

Criminal Record Checks and Vulnerable Sector

Background

Representatives from Canadian police services, federal and provincial ministries of public safety and the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada announced in January 2010 revised practices regarding the release of criminal record information. Criminal Record Checks (CRC) are a valuable risk mitigation strategy to reduce the risk of harm to vulnerable populations.

Volunteer-based organizations are required to conduct Vulnerable Sector Screening only where the organization self identifies the positions where the applicant will be interacting with or in the care of vulnerable persons.

A vulnerable person is identified as an individual who has difficulty protecting themselves and is therefore at greater risk of harm. People may be vulnerable because of age, disability, or circumstances.

Policy

- The BC Games Society has evaluated the standard volunteer positions by task in a BC Summer or BC Winter Games on the duties involved, access to confidential information and potential access to vulnerable persons and has clearly indicated specific volunteer positions that are required to have a CRC. (see Task List and Job Description Document). The determination of the requirement for a CRC is done by Task when the volunteer is assigned. (Note that Host Societies may add additional tasks to the standard list provided by the BC Games Society, with the approval of the BC Games Society. These Task positions would need to be assessed as to the need for a CRC.)
- Due to the unlikelihood of any Games volunteer being completely alone with any athlete, coach, official, or other volunteer, the BC Games Society does not designate any participants (athletes, coaches, officials, or volunteers) within the BC Summer and BC Winter Games structure as a 'vulnerable person'. Therefore, identified volunteers will only be required to obtain CRCs and will not require additional vulnerable sector screening.
- Games volunteers and BC Games Society staff are advised not to put themselves in one-on-one situations with Games participants and volunteers. This will be incorporated into procedure documents, handbooks, volunteer training sessions, and ongoing discussions with the Host Community Board of Directors.
- Since all BC Games Society staff either work in the host community or have access to the participant database, all BC Games Society staff will have a CRC conducted every two years. This will be completed in December of each odd calendar year. Any new staff will obtain a CRC upon entry into the BC Games Society organization.

Reference

- Volunteer Canada – national volunteer information website
See section on Screening: <http://volunteer.ca/topics-and-resources/screening/screening-webinar-files>

Canada News Centre – federal government news and information service website
<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?nid=528419>

- Task List and Job Description (BC Games document)
O:\OPERATIONS\Family of Games Section 12\Registration & Results
Directorate\Volunteer Stats

Contact

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