



CORE SPORT POLICY

2028 BC WINTER AND BC SUMMER GAMES

Core Sport Policy for the 2028 BC Winter and BC Summer Games

Vision: “We strive to inspire exceptional experiences through sport.”

Mission: “We build on the expertise and support of partners to create development opportunities for athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and communities.”

Values: “Integrity, trust and respect are the core of our game plan.”

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1. Purpose

The Core Sport Policy outlines how sports are included in the BC Winter and BC Summer Games. It ensures the Games continue to reflect the BC Games Society's commitment to athlete development, responsible sport delivery, and meaningful participation opportunities across British Columbia.

The policy is grounded in the vision, mission, and values of the BC Games Society and is guided by five key principles: dedicated, accountable, collaborative, evolving, and excellence. These principles shape how decisions are made and how the policy is applied. A summary of how each principle informs this policy is provided in [Appendix A](#).

This policy supports:

- **Strategic Alignment** – Reinforces the BC Games' role in the provincial sport development pathway.
- **Transparency and Consistency** – Establishes clear and equitable processes for evaluating and selecting sports.
- **Accountability** – Sets expectations for sport organizations to ensure high-quality and inclusive delivery.

Further information about the background and evolution of the Core Sport Policy is available in [Appendix G](#).

2. Definitions

Allocation: The number of athletes, coaches, and officials assigned to a sport to form its contingent at the BC Games.

- **Zone-Restricted Allocation:** Allocations that are restricted to a zone. Zone-restricted allocations must be equal in all eight zones. A sport is not permitted to have any zone(s) with more or fewer zone-restricted allocations than any other zone.
- **Wildcards:** An additional athlete allocation that is not tied to any one zone. Sports have the discretion to assign wildcards as appropriate. Wildcards do not apply to coaches or officials.
- **Backfilling:** The practice of converting unused zone-restricted allocations into wildcards. This practice is not permitted at the BC Games.

BC Games Society: The organization responsible for planning, staging, and delivering the BC Winter and BC Summer Games.

BC Games Society Board of Directors: ("Board of Directors"): The governing body of the BC Games Society, responsible for providing strategic oversight and approving key decisions, including those related to sport selection and classification.

BC Games Society Sport Committee ("Sport Committee"): A committee of the BC Games Society that supports the assessment, classification, and inclusion of sports in the BC Games. The committee reviews applications, evaluates requests for changes, and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors. The committee is ultimately responsible for the review and implementation of the Core Sport Policy.

Culture of the Games: Outlines and describes the expectations of those associated with the BC Games. It encompasses all safety and safe sport aspects of the Games and strives to inspire everyone to consider the roles they play in shaping the Games experience for everyone.

Participant: Refers to all accredited athletes, coaches, and officials. The number of participants permitted in each sport is defined in the Sport Package and the sport's Technical Package.

- **Athlete:** An individual who engages in competition at the BC Games. Each sport defines its own eligibility criteria for athletes within its Technical Package.
- **Coach:** An individual who provides leadership and supervision to athletes at the BC Games. There are multiple coach roles, including head coaches, assistant coaches, adult supervisors, and mentor coaches.
- **Official:** An individual who upholds the integrity of competition at the BC Games. There are multiple official roles, including official, Provincial Advisor, PSO representative, and technical support.

Provincial and Disability Sport Organizations (“PSO/DSO”): The governing body for the sport in British Columbia, as recognized through the viaSport Designation Program.

- **Individual Sport:** A sport that typically features a variety of individual and team-based events. For example, Badminton may include singles, doubles, team, and skills events.
- **Team Sport:** A sport in which competition is primarily or exclusively team-based, typically featuring only one event per gender. For example, Volleyball includes a boys' team event and a girls' team event. This does not include individual sports that feature team events.

Sport Package: The full slate of sports and participant allocations approved for inclusion in a specific edition of the BC Winter or BC Summer Games. The Sport Package is developed by BC Games Society staff, approved by the Sport Committee, and endorsed by the Board of Directors.

Technical Package: A document prepared by each sport that outlines all sport-specific rules, procedures, eligibility, competition structure, and Games-time logistics for participation in the BC Games. The Technical Package is developed in collaboration with the BC Games Society and forms the foundation for sport delivery at the Games.

Train to Train: A stage in the Long-Term Development (LTD) framework that is the gateway to the Podium Pathway. This stage is used as the primary reference point for determining the competition structure and age eligibility for BC Games athletes.

3. Sport Strategy and Philosophy

The BC Games Society believes that the value of the BC Games extends beyond medal counts and sport-specific outcomes. The Games offer a unique platform for athlete and coach development, community connection, and legacy creation. This section outlines the guiding philosophy that shapes sport inclusion in the BC Games and reflects the Society's broader goals for the provincial sport system.

3.1 Benefits of BC Games Participation

Participation in the BC Games provides an unparalleled opportunity for PSOs and DSOs to elevate their sport and contribute to athlete and coach development. Key benefits include:

- **Subsidized Multi-Sport Model:** The BC Games are delivered through a subsidized model, minimizing financial barriers for participants. This includes meals, transportation, accommodation, and access to professionally organized competition.
- **Multi-Sport Games Experience:** The BC Games introduce athletes, coaches, and officials to the unique environment of a multi-sport Games, preparing them for future experiences such as the Canada Games, North American Indigenous Games, and beyond.

- **Training Camp Environment:** The Games simulate a high-performance training camp, fostering team building, mental preparation, and a deeper understanding of the demands of high-level competition. This includes the opportunity for coaches to work with their athletes in a controlled environment on and off the field of play. This experience takes place away from parents, offering athletes independence while ensuring a safe, supervised, and supportive environment.

3.2 Inclusion Principles

The BC Games Society is committed to creating an inclusive sport environment where all participants feel safe, welcome, and respected. Inclusion is a foundational principle that influences all sport selection and program delivery decisions. This includes:

- **Indigenous Inclusion:** The BC Games provide an opportunity to create more culturally inclusive sport environments and increase Indigenous representation across athlete, coach, official, and volunteer roles. The Society encourages PSOs and DSOs to collaborate with Indigenous sport partners and integrate culturally appropriate practices. Sports are encouraged to contribute towards meaningful reconciliation by identifying opportunities for Indigenous participation within their sport.
- **Athletes with a Disability:** The Games encourage the inclusion of athletes with physical, sensory, and/or intellectual disabilities within integrated or stand-alone events, recognizing the importance of accessible competition pathways.
- **Special Olympics:** Sports governed by Special Olympics BC are valued partners in the Games, helping to model inclusive and meaningful competition for athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- **Culture of the Games:** The BC Games Society promotes positive sport culture through its Culture of the Games initiative. This framework emphasizes respect, integrity, fair play, and inclusivity, and applies to all participants. Sports are expected to reinforce these values both in preparation for and during the Games.

3.3 Maximizing the Games Experience

The Games are not just an endpoint; they are a launching pad. Sports that fully engage with the opportunities presented by the BC Games often realize long-term benefits across their sport. These include:

- **Coach Development:** The Games are a powerful platform to identify, mentor, and certify coaches. Many PSOs and DSOs use the Games to elevate new or underrepresented coaches within their system.
- **Officials and Mentorship:** Officials gain valuable experience in a multi-sport setting, often with mentorship from more experienced officials and technical leaders.
- **Equipment and Facility Legacies:** Many sports can access new or upgraded equipment through Games-related funding or legacies, benefiting the sport long after the event.

4. Eligibility Criteria for Inclusion in the Games

To be considered for inclusion in the BC Winter or BC Summer Games, sports must meet a combination of baseline requirements and be evaluated using scored criteria. This two-part framework ensures that participating sports align with the BC Games Society's goals and values while also meeting technical and developmental standards.

4.1 Baseline Requirements

All sports must meet the following baseline criteria to be eligible for inclusion. These are considered minimum eligibility requirements and are not scored, though many are included in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Partnership Agreement that forms the basis of the Partnership with BC Games criterion:

- Only Provincial and Disability Sport Organizations, as recognized through the viaSport Designation Program, are eligible to be included in the BC Games.
- The sport must name a Provincial Advisor to serve as the key liaison between the PSO/DSO and BC Games Society.
- The sport has a clearly defined provincial athlete development pathway.
- The sport has a history of or demonstrated capacity for zone-based competition and team selection.

- The PSO/DSO has adopted a Safe Sport framework, including screening, training, and conduct policies.
- The sport's rules, equipment needs, and venue requirements are appropriate for Games-scale delivery and will be outlined in the sport's technical package and minimum facility requirements.
- The sport has demonstrated a willingness to work in partnership with the BC Games Society.

4.2 Scored Criteria

Sports are assessed using a scored criteria that scores performance in seven evaluation categories. Details on the scoring structure and weights are included in [Appendix B](#).

4.2.A. Partnership with BC Games

- A1.** Sports are required to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Partnership Agreement with the BC Games Society, outlining roles, responsibilities, technical delivery expectations, and commitment to timelines.

4.2.B. Athlete Development Criteria

- B1. Province-wide Participation:** Sports are expected to promote province-wide participation. Only those sports that demonstrate participation in at least 6 of 8 BC Games zones will be included in the BC Games. Sports are evaluated against this metric to ensure at least 50% of the zone-restricted allocation per zone is met in at least 6 of 8 zones. Sports that include athletes with a disability have reduced requirements. Full requirements are identified in [Appendix B, Section 4.2.B](#).
- B2. Athlete Progression and LTD Alignment:** Sports are required to position their involvement in the Games at the Train to Train stage of athlete development and are expected to demonstrate how BC Games athletes are progressing to higher levels of competition along the LTD pathway.
- B3. Utilization:** Sports are required to use the Games to their full capacity by providing training, competition, or other sport development opportunities on the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the Games. Competition, at a minimum, must take place on Friday and Saturday. Where it is not possible, feasible, or necessary to have competition on Sunday, training or other sport development opportunities must be planned.
- B4. 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 pool play, seeding, mixed zone competition, mixed gendered competition, skills competitions, etc.

4.2.C. Coach Development Criteria:

- C1. Qualification Status:** Sports are required to set a minimum coaching requirement of NCCP Competition Introduction certified (or the sport equivalent) for head coaches, NCCP Competition Introduction trained (or the sport equivalent) for assistant coaches, and CAC Safe Sport Training for adult supervisors.
- C2. Exemption Process:** Sports are required to complete the Coach Verification Report, which outlines which coaches are meeting qualification requirements and which coaches require an exemption under the Coach Exemption Process (see [Appendix D](#)).
- C3. Games-time Development:** Sports are expected to provide development opportunities for all coaches via the Games.
- C4. Zone Representation:** Sports are required to bring, at minimum, one head coach and one assistant coach for each zone that brings athletes to the Games.

4.2.D. Officials Development Criteria:

- D1. Certification Status:** Sports are required to ensure officials are appropriately certified for the level of competition.
- D2. Games-time Development:** Sports are expected to provide development opportunities for all officials via the Games.

4.2.E. Volunteer Development Criteria:

- E1. Sport Chair:** Sports are required to name and support a Sport Chair. This individual will support the host society in the planning of the sport competition locally and often will come from the local club.
- E2. Club Capacity Building:** Sports must use the Games to strengthen the local club or sport community in the host region. This includes building volunteer capacity, acquiring or leaving behind equipment, supporting club leadership, and engaging the broader community beyond the club. Where a club does not exist, sports are encouraged to build local capacity through leadership development and, ideally, the establishment of a new club as a legacy of the Games.

4.2.F. Culture of the Games Criteria

- F1. Online Module Completion:** Sports are required to ensure all participants (athletes, head coaches, assistant coaches, and adult supervisors) have completed the BC Games Culture of the Games online module.
- F2. Inclusion:** Sports are expected to support an inclusive environment both on and off the field of play and demonstrate a commitment to ensure competition opportunities exist regardless of gender, accessibility, ethnic background, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.
- F3. Games-time Reinforcement:** Sports must be prepared to support Culture of the Games initiatives during the BC Games (i.e., hosting coach/athlete expectations meetings, encouraging a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment, and reinforcing appropriate behaviour while correcting inappropriate behaviour)

5. Evaluation and Decision-Making Process

The BC Games Society follows a structured and transparent process to evaluate, select, and confirm sports for inclusion in each BC Winter and BC Summer Games. The timeline for this process is included in [Appendix F](#).

5.1 Call for Applications

Approximately 27–32 months before each Games, the BC Games Society releases the Core Sport Policy for the BC Winter and BC Summer Games cycle that is two years beyond the current cycle. This includes a Call for Applications to all eligible Provincial and Disability Sport Organizations (PSO/DSOs). This call includes:

- Eligibility information
- Application timelines and submission instructions
- Information session for new sports

5.2 Application and Eligibility Pathways

The process differs depending on whether a sport is currently included in the Games:

5.2.A. New Sports

Sports not currently in the Games must submit a full application during the Call for Applications. These sports will be evaluated against the baseline and scored criteria outlined in this policy.

5.2.B. Existing Sports

Sports already included in the Games do not need to reapply. These sports are evaluated by BC Games Society staff and the Sport Committee against the Core Sport Policy for the current Games cycle (e.g., sports at the 2026 BC Winter and BC Summer Games are evaluated against the Core Sport Policy for 2026).

If an existing sport wishes to propose a Major Change to its sport program, it must submit a Major Change Request Form. Major Changes are defined as any proposed change that would significantly affect event delivery or Games operations. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Adding a new event that significantly impacts minimum facility requirements,
- Changing athlete, coach, or official participant allocations,
- Adding a new sport or discipline governed by the same PSO/DSO,
- Introducing competition for a gender not currently included in the Games.

These requests are reviewed separately by BC Games Society staff and may trigger a reassessment of the sport's classification or participant allocations.

5.3 Internal Review and Validation

BC Games Society staff review all applications and Major Change requests to confirm:

- Baseline eligibility (for new or returning sports),
- Completeness of application,
- Technical feasibility and capacity for proposed changes.

Incomplete submissions or those not meeting baseline criteria will not proceed to scoring.

5.4 Evaluation of Sports

Sports applying for inclusion in the Games for the first time, or after having not been included for one or more Games, will be evaluated on the written submission made. The submission must include all the required elements indicated on the application form. In addition, applicants will have the opportunity to meet with BC Games staff to review the application submission.

Returning sports are assessed using the evaluation criteria outlined in [section 4.2](#) and [Appendix B](#). Scoring is conducted by BC Games Society staff and reviewed by the Sport Committee. The review occurs within two months of the completion of the Games, with different timelines for the BC Winter and BC Summer Games. While Athlete Development carries the most weight in the evaluation process, each component of the Core Sport criteria is individually assessed and must meet minimum expectations for a sport to be considered meeting the overall standard.

The evaluation process confirms which components are achieved and which are not. While numerical scores provide an overall indication of performance, a sport may not be considered for future inclusion if it fails to meet expectations in any one area, regardless of its total score. All components are examined both individually and collectively when determining a sport's status for the next Games.

Individual evaluation results (e.g., scores and report cards) are shared with each sport following the review process. While scores are not made public or directly compared between sports, comparative evaluation may occur when necessary (e.g., when the number of sports under consideration exceeds available capacity in the Games). In these cases, decisions may be informed by the extent to which sports better meet the Core Sport criteria, based on both scoring and qualitative assessment.

5.5 Sport Selection

In addition to the evaluation of each sport, the BC Games Society reviews logistical and strategic factors such as:

- Venue availability and regional capacity,
- Overall sport mix and balance across the Games,
- Total participant numbers across all sports,
- Representation of equity-seeking groups, including Indigenous participants and sports with athletes with a disability.

The BC Games Society has established maximum total participant allocations for the BC Winter and BC Summer Games, which include all accredited athletes, coaches, and officials:

- A maximum of 1,800 participants for the BC Winter Games
- A maximum of 2,700 participants for the BC Summer Games

Sports that best meet the evaluation criteria (e.g., bring athletes from more zones, have a higher percentage of certified coaches, etc.) are more likely to be included in the BC Games. All sports will be evaluated based on the Core Sport criteria and in comparison to each other. Sports applying to be included in the BC Games for the first time will be compared to sports currently in the Games as well as all other sports applying for inclusion.

The Core Sport evaluation is an internal metric shared only between the sport and the BC Games Society. It is important to note that:

- A sport in the Games that meets all the Core Sport criteria may be removed from the Games if a sport applying for inclusion better meets the Core Sport criteria.
- A sport applying for inclusion in the Games that meets all the Core Sport criteria may not be granted inclusion in the Games if they do not better meet the Core Sport criteria than any sport currently in the Games.

Using the above considerations, a Sport Package proposal is developed by BC Games Society staff and approved by Sport Committee, with final endorsement by the Board of Directors.

5.6 Notification and Confirmation

Following approval of the Sport Package, the BC Games Society will notify all PSOs and DSOs in writing regarding their status in the Games. Notifications may include:

- Confirmation of inclusion in the upcoming Games, along with the sport's classification (e.g., Core Sport, New Core Sport, Conditional Core Sport),
- Denial of inclusion for new or returning sports that do not meet baseline criteria, do not score competitively, or cannot be accommodated within the overall Games program,
- Outcome of Major Change Requests submitted by existing sports, including whether changes are approved or if further evaluation is required,
- Timelines and requirements for technical package submission,
- Feedback or conditions, if applicable.

5.7 Appeals

As part of the notification process, PSOs and DSOs may appeal the following decisions only:

- Removal of an existing sport from the Games,
- Denial of inclusion for a new sport.

The BC Games Society Appeals Committee will determine whether grounds for appeal exist. If grounds are established, hearing date(s) will be set by the committee. Recommendations from the Appeals Committee will be presented to the BC Games Society Board of Directors. The decision of the Board is final.

PSOs and DSOs submitting an appeal will be notified in writing of the outcome.

6. Sport Classifications

All sports included in the BC Winter and BC Summer Games are classified based on their alignment with the Core Sport Policy. Classifications are used internally by the BC Games Society to support decision-making and sport development planning. They are not published or publicly attributed to sports.

Information on how a sport may be reclassified or removed from the Games is included in [Appendix E](#).

6.1 Core Sports

Core Sports consistently meet all criteria of the Core Sport Policy. These sports:

- Demonstrate strong alignment with the BC Games vision and values,
- Maintain a reliable and collaborative partnership with the BC Games Society,
- Fit well within the operational structure of the Games, and
- Strive for excellence in sport delivery and athlete experience.

6.2 New Core Sports

New Core Sports are those being included in the Games for the first time, or re-included after having previously been removed. These sports:

- Have met all criteria of the Core Sport Policy through the application and evaluation process, and
- May, in some cases, have demonstrated stronger alignment than existing sports.

New Core Sports retain this classification for a minimum of two Games, allowing time to:

- Establish themselves within the Games structure, and
- Demonstrate sustained alignment with the Core Sport criteria.

6.3 Conditional Core Sports

Conditional Core Sports are previously classified Core Sports that have not fully met one or more criteria of this policy or have shown challenges fitting within the Games structure. These sports are:

- Assigned this classification for two Games, during which they are expected to address identified gaps, and
- Provided with clear, sport-specific conditions for improvement by the BC Games Society.

Failure to meet the outlined conditions may result in removal from future Games.

7. Technical Requirements

Sports are required to submit and maintain technical requirements for their participation in the BC Games through the sport Technical Package, as well as inform the BC Games Society of its minimum facility requirements. These materials outline how competition will be structured and delivered, athlete and coach eligibility, and requirements for safe and equitable sport delivery.

7.1 Athlete Allocation

Sports are required to submit their total athlete allocation as part of their initial Games application or the Major Change process. This allocation is reviewed as part of Technical Package development.

The BC Games Society encourages and expects sports to propose athlete allocations that reflect balanced participation across genders. While balanced representation is the desired standard, it is recognized that participation trends and program structures may vary by sport. Allocations should demonstrate an inclusive approach and, where applicable, outline any efforts to support equitable access and development opportunities for all participants.

7.1.A. Zone-Restricted Allocations

Sports must propose a fixed number of athlete allocations restricted to each zone. Zone-restricted allocations must be equal in all eight zones and must be an even number. A sport is not permitted to have any zone(s) with more or fewer zone-restricted allocations than any other zone. These allocations can only be used by athletes who meet the residency requirements for that zone under the General Rules.

This structure reflects the BC Games Society's commitment to province-wide participation. By protecting allocations for athletes in every zone, sports are encouraged to actively develop programs and athlete pathways in all regions of the province. Equal representation ensures opportunities for young athletes across British Columbia to engage in multi-sport Games and supports the broader goal of equitable sport development.

7.1.B. Wildcards

Wildcards are additional athlete allocations that are unattached to any one zone. Sports have the discretion to allocate wildcards as appropriate. A maximum of 20% of the total athlete allocation, or the equivalent of two zones, may be assigned as wildcard spaces.

Zone-restricted Allocations per Zone	Total Zone-restricted Allocations	Maximum Wildcards	Total Athlete Allocation
2	16	4	20
4	32	8	40
6	48	12	60
8	64	16	80
10	80	20	100
12	96	24	120
14	112	28	140
16	128	32	160
18	144	36	180
20	160	40	200

Table continues in increments of two per zone as needed.

Only individual sports are permitted to use wildcard allocations. These sports are not required to use wildcards and may request fewer than the maximum permitted. The practice of backfilling (reassigning unused zone-restricted allocations as wildcards) is strictly prohibited.

7.1.C. Replacement Teams

If a zone is unable to field a team in a team sport, the PSO/DSO may propose the use of a replacement team. All replacement teams must be approved by the BC Games Society in advance.

Replacement teams:

- Do not increase the total athlete allocation for the sport.
- Must be composed of eligible athletes as defined by the General Rules and Technical Package.
- Are only approved when required to balance the competition schedule.

For example, if only seven zone teams are confirmed, a replacement team may be approved to create an eight-team draw. However, if only six zone teams are confirmed, a replacement team will not be approved, as a six-team schedule is already balanced.

A replacement team may consist of:

- A second team from a single zone, or
- A combined team of eligible athletes from two or more zones.

If proposing a combined-zone team, the PSO/DSO must include a detailed explanation of how the team will operate, including coaching structure, athlete selection, and overall management including adherence to the Team Travel Policy.

7.2 Coach Allocation

Sports (including team sports with athletes with a disability) are required to name a minimum of one head coach and one assistant coach per zone. Sports may apply to include more than two coaches per zone to meet coaching and supervision requirements, in which case these additional participants would be considered assistant coaches or adult supervisors, in consultation with the sport.

Individual sports with athletes with a disability are required to name a minimum of one head coach and one assistant coach for the entire sport.

The BC Games Society encourages coaching staffs that reflect the diversity of their athlete contingent. Given the important supervisory role coaches play at the Games, it is expected that sports will assign coaches who reflect the gender identities of the athletes they are responsible for. This ensures safe, comfortable, and respectful environments for all participants. Sports should consider this requirement when planning coach recruitment and zone team composition.

7.3 Officials' Allocation

Sports are required to provide the minimum number of certified officials required to safely and fairly conduct competition. The number must be based on the proposed competition structure and outlined in the Technical Package.

All sports are required to name a Provincial Advisor who serves as the primary liaison between the PSO/DSO and the BC Games Society. This individual is required to attend the Games but is not included in the officials' allocation.

7.4 Athlete Eligibility

7.4.A. Age eligibility and LTD stage alignment

All sports must propose an age eligibility range aligned with the Train to Train stage of Long-Term Development (LTD). Age eligibility should reflect meaningful athlete development opportunities and ensure fair and safe competition.

The standard age eligibility range is two years, which supports the goal of athletes attending the BC Games only once. However, a broader range (three or more years) may be proposed if it aligns with the sport's Train to Train stage and maintains the principle that athletes should participate in only one BC Games. If a broader range is used, the sport should outline how selection would be carried out to ensure athletes attend the Games when their skills are at the optimal level for the competition at the Games.

Age eligibility may differ for male and female athletes, provided this is aligned with the sport's LTD model.

7.4.B. Single-Games Attendance

Athletes are permitted to attend only one BC Games in a single sport. An exception is made for athletes with a disability, who may attend up to two BC Games in the same sport, provided they continue to meet all eligibility requirements.

Athletes may participate in multiple BC Games if they are competing in different sports, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for each sport.

7.5 Coach Requirements

7.5.A. Qualification Requirements

All sports in the BC Games are required to maintain minimum coach qualification requirements which must be submitted as part of the Technical Package. These requirements are:

- Head coach – NCCP Competition Introduction certified (or sport-specific equivalent)
- Assistant coach – NCCP Competition Introduction trained (or sport-specific equivalent)
- Adult supervisors – CAC Safe Sport Training

The BC Games Society, through the Coach Exemption Process (see [Appendix D](#)), allows the opportunity for sports to bring coaches to the Games who do not meet the coach qualification requirements. This process is intended to establish an obtainable reporting structure for Provincial Advisors, while also holding sports accountable to coaching qualification standards and the coaching development criterion of the Core Sport Policy. Regardless of any coach exemptions granted, all coaches are required to have completed NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Training or CAC Safe Sport Training. There will be no exceptions to this requirement.

7.5.B. Selection and Screening

PSOs and DSOs are responsible for selecting and screening all coaches, including adult supervisors. This includes ensuring that coaches have passed a Criminal Record Check and are aware of their roles and responsibilities at the Games. In addition to meeting BC Games Society standards, coaches must also meet any sport-specific screening requirements established by their PSO/DSO. These may include reference checks, interviews, code of conduct acknowledgements, or other vetting processes aligned with Safe Sport principles.

7.6 Zone Qualifications

Sports are required to establish and manage a clear process for zone qualification or athlete selection. This process must:

- Be public, transparent, and well-communicated to athletes, coaches, and families across the province.
- Be owned and administered by the PSO/DSO, independent of the BC Games Society. Because the process is PSO/DSO owned:
 - The PSO/DSO may charge a tryout fee, provided it is reasonable, reflects actual costs, and is clearly disclosed in advance.
 - All athletes participating in the qualification process must be registered members of the PSO/DSO in good standing.

The BC Games Society expects that PSOs and DSOs actively promote their qualification process across all zones to ensure equitable access and awareness for all eligible athletes.

7.7 Minimum Facility Requirements

Sports must provide the BC Games Society with their Minimum Facility Requirements as part of the application process and when requested thereafter. These requirements should reflect:

- The minimum acceptable standards for safe, fair, and LTD-appropriate competition, within the scope of what can be delivered in a grassroots multi-sport Games model.
- Flexibility and recognition of the range of obtainable facilities available across British Columbia, ensuring availability of facilities in all zones.
- A focus on essential requirements over preferred or optimal features.

The BC Games Society will work with Host Societies to identify appropriate venues within a two-hour radius of the host community. If a sport's Minimum Facility Requirements cannot be met, that sport may be granted a Games off without impacting its sport classification.

7.8 Competition Structure

Sports are required to propose a competition structure that allows for:

- A meaningful competition experience for all qualified athletes.
- Reasonable scheduling over the course of the Games, including opportunities for training, competition, and development opportunities on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the Games.
- A balanced workload for officials, volunteers, and participants.
- Appropriate medal distribution opportunities.

Competition structures must be clearly outlined in the Technical Package and may include formats such as round-robin, pool play, or individual heats. All structures are subject to approval by the BC Games Society.

Appendix A: BC Games Society Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

We strive to inspire exceptional experiences through sport.

Mission

The BC Games Society is the leadership organization that guides the BC Winter and BC Summer Games and prepares Team BC for national multi-sport Games. We build on the expertise and support of partners to create development opportunities for athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and communities.

Values

Integrity, trust, and respect are the core of our game plan.

- The BC Games depend upon partnerships with sports included in the Games and its host societies. These partnerships are integral to our organization and are founded on the trust and respect between the BC Games Society and these partners. The sports included in the Games oversee the selection of athletes, coaches, and officials thereby influencing the quality of competition, the level of athletes participating and how well they are prepared, the education and training of coaches, and the standard of officiating. Each host society oversees securing the number of volunteers needed and their subsequent training/preparedness.

The Core Sport policy is guided by the following principles:

Dedicated – committed to the goal

- The BC Winter and BC Summer Games 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.
- Inclusion in the Games will support, encourage, and promote gender equity across all participants (athletes, coaches, officials) province-wide participation in all eight zones, by all sports, and will include opportunities for participants with a disability and Indigenous participants.

Accountable – embracing responsibility

- Inclusion in the BC Winter or BC Summer Games will be open to the sports that best meet the criteria of the Core Sport policy.
- 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.
- 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.
- The BC Winter and BC Summer Games will 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.
- The BC Winter and BC Summer Games will provide opportunities for Indigenous athletes, coaches, and officials based on applications from sports and in partnership with the Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (I-SPARC).
- The BC Winter and BC Summer Games have a maximum capacity for participants. The number of sports in each Games and the number of athletes allocated to each sport in the Games are at the discretion of the BC Games Society and based on budget, facilities in the host communities, and other resources.

- The BC Games Society will acknowledge the uniqueness of each sport by working with the Provincial and Disability Sport Organization (PSO/DSO) to develop a memorandum of understanding and partnership agreement that outlines the parameters for their inclusion in the Games.

Collaborative – fostering dynamic teams

- Inclusion in the Games will support the provincial sport development pathway for athletes, coaches, and officials, in each sport, as described in the Long-Term Development (LTD) documents.
- The competitive opportunity offered by the BC Games for each sport has been identified to be in the Train to Train stage for each sport in the Games, as determined by the BC Games Society in conjunction and consultation with other agencies in the sport system (viaSport, Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, etc.).
- A sport may only be represented in one BC Games (either BC Winter or BC Summer). Two separate PSOs that govern the same sport cannot be represented in both the BC Winter and the BC Summer Games. For PSOs and DSOs that govern more than one sport, each sport is evaluated separately, and the sports may be included in the same or different Games.
- The BC Games Society announces future host communities 3–5 years in advance. Sports are encouraged to look at ways to build capacities for hosting their competition in these communities, should they be included in those Games

Evolving – adapting the game plan

- The BC Winter and BC Summer Games are an opportunity for PSOs and DSOs to showcase the development of their athletes, coaches, officials, clubs, volunteers, and sport leaders

Excellence – achieving personal bests

- The BC Games are an entry point for the multi-sport Games performance pathway.
- The BC Games are high profile competitive opportunities for PSOs and DSOs to incorporate into their Long-Term Development model.
- The BC Winter and BC Summer Games provide multi-sport competitive opportunities that lead to the placing of teams/athletes and the presentation of medals at the Games

Appendix B: Core Sport Evaluation Scoring Framework

The Core Sport Policy scoring framework is designed primarily as a standards-based evaluation, where each sport is assessed on whether it meets the expectations outlined in each criterion. While scores are assigned to each category or sub-component, the purpose of the score is not competitive ranking between sports, but rather to determine whether a sport is meeting, partially meeting, or not meeting the standards set by the BC Games Society.

This means the system functions fundamentally as a pass/fail framework, where:

- Meeting the criteria indicates the sport is in good standing for continued inclusion.
- Failing to meet one or more criteria may put a sport's inclusion in jeopardy.

Scores are assigned for internal consistency, to provide a structured method for review, comparison, and priority-setting, especially when:

- There are more eligible sports than available capacity, or
- The Sport Committee must prioritize based on relative strength in meeting the policy.

However, while scores provide a numerical indicator of overall alignment with the Core Sport Policy, inclusion decisions are not based solely on total points. Rather, they reflect:

- Whether each critical component is met,
- The totality of the sport's alignment with the policy, and
- The Games-wide strategic considerations as outlined in [Section 5.5](#).

The Core Sport Policy scoring framework is outlined in [Section 4.2](#) and explained in detail beginning on the next page.

Section 4.2.A – Partnership with BC Games (15 points)

Strong partnerships are foundational to successful BC Games participation. Sports are expected to actively engage with BC Games Society staff, meet planning and operational expectations, and deliver on the commitments outlined in the MOU and Partnership Agreement.

A1 – Partnership with BC Games (15 points)

What is Scored	Sports must commit to maintaining a positive working relationship with the BC Games, ensuring communication remains open and deadlines are met. This includes meeting the requirements outlined in the MOU and Partnership Agreement, as well as collaborating on projects that fall outside the scope of that document where a separate MOU is required.
Submission Requirement	n/a – ongoing deliverables as outlined in the MOU and Partnership Agreement are reviewed
How it is Scored	- Reliable and Proactive Partner = 13–15 points - o Consistently meets or exceeds expectations. Communication is timely, planning is integrated, and deliverables are met without issue. Demonstrates strong internal value for the Games. A dependable and engaged partner. - Mostly Aligned, Minor Gaps = 10–12 points - o Meets most expectations with a generally proactive approach. May have occasional delays or require reminders, but overall contributions support Games planning and delivery. Strong relationship with room to improve on consistency. - Meets Most, But Not All Key Requirements = 7–9 points - o Delivers on many elements, but fails to meet one or more key deliverables, impacting the Games planning process. Engagement may be inconsistent or reactive. Support and alignment are evident, but reliability is a concern. - Inconsistent Engagement = 4–6 points - o Misses several expectations or key deliverables. Requires repeated intervention or support from BC Games staff. Relationship is functional but tenuous; internal commitment to the Games appears limited. - Fails to Meet Expectations = 0–3 points - o Fails to meet core deliverables or expectations. Poses a barrier to effective planning and delivery. Demonstrates poor communication or minimal engagement. Continued inclusion in the Games requires corrective action.

Section 4.2.B – Athlete Development (37 points)

The BC Games play a critical role in athlete development at the Train to Train stage. Sports must demonstrate broad geographic reach, thoughtful alignment with the Long-Term Development (LTD) pathway, and a meaningful, well-utilized Games experience that supports athlete growth and advancement.

B1(A) – Province-wide Participation (25 points) – FOR ABLE-BODIED SPORTS ONLY

What is Scored	Sports must bring at least 50% of the zone-restricted athlete allocation in at least 6 of 8 zones to meet minimum eligibility.
Submission Requirement	n/a – registration data reviewed
How it is Scored	- The number of zones where min. 50% of the zone-restricted athlete allocation is met. - o 8 of 8 zones = 25 points - o 7 of 8 zones = 20 points - o 6 of 8 zones = 15 points - o 5 of 8 zones = 10 points - o 4 of 8 zones = 5 points - o 3 or fewer of 8 zones = 0 points - <i>Bonus</i>: 1 point per zone where 50% was not met but one or more athletes still attended the Games.

B1(B) – Province-wide Participation (25 points) – FOR INDIVIDUAL SPORTS WITH ATHLETES WITH A DISABILITY ONLY

What is Scored	Sports must bring athletes from at least 4 of the 8 BC Games zones or bring at least 50% of the athlete allocation for the entire sport to meet minimum eligibility.
Submission Requirement	n/a – registration data reviewed
How it is Scored	- The number of zones from which athletes attended or the percentage of athlete allocation from the entire sport. - o 8 of 8 zones or 100% = 25 points - o 6–7 of 8 zones or 75–99% = 20 points - o 4–5 of 8 zones or 50–74% = 15 points - o 3 of 8 zones or 25–49% = 10 points - o 2 of 8 zones or 15–24% = 5 points - o 1 of 8 zones or less than 15% = 0 points

B1(C) – Province-wide Participation (25 points) – FOR TEAM SPORTS WITH ATHLETES WITH A DISABILITY ONLY

What is Scored	Sports must bring at least 50% of the zone-restricted athlete allocation in at least 4 of 8 zones to meet minimum eligibility.
Submission Requirement	n/a – registration data reviewed
How it is Scored	- The number of zones where min. 50% of the zone-restricted athlete allocation is met. - o 8 of 8 zones = 25 points - o 6–7 of 8 zones = 20 points - o 4–5 of 8 zones = 15 points - o 3 of 8 zones = 10 points - o 2 of 8 zones = 5 points - o 1 of 8 zones = 0 points - <i>Bonus</i>: 1 point per zone where 50% was not met but one or more athletes still attended the Games.

B2 – Athlete Progression and LTD Alignment (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must position their involvement in the Games at the Train to Train stage of athlete development and are expected to demonstrate how BC Games athletes are progressing to higher levels of competition along the LTD pathway.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form
How it is Scored	- Demonstrated excellence = 4 points - Consistently meeting expectations = 3 points - Partially meeting expectations = 2 points - Minimal evidence provided = 1 point - Not demonstrated = 0 points

B3 – Meaningful Competition (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must demonstrate how they have developed and implemented ways to ensure a rewarding and high-level competitive experience at the Games.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form
How it is Scored	- Demonstrated excellence = 4 points - Consistently meeting expectations = 3 points - Partially meeting expectations = 2 points - Minimal evidence provided = 1 point - Not demonstrated = 0 points

B4 – Utilization (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must use the Games to their full capacity by scheduling and delivering training, competition, or other sport development opportunities on all four days of the Games.
Submission Requirement	n/a – sport schedule reviewed
How it is Scored	- Training, competition, or sport development delivered on: - o 4 days = 4 points - o 3 days = 2 points - o 2 or fewer days = 0 points

Section 4.2.C – Coach Development (21 points)

The BC Games provide an important platform for coach development. Sports are evaluated on the qualifications of their coaches, use of the Coach Exemption Process, commitment to equitable coach representation across zones, and the provision of Games-time learning opportunities.

C1 – Qualification Status (10 points)

What is Scored	Sports must set a minimum coaching requirement of Competition Introduction certified (or the sport equivalent) for head coaches, Competition Introduction trained (or the sport equivalent) for assistant coaches, and CAC Safe Sport Training for adult supervisors and ensure coaches meet these qualification requirements by the end of the Games.
Submission Requirement	Coach Verification Report (<i>NCCP Locker audit also completed</i>)
How it is Scored	- Percentage of coaches meeting qualification requirements - o 100% = 10 points - o 90–99% = 9 points - o 80–89% = 8 points - o 70–79% = 6 points - o 60–69% = 5 points - o 40–59% = 4 points - o 0–39% = 0 points

C2 – Exemption Process (5 points)

What is Scored	Sports are required to complete the Coach Verification Report, which outlines which coaches are meeting qualification requirements and which coaches require an exemption under the Coach Exemption Process (see Appendix D).
Submission Requirement	Coach Verification Report
How it is Scored	- Completed the Coach Verification Report = 2 points - Percentage of coaches requiring exemption: - o 0% (no exemptions required) = 3 points - o 1–10% = 2 points - o 11–20% = 1 points - o 21% or more = 0 points

C3 – Development via BC Games (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must demonstrate what development opportunities were provided to their coaches before or during the Games.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form
How it is Scored	- Demonstrated excellence = 4 points - Consistently meeting expectations = 3 points - Partially meeting expectations = 2 points - Minimal evidence provided = 1 point - Not demonstrated = 0 points

C4 – Zone Representation (2 points)

What is Scored	Sports must name a head coach and assistant coach in each zone.
Submission Requirement	n/a – registration data reviewed
How it is Scored	- Percentage of zones with athletes where both a head coach and an assistant coach are named: - o 100% = 2 points - o 70–99% = 1 point - o Less than 70% = 0 points

Section 4.2.D – Officials’ Development (8 points)

Officials are vital to safe, fair, and effective sport delivery. Sports must ensure their officials are properly certified and are supported through opportunities for learning and mentorship during the Games.

D1 – Certification Status (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must ensure officials are appropriately certified for the level of competition.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form
How it is Scored	- Demonstrated excellence = 4 points - Consistently meeting expectations = 3 points - Partially meeting expectations = 2 points - Minimal evidence provided = 1 point - Not demonstrated = 0 points

D2 – Development via BC Games (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must demonstrate what development opportunities were provided to their officials before or during the Games.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form
How it is Scored	- Demonstrated excellence = 4 points - Consistently meeting expectations = 3 points - Partially meeting expectations = 2 points - Minimal evidence provided = 1 point - Not demonstrated = 0 points

Section 4.2.E – Volunteer Development (7 points)

BC Games participation can help build volunteer capacity at the local level. Sports are expected to identify and support a capable Sport Chair and seek opportunities to strengthen or establish club infrastructure and volunteer leadership in the host community.

E1 – Sport Chair (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must name and support a local Sport Chair, who in turn works collaboratively with the Host Society.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form (<i>feedback from Host Society also sought</i>)
How it is Scored	- The sport names and supports a Sport Chair: - o Yes = 2 points - o No = 0 points - The Sport Chair engages collaboratively with the Host Society: - o Very collaborative = 2 points - o Moderately collaborative = 1 point - o Not collaborative = 0 points

E2 – Club Capacity Building (3 points)

What is Scored	Sports must use the Games to strengthen the local club or sport community in the host region. This includes building volunteer capacity, acquiring or leaving behind equipment, supporting club leadership, and engaging the broader community beyond the club. Where a club does not exist, sports are encouraged to build local capacity through leadership development and, ideally, the establishment of a new club as a legacy of the Games.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form
How it is Scored	- Strongly demonstrated = 3 points - o Sport clearly leveraged the Games to build capacity within the local club or broader community, including volunteer training, equipment acquisition, leadership development, and/or community engagement. Where no club existed, sport took meaningful steps toward establishing one. - Partially demonstrated = 2 points - o Some efforts were made to build local capacity through the club or community, such as involving local volunteers or leaving equipment, but lacked a comprehensive or intentional approach. - Minimally demonstrated = 1 point - o Minimal or unclear evidence that the Games were used to strengthen the local club or sport community. Reliance primarily on out-of-region personnel with limited local engagement. - Not demonstrated = 0 points - o No evidence of local club or community development efforts tied to the Games.

Section 4.2.F – Culture of the Games (12 points)

The BC Games aim to foster a respectful, inclusive, and values-driven sport environment. Sports must ensure participants complete the Culture of the Games module, actively promote inclusion, and reinforce these values throughout the Games experience.

F1 – Online Module Completion (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must ensure all athletes and coaches have completed the BC Games Culture of the Games online module. Officials are encouraged to complete online module.
Submission Requirement	n/a – Culture of the Games e-Learning Module data reviewed
How it is Scored	- Percentage of athletes and coaches who completed the online module: - o 100% = 4 points - o 95–99% = 3 points - o 90–94% = 2 points - o Less than 90% = 0 points

F2 – Inclusion (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must support an inclusive environment both on and off the field of play and demonstrate a commitment to ensure competition opportunities exist regardless of gender, accessibility, ethnic background, colour, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, or economic status.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form
How it is Scored	- Demonstrated excellence = 4 points - Consistently meeting expectations = 3 points - Partially meeting expectations = 2 points - Minimal evidence provided = 1 point - Not demonstrated = 0 points

F3 – Games-time Reinforcement (4 points)

What is Scored	Sports must support Culture of the Games initiatives during the BC Games, including hosting an Athletes and Coaches Meeting and encouraging a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment.
Submission Requirement	Post-Games Core Sport Review online form
How it is Scored	- Demonstrated excellence = 4 points - Consistently meeting expectations = 3 points - Partially meeting expectations = 2 points - Minimal evidence provided = 1 point - Not demonstrated = 0 points

Appendix C: Sample Core Sport Evaluation “Report Card”

Sport: _____

Summary

Previous Games’ Status

2022 BC Games: _____

2024 BC Games: _____

2026 BC Games: _____

Recommended Status in Next Games

2028 BC Games: _____

Scoring

Category	Points	Max
A. Partnership with BC Games	/	15
B. Athlete Development	/	37
C. Coach Development	/	21
D. Officials’ Development	/	8
E. Volunteer Development	/	7
F. Culture of the Games	/	12
TOTAL SCORE	/	100

Evaluation

A. Partnership with BC Games (15 points)

Category	Points Awarded	Maximum Points	Pass/Fail
A1 – Partnership with BC Game	/	15	
Comments:			

B. Athlete Development (37 points)

Category	Points Awarded	Maximum Points	Pass/Fail
B1(A/B/C) – Province-wide Participation	/	25	
Comments:			
B2 – Athlete Progression and LTD Alignment	/	4	
Comments:			
B3 – Meaningful Competition	/	4	
Comments:			
B4 – Utilization	/	4	
Comments:			

C. Coach Development (21 points)

Category	Points Awarded	Maximum Points	Pass/Fail
C1 – Qualification Status	/	10	
Comments:			
C2 – Exemption Process	/	5	
Comments:			
C3 – Development via BC Games	/	4	
Comments:			
C4 – Zone Representation	/	2	
Comments:			

D. Officials' Development (8 points)

Category	Points Awarded	Maximum Points	Pass/Fail
D1 – Certification Status	/	4	
Comments:			
D2 – Development via BC Games	/	4	
Comments:			

E. Volunteer Development (7 points)

Category	Points Awarded	Maximum Points	Pass/Fail
E1 – Sport Chair	/	4	
Comments:			
E2 – Club Capacity Building	/	3	
Comments:			

F. Culture of the Games (12 points)

Category	Points Awarded	Maximum Points	Pass/Fail
F1 – Online Module Completion	/	4	
Comments:			
F2 – Inclusion	/	4	
Comments:			
F3 – Games-time Reinforcement	/	4	
Comments:			

Appendix D: Coach Exemption Process

The BC Games Society, in partnership with Provincial and Disability Sport Organizations (PSO/DSOs), value coaching development and are committed to raising coaching excellence in the sport sector. PSO/DSOs and the BC Games Society rely on qualified, caring adults who can create a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment at the BC Winter and BC Summer Games. The BC Games Society coach exemption process is intended to establish an obtainable reporting structure for Provincial Advisors, while also holding sports accountable to coaching requirements and the coach development component of this policy.

Identification of Coaches and Exemptions

Provincial Advisors are expected to identify, screen, and prepare coaches for the BC Winter and BC Summer Games. This includes criminal record checks and other sport-specific screening to ensure appropriate adults are supervising young athletes. Sports with coaches that require exemptions can continue to plan to have those coaches attend the Games but must complete the following coach exemption process. Exemptions are not a mechanism to enable coaches to attend the Games, but rather a tracking and accountability tool to ensure sports strive to achieve coaching qualification standards and meet Core Sport coaching requirements.

BC Games Coaching Requirements

- Every zone with athletes attending the Games must have a head coach and assistant coach. Discuss with BC Games staff the need for exceptions for sports that include athletes with a disability or small zones when appropriate supervision can be established.
- Head coaches must be NCCP Competition Introduction certified (or sport equivalent)
- Assistant coaches must be NCCP Competition Introduction trained (or sport equivalent)
- Adult supervisors must complete the Safe Sport Training online module prior to attending the Games. Exemptions are not eligible to adult supervisors; they must complete Safe Sport Training. NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Training is considered an acceptable alternative to Safe Sport Training.

Process

- Provincial Advisors identify, screen, and prepare coaches for zone qualifications and the Games.
- Provincial Advisors and/or Zone Reps register head coaches, assistant coaches, and adult supervisors per the BC Games participant registration process. Ensure NCCP numbers are included in this process for each head coach, assistant coach, and adult supervisor.
- BC Games staff will distribute a report with a list of all head coaches, assistant coaches, and adult supervisors to Provincial Advisors approximately one week after the BC Games registration deadline.
- Provincial Advisors are requested to complete the coach report, identifying:
 1. if a coach has met the appropriate standard as noted above depending on their role,
 2. if a coach exemption is required, and
 3. a brief plan on when/how the exempted coach will reach the desired level of qualification.
- Provincial Advisors are expected to complete this report and return to BC Games staff within two weeks of receipt.
- BC Games staff will use this report to complete the post-Games Core Sport review process.
- Discrepancies between coaching qualification standards and report submissions are subject to assessment in the post-Games Core Sport review process. Please submit accurate information. BC Games staff review NCCP Locker transcripts of coaches to confirm qualification status.

Timeline

Action	Deadline
BC Games registration deadline	4–5 weeks prior to the first day of the Games
Coach reports sent to sports	Approx. 1 week after the registration deadline
Coach reports returned by sports	2 weeks after reports are sent to sports

Appendix E: 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.

New Core Sport

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 all Core Sport criteria while finding their place within the Games.

1. If while classified as a New Core Sport the sport has met all Core Sport criteria in both Games, they will be classified as a Core Sport for the third Games.
2. If while classified as a New Core Sport, the sport has not met all Core Sport criteria in one or both Games, they may be retained as a Conditional Core Sport or they may be removed from the Games.
 - a. If after both Games the New Core Sport is reclassified as a Conditional Core Sport, its status as a Conditional Core Sport will be that of Section 2a below.

Conditional Core Sport

Returning sports that do not meet Core Sport criteria may be classified as Conditional Core Sports. This classification will be retained for at least two Games 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.

1. If while classified as a Conditional Core Sport a sport meets the Core Sport criteria in two consecutive Games, they will be reclassified as a Core Sport for the third Games.
2. If while classified as a Conditional Core Sport 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.
 - a. If the sport is retained as a Conditional Core Sport for the second Games and again does not meet the Core Sport criteria after the second Games, they will be removed from the Games.
 - b. If the sport is retained as a Conditional Core Sport for the second Games and meets the Core Sport Criteria, it must meet the Core Sport criteria again at the third Games to be reclassified as a Core Sport. If it does not meet the Core Sport criteria at the third Games, it will be removed from the Games.

General Principles

Sports are expected to demonstrate consistency in their ability to meet the Core Sport criteria. Regardless of status:

- Sports that fail to meet the Core Sport criteria in two consecutive Games or in two out of three Games may be removed from the Games or may be retained as a Conditional Core Sport.
- Sports that fail to meet the Core Sport criteria in three consecutive Games or in three out of five Games are automatically removed from the Games.

Removal from the Games

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.

Sports cannot appeal being reclassified from a Core Sport or New Core Sport to a Conditional Core Sport.

Appendix F: 2028 BC Winter and BC Summer Games Core Sport Timeline

The Core Sport Policy for the 2028 BC Winter and BC Summer Games was released on November 6, 2025. This policy establishes the framework used to select sports for inclusion in the 2028 Games and also serves as the evaluation tool following the completion of those Games.

The following timeline outlines key milestones and deadlines in the Core Sport process, including the selection of sports for the 2028 BC Winter and BC Summer Games and the evaluation of sports following their participation in those Games.

Dates are subject to change at the discretion of the BC Games Society, with all updates communicated directly to Provincial and Disability Sport Organizations (PSO/DSOs).

Timeline

Action	Deadline	
	BC Winter Games	BC Summer Games
Expression of interest meeting for potential new sports.	November 27, 2025	November 27, 2025
Core Sport applications from new sports applying for inclusion in the 2028 BC Winter or BC Summer Games are due.	February 19, 2026	February 19, 2026
Post-Games Core Sport review of 2026 BC Winter and BC Summer Games sports is completed (sports are evaluated against the 2026 Core Sport Policy).	April 30, 2026	September 24, 2026
Sports in the Games present their major changes for the 2028 BC Winter or BC Summer Games. New sport applications are also reviewed. Meetings with sports may be held to receive further clarification on applications and proposed changes.	June 25, 2026	November 19, 2026
Sport Committee approves the Sport Package for the 2028 BC Winter or BC Summer Games based on staff recommendations on status of returning sports and new sport applications.	October 15, 2026	January 28, 2027
Provincial Sport Organizations will be notified in writing as to their status for the 2028 BC Winter or BC Summer Games.	October 22, 2026	February 4, 2027
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.	November 5, 2026	February 18, 2027
Appeals Committee is established and determines if there are grounds for an appeal and if so, dates for the hearing are set.	November 12, 2026	February 25, 2027
Appeals hearing will be completed by the Appeals Committee.	November 26, 2026	March 11, 2027
Recommendations from Appeals Committee are presented to the Board. The Board makes decisions on appeals. The decision of the Board is final.	December 10, 2026	March 25, 2027
Provincial Sport Organizations making an appeal will be notified of the outcome of this process.	December 17, 2026	April 1, 2027
BC Games Society publicly announces the Sport Package for the 2028 BC Winter or BC Summer Games.	January 2027	April 2027
Post-Games Core Sport review of 2028 BC Winter and BC Summer Games sports is completed (sports are evaluated against the 2028 Core Sport Policy).	April 2028	September 2028
Provincial Sport Organizations will be notified in writing as to their status for the 2030 BC Winter or BC Summer Games.	May 2028	October 2028

Appendix G: Background and Evolution of the Policy

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 Winter or BC Summer 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 Winter or BC Summer 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 Winter or BC Summer Games or they are Probationary Sports and are conditionally included in the Games.

In fall 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. Changes 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.

In 2017, some adjustments to the criteria were made including the requirement that each zone bring one Head coach and at least one assistant coach (additional adults allocated to a zone can be designated as assistant coaches or adult supervisors). An assessment of meaningful competition was also added to the evaluation process.

In 2019, the certification standards for head coaches and assistant coaches were adjusted and adult supervisors were also required to have specific certification. The post-Games assessment scores were also adjusted.

In addition, for the 2022 Games no increases to the Sport Packages or the size of the Games were considered. As a result, the 2022 Games were not open for new sports to apply for inclusion and sports in the Games were not permitted to increase their participant numbers.

While the BC Summer and BC Winter Games remain at full capacity and no increases to participant numbers were permitted in 2024 and 2026, the Core Sport policy was open to new sport applications to provide inclusion to new sports evaluated against existing sports in the Games.

As part of the capacity considerations in the 2022, 2024, and 2026 Core Sport policies, BC Games Society conducted the Size and Scope review to evaluate the size of the BC Winter and BC Summer Games, as well as key requirements of the Core Sport policy. The results of this review was a refined Core Sport Policy for 2028 that included changes to LTD stage alignment (Train to Train), restrictions to wildcards, and the removal of second Games attendance opportunities for sports and the opportunity to apply to lower coaching certification requirements.