



Core Sport Policy **for the 2026 BC Winter and BC Summer Games**

Note: For the 2026 Games no additions to participant numbers will be considered. While the size of the BC Winter and BC Summer Games have fluctuated over the years depending on the number of sports and number of zones competing for each sport, the Games are very large and it is becoming increasingly more difficult to ensure exceptional sport experiences for everyone involved in the Games. Over the coming years the BC Games Society will be looking at the Games from the lens of determining the optimal size, within the current resources available to our organization. The plan is to implement any identified changes for the 2028 Games, at the earliest. Given the possible changes going forward (2028 and beyond), for the 2026 Games there will be no increases to the Sport Packages or the size of the Games. As a result, sports in the Games will not be permitted to increase their participant numbers for the 2026 Games. Sports in the 2024 Games will be evaluated post-Games, to determine their status in the 2026 Games. Sports that do not meet the Core Sport criteria may not be included in the 2026 Games. The BC Games Society will review applications from new sports interested in the BC Winter or BC Summer Games. New sports applying for inclusion in the 2026 Games will be compared against existing sports in the Games. New sports must apply by submitting the Core Sport Application for New Sports form no later than February 19, 2024.

1. PRINCIPLES

The Core Sport policy outlines how sports are included in the BC Winter and BC Summer Games. It is based on the vision, mission, and values of the BC Games Society. These values are rooted in five key principles: dedicated, accountable, collaborative, evolving, and excellence. How these principles relate to the Core Sport policy is outlined in Appendix A.

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.”

2. SPORT CLASSIFICATIONS

All sports included in the Games are classified based on meeting the Core Sport policy. Note that this classification is for internal use only and not posted or included in any public domain. Refer to Appendix C for information about removal from the Games and on moving from one sport classification to another.

A. Core Sports

Core Sports consistently meet all criteria of the Core Sport policy. These are sports that best meet the criteria outlined in this policy, have a strong partnership with the BC Games Society, work well within the structure of the Games, and strive for excellence 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 removed from the Games. These sports have demonstrated through the application process that they meet all criteria of the Core Sport policy and have therefore been granted inclusion in the Games. These sports have shown that they meet the Core Sport criteria and may be deemed to meet the criteria better than sport(s) currently 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 previously been Core Sports but have been identified as not having met one or more criteria of the Core Sport policy 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.

3. CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE GAMES

New sports interested in applying for inclusion in the BC Summer or BC Winter Games are expected to submit the Core Sport Application for New Sport form. Sports already in the Games do not need to re-apply for inclusion in the Games, but do need to submit the Major Change Requests for Current Sports form if they intend on making major changes, such as (but not limited to) adding or changing age categories, adding events that significantly change minimum facility requirements, adding competition for another gender than is currently in the Games, or changing between the BC Winter and BC Summer Games.

Sports are expected to meet all outlined criteria noted below to be included in the Games, regardless of whether they are a new sport applying or a sport already in the BC Games.

A. General Criteria

All organizations eligible to apply for inclusion in the BC Summer or BC Winter Games must meet the Operational Criteria detailed below:

- i. Provincial Sport Organizations are recognized as Accredited Provincial Sport Organizations by the Ministry/Sport Branch and viaSport or other designated agency(ies).
- ii. Provide a copy of a recent Certificate of Good Standing from the Society Act that is not dated more than eight months prior to the organization's application.
- iii. Provide documentation that the organization has accident and liability insurance coverage in place for its members at a minimum value of five million dollars (\$5 million).
- iv. Provide a list of current Board members.
- v. Provide a list of individuals who will serve as contacts for the BC Games.
- vi. Demonstrate the ability to appoint sufficient volunteers to manage sport-specific responsibilities in the BC Games zones.
- vii. Applying sports must demonstrate that they have sufficient membership in the age range being proposed who would be eligible to compete in the next Games by providing a list of participants showing gender, age, and zone.
- viii. 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.
- ix. Agree to maintain open communication with the BC Games Society.
- x. Promote their inclusion in the Games through their website, social media, and other sources.
- xi. Agree to sign a memorandum of understanding with the BC Games. The memorandum will outline the parameters of the sport's inclusion in the Games as well as the obligations of the BC Games Society and the sport organization and its representatives.

B. Technical Criteria

- i. 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.

- a. Note that final participant numbers are dependent on the capacity of the BC Games Society and the host communities.
- ii. Applying sports must provide a list of the events they propose to hold at the BC Games.
 - a. Each event for each sport will be considered independently for inclusion in the BC Summer or BC Winter Games.
- iii. Applying sports must include information about the availability of venues required for the sport throughout the province, including detailed minimum facility requirements.
- iv. As facilities vary from community to community, sports must be prepared to hold competition in less than the ideal standard.
 - a. Note that the BC Games Society strives to provide a facility that at least meets the minimum standard. If a suitable venue is not available in a Games community, the BC Games Society will determine if a venue in a neighbouring community will be considered, taking into account the resources needed to do so. A suitable facility must be within a two-hour drive from the host community. If no venue is available, the sport will not be included in the Sport Package for the Games. This determination will be made prior to the Sport Package being announced, where feasible.
- v. Information about the equipment needed and the availability of equipment for the sport.
- vi. A copy of the rules that govern competition for the sport and any modifications for the Games competition that are being proposed.

C. Athlete Development Criteria

- i. Sports are expected to promote province-wide participation. Only those sports that can 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 maximum athlete 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, Athlete Development 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. 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).
- iii. Athletes must be within at least a two-year age range to ensure no skipped generations.
- iv. Sports are expected to select athlete age ranges allowing for one BC Games experience. If and when the age range is broader than two years, 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.
- v. 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 LTD stage for the sport in the Games. Based on a separate application process for each Games, any such exceptions will be in effect for one Games only and will be noted in the technical package and the sport's memorandum of understanding.

D. Coach Development Criteria

- i. Coaching positions will be allocated to sports and outlined in the technical packages as follows:
 - a. Every sport must bring one head coach and one assistant coach for each zone that brings athletes to the Games.
 - b. Where a sport is only allocated two coaching positions per zone (or for the entire sport), one will be a head coach and one will be an assistant coach.
 - c. Where a sport is allocated more than two coaching positions per zone (or for the sport), one will be a head coach, one will be an assistant coach, and the remaining positions can be assigned as assistant coaches or adult supervisors at the discretion of the sport, as long as they meet the certification requirements outlined below.
- ii. Sports must provide information about the coach training and certification available for their sport, including the NCCP numbers of all head coaches, assistant coaches, and adult supervisors.

- iii. Sports may set additional or higher coaching requirements, but at a minimum:
 - a. The BC Games standard will be that head coaches are Competition Introduction certified (or the sport equivalent) and assistant coaches are Competition Introduction trained (or the sport equivalent). Changes to the BC Games standard 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. Based on a separate application process for each Games, any approved exceptions will be noted in the technical package and the memorandum of understanding and will be in effect for one Games only.
 - i. During the registration period, sports will have the opportunity to submit reports for exemptions for head coaches and assistant coaches that cannot meet the requirements established for their sport. This report will include the list of coaches who do not meet established certification requirements and a plan for the completion of the required certification within six months of the conclusion of the Games. This process permits one exemption per head coach and assistant coach and only one exemption per zone over two Games.
 - ii. At a minimum, every head coach and assistant coach, even those receiving an exemption, must have completed the Safe Sport Training online evaluation prior to the Games. No exemptions to this will be permitted.
 - b. The BC Games standard will be that all adult supervisors must complete the Safe Sport Training online evaluation prior to participating in the BC Games. No exemptions will be permitted.
- iv. 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
- v. 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 LTD and/or increasing in competency.
- 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 target 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.

E. Officials Development Criteria

- i. Sports must demonstrate their commitment to officials' development in all zones.
- ii. Sports must ensure that the BC Games are used as an opportunity to train, upgrade, and/or mentor officials.
- iii. Sports must ensure that officials participating in the BC Games are working toward increasing their officiating competency.
- iv. Sports must ensure that officials participating in the BC Games are of the level and/or have the training that is appropriate to the level and caliber of athlete/competition.
- v. Sports must demonstrate their commitment to gender equity in the selection of officials for the Games.
- vi. 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 LTD or Provincial Classification.
- vii. 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 target 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.

F. Volunteer Development Criteria

- i. Sports must demonstrate 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Sports are encouraged to use the BC Games as a mechanism to build capacity in their local club, ensuring local club leaders and volunteers have the skills required to host a BC Games sport competition. Where a local club does not exist, sports should consider building capacity to allow for the creation of a new club as a legacy of the BC Games.

G. Sport Development Criteria

- i. All sports must provide a copy of their sport's current LTD (Long-Term Development) or Canadian Sport for Life (CSL) framework (or the organization's athlete, coaches, and officials' development models), clearly identifying and providing justification of where the BC Games fits within their sport's LTD (keeping in mind that the BC Games are identified to generally be in the higher end of the Learn to Train or lower end of the Train to Train stage).
 - a. Sports should identify and justify 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 LTD for athletes, coaches, and officials.
- ii. Sports are required to submit a CSL form as part of their application and during the planning phase for each Games.
- iii. Sports must utilize the Games to their full capacity and provide training, competition, or other sport development opportunities on all four days of the Games (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). Sports must host competition, at minimum, on Friday and Saturday. Where it is not possible or feasible to have competition on Sunday, training or other sport development opportunities must be planned.
- iv. 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, handicapping, mixed zone competition, skills competitions, etc.

H. Culture of the Games

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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, etc.)

I. Inclusion of Athletes with a Disability

- i. Provincial Sport Organizations responsible for able-bodied competition and competition for athletes with a disability are encouraged 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:
- ii. Sports applying for the inclusion of athletes with a disability will submit their application based on the following:
 - a. Where the requirements (i.e. venues, officials development, coaching development, etc.) are the same as those used for able-bodied athletes, the applying sport for athletes with a disability must 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.

- b. Where the requirements (i.e. venues, officials' development, coaching development, etc.) are unique, the sport will make a separate application providing all details outlined in the Core Sport application.
- c. Priority will be given to sports and sport categories for athletes with a disability where no other Games opportunity exists for BC athletes of the level of competition proposed for inclusion in the BC Games.

J. Inclusion of Indigenous Participants

- i. All sports applying for inclusion in the Games are encouraged to outline how they will reach Indigenous participants as part of their selection process for the Games. This could include outlining the work the sport does in conjunction with I-SPARC, partnerships/projects with I-SPARC, and other Indigenous participation initiatives.
- ii. Sports wanting to apply for the inclusion of Indigenous participants as separate teams or as designated spots on a zone team must outline how these participants will be identified, the requested number of teams/participants, how these participants are integrated into the competition creating a culturally safe sport environment, and where a program is already in place or a connection to I-SPARC exists, the sport should indicate how Indigenous athletes, coaches, and officials are included in their sport for the Games.

4. EVALUATION PROCESS FOR NEW AND RETURNING SPORTS

A. New Sports Applying for Inclusion in the Games

- i. 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.
- ii. The submission must include the completion of the application form and provision of specific information as outlined in section 3 of this policy.
- iii. In addition, applicants will have the opportunity to meet with BC Games staff to review the application submission. Meetings with staff will be in person or via conference call, depending on availability and location of key representatives of the applicant. Each party will cover the costs of their representatives to attend in-person meetings.
- iv. The written submission must be complete and submitted by the established deadline.

B. Sports Currently Included in the Games

- i. Sports will be evaluated after every Games prior to their status for the next BC Games being determined.
- ii. The evaluation process is completed within two months of the completion of the Games, with different timelines for the BC Winter and BC Summer Games.
- iii. 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 LTD). In addition, a score is applied to the partnership between the PSO and the BC Games Society, the volunteer development and meaningful competition opportunities taken by the sport, and utilization of the Games for development that the sport pursues.
 - a. While Athlete Development carries the most weight in the evaluation process, all components of the Core Sport criteria must be fully met for a sport to be considered meeting the criteria.
- iv. Part of the evaluation of returning sports will be an assessment of the correlation between the sport's LTD and the BC Games. For example, if the BC Games are in the stage prior to athletes going to the Canada Games, the assessment will include reviewing the percentage of athletes at the previous Canada Games that are BC Games alumni.
- v. After each Games, sports will be required to provide post-Games statistics on BC Games alumni, outlining their progression to the next level(s) of the LTD as outlined in the CSL form they submitted.

- vi. The evaluation process confirms what components are achieved and which are not. While scores generated from the evaluation process are an indication of how a sport is doing overall, each component of the Core Sport criteria is examined individually and collectively to determine a sport's inclusion in the next Games. Scores are not shared with sports and are not provided as part of the rationale for a sport being excluded from the Games. Sports are not ranked.
- vii. If a sport is not included in a Games because a suitable venue is not available within the resources available, the sport and BC Games Society must come to a mutual agreement no later than 14 months prior to the Games. The sport's Core Sport evaluation results from the previous Games will be used for determining their inclusion in the next Games. If a sport exits from the Games less than 14 months prior to the Games, they may be removed from the Games permanently and expected to re-apply to future BC Games.

C. Evaluations and 'Best Meets'

Sports that best meet the evaluation criteria (i.e., 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.

- i. A sport in the Games that meets all of the Core Sport criteria may be removed from the Games if a sport applying for inclusion better meets the Core Sport criteria.
- ii. A sport applying for inclusion in the Games that meets all of 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.
- iii. The BC Games Society Sport Committee approves the Sport Package based on staff recommendations on the review of returning sports and applications from new sports. The Sport Package for each Games is announced by the BC Games Society.

D. Notification and Appeals

Provincial Sport Organizations will be notified in writing as to their status in the Games based on the Core Sport policy and will have an opportunity to appeal the decision. Requests for appeals must be received by the BC Games Society by the established deadline noted on the Core Sport policy timelines document.

- i. The exception to this is that sports cannot appeal the decision to be included in the Games as a Conditional Core Sport.
- ii. The BC Games Society Appeals Committee determines if there are grounds for an appeal and if so, hearing date(s) will be established by the committee. Recommendations from the Appeals Committee are presented to the BC Games Society Board. The decision of the Board is final.
- iii. Provincial Sport Organizations making an appeal will be notified of the outcome of this process.

Appendix A

BC Games Society Vision, Mission, & 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 are at maximum capacity for sports and 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/Disability Sport Organization (PSO/DSO) to develop a memorandum of understanding 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 generally be in the higher end of the Learn to Train or lower end of 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 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

- 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 LTD 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 and memorandum of understanding with the BC Games Society.
- The BC Winter and BC Summer Games are an opportunity for PSOs 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 performance pathway.
- The BC Games are high profile competitive opportunities for PSOs 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 Criteria and Scoring

All sports applying for inclusion in the BC Games are scored against the Core Sport policy based on the following criteria and scoring. Each criterion is explained in detail in section 3 of this policy document.

Criteria	Sub-criteria	Short Description	Score
Partnership with BC Games (15%)	N/A	Sports must commit to maintaining a positive working relationship with the BC Games, ensuring communication remains open and deadlines are met.	15
Athlete Development (29%)	Province-wide participation	See <i>Athlete Development Criteria</i> on next page.	25
	Athlete progression	Demonstrate how BC Games athletes are progressing to higher levels of competition.	4
Coach Development (17%)	Certification status	Head coaches, assistant coaches, and adult supervisors are required to meet the certification requirements noted in the sport technical package.	10
	Games-time development	Coaches are provided development opportunities via the Games.	5
	Zone representation	Ensure there is head coach and assistant coach in each zone.	2
Officials' Development (9%)	Games-time development	Officials are provided development opportunities via the Games.	5
	Province-wide representation	Officials from around the province should be used at the Games.	2
	Certification status	Ensure officials are appropriately certified for the level of competition.	2
Volunteer Development (6%)	Sport Chair	Name and support a local Sport Chair.	3
	Club capacity building	Use the Games to build capacity within the existing local club or support the establishment of a new club where one previously did not exist.	3
Sport Development (16%)	Sport for Life	Indicate how the BC Games fits in the sport's development and the next level of competition as indicated and detailed in the sport's LTD and CSL form.	8
	Utilization	Use the Games to their full capacity by providing training, competition, or other sport development opportunities on all four days of the Games.	4
	Meaningful competition	Develop and implement ways to ensure a rewarding and high-level competitive experience at the Games.	4
Culture of the Games (8%)	Online module completion	Ensure all participants and volunteers complete the Culture of the Games e-learning module.	3
	Inclusion	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.	3
	Games-time reinforcement	Support Culture of the Games initiatives during the BC Games (i.e., hosting coach/athlete expectations meetings, encouraging a positive, respectful, and inclusive environment, etc.)	2

TOTAL **100**

Athlete Development Criteria

The following outlines how sports are evaluated on the requirement for province-wide participation (number of athletes and zones) and how athletes with a disability are included in the calculations.

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.	AND	Must bring athletes from at least 6 of the 8 BC Games zones.
Sport with competition for athletes with a disability – Individual Sports	PSO for sport for athletes with a disability	Must bring athletes from at least 4 of the 8 BC Games zones.	OR	Must bring at least 50% of the total number of the athlete allocation for the sport.
Sport with competition for athletes with a disability – Team Sports	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.	AND	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.

Appendix C

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 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 be reinstated as a Core Sport.

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 to a Conditional Core Sport.

Appendix D

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 will be considered. As a result, the 2022 Games will not be open for new sports to apply for inclusion and sports in the Games will not be permitted to increase their participant numbers.

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