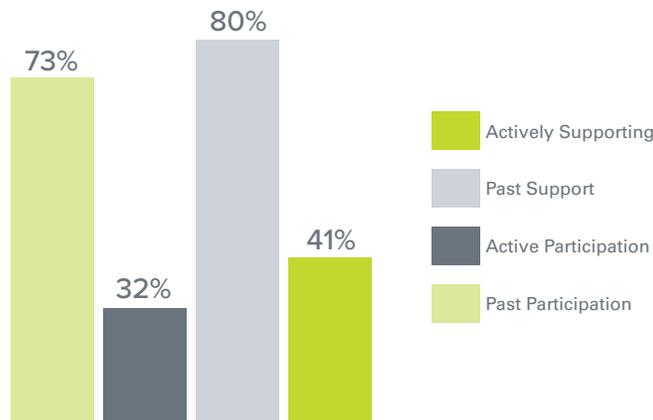
- 95% of respondents live in Surrey, with 80% having lived here for over a decade.
- 63% of respondents were over the age of 50.
- Respondents were split between genders, 54% Female, 42% Male.



Involvement in Sport:

Respondents showed a high level of engagement with sport in the city at some point in their lives both through playing sports themselves and attending sporting events.

- 73% have played sports in Surrey at some point in their life, and 32% are currently active participants.
- 80% have attended, followed, or supported sports in Surrey at some point, with 41% actively supporting each year.



Importance of Sport and the Role of a Sports Hall of Fame

It is clear from the responses that sport is important to both individuals and the community. 70% of respondents marked “Very Important” or “Important” when asked what the importance of sport is to themselves, to members of their household, and to the Surrey community.

We also saw high levels of engagement on the role of a Sports Hall of Fame. Four suggested roles were provided with participants asked to select all that apply. The resulting support was; (1) Honour people who achieve excellence in sport (76%), (2) Build pride in our community (68%), (3) Inspire people to achieve success (62%), (4) Teach people about Surrey’s sports legacy (58%).

76%

Honour people who achieve excellence in sport



68%

Build pride in our community



62%

Inspire people to achieve success



58%

Teach people about Surrey’s sports legacy



Sports Definition

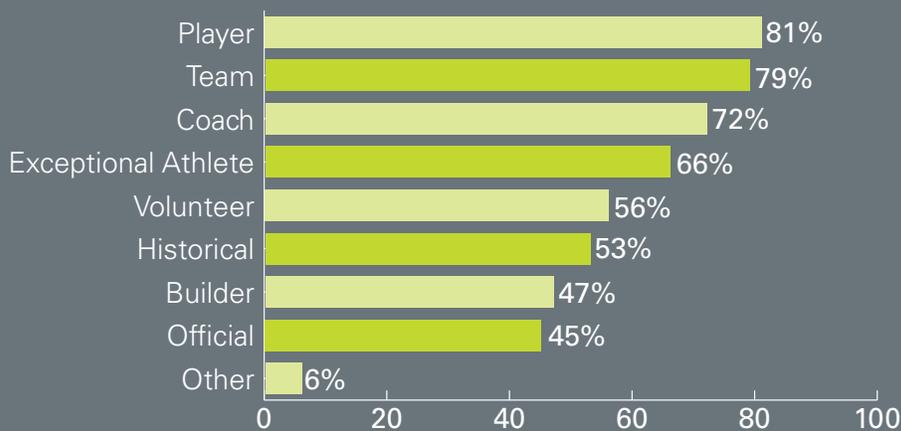
Respondents were asked if the following definition of sports fit their expectations: Sport can be defined as an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against others. This primarily refers to sports recognized by national and international Governing Bodies, such as, but not limited to Sport Canada.

76% responded “Yes” and 153 individuals left a comment. Many of the comments were in direct response to the inclusion of governing bodies in the definition expressing that this is exclusionary, and sports not recognized by these bodies are still important to the community. Others expressed dissatisfaction with the definition including competition as a necessary component, saying that sports do not need to be competitive to have great benefit to personal health and the community at large.

Important Categories

Respondents were asked to indicate which of the suggested categories were important to them in a Sports Hall of Fame by selecting all that apply.

There was high support for individual athletes, coaches and teams, and less for other individuals involved in sports.



Support for Telling Sports Stories

Respondents were informed of the city’s plan to install temporary exhibits at Museum of Surrey in the short term with a long-term goal of building a permanent Sports Hall of Fame as a part of a future spectator facility. They ranked their support for this plan as: Strongly support (25%), Support (43%), Neutral (20%), Oppose (6%), Strongly oppose (6%).

211 individuals from all levels of support left comments to clarify their responses. Some concerns were addressed about the potential financial burden that such a project could become (particularly a stand-alone facility). Some respondents suggested alternative approaches ranging from not launching this project to various forms of moderation; including having temporary exhibits in athletic centres across the city or remaining within Museum of Surrey rather than developing a larger site. Others expressed that whichever the final solution, the Sports Hall of Fame should be in an accessible location, at low cost to visitors, with a diversity of stories being told.

Conclusion

Ultimately, there was strong support from survey participants for this project and many left engaged and thoughtful feedback in the comments encouraging the development of a community focused and diverse Surrey Sports Hall of Fame. All the feedback provided will be taken into consideration as the city moves into the next phase of the project, developing a Terms of Reference.

