

Satu Kiipeli

When even money can't buy - ice sports conditions in Oulu

University of Jyväskylä
Department of Sport Sciences
Master's Thesis
Social Sciences of Sport
November 2013

UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ
Department of Sport Sciences/Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences
Master's Degree Programme in Sport Science and Management

KIIPPELI SATU:

When even money can't buy – ice conditions in Oulu

Master's Thesis, 57 pages, 1 appendice
Social Sciences of Sport

Autumn 2013

ABSTRACT

This study examines the sufficiency of the current ice conditions in Oulu. The focus is especially on the indoor ice rinks. Also, the research investigates the impact of the municipality merger on the users of ice rinks and the possibilities of exploiting outdoor ice rinks in the future. The data was collected using a survey questionnaire. The population of this research consists of the sports clubs and groups that compete for ice time at the public rinks and the Raksila rink (N=149).

In the prevailing conditions, there are not enough indoor ice facilities for children's and youth sports. The majority of the sports clubs (79%) reported that they have groups that do not have enough ice practice time, and 38% of sports clubs informed that they are not able to take on all potential newcomers to their activities due to the lack of ice time. Additionally, unorganized children's groups have poor chances to get ice time at indoor ice rinks.

The majority of the adult teams (55%) had enough ice time, but the unorganized adult teams, which are all recreational groups, have difficulties to operate in the current situation. Several respondents noted that recreational sports should be seen as a means of improving health and work ability. Overall, the respondents informed that they would need a total of 102 additional ice practice times for their operations, which is the equivalent of approximately three rinks.

The majority of the respondents (73 %) were not affected by the municipality merger, but the merger influenced some users significantly. The municipality merger affected positively the users in Haukipudas and Kiiminki. On the other hand, the municipality merger influenced the users in Oulu and Oulunsalo negatively. Outdoor ice rinks were not seen as a possible solution for the current shortage of indoor ice rink facilities due to the short and unsecure season, which is caused by the weather.

Key words: ice sports, ice rinks, municipality merger, sports clubs, survey research

JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO

Liikuntatieteellinen tiedekunta/ Liikuntakasvatuksen laitos
Master's Degree Programme in Sport Science and Management

KIIPPELI SATU:

Kun rahallakaan ei saa – Jääurheiluolosuhteet Oulussa

Pro gradu - tutkielma, 57 sivua, 1 liite
Liikunnan yhteiskuntatieteet

Syksy 2013

TIIVISTELMÄ

Tässä tutkimuksessa selvitetään nykyisen jäähallikapasiteetin riittävyyttä. Lisäksi tutkimuksessa selvitetään kuntaliitoksen vaikutusta jäähallien käyttäjiin sekä mahdollisuuksia lisätä ulkokaukaloiden käyttöä nykyisestä. Tutkimuksen kohderyhmänä on jäähallien asiakaskunta, eli urheiluseurat sekä rekisteröitymättömät ryhmät, kuten esimerkiksi työpaikkaryhmät ja puulaakijoukkueet. Perusjoukkona tutkimuksessa ovat kunnallisista jäähalleista ja Raksilan harjoitushallista vuoroja hakeneet tahot sekä harrastesarjoja pelaavat ryhmät (N=149). Tutkimusmenetelmä on survey-tutkimus.

Nykyiset jäähalliolosuhteet eivät ole riittävät lasten ja nuorten liikuntaan ja urheiluun. Suurin osa urheiluseuroista ilmoitti, että heillä on seurassa ryhmiä, joilla ei ole riittävästi jääharjoitusvuoroja. Lisäksi 38 % urheiluseuroista vastasi, että ne eivät voi vastaanottaa kaikkia halukkaita lapsia ja nuoria mukaan seuran toimintaan jääpulan vuoksi. Tämän lisäksi erityisesti seuroihin kuulumattomilla organisoimattomilla ryhmillä on heikot mahdollisuudet saada jäähalleista vuoroja.

Suurimmalla osalla (55 %) aikuisten joukkueista oli riittävästi jäävuoroja toimintaansa, mutta erityisesti harrastejoukkueilla oli hankaluuksia toimia nykyisissä olosuhteissa. Useat vastaajat huomauttivat, että vuoroja jaettaessa tulisi huomioida harrasteurheilun terveyttä edistävät vaikutukset. Kaiken kaikkiaan, vastaajat ilmoittivat tarvitsevansa lisää yhteensä 102 jäävuoroa toimintaansa, mikä vastaa kokonaisuudessaan noin kolmea jäähallia olemassa olevien lisäksi.

Kuntaliitos ei vaikuttanut suurimpaan osaan vastaajista (73 %), mutta joihinkin käyttäjiin liitos vaikutti merkittävästi. Kuntaliitoksella oli positiivinen vaikutus käyttäjiin Haukiputaalta ja Kiimingistä, mutta negatiivinen vaikutus käyttäjiin Oulusta tai Oulunsalosta. Vastaajat eivät nähneet ulkokaukaloita potentiaalisena vaihtoehtona nykyisten jääolosuhteiden lisäämiseen säistä johtuvan lyhyen ja epävarman kauden vuoksi.

Avainsanat: jääurheilu, jäähallit, kuntaliitos, ulkokaukalot, urheiluseurat, survey-tutkimus

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1 INTRODUCTION

The municipality merger in the Oulu region was challenging for several sports clubs, but especially the ice sports clubs were concerned about the outcome of the merger. The sufficiency of ice conditions had been a hot topic for decades before the merger, but the implementation of the merger was like throwing gas on fire; the users were truly worried about the future of their activities and the subject was also discussed in the local newspapers (Kotila 2012) and radio.

The municipality merger between Haukipudas, Kiiminki, Oulu, Oulunsalo and Yli-Ii came into effect in the Sports Services of the city of Oulu as per August 1, 2012. Thus, season 2012–2013 was the first season when all users from the joining municipalities shared the public facilities. This caused some changes in the sports clubs, as some gained more ice time comparing to past years and some experienced a decrease in the quantity of ice time at indoor ice rinks. Therefore, spring 2013 was a suitable time to look into the ice conditions from the users' perspective. The purpose of this research is to examine the sufficiency of indoor ice rink conditions. Additionally, this study investigates the impact of a municipality merger on the users and the possibility to exploit outdoor rinks more in the future. The selected research method was survey research. The population was census (N=149).

The literature review begins with the legislation of sports, which is followed by the development of the Sports Services of the City of Oulu from the beginning of the 20th century up until today. Chapter three discusses sports planning and research regarding the regional equality of sports sites. Additionally, chapter three includes a review of the current ice conditions in Oulu. Also, some previous reports relating to the topic are discussed.

Chapter four introduces the research questions and explains more about the purpose of the study. Chapter five presents the implementation of the research, which is followed by an analysis of the results and conclusions.

2 SPORT AND THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING

2.1 Sport as a fundamental service

The status of sport in the Finnish society is set in the legislation. The Sports Act (18.12.1998/1054) defines the roles and responsibilities of different actors in the field of sport (Finlex). According to the law, the state and municipalities are responsible for developing conditions for sports. Sports federations are in charge of organizing sports activities for citizens. Although sport is not directly mentioned in the constitution, in the arguments of a proposal by the board of constitution it is stated that the public sector promotes the opportunities of an individual to develop oneself through sports and physical exercise (Salmikangas 2012, 128). According to the policy, which is set in the Sports Act, the state grants financial aid for municipalities, which must allocate the funds for sports. But this policy was not recognized in law until 1979, when the first version of the Sports Act came into effect.

Public financial support for sports has not always been a given. In 1923, the subcommittee of the parliament stated that building sports facilities are not included in the services that the society offers to its citizens. Later on, the first financial aid for the construction of sports facilities was granted in 1931, but against the proposal by the Ministry of Education, the majority of the funds were directed to private constructors whereas public projects were seen as secondary. At that time, municipalities were not seen as potential providers of sport services, but the atmosphere changed along the years. In 1947, the committee recommended that municipalities should build sufficient sports fields for the citizens. Also, it was proposed that the largest cities should establish a sports office and that every municipality should at least establish a sports board to develop sports conditions. These suggestions were brought up later on in other reports as well. The organization of the public sports services in municipalities developed quickly after provinces founded sports boards in the 1950s. (Salmikangas 2012, 123-124)

Legislation in the Sports Act 1980 defined quite specifically how municipal state aid ought to be used. With the recession in the 1990s shrinking the national economy, the budget cuts had an impact also on the state aid for municipalities and sport expenses. In 1992, after the changes in legislation, municipalities started to receive state aid without applying. Also, the duty of reporting how the state aid had been spent was removed. Along these changes the number of sports boards decreased by 40 percent over the course of two years between 1991 and 1993 in Finland. The sports administration system, which had been built in the 1980s after the implementation of the Sports Act, was breaking up. (Salmikangas 2012, 126-127) In 1996, an amendment in the Sports Act noted that the state aid, which is granted for sports, must be allocated to sports. This policy is still in effect today. Overall, over the years the emphasis in the state aid has shifted from supporting the construction of new sports facilities to the broader promotion of sport.

2.2 The development of public sport services in Oulu

In the beginning of the 20th century, along with industrialization, Oulu got its first sports clubs: Oulun Uimaseura in 1906, Oulun Hiihtoseura in 1902, Oulun Pyrintö in 1904, Oulun Tarmo in 1907 and Oulun Luistinseura in 1908. In 1923, the representatives of Oulun Tarmo and Oulun Uimaseura wrote a proposal to the city council, in which they suggested founding a sports board in Oulu. The proposal was postponed till the decision of constructing the town's first sports field was made, which happened in 1924 when the Keskuskenttä project was launched. The sports board was founded in December 1924 with limited mandates. (Ilmanen 1993, 4-17) Overall, during the 1920s, several cities and municipalities founded a sports board or equivalent to coordinate decision-making in sports. Helsinki was the first city to establish a sports board in 1919. (Table 1)

Table 1. The establishment of sports boards in selected cities

Helsinki	1919	Jyväskylä	1925
Tampere	1922	Kajaani	1920
Turku	1922	Raahe	1927

Modified from: Ilmanen 1996, 42

It was common that sports boards were founded at the initiatives of sports clubs. In many cities there was a need for a sport site, but an expert group was needed to coordinate the project. Sports boards were founded to implement the task. This was the case in Oulu and Tampere, for example. Helsinki was an exception - the initiative came from the city planning architects and teachers, who justified the demand for a sports board with social, urban and educational needs. (Ilmanen 1996, 42-46)

The operation of the Oulu sports board was very much politically bound, as it still is today. The first sports instructor, who worked under the sports board, was hired temporarily in 1945. Two years later the position was made permanent, marking the first time the sports board had a city official as their secretary, which strengthened the position of the sports board. In 1949, the sports instructor received the first office of his own, which was the beginning of administrative organization in the public sports sector. (Ilmanen 1993, 34)

In the 1950s the first large investments in sports facilities were made in Oulu. The development of sports sites had been quite slow till then. Sports field Keskuskenttä was built in 1924, swimming location Linnasaari was introduced to the citizens in 1933, and there were also some playgrounds for children. As a sports facility, the Raatti stadium was totally in a league of its own. First, a sports field was built in 1952. It cost 2,5 million marks (417 000 euros) and forty percent of the expenses were covered by the Lottery proceeds. The second part, the stands for the sports field and the public swimming pool, were opened to the public in 1959. The growth in the amount of sports sites continued in the 1960s. In 1950, the number of ball fields in Oulu was 12, and by the end of the 1960s Oulu already had a total of 60 ball fields. Also, there was an increase in school gyms, beaches and ski trails. Along with the growth, the personnel in the sports office increased as well. At the end of the 1960s, the sports office had 26 employees. Most of them were in maintenance duties. As the city organization was renewed in 1968, the sports office was changed into sports and outdoor recreation office. Simultaneously, maintenance workers were transferred to work under the construction department. (Ilmanen 1993, 43-57) The name change reflected the change in the attitudes towards public services; the concept of

sports had shifted and extended from competitive sports to sports as a tool for wellbeing.

As regarding to investing in sport, Oulu followed the footsteps of other similar cities. The war years 1939 - 1944 were financially tough for Finland, but after the war several cities and municipalities were able to activate and develop sports sites and sports services for citizens. Cities hired sports instructors, and towns, which did not previously have a sports board, established one. Larger cities, especially Helsinki, Tampere and Turku, were slightly ahead in developing the operational environment of sports. Turku had hired the first sports instructor in Finland in 1937. Among many other sports sites, Tampere turned an old factory building into two sports gyms in 1933 (which are assumed to be the first ones in Finland), and after the war continued the development with large investments, such as the Ratina stadium and the Pyynikki swimming pool. Helsinki shifted their sports facilities to a totally new level when preparing for the 1940 Olympics (which were eventually cancelled due to the war). (Ilmanen 1996, 80-126)

As Finland experienced strong growth over the decades after the wars, the increasing tax income gave the opportunity make large public investments also in Oulu. In the 1970s, a second public swimming pool was built in Raksila in 1974, and a year later the first indoor ice rink Raksila was opened. Also the Äimärautio hippodrome and the stands were renovated. As the sports club Pyrintö had difficulties managing their debts relating to the sports hall near the city centre, the city of Oulu reclaimed the property to itself. In the 1980s' the pace of creating new facilities slowed down. After a long dispute over the construction decision, the sports complex Ouluhalli was finally introduced to people in 1987. (Ilmanen 1993, 64-72)

The city administration was reorganized in 1993. Simultaneously, the sports and outdoor recreations office was changed into a sports department. The maintenance workers were transferred back to the sports department. (Ilmanen 1993, 92) The organization structure remained the same up until 2008, when the city organization was turned into the customer-provider model. In the customer-provider model, the units in the city organization are separated into ones that define, order and pay for the services and the ones that provide the

services. The goal is to enhance productivity and efficiency by increasing flexibility in the service delivery process in the city organization (Martikainen and Meklin 2003, 10). In the customer-provider model the maintenance workers were transferred to yet another organization. The sports department shrunk the organization to approximately 30 employees.

2.3 Towards a municipality merger

A year later, in 2009, the Ministry of Finance assigned an administrator to prepare a plan on restructuring the local authorities. The plan was executed on request by the municipalities of Haukipudas, Kiiminki, Muhos, Oulu, Oulunsalo and Yli-Ii. In February 2010, administrator Arto Koski suggested in his proposal that the municipalities of Haukipudas, Kiiminki, Muhos, Oulu, Oulunsalo and Yli-Ii cease to exist on December 31, 2012, and a new municipality will be formed on January 1, 2013. This new municipality would use the name Oulu. City councils voted on the proposal on April 26, 2010 and as a result all the municipalities except Muhos accepted it. Koski presented a new proposal on May 5, 2010 to merge the municipalities of Haukipudas, Kiiminki, Oulu, Oulunsalo and Yli-Ii (Figure 1). City councils accepted the proposal and preparations to form the New Oulu started. (Oulun Seudun Kuuden Kunnan Kuntajakoselvitys 2010)



Haukipudas, population: 18 932

Kiiminki, population: 13 183

Oulu, population: 141 962

Oulunsalo, population: 9 699

Yli-Ii, population: 2 185

(Oulun kaupunki)

Figure 1. Merging municipalities

2.3.1 Reorganization of local government and services

The municipality merger of Oulu is the result of the PARAS project, which The Minister of Regional and Municipal Affairs launched in 2005 to reorganize local government and services. The purpose of the project was to secure welfare state services in the changing circumstances of the future. The retirement of the post-war baby boom generation, the aging of the population and internal migration will all be serious challenges for the Finnish welfare state. (Sibenberg 2009) The project encourages regions to reform and integrate their services and administrations to form larger municipalities. The objective is to enhance the efficiency to produce public services and secure the vitality of the welfare state in years to come. (Maisila 2010)

Reorganizing the public sector is necessary for the future's stake. The population in Finland is one of the most rapidly aging populations in the world. Only the population in Japan is aging faster (Luoma et al. 2003, 5). In 2001, the dependency ratio was 65 dependents (including pensioners and children) to 100 workers. During the next three decades, the percentage of pensioners only will rise to 90 (9). Therefore, the demand for the social and health care services will be expected to rise drastically within the upcoming decades.

The size of the public sector in Finland is large as measured both in the total number of employees and as costs accumulated by public sector in relation to GDP. Public services are financed through taxation. The average tax percent in 2004 was 44%. (The Ministry of Finance 2006, 1) The total number of personnel in the public sector in 2004 was 555 000 (3), of which about half worked in the social and health care sector (5). The costs of the public sector in 2004 were 51,1% of GDP. The expenses accumulated by public administration were 6.6% of GDP. (Tuomala 2009, 51)

2.4 Challenges of Oulu now and in the future

Before the municipality merger, Oulu was the only city in Finland that had sports documented in their city strategy. Now, after the merger, a new strategy must be developed and while writing this thesis, the strategy for the merged Oulu was not yet introduced. It has been decided that the city of Oulu will abandon the customer-provider model and a new model to implement public services will be developed (Oulun kaupunki 2013). Oulu will face some harsh financial difficulties over the upcoming years. As several companies in the information and communications technology industry have disappeared from Oulu, tax income has dropped and caused 25 million euro deficit this year alone. (Sipola 2013)

2.5 Annual expenses of the sports services

The annual expenses of the sports services for 2011 in Oulu were 19,7 million euros, whereas in 2001 the expenses were 10,5 million Euros. Overall, the sports services costs have risen in ten years approximately by 6,6 percent per year. Chart 1 shows the development of the sports services costs in Jyväskylä, Oulu, Tampere and Oulu 2001-2011. The cost of sports services per capita amounted to 137 euros in 2011, the highest among the comparative cities. The sports services costs per capita have risen approximately by 5 percent annually from 2001, when costs were respectively 85,41 Euros per capita. Chart 2 shows the development of the sports services costs in Jyväskylä, Oulu, Tampere and Oulu 2001-2011. (LIPAS database 2013a)

Source: LIPAS database

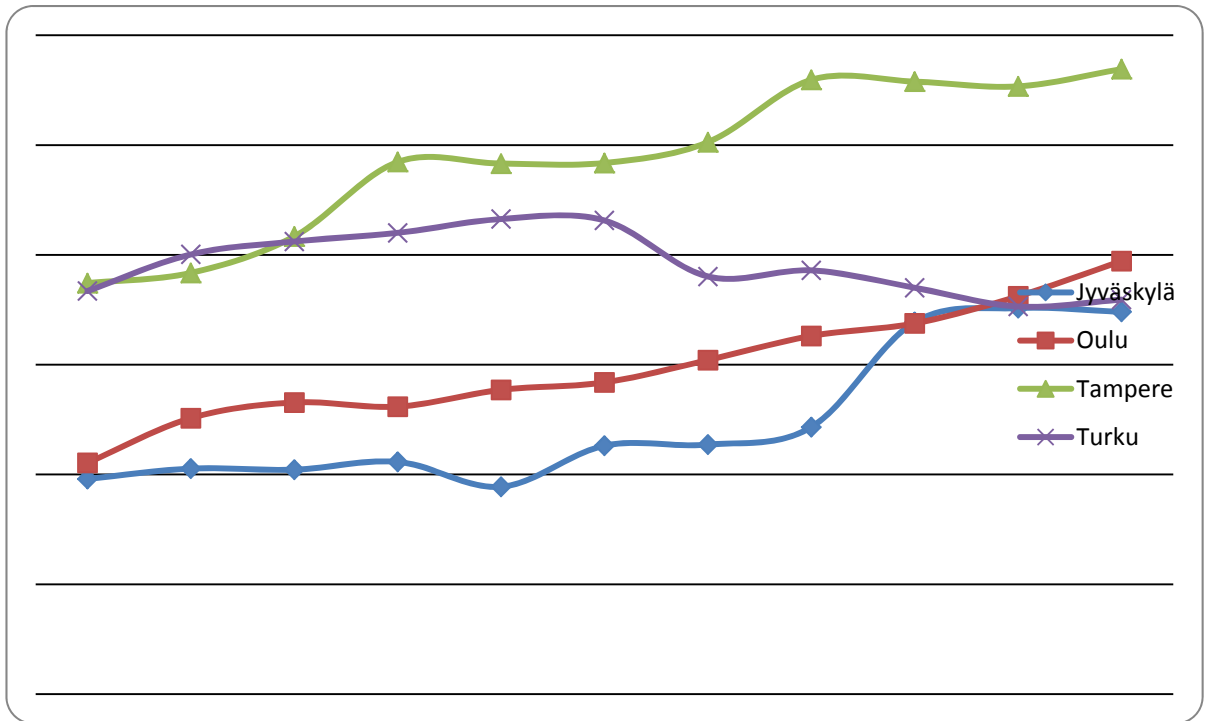


Chart 1. Annual cost of sports services 2001-2011 in Jyväskylä, Oulu, Tampere and Turku (t€)

Source: LIPAS database

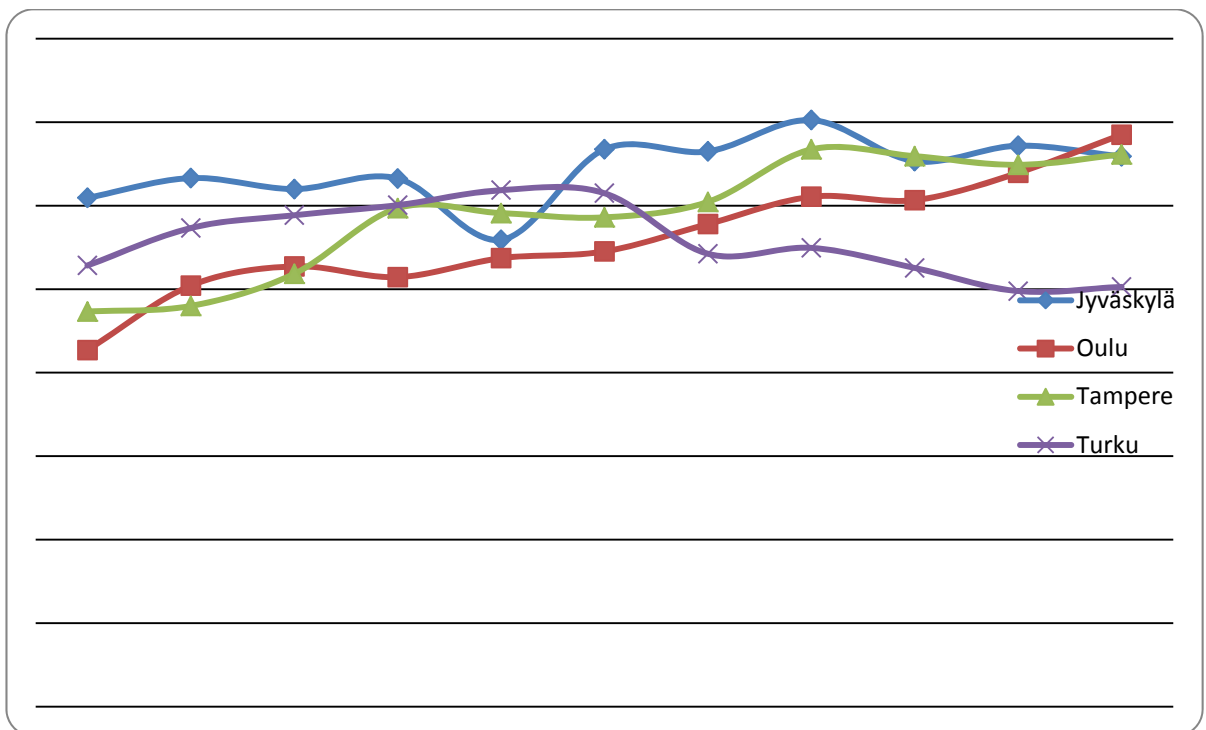


Chart 2. Annual cost of sports services 2001-2011 in Jyväskylä, Oulu, Tampere, Turku per capita

3 SPORTS PLANNING

Along with the rapid urbanization in the beginning of the 20th century arose a need for urban planning, which took into consideration the recreational needs of workforce. From those basis was also sports planning developed. The first time sports planning was introduced was by Meurman, who calculated on the basis of population and construction efficiency how many sports areas, playgrounds and parks neighborhoods should have. (Suomi 2012, 24)

Suomi (2012) has conducted sports planning research by applying Lewin's equation of behavior to sports behavior. According to Lewin, (sports) behavior (B) is a function of a person (P) and the surrounding community (C). From that theoretical standpoint, Suomi has developed an environment-oriented sports planning method. There are four spheres in this method. Home and yard form the home sphere, which is the primary environment for the activities of children, families and elderly people. Around the home sphere lies the block and neighborhood sphere, which creates communal sense in the environment. The surrounding block and neighborhood sphere is day sphere, which is the primary movement area of adults. The largest sphere, the city or municipal sphere, consists of terminal locations, such as public swimming pools, ice arenas and such, which are regional main sites of activities. (Suomi 2012, 24-25)

The theory of environment-oriented sports planning method should be understood as ideal planning. This is the goal in planning, but in reality it is probably never achieved due to the complexity of the decision-making process. According to Suomi, the environment-oriented sports planning method does not only take into account the spatial, but also physical, functional, social and psychological experience in time and space. The problem of the planning method is passing the plans in the decision-making system. In some cases the plans have been great, but the execution of the planning has been left out to decision-makers. Therefore, collaborative planning has lately taken place in the planning process. In collaborative planning, different parties - such as the users of sports sites, architects and decision-makers - are involved in the decision-making process. Sociologist Habermas has had an impact on the theory of collaborative planning. According to Habermas, there are

always two separate worlds in planning that ought to be connected: the world of ordinary people and their experiences and the system world that represents rationality in the decision-making process. At times, the experiences of ordinary people fail to reach the planning process or the decision-making system. (Suomi 2012, 25-26) The current Sports Act states that sports sites must be built in cooperation with the public sector and civic activity.

Currently about 30 percent of all sports sites are privately owned. The portion has increased annually by one percent since 1980. (Suomi 2012, 27)

3.1 Sports sites and equality

Suomi et al. (2012) have investigated equality relating to the accessibility of sports sites. The research was conducted in 1998 and 2009. The results indicated that inequality has increased concerning the accessibility of sports sites. Especially people with higher socioeconomic status and the ones with living somewhere else than in Lapland, Northern Ostrobothnia (where Oulu is located), Kainuu and eastern Finland, have a significantly better accessibility to a wide selection of sports sites than people with lower socioeconomic status and living in regions mentioned above. Suomi et al. criticize the current system of granting the state aid towards the construction of sports facilities and claiming that the system increases regional equality. The state aid is directed regionally on the basis of the portion of applications. The problem is that sparsely-populated regions with small towns cannot produce applications, because they cannot afford investing in the development of sports facilities with the other basic services - schools, hospitals and such - take up the whole budget. The results also showed that sports sites that are most used by adults are not actual sports sites at all. The most popular sites among adults were bike trails. It was noted that by constructing more sports sites the sports activity of adults would not increase, except in the case of outdoor areas, swimming pools and gyms. (Suomi et al. 2012, 125-126)

Suomi et al. (2012, 93) examined the availability of different sports sites by calculating the portion of the population that had a certain sports site within the defined proximity. The results showed that less than one percent of the population has an artificial ice rink in the proximity of 10 kilometers in Northern Ostrobothnia. In comparison, in the southwest of Finland the corresponding figure was almost 14 percent. An indoor ice rink was in the proximity of 20 kilometers with approximately 30 percent of the population in Northern Ostrobothnia, as simultaneously 75 percent of population in the southwest of Finland had an indoor rink within 20 kilometers of their home (2012, 97). Overall, the results also revealed that the use of outdoor ice rinks had slightly decreased between 1998 and 2009. Suomi et al. (2012, 72) concluded that due to the challenging weather conditions the season for outdoor ice can be minimal at times, which also has an impact on the usage of outdoor ice sites. Researchers also noted that despite the number of indoor ice facilities has increased, it will be impossible to replace outdoor sites with indoor facilities.

3.2 Ice sports conditions in Oulu

According to the Regional Sports Service Network Plan in the region of Oulu, including the municipalities of Hailuoto, Haukipudas, Kempele, Kiiminki, Liminka, Lumijoki, Muhos, Oulu, Oulunsalo and Tyrnävä, one of the goals of the sport services is to provide equal availability of facilities. The Regional Sports Service Network Plan has divided ice sports facilities into two categories. Outdoor ice rinks have been classified as local sites (targeted for 10 000 people) and indoor ice rinks have been classified as regional sites (targeted for 40 000 people).

3.2.1 Indoor ice facilities

The city of Oulu has a total of seven indoor ice rinks within its area. Figure 2 shows the locations of the rinks. The sports department of the city of Oulu coordinates four of them: These four rinks are the main ice rink (marked as letter A), two Linnanmaa ice rinks (letter C) and the Oulunsalo ice rink (letter F), which was added to the sports site network in the merger. Three of the indoor ice rinks are owned and coordinated by private companies, the Raksila ice rink (letter B), the Haukipudas ice rink (letter E) and the Jääli ice rink (letter D).

In addition, there is one artificial ice field in Oulu, which is used by a bandy team and speed skaters.

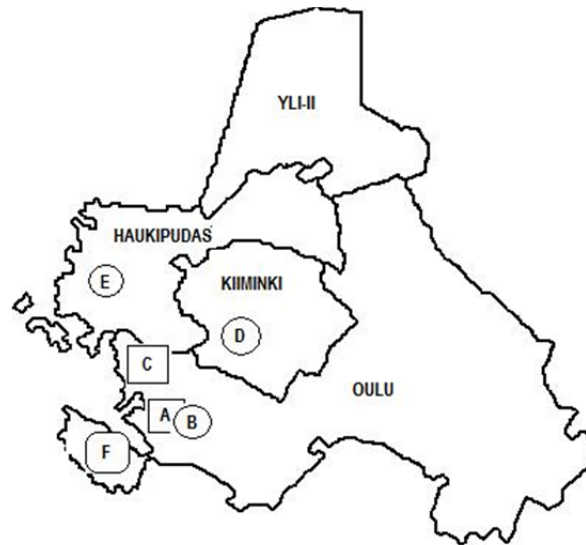


Figure 2. Indoor ice rinks in Oulu

As it was mentioned earlier, the first ice arena in Oulu was built in 1975 (LIPAS database 2013b). The rink was built in the era of a steady growth. The same facility is still today the home arena for the men's professional hockey team Kärpät. Also the most competitive teams in Oulu share the same rink, such as U20 and U18 junior hockey teams, women's hockey team, rink ball team and figure skaters. The arena was renovated in 2004.

The second indoor ice rink was built in Kiiminki in 1987 (LIPAS database 2013b). It was the first privately built indoor ice rink in Scandinavia. The rink is in heavy use today by recreational teams and sports club Kiimingin Kiekko-Pojat. The price for ice time is 170 € per hour.

The Oulunsalo ice rink was built in 1992 (LIPAS database 2013b). Before the municipality merger, the municipality of Oulunsalo owned the rink and a private company ran the operations. Prior to the merger (2013), the cost of one hour ice time was 170 € to all customers. After the merger, the price dropped to 50 € for sports clubs, 90 € for unorganized groups and groups under 18 years of age use the rink for free.

The Haukipudas ice rink was also built in 1992. Sports club Ahmat has the majority ownership and the municipality has the minority ownership. The ice time price is 140 € per hour.

Linnanmaa was the second publicly owned ice facility in Oulu and it was built in 2000. It has two rinks. The main users in the rink are juniors under 18 years of age. All prime time hours between 4pm-9pm are given to junior groups. The price for one hour ice time is 50 € for sports clubs, 90 € for unorganized groups and groups under 18 years of age use the rink for free.

The Raksila practice rink was built in 2008. It is a privately owned rink by Kärppäsäätiö, but there is an agreement that the ownership will be transferred to the city of Oulu in 2023. The main users of the rink are Kärpät juniors, figure skaters and recreational teams. The cost of ice time is 116 € per hour.

3.2.2 Outdoor ice conditions

There are a total of nine outdoor rinks in Oulu, on which customers can reserve practice times. In season 2012 - 2013 those rinks were in Castren, Heinäpää, Jääli, Lintula and Pateniemi. The Sports Department could add more outdoor rinks, but there is currently no demand and no need to do that. Outdoor ice rinks are categorized according to their quality into quality classes 1-3. The above mentioned rinks are categorized as class 1 and those are iced five times a day. The cost of maintaining these outdoor ice rinks amounted to approximately 14,000 € per month in 2011. The rinks in class 2 are iced twice a day and the rinks in class 3 are iced once a day. The cost of maintaining these rinks is approximately 10,000 € and 7,000 € per month, respectively. (Oulun kaupungin liikuntalautakunta 2011, 12)

Outdoor ice fields are categorized according to their quality in quality classes 1-4. In class 1, the field is iced after every practice and game. There is only one class 1 outdoor ice field, the Raksila artificial outdoor ice field, which is in use from the beginning of October till the

end of March. In 2011, the expenses were estimated at approximately 77t € per month. There are a total of 53 outdoor ice fields, which are categorized in classes 2-4 and those are freely available for citizens. The expenses in classes 2-4 varied from approximately 23t € to 1,000 € per month. In class 2, the field is iced once every day, whereas in class 4 the field is iced only once a week, which explains the large difference in costs. (Oulun kaupungin liikuntalautakunta 2011, 11)

Artificial ice is vulnerable to weather changes, but usually the season is approximately 20-30 weeks long. The challenge with natural outdoor ice fields and rinks is that the season may be very short, only 4-12 weeks. Although the natural outdoor ice rinks and fields are less expensive to maintain, the icing may be useless during warm winters if the weather changes a lot. (Oulun kaupungin liikuntalautakunta 2011, 11)

3.3 Popularity of ice sports

The most popular ice sport in Oulu is ice hockey, which had 2,737 licensed players in 2011, and approximately 700 recreational players without license. Rink bandy has about 1,000 players and figure skating approximately 400 skaters. According to the calculations of Sports Department of the city of Oulu, there is a need for two additional indoor ice rinks just to satisfy the ice time needs of junior teams, without even mentioning recreational groups and senior teams. There is no data available concerning the demands for ice time for recreational groups, but this research aims to collect that missing data. The Sports Department also reports that in all merging municipalities there have been discussions on how much of the ice time will be given to sports clubs and how big a share of the practice times will be given to non-organized recreational groups. Sports clubs are also interested in being involved in activating citizens to exercise and organizing activities to beginners. A sufficient amount of facilities is required in order to offer equal opportunities to citizens to do sports. (Oulun kaupungin liikuntalautakunta 2011, 14-15)

Overall, from a nationwide perspective, ice sports are very popular in Finland. In 2010 ice hockey had 67,463 licensed players, rink bandy had 4,045 licensed players and figure skating had 4,359 licensed skaters. Ice hockey has the second most licensed players in

Finland. Football has the most, a total of 114,656 players. According to the National Sports Research, ice hockey has about 200,000 players, rink bandy has about 19,500 players, and figure skating 26,500 skaters. (Table 2) The figures in the National Sports Research represent the amount of recreational actors in these sports, whereas the licensed users take part in competitions organized by sports federations. (Huippu-urheilun faktapankki) Taloustutkimus Oy conducts annual surveys on the most attractive and the most followed sports in Finland. In 2011, ice hockey was ranked number one in this study, which was conducted by a survey of 3,531 respondents of ages between 15-79years. Figure skating was ranked fourth. (Öster 2012)

Table 2. The numbers of hobbyists and licensed athletes in ice hockey, rink bandy and figure skating

	Hobbyists 2005-2006	Hobbyists 2009-2010	Licenses 2006	Licenses 2010
Ice hockey	195 000	200 000	60 160	67 463
Rink bandy	49 500	19 500	3 200	4 045
Figure skating	20 000	26 500	3 491	4 359

(Huippu-urheilun faktapankki)

After the municipality merger, Oulu has approximately 190 000 inhabitants. As it was mentioned earlier, there are four publicly owned rinks, three privately run rinks, and two rinks in the neighboring towns within 40 kilometers. In comparison, Tampere has 215,000 inhabitants and the city of Tampere has a total of ten indoor ice rinks, of which seven are publicly owned and three privately owned. There are also seven additional rinks in neighboring municipalities within 25 kilometers. (LIPAS database 2013c)

Many traditional sports, which have been perceived as elite sport, have gained a new, recreational dimension. For instance, the number of recreational ice hockey players is growing every year by 10% (Oikarinen 2012). Matti Anttila from the Finnish Ice Hockey Association reports that the demand for adult recreational ice hockey in the Oulu region is very high, but the current circumstances prohibit the growth (Anttila 2012).

3.4 Previous reports on current ice conditions

There are a few reports that have been conducted relating to the subject. In 2001, a working

group prepared a report, which examined the options for the main ice arena in Oulu. The options were basically to renovate the old Raksila arena built in 1975, or build a modern new ice arena. The working group recommended that the best option would be to build a new ice arena. According to the working group, the option of building a new arena would be less expensive than renovating the old one, but eventually the decision-makers decided to renovate the existing Raksila ice stadium, which took place in 2004. (Oulun kaupunki 2001, 2)

A committee, which consists of members of the sports clubs in the Oulu region, has conducted two small-scale surveys with the ice sports clubs in 2008 and 2010. In both surveys the respondents expressed their need for an additional indoor ice rink. The respondents hoped that also other user groups besides juniors under 18 years of age, such as recreational players, were given practice times at the indoor ice rinks. (Seuraneuvottelukunta 2011)

In 2010, vice mayor Sinikka Salo set a working group to examine a need for an artificial outdoor ice center in the Linnanmaa area in Oulu. The purpose of the working group was to investigate the need and optimal profile of the center. The report concluded that there is a demand for an artificial ice center. It was also recommended that the ice area should be covered, which would diminish the effect of the weather on the ice. The center would consist of two ice rinks, which would be surrounded by a speed skating track and a skating area. The center would serve both regular citizens as well as sports clubs. The estimated cost of the center is 11 million €. (Oulun kaupungin liikuntalautakunta 2011, 3) The project is currently in the planning stage and the realization of the center is unsecure.

4 THE AIM OF THE STUDY AND RESEARCH PROBLEMS

The purpose of this research is to examine the sufficiency of indoor ice rink conditions in Oulu, Finland. The lack of sufficient indoor ice rink conditions has been discussed for a long period of time in Oulu, but the municipality merger between five municipalities launched even more concerns among the users of ice rinks (Kotila 2012). As the population of Oulu almost doubled in the merge, also the number of users entitled to practice time at the public ice rinks increased.

As a city official in the Sports Services I have had a chance to work with the local sports clubs during the municipality merger. Several representatives of the sports clubs were concerned of the impacts of the merger before it came to effect. Also, many recreational users probably experienced some effects of the merger. When this study was conducted, the first season with the merged municipalities was behind. Therefore, the timing for this study was suitable. Since the data relating to the sufficiency of the ice conditions has so far relied solely on assumption, this research aims to fill the gap in the missing information relating to the issue. The aim is to look into the question: *Are the current indoor ice rink conditions sufficient in Oulu after the municipality merger?*, which is also the main research problem of this study. According to calculations made in the Sports Services in 2011, the current indoor ice rink conditions were insufficient. In these calculations the number of users was compared to the current amount of facilities, but no user feedback was collected. This research will gather together opinions and thoughts of the users on the subject matter.

In this research, the users are divided into two groups according to age, children and youth under 18, and adults. The division is natural, since sports conditions of children and youth are of key interest in the strategy of the Sports Services of Oulu. This means that for instance at the Linnanmaa ice rink, the primary ice time is divided for juniors under 18 years of age. There is one sub-question relating to both age groups, children and adults. Despite the fact that a large share of resources is directed at children's activities, according to the feedback from the sports clubs, the ice conditions are insufficient. With scarce resources, sports clubs may be forced to face the choice of giving ice time either for elite

sports or for recreational sports. There is pressure to produce high-level athletes, but simultaneously giving an opportunity for all children to get involved in sports is important. Therefore, the sub-question regarding child and youth sports is: *Can sports clubs offer equal training conditions for both competitive and recreational groups?*

The sub-question relating to adult sports concerns the conditions of adult recreational sports. As the majority of the ice time is given for juniors under 18, the remaining ice time for adults seems quite minimal. Nevertheless, adult recreational sports have an important role as a maintainer of health and the ability to work. Therefore, one aim of this study is to explore: *How recreational users experience current ice conditions?*

The third sub-question concerns the impacts of the municipality merger. The question is: *Did the municipality merger have an impact on the users?* The predicted hypothesis is that the merger did have an impact on the users, since after the merger there were more users entitled to the same resources than before it. There may also be differences as to how the municipality merger affected the respondents on the basis of their hometown before the merger.

The fourth sub-question is: *Could outdoor rinks be better utilized in the future?* The usage of outdoor rinks has drastically dropped within the last two decades. The aim is to explore the reasons for this and investigate the possible obstacles for utilizing the rinks more.

5 DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Quantitative research refers to a study, which applies exact and statistical research methods. It is difficult to differentiate quantitative and qualitative research from another. There are no clear lines between them. Today, quantitative and qualitative approaches can be seen as complementing each other. (Hirsjärvi et al. 2009, 136) This research is mostly quantitative, but it has qualitative elements as well.

5.1 Survey research

The selected research method in this study is survey research, which is a traditional method in quantitative research. One advantage of survey research is the opportunity to gather data from a large group of people. Also, several subjects can be examined in a survey. It is also an efficient method, since it will save time from the researcher. Plenty of data can be gathered in a relatively short amount of time. Survey research has also disadvantages. First, it is not possible to be sure as to how seriously and honestly the respondents answered the questions. Second, it is not obvious that the respondents understood the questions correctly. Additionally, formulating a good questionnaire takes time and requires that the researcher has knowledge of the subject. (Hirsjärvi et al. 2009, 195) Since all possible users at indoor ice rinks in Oulu area were included in the study (N=149), survey research was a natural choice for research method. Open-ended questions in the survey represent the qualitative part of the study. The answers to the open-ended questions were categorized to facilitate the analyzing of these questions in a quantitative manner.

5.2 Research data

Research data consists of users of the indoor ice rinks in Oulu after the municipality merger (N=149), which took place at the beginning of 2013 and joined together five municipalities: Haukipudas, Kiiminki, Oulu, Oulunsalo and Yli-Ii. The survey was sent to all parties that applied for ice time from the public indoor ice rinks and Raksila practice rink for season 2012-2013 and also to the teams who played recreational leagues run by the Finnish Ice Hockey Association and to sports club Kiekko-Haukat.

5.3 Implementation of the study

The data was collected electronically using an online survey and analysis software ZEF Arviontikone. The respondents were sent a link via email, which led to the survey. Since the survey was sent out to all the potential respondents, in other words the whole population, the sample size in this research was census. It is reasonable to use census in cases of small populations. The total size of the sample was N=149. The respondent material was gathered from the customers of the Sports Department of the City of Oulu (N=77), the customers of the Raksila practice rink (N=14) and the teams playing in recreational league run by Kiekko-Haukat or the Finnish Ice Hockey Association (N=58). Each sports club and non-organized group replied to the survey once. Therefore, several people from the same club were not able to respond to the survey. Instead, the survey was sent to the contact person of the club, who replied to the survey on behalf of the whole sports club. This procedure ensured that the responses from the larger and smaller sports clubs, recreational teams and other users came in right proportion to each other, and represented the reality of the users.

The respondents needed an internet connection in order to fill out the survey. An advantage for this method was that it was relatively easy for the respondent to take. As opposed to a traditional mail survey, respondents did not have to mail the questionnaire back to the researcher. On the other hand, a disadvantage of this method was that the respondents may not have taken enough time to answer the questions carefully, although this may happen with a traditional mail survey as well. Another disadvantage may be the requirement of an internet connection, although this seems unlikely. The applicants for ice time at indoor ice rinks were required to give their email addresses on the applications. The users who get an ice time/practice time receive confirmation of their practice time by email.

The survey was sent out by email on April 24, 2013. The respondents replied to the survey online. The respondents were reminded about the survey three times, April 29, 2013, May 3, 2013 and May 7, 2013. The last day to answer to the survey was May 8, 2013. When the survey was first sent out to the respondents, 45 % of them took it. After the first reminder

email, which was sent on April 29, 15.4 % responded. The last two reminders were sent on May 3rd and May 7, which added the responded by 11.4 % and 3.4 %, respectively. Initially the last day to reply was May 6, but the date was switched to May 8 to see if more people would reply during these two extra days, and five people did. Four more people replied after May 8th and the last responses arrived on May 13. These responses were also included in the research. The total response rate was 77.9 %. (Table 3)

Table 3. The process of gathering the data

Timeframe	Number of replies	% of total
April 24 th – April 28 th	67	45,0 %
April 29 th – May 2 nd	23	15,4 %
May 3 rd – May 6 th	17	11,4 %
May 7 th – May 8 th	5	3,4 %
May 9 th – May 13 th	4	2,7 %
Total	116 of 149	77.9 %

The majority of respondents who did not reply to the questionnaire were the teams playing Kiekko-Haukat recreational league. Some of these teams do not operate in Oulu. This is likely to be the reason why these teams did not reply to the questionnaire. Additionally, three respondents informed that they had moved to another municipality and therefore were unable to answer to the questions correctly.

The timing for the survey was quite suitable. Although the municipality merger came into effect on January 1, 2013, the sports services of the merging municipalities were not combined until 2012. Therefore, season 2012–2013 was the first time that all sports clubs and unorganized groups shared the same facilities among the merged municipalities. As the Oulunsalo indoor ice rink was renovated during fall 2012, spring 2013 was the first time all public rinks were in use. The spring season for the indoor ice rinks ended on April 28. Therefore, the timing of the survey was good, since experiences from the past season were hopefully and arguably fresh in the minds of the respondents.

The questions of the survey were aligned with the research questions, which again arose from the informational needs of the Sport Services of the City of Oulu. The survey was compiled with the help of Hanna Vehmas, Kalervo Ilmanen and Pertti Matilainen from University of Jyväskylä.

5.4 Reliability and validity

Reliability of research refers to the repeatability of the measured results in the study (Hirsjärvi et al. 2009, 231). Kirk and Miller have identified three types of reliability relating to quantitative research, which are “(1) the degree to which a measurement, given repeatedly, remains the same, (2) the stability over time, and (3) the similarity of measurements within given time period” (Golafshani 2003, 598). To increase the reliability of this study, the aim was to describe the research process as precisely as possible.

Validity refers to the capability of research to measure what is supposed to be measured (Hirsjärvi et al. 2009, 231). To enhance the validity of this research, the survey was tested with two persons who were familiar with the subject to ensure that the questions were understandable. Also, the questions were posed from different angles, which not only gives a broader idea of the matter but also increases validity.

5.5 Data analysis

The majority of the questions in the survey were multiple-choice questions. The responses of multiple-choice questions were analyzed with the SPSS program (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The results were examined with percentage and frequency distributions. Also cross tabulation was used to view interaction between the two variables.

The survey also included open-ended questions. These qualitative responses were categorized according similarity, which enabled the quantifying of responses. After this, the responses were analyzed using a quantitative methodology.

6 RESULTS

The survey was sent out to 149 respondents. One respondent informed of moving to another city and one email address had expired. All in all, 116 people replied to the survey. The response rate was 77.9%.

6.1 Information on respondents

The majority of the respondents (96,5%) were male and 3,5 percent were female. More than half of the respondents (55%) represented registered sports clubs, 37% replied on behalf of an unorganized group, 4% were school organizations, and 3% represented other groups, such as registered associations (Chart 3).

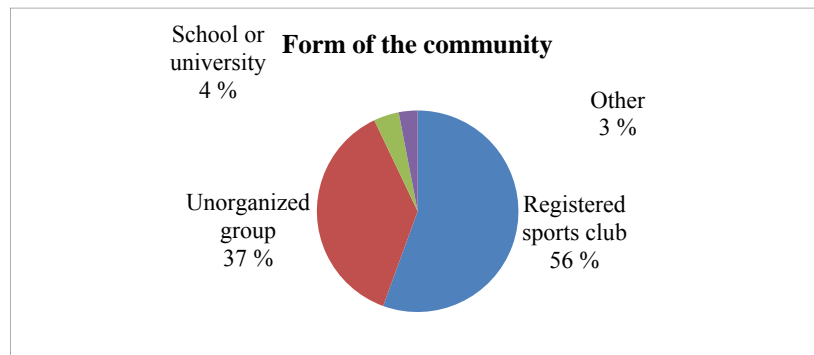


Chart 3. Division of form of the community of the respondents

The majority of the respondents (74%) reported that the party they represent concentrate only on adult sports, whereas 22% focus both on activity for children under 18 years of age and adults, and 4 percent had activity solely for children under 18 (Chart 4).

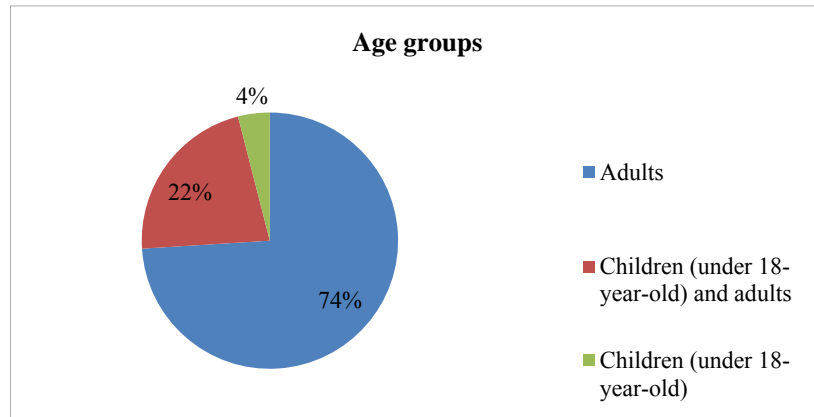


Chart 4. Division of users according to age groups

The majority of the sports clubs (57%) were small clubs with less than 50 members. The division of the sports clubs according to size can be seen in table 4. As table 4 indicates, adult teams usually belong to a small sports club, which explains the large share of adults in chart 4. Children’s sport is mainly concentrated to larger sports clubs, which may have several teams and even professional coaches. In other words, there were more respondents from adult sports clubs, since the activity is spread out to tens of different small sports, whereas children’s sports has remained in the traditional larger sports clubs.

Table 4. Division of sports clubs according to size and age of focus group

	Under 50	51-100	101-200	201-300	301-500	Over 501
Total (N=58)	56%	21%	2%	7%	7%	7%
Children (N=2)	50%	-	-	-	50%	-
Adults (N=42)	67%	21%	0%	7%	2%	2%
Both Children and Adults (N=14)	29%	21%	7%	7%	14%	21%

Ice hockey was the main sport for most respondents (77%). Approximately one fifth (19%) of the respondents named rink bandy as their main sport. Three percent reported that they did versatile sports and one percent were engaged in figure skating (Chart 5).

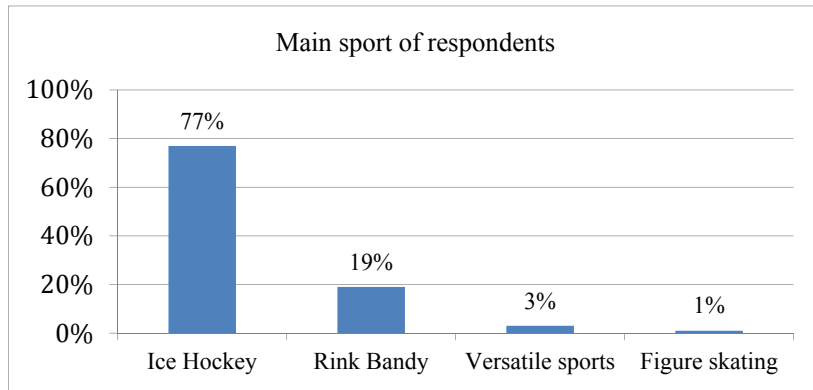


Chart 5. Division of main sports of respondents

The majority of the respondents (29%) were team managers in the organization on whose behalf they were replying to the survey. Less than one fifth (17%) were executive directors and persons responsible for the ice practice times respectively. 13% were chairmen and 8% treasurers. The division of the respondents' roles in the organizations can be seen in the chart 6.

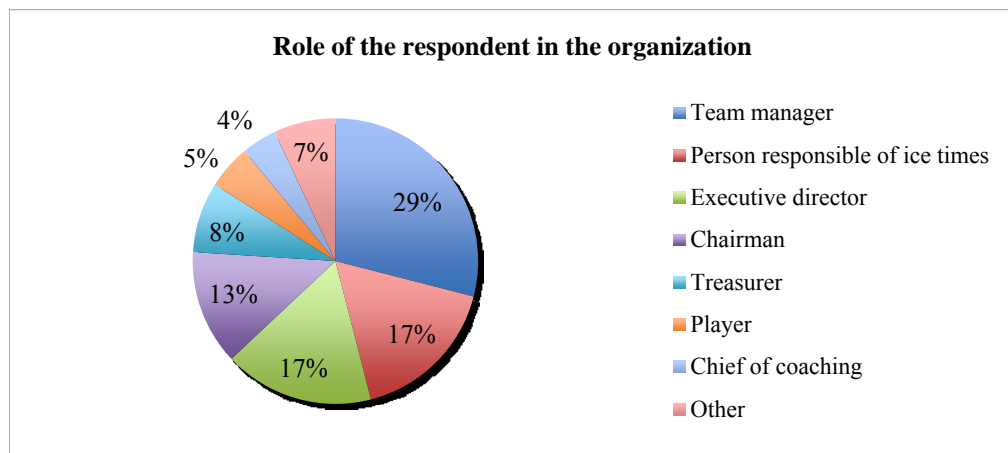


Chart 6. Division of respondents' role in organization

6.2 Children's and youth sports

There were a total of 25 respondents who replied to questions relating to children's and youth sports. Fifteen respondents (60%) were from sports clubs, eight from unorganized groups (32%) and two (8%) from schools and kindergartens.

The largest proportion of respondents (43%) reported that the nature of the activity for children was recreational. 39% replied that they had both competitive and recreational sports in their program for children, whereas 9% focused only on competitive sport. (Chart 7)

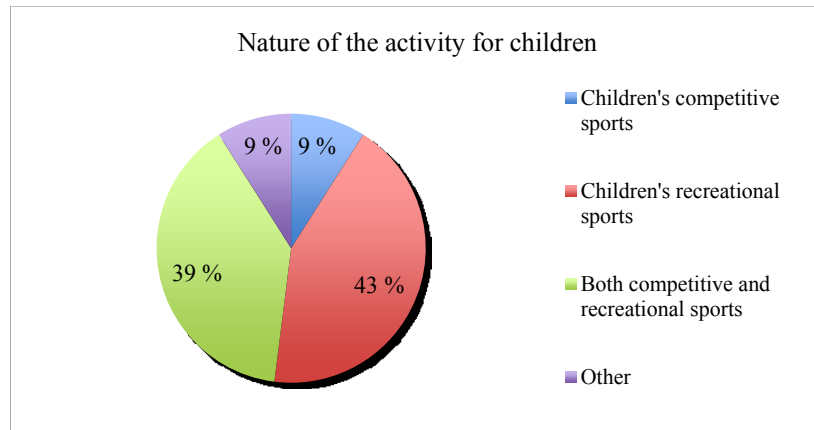


Chart 7. The division of respondents according to the nature of the activity for children

6.2.1 Sufficiency of ice time for children and youth

The respondents were asked whether they got sufficient amount of ice time for groups under 18 years of age regarding both public and private indoor ice rinks. Of all the respondents, 56% percent informed that they did not receive enough ice time. The respondents had an opportunity to report how many ice practice times they would actually need. The respondents informed that they would need a total of 26 ice practice times more for their operations for children and youth. Respectively, 44% replied they had adequate amount of ice time.

Respondents from the sports clubs were more satisfied with the quantity of ice time than respondents from the unorganized groups. Three out of four unorganized groups reported that they did not have a sufficient amount ice time, whereas 56% of sports clubs, respectively, mentioned the lack of ice time. Respondents from schools and kindergartens

were satisfied with the amount of ice time. The division of responses can be seen in the chart 8.

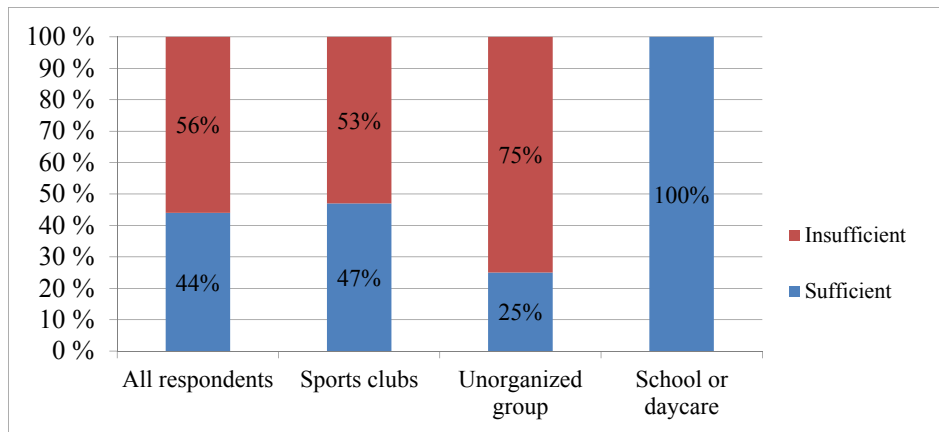


Chart 8. Sufficiency of ice time for children and youth during spring 2013

The respondents rated the sufficiency of ice time on a scale of “good, satisfactory, poor”. Of all respondents, 60% rated the sufficiency of ice time for children’s activity at least as “Satisfactory”. The division of ratings on behalf of sports clubs and unorganized groups can be seen in chart 8, which shows that the majority of unorganized groups (62%) rated the sufficiency of ice time as “Poor”, whereas 71% of the sports clubs evaluated the sufficiency of ice time at least as “Satisfactory”. The results are somewhat expected, since the majority of ice time is divided between sports clubs for children and youth sports. (Chart 9)

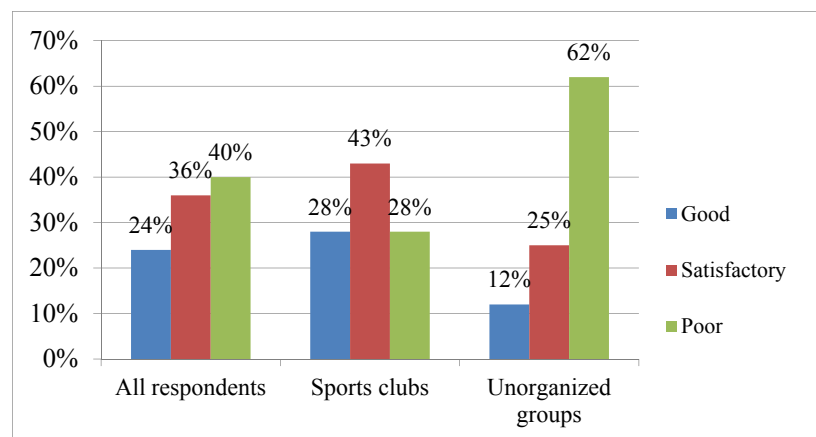


Chart 9. Sufficiency of ice time for children's activity rated on scale "Good / Satisfactory / Poor"

Four fifths (79%) of the respondents from sports clubs informed that they have groups/teams that do not have enough ice time for optimal training (Chart 10). The respondents additionally replied that the majority of these teams (55%) are both competitive and recreational teams. Approximately one fifth (18%) are recreational groups, about fifth (18%) other groups and 9% competitive groups/teams. (Chart 11)

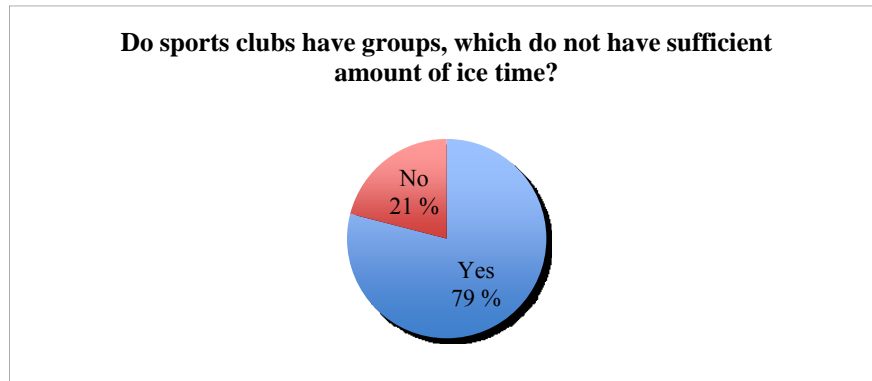


Chart 10. The division of responses on question "Does your sports club have groups that do not have enough ice time?"

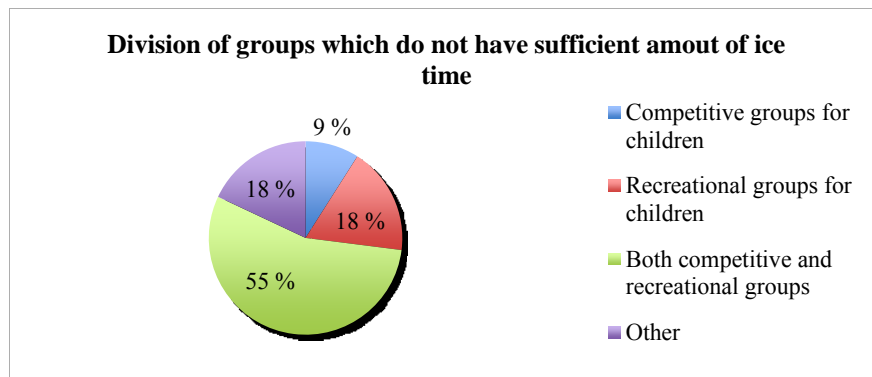


Chart 11. The division of groups that do not have enough ice time

If sports clubs must cut the ice time from groups/teams, seven of the respondents would cut time from recreational teams, two respondents from competitive teams of children under 14, three respondents would cut time from talent activity and three from other activities (Chart 12).

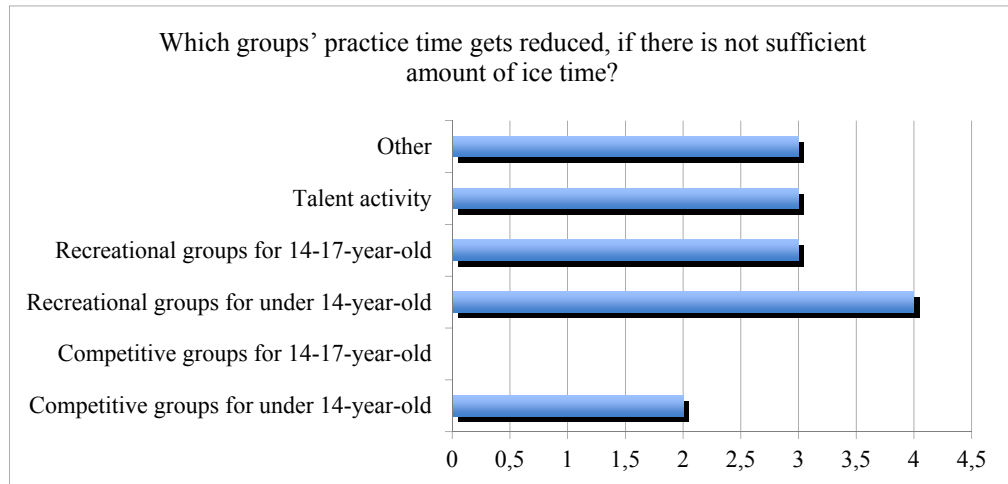


Chart 12. Which groups' ice practice time gets reduced, if there is not enough ice time?

Additionally, 62% of sports clubs informed that they were able to take on all children who want to participate in the sports club's activity, while 38% were not able take on newcomers due to the lack of ice practice time (Chart 13).

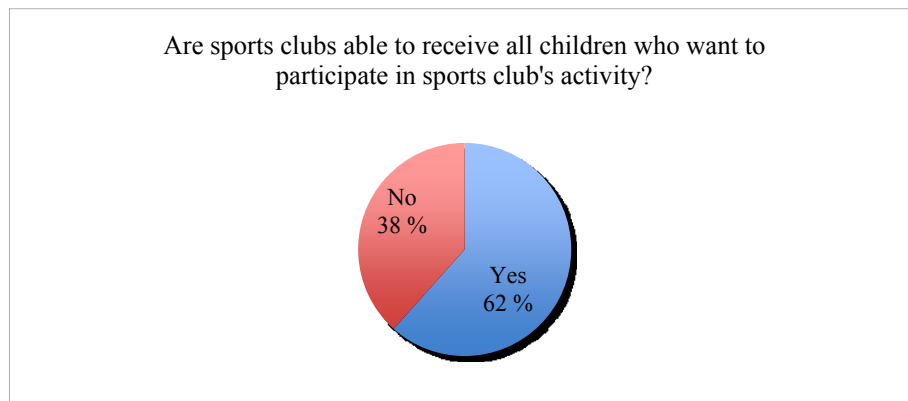


Chart 13. The ability of sports clubs to take on newcomers

6.2.2 Starting time of practices in children's and youth sports

Respondents rated the starting time for children's activity on ice. Approximately two thirds (60%) evaluated the starting time as at least "satisfactory". Unorganized groups were more dissatisfied with the starting times than sports clubs, as 34% of unorganized groups

evaluated the starting time as “Poor” as compared to 15% of sports clubs, respectively.
(Chart 14)

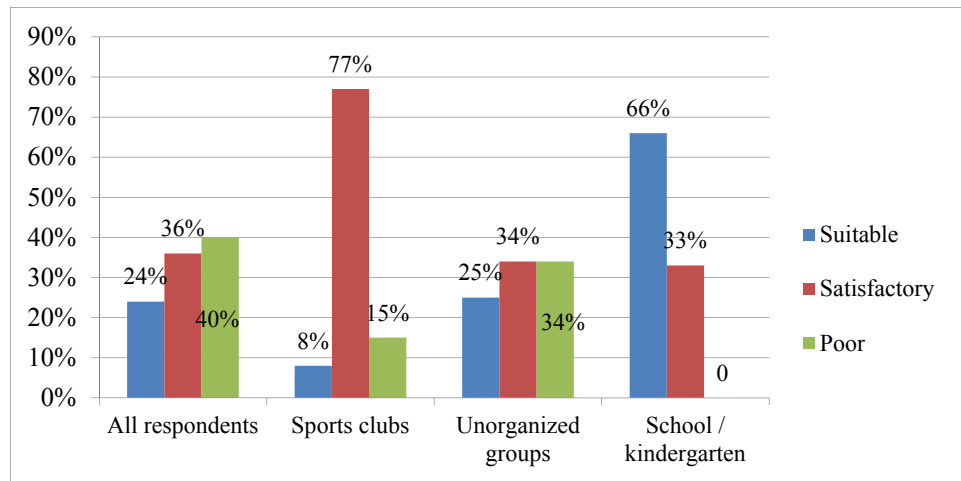


Chart 14. Starting time for children’s activity on ice

6.2.3 Off-ice training conditions in children’s and youth sports

Overall, two thirds of the respondents evaluated the off-ice practice conditions at least “Satisfactory”. Unorganized groups were more satisfied with the off-ice practice conditions than sports clubs, since 57% of the respondents from unorganized groups rated off-ice practice conditions “Good”, as compared to 21% of respondents from the sports clubs.
(Chart 15)

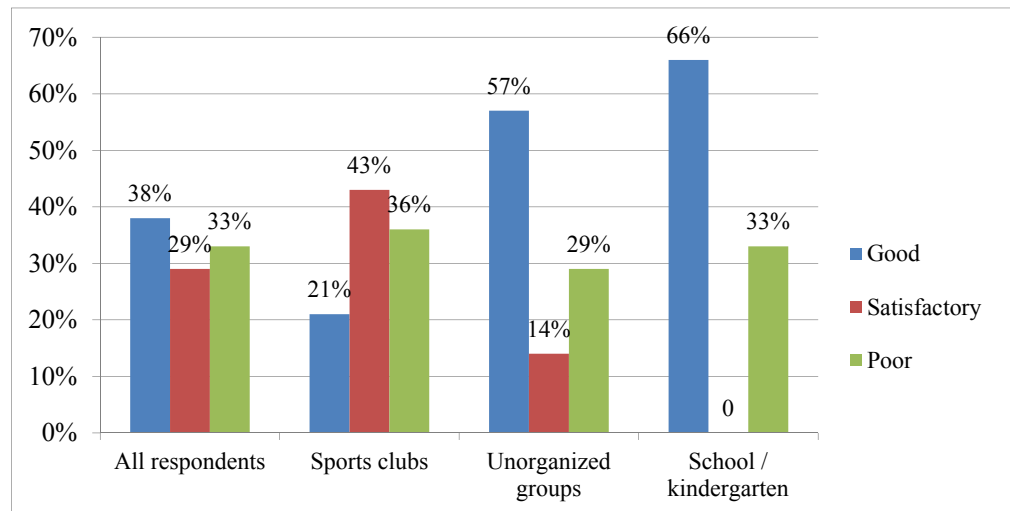


Chart 15. Off-ice practice conditions for children’s activity

Respondents had an opportunity to comment the current off-ice conditions for children’s and youth sports in an open-ended question. The responses were categorized and quantified. There were a total of 18 comments made. In 12 comments the respondents hoped for better conditions for weight training, warm-up and cool-down at ice rinks, especially Linnanmaa. Two respondents said current conditions are good and 4 responses were categorized as “other”.

6.2.4 Development suggestions for the conditions of children’s and youth sports

Respondents had a chance to comment the current ice conditions for children’s and youth sports in an open-ended question. Overall 22 comments were made. The comments were categorized and quantified as positive and negative comments. Overall, 14% of the comments were positive, 64% negative and 22% neutral “other” comments. The positive comments were general comments such as “Our situation is good”. The negative comments were more exact. The comments were categorized as seen in table 5. The most negative comments (36%) related to the lack of ice and the need to build new indoor ice rinks. Nine percent thought the prices at the private ice rinks were too expensive. Also, nine percent suggested that the ice time of private rinks too should be included in the calculations when public ice times are shared.

Table 5. The division of comments on children’s and youth ice conditions

Positive comments	14%
Negative comments	64%
- More ice time – more ice rinks needed	36%
- Ice time at private rinks is too expensive	9%
- Ice practice times at private rinks too should be included in calculations when public ice time is divided between users	9%
- Negative comments categorized as “other”	9%
Other comments	22%

In the following there are a few comments from the respondents:

“For us the current ice situation is difficult and it has been hard to get enough ice for our teams. Other sports clubs can use their “own ice rink”, in which they can prioritize themselves as first when ice time is shared. Our sports club does not have such a luxury. Instead, we rely on ice time from public rinks and a few shifts from private rinks, which we have succeeded to gain with hard work. It looks like for the upcoming season the operations for junior teams must be further reduced. Would it be possible that in the future, when the ice practice times from public rinks are shared, the ice time from private rinks would somehow be taken into consideration, because it looks like all sports clubs cannot get ice time even with money?”

“Too few ice rinks, too many sports clubs.”

“Sports clubs have too much ice time and private users have huge difficulties to get ice time in the Oulu area.”

6.3 Adult sports

There were a total of 99 respondents who replied to questions relating to adult sports. Over half of the respondents in adult sports replied on behalf of a sport club (56%). Slightly over a third (37%) responded as representatives of unorganized groups, 4% replied from “other” groups and 3% answered from schools and universities. (Chart 16)

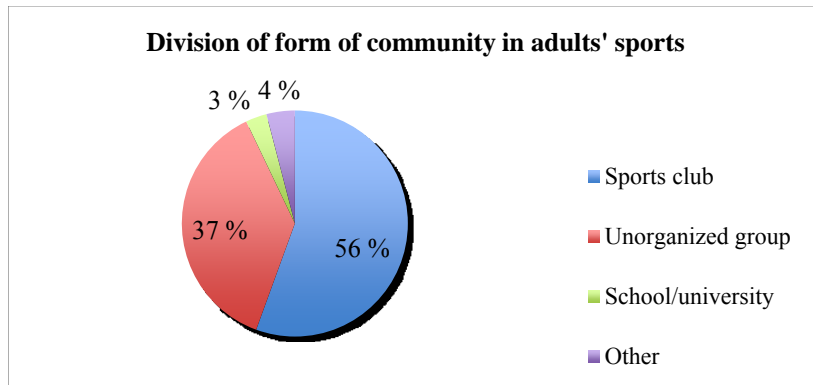


Chart 16. Division of form of community in adult sports

The majority of adult activity (77%) was for recreational purposes. 12% played competitively and 10% had both competitive and recreational activity simultaneously. (Chart 17) Almost half (46%) of the recreational teams participated in competition, such as local leagues, but with recreational purpose. Approximately a quarter (24%) of the respondents from recreational teams replied that their group was friend-related and 21% had a work-related group. 9% had other groups, such as senior teams. (Chart 18)

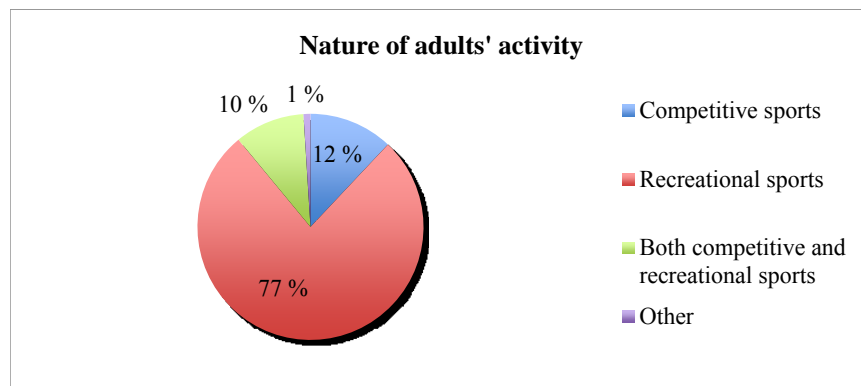


Chart 17. The purpose of adult activity

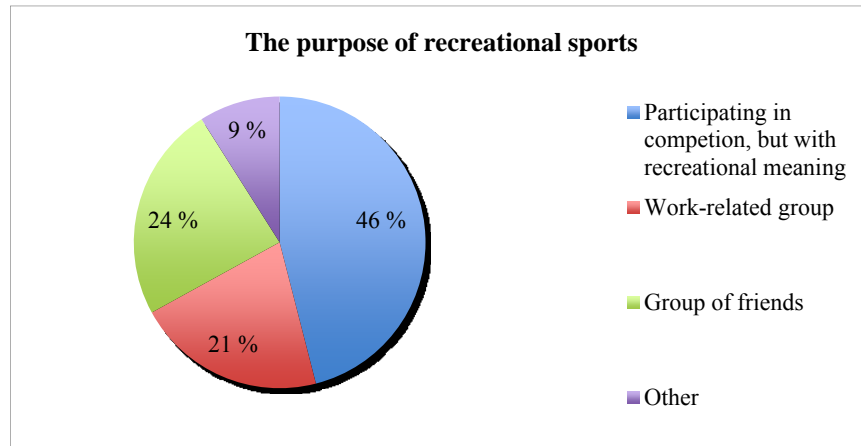


Chart 18. The purpose of recreational sports

6.3.1 Sufficiency of ice time for adult sports

Over half of the respondents from adult teams and groups (55%) replied that they had enough ice time for spring 2013 regarding both public and private rinks. Thus, 45% informed that they did not get enough ice time. Two thirds of the unorganized groups responded that they did not receive enough ice time, whereas 39% of sports clubs reported similar opinions. (Chart 19) Respondents reported that they would need a total of 78-86 additional ice times in the current situation. A total of 8 respondents, one from a sports club and seven from unorganized groups, notified that their team/group did not receive any ice time in the Oulu area.

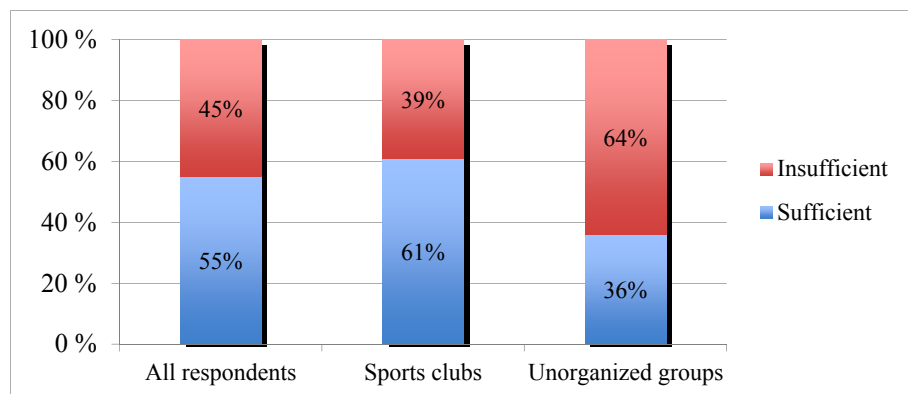


Chart 19. Sufficiency of ice time for adults in spring 2013

Additionally, the sufficiency of ice time was rated on a scale “Good, Satisfactory, Poor”. Of all respondents, 70% rated the sufficiency as at least “Satisfactory”. Unorganized groups were more dissatisfied with the sufficiency, as 43% evaluated it as “Poor” as compared to the 24% of respondents from sports clubs who reported similar opinions (Chart 20).

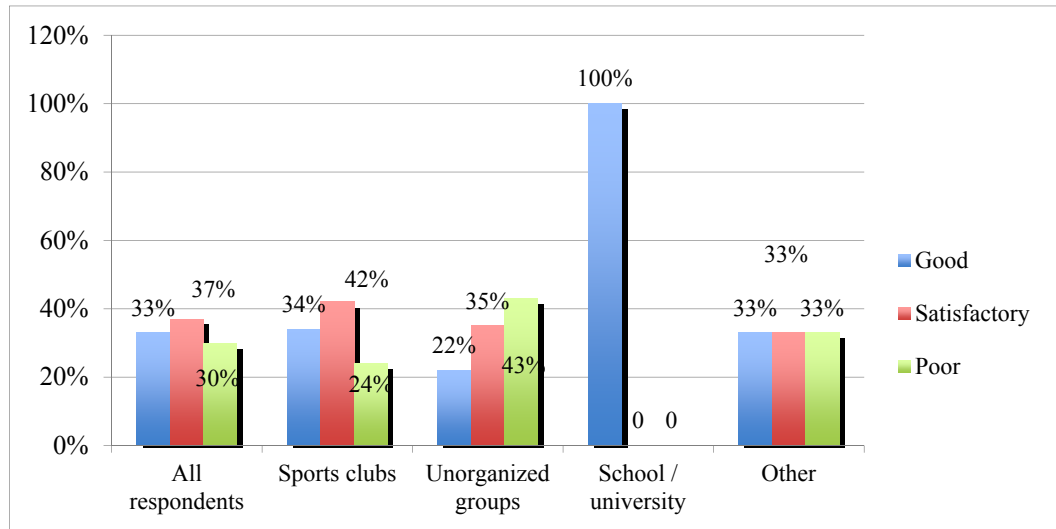


Chart 20. Sufficiency of ice time for adult activity rated on a scale “Good / Satisfactory, Poor”

6.3.2 Starting time of ice practices for adult sports

The division of responses regarding to the starting time of ice practices was similar to the replies on the sufficiency of ice time. Sports clubs were more satisfied (81% replied at least “Satisfactory) as compared to unorganized groups (58% replied at least “Satisfactory”). (Chart 21) Only the teams that played at the highest level practiced mostly between 4 pm and 9 pm during the week. All other teams, despite whether they played competitively or recreationally, practiced mostly before 4 pm or after 9 pm during the week or on weekends.

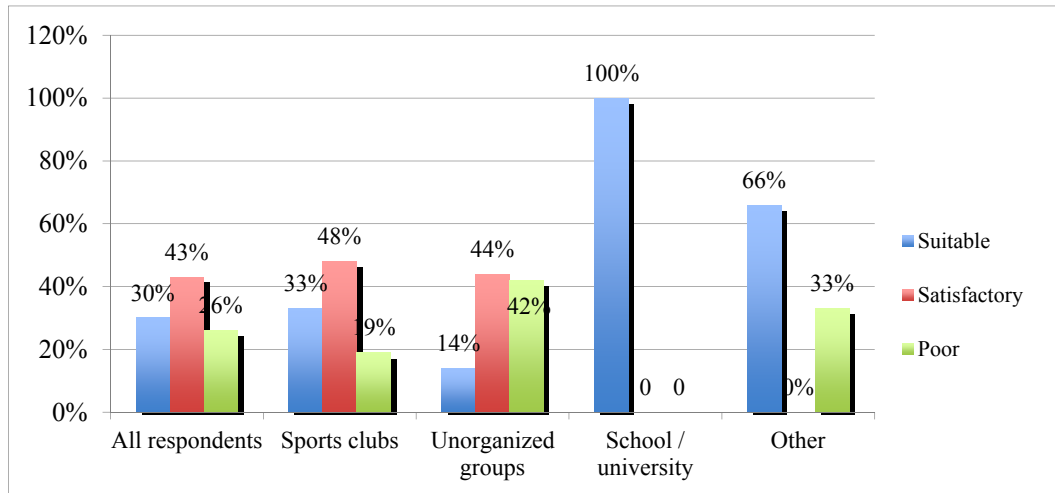


Chart 21. Starting time of ice practice for adult activity

6.3.3 Development suggestions for conditions of adult sports

Respondents had an opportunity to comment the current indoor ice rink conditions from the perspective of adult sports and make development suggestions. There were a total of 84 comments made on current indoor ice rinks conditions. The comments were categorized into positive (17%) and negative comments (83%). All positive comments were general comments such as “everything is fine”. Negative comments, instead, were more precise. Negative comments were further categorized and responses were quantified according to table 6. A total of 57% of negative comments referred to the poor ice conditions in Oulu, of which 40% mentioned generally about the need of additional rinks and 17% mentioned specifically that conditions for recreational sports are poor.

Table 6. The division of open-ended question relating to ice conditions of adult sports

Positive comments	17%
Negative comments	83%
- More ice time – more ice rinks needed	40%
- Ice time for recreational purposes insufficient	17%
- Timing of ice practices is poor (too late)	10%

- Better communication from Sports Services	5%
- Considering the level the team is playing at, the ice times are poor	3%
- Better maintenance (cleaning etc.)	3%
- Other	2%

In the following there are a few comments from the respondents:

“Recreational groups ought to get ice time from either public or private rinks at reasonable times! The lack of ice time is very big problem...”

“Active recreational hockey should be taken into consideration as a significant maintainer of health and ability to work when ice time is shared among users.”

“Ice conditions are very poor. Considering the amount of users there are way too few indoor ice rinks and ice times are very poor, either very early or very late. There ought to be more rinks.”

“We play at the second highest level... Our ice time starts at 21.15 or 21.25, which has a negative impact on the players’ activity to practice. We have for years tried to get better ice times, without success. Our national association has pressure to develop our operations, but with these conditions it is impossible. Practice times are poor, but game times are good though.”

“Ice conditions are very good from our part. The ice is in great shape and employees at the rink have done a great job. They also come and ask feedback from players. Getting ice practice times has been easy. The only negative feedback we give concerns the poor water pressure of the showers.”

6.4 Impact of the municipality merger

The division of the respondents’ hometown before the municipality merger can be seen in figure 1. Approximately four fifths (79%) were from Oulu, 9% from Oulunsalo, 5% from Kiiminki, 4% from Haukipudas and 3% from other surrounding municipalities, such as Kempele and Liminka (Chart 22).

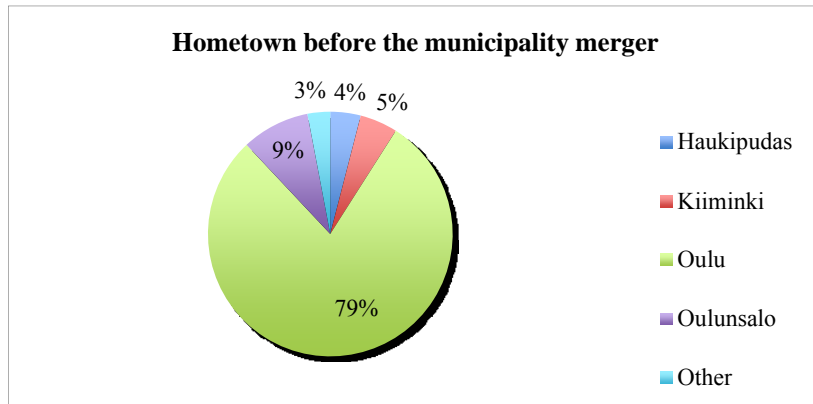


Chart 22. The division of respondents according to municipality before the merger

With most of all respondents (70%) the amount of ice time had stayed the same. 5% of the respondents informed that their ice time had increased, but 24% replied that their ice time had decreased. All respondents from Haukipudas and Kiiminki reported that their ice time had either increased or stayed the same, whereas respondents from Oulu and Oulunsalo reported that their ice time had decreased. 87% of the respondents from Oulunsalo informed that their ice time had either dropped some or markedly, whereas 19% of the respondents from Oulu reported similar responses. (Chart 23)

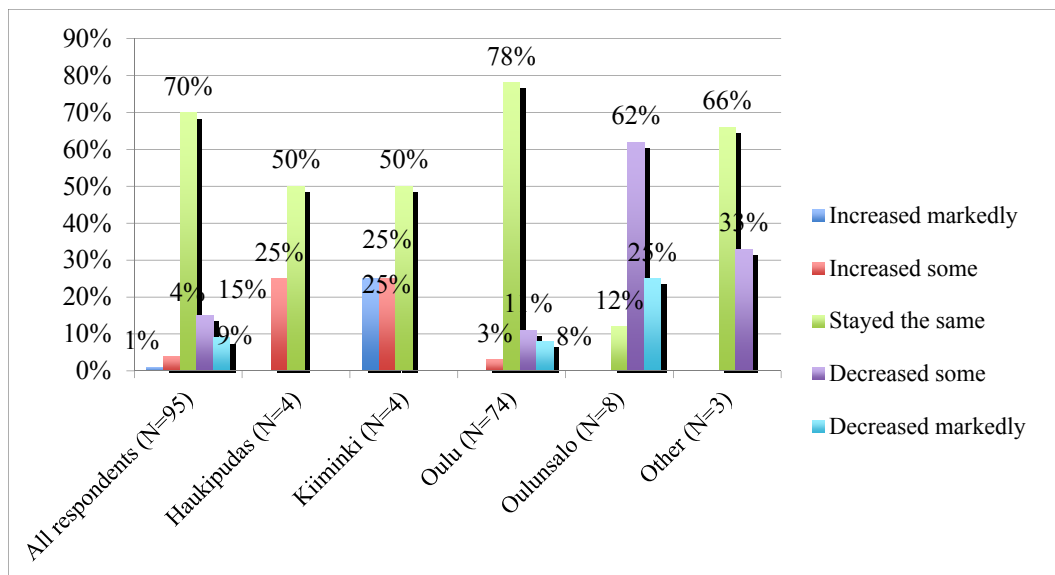


Chart 23. The effect of municipality merger on received ice time

When asked about the overall impact of the municipality merger, approximately three quarters of the respondents reported that the merger has not affected them. On the other hand, 40 % of the respondents in Kiiminki and 77 % of the respondents in Oulunsalo reported the merger having had an impact on them. (Chart 24)

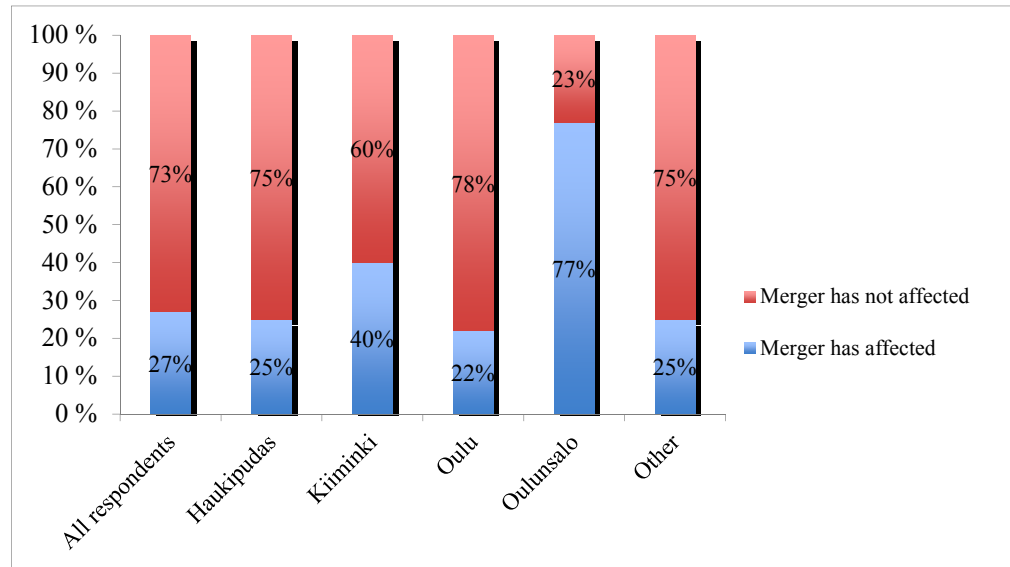


Chart 24. The overall effect of the municipality merger on the respondents

The respondents had a chance to comment on the effects of the municipality merger in an open-ended question. The comments were categorized according to whether they were positive or negative. Approximately a fifth (22%) of the comments were positive, slightly over half were negative (53%), 16% reported that the municipality merger had no impact on them and 9% gave “other” comments. The positive comments concerned the decreased costs of ice, the overall increase of ice time and the increased cooperation between sports clubs. Negative comments were mostly about the decreased time. As charts 22 and 23 also indicate, users in Oulunsalo area informed that their ice time at the Oulunsalo rink had either dropped or become completely non-existent. Also, users from the original Oulu reported that their ice time had decreased after the merger. (Table 7)

Table 7. The division of responses on an open-ended question relating to municipality merger

Positive comments	22%
- Costs decreased due to cheaper ice time at public rinks	13%

- Ice time increased	7%
- Cooperation with other sports clubs has increased	2%
Negative comments	53%
- Ice time decreased, since there are more users than there is capacity	49%
- Other	4%
No impact	16%
Other	9%

6.5 Usability of outdoor rinks

Only 8 percent of the respondents reported that they are using outdoor rinks (Chart 25). When asked about the possibility of utilizing outdoor rinks in the future, 78% of all respondents informed that using outdoor rinks would not be possible for them. Over half (58%) of the respondents who replied that using outdoor rinks is not possible for them commented that the outdoor season is too short and too unsecure due to climate changes. Other reasons not to use outdoor rinks were unwillingness to use outdoor conditions (12%), poor maintenance (5%) and inability to play league games outdoors (5%). One fifth of the responses relating to the inability to use outdoor rinks were categorized as “other”. Sports clubs saw most potential in outdoor rinks, as 28% replied that using outdoor rinks more in the future would be possible. (Chart 26)

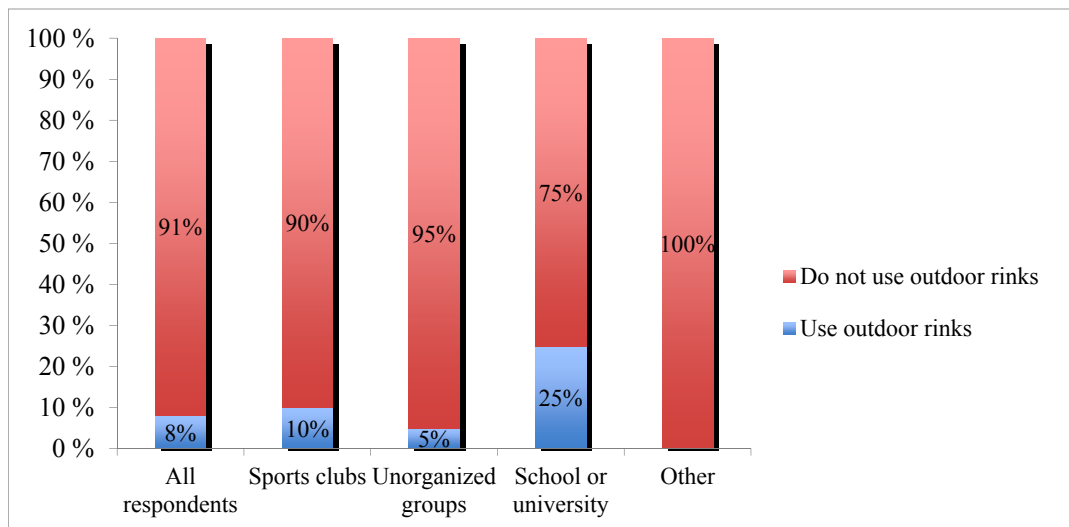


Chart 25. Utilization of outdoor rinks by respondents

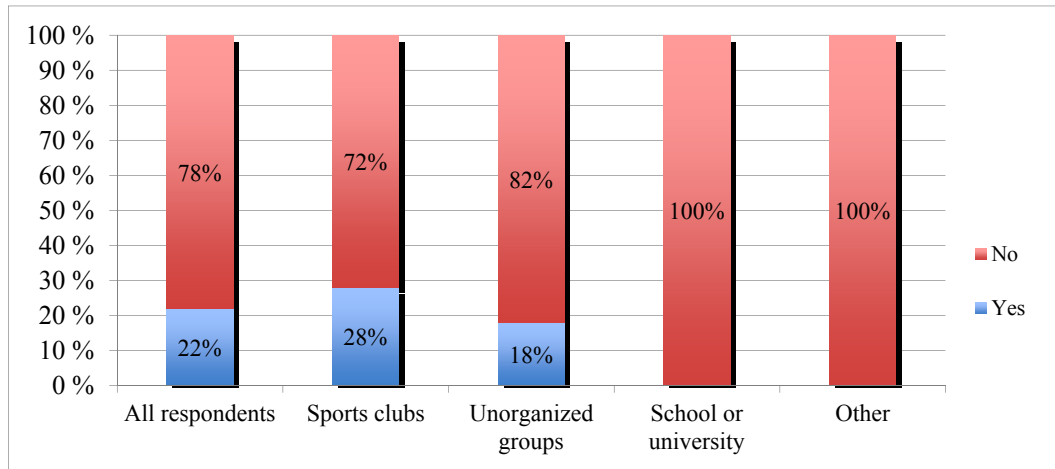


Chart 26. Could outdoor rinks be better utilized in the future in the opinion of the respondents?

Over half of the respondents (55%) thought that global warming has affected the usability of outdoor rinks. 30% estimated that global warming has not influenced the outdoor rinks and 18% weren't able to reply yes or no. (Chart 27)

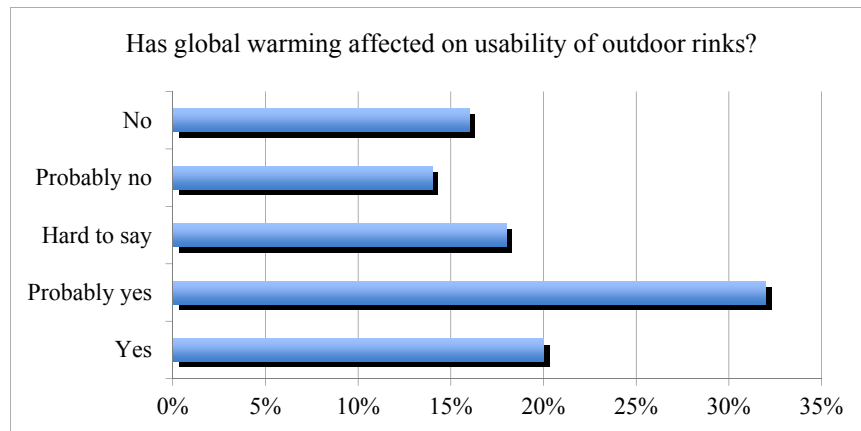


Chart 27. Has global warming affected the usability of outdoor rinks?

6.6 The most important services municipality has to offer for sports clubs

Sports clubs were asked what are the three most important services the municipality has to offer. Sports sites and practice conditions were outstandingly the most important services for sports clubs, as 34 out of 37 respondents named those in their replies. Also financial and inexpensive and free practice times were seen as important for sports clubs. (Chart 28)

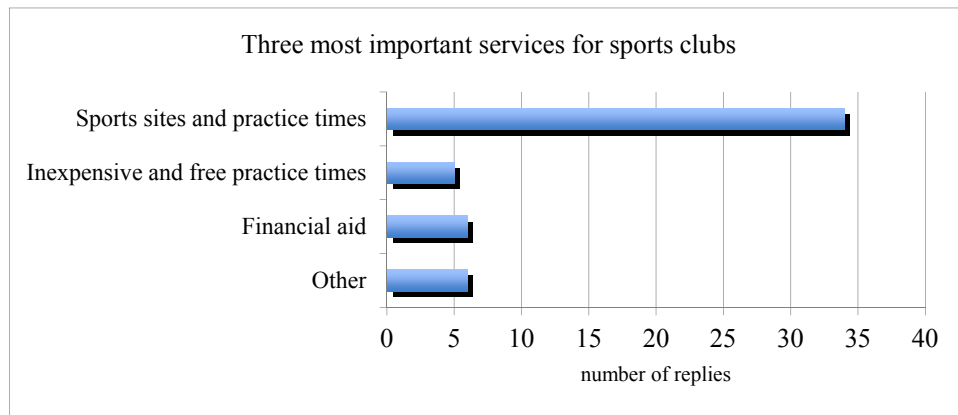


Chart 28. Three most important services for sports clubs municipality has to offer

The respondents from sports clubs were requested to give development suggestions for the cooperation between sports clubs and the Sports Services. The range of the responses was so wide that there was no specific topic that came up. Overall, the respondents suggested better information on available ice times, development of the practice time booking system, more indoor ice rinks, more support for sports clubs from the Sports Services, development of the policy on how practice times are divided and better conditions for recreational sports. Some respondents were happy with the current situation.

In the following there are a few examples on how to develop the cooperation between sports clubs and the Sports Services:

“Now as we have joined Oulu and I am answering to these questions I hope I could see some change. I think Oulu should be more interested in adult recreational activities and Oulu should offer opportunities to play recreational hockey as well.”

“The booking system could be further developed. Currently it is easier to book ice time over the phone.”

“Web-Timmi (the booking system) is great... But I don’t see any other option than increasing the number of indoor ice rinks. Otherwise the situation will not get easier in Oulu. There is no other way to increase ice practice times. Other than that there are no problems.”

“The cooperation with the Sports Services has worked very well. We have been able to get regular ice times from indoor ice rinks. We have also gotten extra ice times when needed. There is no need to develop further cooperation, instead, we hope the cooperation will continue the same and we will get more ice time from the indoor ice rinks.”

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Ice time for especially children's recreational use is scarce

Over half of the respondents from children's and youth organizations informed that the ice time they received was insufficient. A slightly larger portion, 60% described the current situation as at least "Satisfactory". Nevertheless, 40% described the current ice situation as "Poor". Especially recreational use had scarce resources. Over 62% of the unorganized groups rated the sufficiency of ice time as "Poor". Although sports clubs did not want to make a distinction between competitive and recreational, recreational teams were most often the first ones from whom ice time is cut when resources are scarce. The respondents notified that they would need a total of 26 additional ice times for their operations for children and youth.

Four out of five sports clubs informed that they have teams and groups who do have sufficient amount of practice time on ice. Additionally, 38% of the respondents from the sports clubs informed that they are not able to take on any more newcomers. It can be concluded that the current ice conditions are insufficient to carry out potential activity that the users would have for children and youth. With scarce resources, children's recreational activity diminishes. Approximately a third of the respondents suggested that Oulu should focus on building additional indoor ice rink(s). Other suggestions concerned about changing the ice time sharing policy.. Some thought the ice time at private rinks is too expensive.

7.2 Recreational users have difficulties with the conditions

Over half of the respondents from adult teams (55%) reported they had sufficient ice time for spring 2013. Unorganized groups were more dissatisfied with the quantity of ice time than sports clubs. 64% of the respondents from unorganized groups informed their ice time was insufficient as compared to 39% of the respondents from the sports clubs. Overall, 70% of all respondents rated ice time at least "Satisfactory", but nearly half (43%) of the unorganized groups evaluated the sufficiency of ice as "Poor". The results are somewhat

expected, since the policy of the Sports Services relating to the division of practice times sets juniors under 18 first, adult sports clubs second and unorganized adult activity third in order. Therefore, when resources are scarce, the last user group in order gets least amount of ice time.

Adult teams reported that they would need a total of 78-86 ice times for their operations, which is approximately the equivalent of two additional indoor ice rinks. Particularly the recreational users brought up the poor conditions of adult recreational sports and noted that recreational sports has a positive impact on health and work ability.

7.3 The effect of the municipality merger on users

The effect of the municipality merger was polarized. Although most respondents reported that the municipality merger had no impact on them, those users who were influenced by the merger were influenced by the merger significantly. Some users lost all their ice time and some users' ice practice time was cut to half. Especially the users from Oulu and Oulunsalo informed that the impact of the merger on them was negative. On the contrary, users from Kiiminki and Haukipudas reported of solely positive impacts of the merger. The reason for this is that Kiiminki and Haukipudas did not have a public indoor ice rink, which would have been connected to the public sports service network. Therefore, the respondents from Kiiminki and Haukipudas area did not lose their previous ice practice times, but they gained additional time from the public rinks in Oulu and Oulunsalo. Users from Oulu and Oulunsalo lost some of their previous ice practice times at the public rinks, since along with the merger, new users were entitled to public ice practice time.

7.4 The utilization of outdoor rinks is difficult

The current use of outdoor rinks is minor, as less than 10% of respondents informed that they are using outdoor rinks. Also, only a fifth thought that outdoor rinks could be utilized more in the future. The shortness of the season and unsecure weather conditions are main reasons why users do not see outdoor rinks as a potential option to the indoor ice

conditions. Better maintenance might increase the usability slightly, but the insecurity of the conditions, which is caused by the weather, cannot be eliminated. Also, the increase of maintenance would naturally increase expenses, since it would also mean investment in labor. The maintenance of outdoor rinks has been under budget cuts over the past years.

In the 1990s, most outdoor rinks had their own personnel working full time to maintain the rinks. If the weather was cold enough to ice the field, the Sports Department was able to react on this and the rinks were soon ready for people to use. Today, due to the cuts in personnel, the rinks do not have full-time workers maintaining them. Instead, workers have several rinks under maintenance. This is why today the length of the maintenance season is negotiated beforehand. In season 2012-2013, the rinks were under maintenance from December 10 to March 10 regardless of weather conditions.

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APPENDICES

Appedix 1

Arvoisa vastaaja,

Tämä kysely on osoitettu Oulun alueen jäähallien asiakaskunnalle. Kysely on toimitettu kaikille vuoroja hakeneille tahoille (esim. urheiluseurat, korkeakoululiikunta, työpaikkaryhmät, harrastejoukkueet, muut yksittäiset ryhmät).

Teitä pyydetään vastaamaan kyselyyn hakijan #EVAL_NAME edustajana. Tarkoituksena on, että jokaisesta seurasta tai yksittäisestä ryhmästä yksi henkilö vastaa koko seuran tai ryhmän puolesta kyselyyn.

Pyytäisimme teitä vastaamaan kyselyyn 6.5.2013 mennessä.

Kysely on osa pro gradu tutkimusta, jossa selvitetään liikuntapalveluiden saavutettavuutta jääolosuhteiden osalta. Vastaaminen vie noin 10-30 minuuttia. Vastanneiden kesken arvotaan maksuttomia jäävuoroja ja Oulu-tuotepalkintoja.

Vastaamisen voitte aloittaa klikkaamalla seuraavaa linkkiä tai kopioimalla linkin Internet-selaimen osoiteriville #WWW_CLIENT

Lämmin kiitos!

Iloisin terveisin

Liikuntapalvelut

Satu Kiipeli

satu.kiipeli@ouka.fi

Vastaajan tiedot

1. Sukupuoli (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Mies
- 2. Nainen

2. Onko edustamanne taho rekisteröity urheiluseura (ry), muu vapaasti organisoitunut yksittäinen ryhmä, oppilaitoksen tai korkeakoulun ryhmä vai jokin muu ryhmä? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Taho, jonka puolesta vastaatte. Rekisteröidyt urheiluseurat ovat rekisteröineet yhdistyksensä patentti- ja rekisterihallituksen rekisteriin. Yksittäiset, rekisteröimättömät ryhmät ovat esimerkiksi rekisteröimättömiä puulaakijoukkueita, kaveriporukoita jne.

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. rekisteröity urheiluseura (ry)
- 2. yksittäinen, rekisteröimätön ryhmä
- 3. koulu, oppilaitos, päiväkotiki, korkeakoulu, tms.
- 4. muu ryhmä, mikä?

3. Mikä on seuranne/ryhmänne päälaaji? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Mitä lajia harrastetaan seuranne/ryhmänne puolesta jäähalleissa eniten?

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. jääkiekko
- 2. kaukalopallo
- 3. taitoluistelu
- 4. curling
- 5. muu, mikä?

4. Minkä ikäryhmän/ikäryhmien toimintaan edustamanne taho on keskittynyt? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Esimerkiksi jääkiekossa vain alle 18-vuotiaiden toimintaan keskittyneellä seuralla on vanhimmat juniorit B-junioreita. A-juniorit katsotaan aikuisten joukkueeksi (yli 18-vuotiaat).

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Vain alle 18-vuotiaiden toimintaan
- 2. Vain aikuisten (yli 18v.) toimintaan
- 3. Meillä on sekä alle 18-vuotiaiden että aikuisten toimintaa

5. Mikä on roolinne yhteisössä, jonka puolesta vastaatte? (Vapaapalaute)

Esimerkiksi joukkueenjohtaja, valmennuspäällikkö, toiminnanjohtaja, rahastonhoitaja, ym.

Tarkentavat kysymykset urheiluseuroille

1. Montako joukkuetta/ryhmää seurassanne on?

Kaikki ryhmät yhteensä luistelukoulut, junioriryhmät ja aikuiset mukaan lukien:

2. Montako alle 18-vuotiaiden joukkuetta/ryhmää seurassanne on?

3. Montako aikuisten ryhmää seurassanne on (mukaan lukien A-juniorit)?

4. Mikä on seuranne jäsenmäärä? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Kaikki jäsenet yhteensä.

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. alle 50 jäsentä
- 2. 51-100 jäsentä
- 3. 101-200 jäsentä
- 4. 201-300 jäsentä
- 5. 301-500 jäsentä
- 6. yli 501 jäsentä

Lasten ja nuorten urheiluun ja harrastamiseen liittyvät kysymykset

1. Saiko seuranne/ryhmänne riittävästi jääharjoitusvuoroja kevään (1.1.-28.4.2013) ajaksi alle 18-v. toimintaa varten? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Kaikista jäähalleista saatu kokonaismäärä. Eli pyydämme huomioimaan vastatessanne sekä kunnallisten että yksityisten jäähallien harjoitusvuorot.

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kyllä
- 2. Emme saaneet. Tarvitsisimme lisävuoroja (kpl)

2. Miten arvioisitte kevään (1.1.-28.4.2013) osalta jääharjoitusvuorojen riittävyyden alle 18-v. toimintaa varten? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Pyydämme huomioimaan vastatessanne kokonaisvuoromääränne eli sekä kunnallisten että yksityisten jäähallien harjoitusvuorot.

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Hyvä
- 2. Tyydyttävä
- 3. Heikko

3. Miten arvioisitte kevään (1.1.-28.4.2013) osalta vuorojen alkamisajankohdan alle 18-v. toimintaa ajatellen? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Pyydämme huomioimaan vastatessanne sekä kunnallisten että yksityisten jäähallien harjoitusvuorot.

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Sopiva
- 2. Tyydyttävä
- 3. Heikko

4. Miten arvioisitte kevään (1.1.-28.4.2013) osalta oheisharjoitteluosuhteita alle 18-v. toimintaa ajatellen? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Hyvä
- 2. Tyydyttävä
- 3. Heikko

5. Miten kehittäisitte oheisharjoitteluosuhteita? (Vapaapalaute)

6. Onko alle 18-vuotiaiden toimintanne painottunut lasten ja nuorten kilpaurheiluun, lasten ja nuorten harrasturheiluun vai sekä kilpa- että harrasturheiluun? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. lasten ja nuorten kilpaurheiluun
- 2. lasten ja nuorten harrasturheiluun
- 3. sekä kilpa- että harrasturheiluun
- 4. muuhun, mihin?

7. Miten kommentoisitte nykyisiä jääolosuhteita alle 18v. toiminnan osalta? Onko jotain ongelmia? Mitä voisi kehittää? (Vapaapalaute)

Tarkentavat kysymykset urheiluseuroille alle 18-vuotiaiden toimintaan liittyen

1. Onko seurassanne ryhmiä, joille ei ole tarjota riittävästi harjoitusvuoroja? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kyllä
- 2. Ei

2. Jos vastasitte edelliseen kysymykseen "kyllä", tarkentaisitteko, että ovatko nämä ryhmät (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. alle 18v. kilparyhmiä
- 2. alle 18v. harrasteryhmiä
- 3. sekä kilpa- että harrasteryhmiä
- 4. muita, mitä?

3. Jos vuoroja ei ole riittävästi, vähennetäänkö vuoroja ensijaisesti (Monivalintakysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. alle 14-vuotiaiden kilparyhmiltä
- 2. 14-17-vuotiaiden kilparyhmiltä
- 3. alle 14-vuotiaiden harrasteryhmiltä
- 4. 14-17-vuotiaiden harrasteryhmiltä
- 5. talenttitoiminnalta
- 6. muusta toiminnasta, mistä?

4. Pystyttekö seurassanne vastaanottamaan kaikki seuran toimintaan mukaan haluavat alle 18-vuotiaat? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kyllä
- 2. Ei, koska

Aikuisten liikuntaan ja urheiluun liittyvät kysymykset

1. Miten kuvaisitte aikuisten toimintanne? Onko se (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kilpaurheilua. Mikä on sarjataso?
- 2. Harrasteliikuntaa
- 3. Toiminnassa on mukana sekä kilpaurheiluun, että harrasteliikuntaa painottuneita joukkueita/ryhmiä
- 4. Muuta, mitä?

2. Jos määrittelite toimintanne harrasteliikunnaksi, miten kuvailisitte sitä? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Olemme mukana sarjatoiminnassa harrastemielessä
- 2. Kyseessä työpaikan ryhmä
- 3. Kaveriporukan toimintaa
- 4. Muu, mikä?

3. Saitteko riittävästi jäävuoroja kevään (1.1.-28.4.2013) ajaksi? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Kaikista jäähalleista saatu kokonaismäärä. Eli pyydämme huomioimaan vastatessanne sekä kunnallisten että yksityisten jäähallien harjoitusvuorot.

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kyllä
- 2. Emme saaneet. Tarvitsimme lisävuoroja (kpl)

4. Montako jääharjoitusvuoroa viikossa olisi aikuisjoukkueellenne/joukkueillenne optimaalinen määrä?

Vuorojen kokonaismäärä

5. Missä jäähallissa/jäähalleissa aikuisryhmänne vuorot olivat ja mihinkä kellonaikaan? (Vapaapalaute)

6. Miten arvioisitte kevään (1.1.-28.4.2013) osalta jäävuorojen riittävyyden aikuisten toiminnan osalta? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Pyydämme huomioimaan vastatessanne kokonaisvuoromääränne eli sekä kunnallisten että yksityisten jäähallien harjoitusvuorot.

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Hyvä
- 2. Tyydyttävä
- 3. Heikko

7. Miten arvioisitte kevään (1.1.-28.4.2013) osalta vuorojen alkamisajankohdan aikuisten toiminnan osalta? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Sopiva
- 2. Tyydyttävä
- 3. Heikko

8. Miten kommentoisitte nykyisiä jääolosuhteita aikuisten kilpa- ja harrasturheilun kannalta? Onko jotain ongelmia? Mitä voisi kehittää? (Vapaapalaute)

Kuntaliitokseen liittyvät kysymykset

1. Mikä oli edustamanne tahon kotikunta ennen kuntaliitosta? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Haukipudas
- 2. Kiiminki
- 3. Oulu
- 4. Oulunsalo
- 5. Yli-Ii
- 6. Muu, mikä

2. Oliko kuntaliitoksella vaikutusta seuranne/ryhmänne saamaan jäävuorojen määrään? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vuorojen määrä on

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Lisääntynyt selvästi
- 2. Lisääntynyt jonkin verran
- 3. Pysynyt ennallaan
- 4. Vähentynyt jonkin verran
- 5. Vähentynyt selvästi

3. Onko kuntaliitoksella ollut vaikutusta seuranne/ryhmänne toimintaan? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kyllä
- 2. Ei

4. Jos kuntaliitos on vaikuttanut toimintaanne, kertoisitteko miten on vaikuttanut? Tai onko teillä muuta kommentoitavaa kuntaliitokseen liittyen? (Vapaapalaute)

Ulkokaukaloihin liittyvät kysymykset

1. Onko seurallanne/ryhmällänne jäävuoroja ulkokaukaloista? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kyllä
- 2. Ei

2. Voisiko seuranne/ryhmänne hyödyntää ulkokaukaloita paremmin? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kyllä
- 2. Ei, koska

3. Miten ulkokaukaloita voitaisiin mielestänne hyödyntää paremmin? (Vapaapalaute)

4. Onko ilmaston lämpeneminen vaikuttanut mielestänne ulkokaukaloitten käytettävyyteen? (Vaihtoehtokysymys)

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Kyllä
- 2. Luultavasti kyllä
- 3. En osaa sanoa
- 4. Luultavasti ei
- 5. Ei

Kysymykset seurojen ja kuntien yhteistyöhön liittyen

1. Mitkä ovat seuranne kannalta kolme tärkeintä kunnan tarjoamaa palvelua? (Vapaapalaute)
2. Miten kehittäisitte seuranne ja kunnan välistä yhteistyötä? (Vapaapalaute)

Survey in English

Respondent information

1. Gender

Options:

- 1. Male
- 2. Female

2. Is the party you represent a registered sports club, other freely unorganized group, school or university or some other group?

Options:

- 1. Registered sports club
- 2. Unorganized group
- 3. School, university or kindergarten
- 4. Other group, specify what group?

3. What is the main sport of your sports club/club?

Options:

- 1. Ice hockey
- 2. Rink bandy
- 3. Figure skating
- 4. Curling
- 5. Other, specify what?

4. Which age groups has the party you represent focused on?

Options:

- 1. Only under 18-year-olds
- 2. Only adults (over 18-year-old)
- 3. Both under 18-year-olds and adults

5. What role do you have in the community on behalf you are replying?

Questions for sports club only

6. How many teams/groups do you have in your sports club?

7. How many teams/groups for under 18-year-old do you have in your sports club?

8. How many adult teams/groups do you have in your sports club (including A-juniors)?

9. How many members do you have in your sports club?

Options:

- 1. under 50 members
- 2. 51-100 members
- 3. 101-200 members
- 4. 201-300 members
- 5. 301-500 members
- 6. over 501 members

Questions relating to children's and youth sports?

10. Did your sports club/group get sufficient amount of ice time from indoor ice rinks for activity for under 18-year-olds during spring 2013 (1.1.-28.4.2013)?

Options:

- 1. Yes
- 2. No we didn't. We would need additionally ____ times.

11. How would you estimate the sufficiency of ice time for activity for under 18-year-olds during spring 2013 (1.1.-28.4.2013)?

Options:

- 1. Good
- 2. Satisfactory
- 3. Poor

12. How would you estimate the starting time of ice time for activity for under 18-year-olds during spring 2013 (1.1.-28.4.2013)?

Options:

- 1. Suitable
- 2. Satisfactory
- 3. Poor

13. How would you estimate the off-ice practice conditions for activity for under 18-year-olds during spring 2013 (1.1.-28.4.2013)?

Options:

- 1. Good
- 2. Satisfactory
- 3. Poor

14. How would you develop off-ice practice conditions?

15. Has your activity for under 18-year-olds focused on competitive sports, recreational sports or both competitive and recreational sports?

Options:

- 1. Children's competitive sports
- 2. Children's recreational sports
- 3. Both competitive and recreational sports
- 4. Other, what?

16. How would you comment current ice conditions regarding to activity for under 18-year-old? Are there any problems? Do you have any development suggestions?

Questions for sports clubs relating to activity for under 18-year-old

17. Do you have groups in your sports club that do not have sufficient amount of ice practice time? Options:

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

18. If you replied "yes", would you specify are these groups:

Options:

- 1. Competitive groups for under 18-year-old
- 2. Recreational groups for under 18-year-old
- 3. Both competitive and recreational groups
- 4. other, what?

19. If there is not enough practice time, which groups' ice time gets reduced?

Options:

- 1. Competitive groups for under 14-year-old
- 2. Competitive groups for 14-17-year-old
- 3. Recreational groups for under 14-year-old
- 4. Recreational groups for 14-17-year-old
- 5. Talent activity
- 6. Other activity, please specify what?

20. Are you able to take all under 18-year-old children who want to participate in sports club's activity?

Options:

- 1. Yes
- 2. No, because _____

Questions regarding to adult sports

21. How would you describe adult's activity? Is it:

Options:

- 1. Competitive sports. On what level?
- 2. Recreational sports
- 3. There are both competitive and recreational groups
- 4. Other, what?

22. If you defined your activity recreational sports, how would you describe it?

Options:

- 1. We are participating competition, but with recreational meaning
- 2. It is work-related group
- 3. Group of friends
- 4. Other, what?

23. Did your sports club/group get sufficient amount of ice time from indoor ice rinks for adults during spring 2013 (1.1.-28.4.2013)?

Options:

- 1. Yes
- 2. No we didn't. We would need additionally ____ times.

24. How many ice times per week would be optimal amount for your team(s)?

25. In which ice rinks did your adult team's practices were and what time?

26. How would you estimate the sufficiency of ice time for activity for adults during spring 2013 (1.1.-28.4.2013)?

Options:

- 1. Good
- 2. Satisfactory
- 3. Poor

27. How would you estimate the starting time of ice time for activity for adults during spring 2013 (1.1.-28.4.2013)?

Options:

- 1. Suitable
- 2. Satisfactory
- 3. Poor

28. How would you comment current ice conditions regarding to adult competitive and recreational sports? Are there any problems? Do you have any development suggestions?

Questions relating to municipality merger

29. What was the hometown of party you represent before the municipality merger?

Options:

- 1. Haukipudas
- 2. Kiiminki
- 3. Oulu
- 4. Oulunsalo
- 5. Yli-li
- 6. Other, what

30. Did municipality merger have an impact on the ice time your sports club/group received? The amount of ice time has:

Options:

- 1. Increased markedly
- 2. Increased some

- 3. Stayed the same
- 4. Decreased some
- 5. Decreased markedly

31. Has municipality merger had an impact on the activity your sports club/group?

Options:

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

32. If municipality merger has influenced on your activity, could you specify how it has affected? Do you have any other comments relating to municipality merger?

Questions relating to outdoor rinks

33. Does you sports club/groups have ice time from outdoor rinks?

Options:

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

34. Could your sports club utilize outdoor rinks better?

Vaihtoehdot:

- 1. Yes
- 2. No, because ____

35. In your opinion, how outdoor rinks could be better utilized?

36. Has global warming affected on usability of outdoor rinks?

Options:

- 1. Yes
- 2. Probably yes
- 3. Hard to say
- 4. Probably no
- 5. No

Questions relating to cooperation between sports club and municipality

37. What are three most important services municipality offers to your sports club?

38. How would you develop cooperation between sports club and municipality?