

## **Core Sport**

### **1. VALUES**

- a. The value of the BC Games will depend upon the quality of athletes participating, how well athletes are prepared, the education and training of coaches, the standard of officiating, and the quantity and quality of volunteers.
- b. The BC Games are an entry point for the performance pathway.
- c. The competitive opportunity offered by the BC Games for each sport has been identified by the BC Games Society in conjunction with other agencies in the sport system, to generally be in the higher end of the Learning to Train or lower end of the Training to Train stage for each sport in the Games.
- d. The BC Games are high profile competitive opportunities for PSOs to incorporate into their Long Term Athlete/Player Development model.
- e. The BC Games are an opportunity for PSOs to showcase the development of their athletes, coaches, officials, and sport leaders.

### **2. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- a. To encourage and promote province-wide participation in all eight zones by all sports included in the BC Games.
- b. To encourage and promote gender equity among participants (athletes, coaches, officials) by sports included in the BC Games.
- c. To provide competitive opportunities for athletes with a disability where the same level of opportunity for the same caliber of athletes is not available in other Games in BC.
- d. To support the provincial sport development pathway for athletes, coaches, and officials, as described in the Long Term Athlete/Player Development (LTAD/LTPD) documents.
- e. To operate BC Summer and BC Winter Games as quality multi-sport competitive experiences that are generally a one-time opportunity for all participants, a possible two-time experience for athletes with a disability.
- f. To provide optimal opportunities to athletes, coaches, and officials for growth and development within the current capacity of the BC Games Society and its Host Communities.
- g. To provide the opportunity for inclusion in the BC Summer and BC Winter Games to sports that **best meet** the criteria of the Core Sport policy, while acknowledging the uniqueness of each sport.
- h. To provide a multi-sport competitive opportunity that leads to the placing of teams/athletes and the presentation of medals at the Games.

### **3. POLICY CONTEXT**

- a. The BC Summer and BC Winter Games are at maximum capacity for sports and participants. Considering the ability of communities to host and the resources needed to support the Games, the Games are as large as possible, at this time.
- b. It is not the intention of the Core Sport application process to either expand or reduce the number of sports or participants in the BC Games; however, the number of sports and the number of athletes allocated to each sport in the BC Summer and BC Winter Games are still at the discretion of the BC Games Society.
- c. Organizations applying to be included in the BC Games for the first time will have their application evaluated in comparison to the criteria (in the Core Sport application), as well as in comparison to sports in the current BC Summer or BC Winter Games who meet the requirements to be included in the next BC Games.

- d. Sports included in the BC Summer or BC Winter Games will be evaluated after every Games prior to their status for the next BC Games being determined. Sports will be compared to other sports included in the Games, as well as to new sports applying for inclusion in the BC Games
- e. A sport may only be represented in one BC Games (either BC Summer or BC Winter). Two separate PSOs that govern the same sport cannot be represented in both the BC Summer and the BC Winter Games. For PSOs that govern more than one sport, each sport is evaluated separately and the sports may be included in the same or different Games.
- f. In general the BC Games are a one-time opportunity for athletes (a possible two-time opportunity for athletes with a disability); however, exceptions to this will be considered where it can be demonstrated that the athlete is progressing to a higher LTAD stage or level of competition. The conditions for exceptions to be considered will be developed in consultation with the respective PSO and detailed in the sport's technical package.

#### **4. SPORT CLASSIFICATIONS**

All sports included in the Games are classified based on their disposition in the Games. Note that this classification is for internal use only and not posted or included in any public domain.

##### **a. Core Sports**

Core Sports meet all aspects of the Athlete, Coaching, and Officials development criteria consistently. These are sports that best meet the criteria outlined in this policy and have a strong partnership within the BC Games structure see evaluation process in Appendix A for details. They work to improve excellence for their sport organization and to elevate the stature of the BC Games.

##### **b. New Core Sports**

New Core Sports are sports accepted in the Games for the first time (or being accepted in the Games again after being included in the Games). These sports have demonstrated through the application process that they meet all aspects of the Athlete, Coaching, and Officials development criteria and have been granted inclusion in the Games.

New Core Sports will retain this classification for at least two Games so that they can demonstrate that they can meet the criteria consistently and can establish themselves in the Games structure.

##### **c. Conditional Core Sports**

Conditional Core Sports are sports that have been Core Sports but have been identified as not having met the Athlete Development criteria and/or the requirements for Coaches or Officials' Development or have not found their place within the BC Games structure.

In general, Conditional Core Sports will retain this classification for two Games so that consistency in their ability to meet the Core Sport criteria can be established and so that they can demonstrate progress in addressing any identified areas of inadequacy. Conditional Core Sports are provided clear criteria and specific conditions by the BC Games Society regarding their status. Sports that choose not to address the specified criteria inadequacies will be excluded from subsequent Games.

## **5. Removing New or Conditional Classification**

The details below outline the general conditions needed for the new or conditional classification to be removed from a sport. This list may not be exhaustive. The BC Games Society reserves the right to retain a sport's New or Conditional classification until it is demonstrated that the Core Sport criteria is met consistently.

- a. New sports accepted into the Games will retain the New Core Sport classification for a minimum of two Games. The intention is to provide new sports with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to meet and meet all Core Sport criteria while finding their place within the Games.
  - i. If in both Games, the sport has met all Core Sport criteria they will be classified as a Core Sport for the third Games.
  - ii. If in one or both Games, the sport does not meet all Core Sport criteria they may be retained as a New Core Sport or classified as a Conditional Core Sport or they may be removed from the Games.
- b. Returning sports that do not meet Core Sport criteria will be classified as Conditional Core Sports. This classification will be retained for at least two Games in order to provide sports with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to meet and maintain Core Sport status while giving them the opportunity to strengthen their inclusion in the Games by addressing any identified areas of inadequacy.
  - i. If while classified as a Conditional Core Sport:
    - a. a sport meets the criteria in two consecutive Games they would be reinstated as a Core Sport.
    - b. a sport does not meet the criteria at the first Games they could retain their Conditional Core Sport classification or be removed from the Games.
    - c. a sport does not meet the criteria at first the Games and again does not meet the criteria after the second Games they would be removed from the Games.
    - d. a sport does meet the criteria at the first Games but does not meet the criteria at the second Games they could retain their Conditional Core Sport classification for another Games or reinstated as a Core Sport.

## **6. Removal from the Games**

- a. The BC Games Society may remove a sport from the Games at any point regardless of their classification (as a Core Sport, New Core Sport, or Conditional Core Sport). Sports removed from the Games are provided with the rationale for their removal and are provided with the opportunity to appeal, as outlined in the BC Games Society Appeals Policy and Process.
- b. Sports cannot appeal being reclassified from a Core Sport to a Conditional Core Sport.

## **7. CRITERIA**

### **Operational**

- a. All organizations eligible to apply for inclusion in the BC Summer or BC Winter Games must meet the Operational Criteria detailed below:
  - i. Recognized Provincial Sport Organizations, which is defined as organizations that receive sport-system funding from the Ministry/Sport Branch through ViaSport or other designated agency(ies) (that support Performance or Participation/Performance programming).
  - ii. Provide documentation that the organization has accident and liability insurance coverage of a minimum of five million dollars (\$5 million) in place for its members.
  - iii. Provide a list of current Board members.
  - iv. Provide a list of individuals who will serve as contacts for the BC Games.

- v. Demonstrate the ability to appoint sufficient volunteers to manage Games responsibilities in the BC Games zones.
- vi. Agree to participate in a supplementary meeting with BC Games staff and to bring all appointed key Games volunteers (including Provincial Advisor and Zone Representatives) to this meeting prior to participation in the first Games.
- vii. Agree to maintain open communication with the BC Games Society.
- viii. Promote their inclusion in the Games through their website, social media, and other sources.

## **Core Sport**

### **a. General Criteria :**

- i. All Core Sports must provide a copy of their sport's current LTAD (Long-Term Athlete Development) or Canadian Sport for Life (CSL) framework (or where neither of these are complete, the organization's athlete, coaches, and officials' development models), clearly identifying where BC Games fits (keeping in mind that the BC Games are identified to generally be in the higher end of the Learning to Train or lower end of the Training to Train stage).
  - a. Sports should identify within what stage the ranges/abilities and level of competition being proposed for the Games fits.
  - b. Sports are required to provide a list of competitions within each stage of their LTAD/LTPD for athletes, coaches, and officials.
- ii. Applying sports must provide a list that demonstrates they have sufficient membership in the age range being proposed who would be eligible to compete in the next Games showing a gender and zone breakdown.
- iii. We encourage Provincial Sport Organizations responsible for able-bodied competition and competition for athletes with a disability to determine the most appropriate application and to address interdependencies that may exist in the competition at the Games for both groups of athletes. Generally applications for sports for athletes with a disability are made as follows:
  - a. Where the sport utilizes the same facility/venue and falls under the same competition schedule as able-bodied athletes, the application for the inclusion of competition for athletes with a disability is seen as the addition of a sport category. Therefore, the PSO that governs the able-bodied competition for the sport must make the application. For example, BC Athletics for Wheelchair Athletics and Swim BC for Swimmers with a Disability.
  - b. Where the sport utilizes a different or additional venue, the organization that governs the sport for athletes with a disability will make application for inclusion in the Games. For example, SportAbility for Boccia and BC Wheelchair Basketball Association for Wheelchair Basketball.

Priority will be given to sports and sport categories for athletes with a disability where no other Games opportunity in BC exists for the athletes of the level of competition proposed for inclusion in the BC Games.

### **b. Events and Categories**

- Applying sports must provide a list of the events they propose to hold at the BC Games.
- i. Each event for each sport will be considered independently for inclusion in the BC Summer or BC Winter Games.

**c. Venues, Equipment, and Rules**

Applying sports must include the following with their application:

- i. Information about the availability of venues for the sport throughout the province.
- ii. Detailed minimum facility requirements. As facilities vary from community to community, sports must be prepared to hold competition in less than the ideal standard. BC Games commits to providing a facility that least meets the minimum standard.
- iii. Information about the equipment needed and the availability of equipment for the sport.
- iv. A copy of the rules that govern competition for the sport and any modifications for the Games competition that are being proposed.

Where the requirements (i.e. venues, officials development, coaching development, officials development, etc.) are the same as those used for able-bodied athletes, the applying sport for athletes with a disability should work with the organization that governs the able-bodied sport. Together they should complete and submit the required information with the application for the inclusion of the sport for athletes with a disability.

**d. Numbers of Participants**

Applying sports must include a technical package, outlining the proposed number of participants from each zone, the number of required coaches and support staff to lead the athlete contingent, and the number of officials required for a viable competition. Final participant numbers are dependent on the capacity of the BC Games and the Host Communities.

**e. Athlete Development Criteria**

- i. Athletes attending the BC Games are generally under 18 (exemptions will be considered based on the Core Sport application where it is demonstrated that the older age group meets the criteria).
- ii. The age range for BC Games athletes should be set to allow all eligible athletes to progress from the BC Games to the next level of competition.
- iii. Athletes must be from at least a two-year age range to ensure no skipped generations.
- iv. Core Sports will be required to provide post-Games statistics on BC Games alumni, outlining their progression to the next level(s) of the LTAD/LTPD.
- v. Core Sports must bring at least 50% of their maximum athlete allocation and 50% of their gender allocation per zone in at least 6 of 8 zones, as outlined in their technical package.
- vi. Sports are expected to select athlete age ranges allowing for one BC Games experience only (exceptions may be considered for sports where it can be demonstrated that athletes who are attending a second BC Games have greater/advanced objectively measurable skills based on the category/event/eligibility requirements and the proposed LTAD/LTPD stage for the sport in the Games).

**f. Coaching Development Criteria**

Sports may set additional or higher coaching requirements, but at a minimum:

- i. The BC Games standard is that all Head Coaches must be NCCP Competition Introduction certified in the sport they are coaching at the BC Games. Exceptions (or exemptions) will be considered on a sport-by-sport basis where the sport can demonstrate that a different level of certification is applicable for the level/stage of athlete attending the Games.
- ii. All Assistant Coaches must be certified in the NCCP “Making Ethical Decisions” module prior to participating in the BC Games.
- iii. Sports must demonstrate:
  - a. their commitment to coaching development in all zones
  - b. that the BC Games are used as an opportunity to train, upgrade, and/or mentor coaches
  - c. that coaches participating in the BC Games are working toward increasing their coaching competency
  - d. their commitment to gender equity in the selection of coaches for the Games, specifically in the selection of Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches
- iv. Sports will be required to provide post-Games statistics on BC Games coach alumni, outlining their progression to the next level(s) of the sport’s LTAD/LTPD and/or increasing in competency.
- v. Sports must provide information about the coach training and certification available for their sport.
- vi. Sports must strive to bring a proportional number of male and female head coaches to their number of male and female athletes participating in the BC Games. The BC Games Society will negotiate a reasonable ratio of male-to-female head coaches with each sport for each Games. The intention is that the ratio is achievable but that it also challenges the sport to further develop in this area. The negotiated ratio will be used for post-Games evaluation.

**g. Officials Development Criteria**

Sports must demonstrate:

- i. their commitment to officials’ development in all zones.
- ii. that the BC Games are used as an opportunity to train, upgrade, and/or mentor officials.
- iii. that officials participating in the BC Games are working toward increasing their officiating competency.
- iv. their commitment to gender equity in the selection of officials for the Games.
- v. Sports will be required to provide post-Games statistics on BC Games officials alumni, outlining their progression to the next level(s) of the sport’s LTAD/LTPD or Provincial Classification.
- vi. Sports must strive to bring a proportional number of male and female officials to their number of male and female athletes participating in the BC Games. The BC Games Society will negotiate a reasonable ratio of male-to-female officials with each sport for each Games. The intention is that the ratio is achievable but that it also challenges the sport to further develop in this area. The negotiated ratio will be used for post-Games evaluation.

**h. Volunteer Development Criteria**

Sports must indicate how they plan to use the BC Games to build volunteer capacity through the selection of their Zone Representatives, and/or Sport Chair, and/or Provincial Advisor.

i. **Sport Development Criteria**

Sports must utilize the Games to the full capacity and provide competition on all three days of the Games (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). Where it is not possible or feasible to have competition on all three days, training opportunities will be planned for non-competition days.

j. **Meaningful Competition**

Sports are encouraged to develop and implement ways to ensure a rewarding and high-level competitive experience at the Games. Sports should utilize existing practices within the rules or culture of their sport and/or create new ones for the Games competition. This can include varied zone placement in the draws, tiered pooled play, seeding, handicapping, etc.

**8. EVALUATION**

- a. Sports that best meet the criteria (i.e. bring more athletes in more zones) are more likely to be included in the BC Games.
- b. Organizations applying to be included in the BC Games for the first time will have their application evaluated in comparison to the criteria (in the Core Sport application), as well as in comparison to sports in the current BC Summer or BC Winter Games who meet the requirements to be included in the next BC Games.
- c. Sports included in the BC Summer or BC Winter Games will be evaluated after every Games prior to their status for the next BC Games being determined. Returning sports will be compared to other sports included in the Games, as well as to new sports applying for inclusion.
- d. Part of the evaluation of returning sports will be to assess the correlation between the sport's LTAD/LTPD and the BC Games. For example, if the BC Games are in the stage prior to athletes going to the Western Canada Summer Games (or the Canada Games), the assessment will include reviewing the percent of athletes at the previous Western Canada Summer Games (or Canada Games) that are BC Games alumni.
- e. Athlete Development criteria will be evaluated as noted in the following table.

Competition	Who is Evaluated (MOU signed with)	Requirement 1		Requirement 2
Able-bodied Competition Only	PSO for able-bodied sport	Must bring at least 50% of the maximum athlete allocation per zone.	<b>AND</b>	Must bring athletes from at least 6 of the 8 BC Games zones.
Sport with able-bodied and disabled competition in shared venue or using the same schedule (Team and Individual sport)	PSO for able-bodied sport	Athlete numbers for all events (able-bodied and disabled) added together and sport must bring at least 50% of maximum allocation per zone. The numbers in each sport category will be looked at to ensure viable competition exists.	<b>AND</b>	Must bring athletes from at least 6 of the 8 BC Games zones.
Sport with competition only for athletes with a disability - <b>Individual Sports</b> (separate venue or schedule)	PSO for sport for athletes with a disability	Must bring athletes from at least 4 of the 8 BC Games zones.	<b>OR</b>	Must bring at least 50% of the total number of the athlete allocation for the sport.
Sport with competition only for athletes with a disability – <b>Team Sports</b> (separate venue or schedule)	PSO for sport for athletes with a disability	For inclusion as a new sport in the Games, the sport must show the ability to bring at least 4 teams; ideally from at least 4 different zones, Consideration will be given to new sports that can bring 4 teams from less than 4 different zones; however, once in the Games, sports that bring teams from 4 or more zones will be evaluated higher than those that do not. The number of zones may impact future inclusion in the Games.	<b>AND</b>	Must bring enough athletes per team to ensure a viable and safe competition, generally less than 50% of the maximum number of athletes per team would not satisfy this requirement.

- f. The general evaluation process is outlined below. Refer to the timeline for the specific Games.
  - i. Evaluation of sports is completed within two months of the Games.
  - ii. Sport Committee approves the Sport Package based on staff recommendations on status of returning and new sports.
  - iii. Provincial Sport Organizations will be notified in writing as to their disposition in the Core Sport Program.
  - iv. Provincial Sport Organizations will have an opportunity to appeal the decision of the BC Games Society as approved by the Sport Committee. A request for appeal must be received in the BC Games office by the deadline.
  - v. Appeals Committee determines if there are grounds for an appeal and if so, dates for the hearing are set.
  - vi. Appeals hearing will be completed by the Appeals Committee.
  - vii. Recommendations from the Appeals Committee are presented to the Board. The decision of the Board is final.
  - viii. Provincial Sport Organizations making an Appeal will be notified of the outcome of this process.
  - ix. BC Games Society announces the Sport Package.

## **BACKGROUND**

The BC Games Society Core/Optional Sport Program was first established in May 1994, when each sport organization was given the opportunity to demonstrate how the BC Games fit into their sport development plans. Sports that chose to use the BC Summer or BC Winter Games as an integral part of their athlete, coach, and officials' development models were deemed to be Core Sports. Sports using the BC Games in at least one, but not all three, of these areas were considered Optional Sports.

In January 2000, the BC Games Society Board of Directors, in consultation with the other partners in sport, reviewed the Core/Optional Sport Program. In 2002, all sports wanting to be included in the 2004 BC Summer or BC Winter Games were required to complete an application. The applications were reviewed in November 2002 for inclusion as Core or Optional sports for the 2004 BC Games.

In 2006 and 2007, the policy was reviewed with input from the sport system and was updated. Optional Sport status for inclusion in the Games is no longer part of the policy. Sports are either Core Sports and included in the BC Summer or BC Winter Games or they are Probationary Sports and are conditionally included in the Games.

In the fall of 2007 the Core Sport policy was once again reviewed in light of the Canadian Sport for Life (CSL) framework. This initiative was funded by 2010 Legacies Now and involved a series of conference calls and meetings of the Sport Committee and staff, including one with CSL experts providing input and suggestions.

After a review in 2009 updates were made to the sections relating to competition for athletes with a disability were discussed with sport system representatives with the respective expertise and experience and from 2011 onward biennial reviews have resulted in some general updates.

In 2015 the Sport Classification section was changed. Probationary Sport was separated into two classifications: New Core Sport and Conditional Core Sport.

Appendix A

**Summary of Evaluation Process**

After each Games, every sport is evaluated based on each of the areas identified in the Core Sport Policy (Athlete Development, Coaching Development, Officials' Development, and the fit of the BC Games in the sport's LTAD/LTPD). In addition, a score is applied to the partnership between the PSO and the BC Games Society.

While Athlete Development carries the most weight in the evaluation process, all four components of the Core Sport criteria must be fully met for a sport to be considered meeting the criteria.

The system is used to evaluate sports and ensure all components are achieved but scores are not used to determine inclusion in the Games. Components of the evaluation that were not achieved are presented to the BC Games Society's Sport Committee for review and consideration in determining a sport's inclusion in the Games. The sports are not ranked.

		<b>Percent of Total Evaluation Score</b>
Athlete Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of athlete participation in three areas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Numbers of zones and/or numbers of zones with 50% or more of the maximum allocation.</li> <li>○ Meeting gender percentage outlined in the Technical Package.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Total: 40 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of athletes per zone (30%)</li> <li>• Male/Female percentage (5%)</li> <li>• Athletes moving to next competition (5%)</li> </ul>
Coaching Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of coach participation in three areas:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Percentage of Head Coaches who meet the NCCP certification requirement for the Games or the sport.</li> <li>○ Each zone that has athletes at the Games is required to have a registered Head Coach. This criteria looks at the numbers of Head Coaches without looking at the certification of the coaches.</li> <li>○ PSO self-reporting on coaches who move from BC Games to next level of competition.</li> <li>○ Meeting gender ratio outlined in the Technical Package.</li> <li>○ Assistant Coaches to have completed Making Ethical Decisions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Total: 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certification of Head Coaches (7%)</li> <li>• Head Coach in each zone (3%)</li> <li>• Coach development (moving to next competition and/or increasing in competency) (3%)</li> <li>• Gender ratio (3%)</li> <li>• Assistant Coaches to have completed Making Ethical Decisions (4%)</li> </ul>
Officials' Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSO self-reporting on officials who move from BC Games to next level of competition.</li> <li>• Meeting gender ratio outlined in the Technical Package.</li> </ul>	Total: 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officials from each zone that fields a team (or athletes) to the Games (or min # of zones)? (4%)</li> <li>• Is evaluation conducted/mentoring, at the Games? (8%)</li> <li>• Officials development (moving to next competition and/or increasing in competency) (4%)</li> <li>• Gender ratio (4%)</li> </ul>

		<b>Percent of Total Evaluation Score</b>
Canadian Sport for Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An assessment of how the BC Games fit in the sport's development and the next level of competition as indicated and detailed in their LTAD/LTPD submission to us.</li> </ul>	Total: 6
Volunteer Development Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PSO self-reporting on the development of volunteers and building capacity in the sport through the Games.</li> </ul>	Not scored at this time
Utilization of the Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports must utilize the Games to the full capacity and provide competition and/or training opportunities on all three days of the Games (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday).</li> </ul>	Total: 2 (yes or no)
Meaningful Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sports are encouraged to develop and implement ways to ensure a rewarding and high-level competitive experience at the Games.</li> </ul>	Not scored at this time
Partnership with BC Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is an assessment of the sport's commitment to the partnership with the BC Games Society in providing a positive and quality competitive opportunity. This includes using the Games as an opportunity to develop athletes as demonstrated through selection processes, etc., using the Games to develop coaches and officials. And also includes naming volunteers who work toward this vision and goal. In general this is demonstration that the partnership is valuable to the sport and inclusion in the Games is important to the PSO. This can include a variety of things such as meeting deadlines, managing and reacting to issues with participants or the sport during the Games in an appropriate manner, responding to requests from BC Games, demonstrated leadership of Provincial Advisors, Zone Reps and Sport Chairs addressing registration issues, supporting the rules and policies of the Games, etc.</li> </ul>	Total: 44 12

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