



16 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR BRICK SPORT CENTRAL BICYCLE

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- 1. Where do BRICK Sport Central bicycles come from?** Most bicycles are donated by generous Edmonton and area residents whose own children have outgrown them, or for other reasons no longer require them. Some are also donated by Edmonton area sports stores and municipalities with unclaimed or surplus bikes to dispose of. The BRICK Sport Central is a registered, privately funded charity for disadvantaged kids. Our volunteers collect, inspect, salvage, service, repair, store, and match donated bicycles to needy kids, in such a way that as many kids as possible can be provided with suitable bikes.
- 2. Who can have a BRICK Sport Central bicycle?** A bicycle can be requested, free of charge, for any Edmonton area child under the age of 18 who is in a needy situation, and has not previously received a bicycle from us. The request is made by a social worker, church official, community league official, sports club official, or school official, in a position to certify that you are not able to acquire a bicycle by any other means, and that you will make good use of the bike. The request should be faxed on referring agency letterhead, and must include the signature, job title, and contact phone number of the referring official. It must also include your own full name, birth date, height, and weight, and the name and phone number of the person to be contacted when we have a bicycle ready for you to pick up. Despite the best efforts of our volunteers and donors, we are still not able to fill all requests in a given year. For this reason, we do not accept requests for bicycles for adults, and cannot provide bikes outside the city.
- 3. How long does it take to get a BRICK Sport Central bicycle?** Requests are filled on a first come, first served basis, as our supply of repaired, donated bikes of the appropriate size permits. Our phone call to advise that a requested bike is ready can come as soon as the next day, for faxes received in mid-winter, or as late as 6 weeks, for faxes received in late-summer. Requests for specific or special types of bikes can add to this time, as can incorrect or incomplete information provided on the fax request. Due to shortage of both space and bicycles, requested bikes must be picked up within 2 weeks of our call.
- 4. What kinds of bicycles does the BRICK Sport Central have?** Our bicycles are used, reconditioned bikes, typically 5 to 15 years old. They are not reconditioned for appearance, so some rust and chipped paint should be expected. The bikes are inspected and rebuilt as necessary by our volunteers. We make every reasonable effort to make them as safe and serviceable as possible, for at least a further 12 months of normal riding. It is not possible to guarantee the performance of used equipment however. In accepting a BRICK Sport Central bike, your guardian is agreeing and understands that the bike and accessories are supplied on an as is basis, and that the BRICK Sport Central and its members cannot be held responsible for performance, safety, or any damages caused through the use of this equipment. Subject to availability of donations, we try to stock a full range of tricycles, 8" – 16" wheel kiddies bikes, 20" wheel BMX bikes, and 20" – 26" mountain bikes. By special request, we will try to supply a competition grade bike, if the request fax includes a copy of a current competition license, or competition club membership, in your name.
- 5. Can I choose my own BRICK Sport Central bicycle?** No. We do not have enough bicycles, space, or volunteers to let each kid choose their own. A bicycle is chosen, repaired, and reserved for you, based upon the information supplied in the request fax. Special needs or requirements should be identified in advance, on that fax. Our volunteers repair and assign bikes on a "best first" basis, so that the bike reserved for you is the best one available in your size, at the time your request is filled. Because the quality of our donated bikes varies, both better and lesser quality bikes will have been given to other kids, at other times.
- 6. Can I get training wheels on my BRICK Sport Central bicycle?** Yes, but only if you are under 40 lbs. (18 kg) in weight, and 39 in. (1 m.) in height. Training wheels are not safe for children larger than this, because they are subject to over-balancing and tipping. This would only hinder your confidence-building process in learning how to ride.
- 7. What accessories can I get with my BRICK Sport Central bicycle?** If you do not have a helmet, we will supply one when you pick up your bike. You should pick up your bike in person, rather than sending someone else to pick it up for you, to make sure that the helmet and bike both fit well. Our supply of other accessories is limited, but we will try to fit your bike with whatever else is requested in advance on the fax. We cannot fit additional accessories at the time of pick up, due to scarcity of time and parts.



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8. **What if I don't like / need / want my BRICK Sport Central bicycle?** You may certainly refuse the bike that has been reserved for you. Since each summer ends with hundreds of kids still waiting for a bike, someone else will be glad to have the one that was offered to you. Recognize however that scarce volunteer time and effort has been invested in acquiring, selecting, repairing, storing, reserving, and presenting you with a bicycle. Please do not abuse and insult the generosity of our donors and volunteers by "shopping" our process, or "haggling" for a better bike. If you have other options to obtain a bike, please exercise one of them instead, thereby allowing us to serve one more kid who has no options at all. You will not be offered another bike.
9. **How should I take care of my BRICK Sport Central bicycle?** Lock it up securely at all times. Keep it indoors overnight and stored out of the sun, rain, and snow as much as possible. Once per month, and immediately after washing, check the tires for proper inflation, and lubricate the chain, derailleur pivots and pulleys, cable housing entrances, and brake arm pivots with a light water-displacing lubricant like WD 40. Keep all nuts and bolts tight, and check for loose spokes. Your bike can be cleaned with a rag and one or two drops of dish detergent in 2 L of warm water. Rust can be removed from chrome parts by rubbing with steel wool, and paint chips can be filled with nail polish or touchup paint. Any metal parts to be painted should be clean, dry, sanded, and free of rust. Use only paints intended for metal, such as Tremclad rust paint. The following web sites provide helpful do-it-yourself maintenance and repair advice: www.bikewebsite.com , www.sheldonbrown.com , www.parktool.com . Edmonton Public Libraries also carry a number of excellent bicycle repair manuals and handbooks in section 629.28772.
10. **Do I own my BRICK Sport Central bicycle, or does it belong to my guardian?** Neither. The bicycle belongs to the BRICK Sport Central. It is given to you for your exclusive use however, as if you owned the bicycle. You are free to paint, modify, or accessorize the bike as if it were your own. If your residence or guardianship changes, the bicycle should go with you to your new home. Please contact your social worker or the BRICK Sport Central directly, if this does not happen.
11. **What if my BRICK Sport Central bicycle needs parts, repairs, or adjustments?** If your bicycle gives trouble within 2 weeks of the date you picked it up, please return it to the BRICK Sport Central for repair or replacement. Beyond 2 weeks, or if your bike has been abused or stripped of parts, the ongoing repair and maintenance of the bike becomes your responsibility. You must either learn how to take care of your bike yourself, or take it to a bicycle shop. Our volunteer bicycle mechanics are too busy fixing bikes for kids who do not yet have one, and we depend too much on Edmonton area bicycle shop sponsors to supply our parts, for us to provide free ongoing parts and repairs.
12. **If my BRICK Sport Central bicycle is lost, stolen, or destroyed can I get a new one?** No. Take good care of your bicycle. For reasons mentioned above, we do not have the resources to give you a second one.
13. **What if I grow too big for my BRICK Sport Central bicycle?** If you outgrow your old bicycle, and your financial situation remains unchanged, you can request a larger bike. We will notify you when it is ready. You MUST return your old bicycle at the time you pick up your new one. A new reference letter indicating your new height is required. Once you have received a full adult size 26" bike, the trade up option is no longer available.
14. **What if I no longer need my BRICK Sport Central bicycle? Can I sell it?** No. You should return it to the BRICK Sport Central, so that another child can have the same opportunity that you enjoyed. Bicycle shops and second hand exchange stores can recognize your bike as a BRICK Sport Central bicycle, and will refuse to give you money for it.
15. **Can I buy from, sell to, or swap with the BRICK Sport Central for bicycles, parts, or accessories?** No. We are a registered charity. We are not allowed to sell or swap goods or services. Our parts, facilities, and volunteers are engaged exclusively in repairing donated bikes for needy kids who do not yet have one.



16. Where can I get more information on bicycle sports in the Edmonton area?

It is a core belief at the BRICK Sport Central that participation in organized sports is good for kids. Please feel free to contact any of the following for more information on Edmonton area cycle sports: Alberta Bicycle Association www.albertabicycle.ab.ca 424 2453; Edmonton BMX www.edmontonbmx.com 450 8392; St Albert BMX www.stalbertbmx.com 456 6356; Stony Plain BMX email fstreetkerk@hotmail.com 963 3149; Dirt Girls www.dirtgirls.ca 435 2674; Edmonton Road & Track Club www.ertc.org 439 8483; Hardcore Racing Club www.hardcore.ca 439 4599; Juventus www.juventus.ab.ca 439 9332; United Cycle Racing www.unitedcycle.com 451 6413; Cranky's (St Albert) www.crankys.ca 458 8652; Fort Saskatchewan Bicycle Club 998 0637; Hindgrinders (Stony Plain) 963 6693.

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