
Dale Loewen – Provincial Sport Advisor

The BC Summer Games is a biennial event occurring on the even numbered years. The 2016 BC Summer Games will take place July 21-24, 2016 at the Jane and Gerry Swan Track - Rotary Stadium, Abbotsford BC. The facility has already received a new surface including extended surfacing surrounding the horizontal and vertical jumps areas. This event is hosted by the Valley Royals Track and Field Club. Debbie Foote has been appointed the 2016 BC Summer Games Athletics Sport Chair. She will represent the Valley Royals and the Local Host Community to plan, organize and prepare for the 2016 Athletics Competition.

The Host Community Sport Meeting takes place in Abbotsford on November 14, 2015. All Sport Provincial Advisors and Sport Chairs attend this meeting to hear from the Abbotsford BC Summer Games President, Directors and Organizing Committee Chairs. Dale Loewen (Provincial Sport Advisor), Shirley Young (Assistant Provincial Sport Advisor/Meet Registrar) and Debbie Foote (Sport Chair) will be attending to plan the operational and equipment requirements and logistics for the Athletics competition.

ZONE CHANGES

Note that the Zone Structure for the BC Games was realigned in 2015 and will be in effect for the upcoming Games. For more information go to: <https://www.bcgames.org/Games/Zones.aspx>

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

BC Summer Games age for Athletics is 14-15. This is the first opportunity for an athlete to be chosen as part of a Provincial Team and travel to a competition outside their community to represent their regional zone. Athletes are provided a championship competition which includes all events allowed for the Midget age category. Special Olympics has been integrated fully into the Athletics competition.

The assessment for athlete participation by the BC Summer Games is in two areas:

- Numbers of zones and/or numbers of zones with 50% or more of the maximum allocation.
- Meeting gender percentage outlined in the Technical Package.

COACHING DEVELOPMENT

The BC Summer Games provides coaches with an opportunity to develop skills and to gain experience to manage and lead a team of athletes who may not be known to them. The BC Games requires that each zone have a Head Coach with level 2 (club coach) certification.

The assessment of coach participation by the BC Summer Games is in three areas:

- Percentage of Head Coaches who meet the NCCP certification requirement for the Games or the sport.
- Each Zone that has athletes at the Games is required to have a registered Head Coach. This criteria looks at the numbers of Head Coaches without looking at the certification of the coaches.
- PSO self-reporting on coaches who move from BC Games to next level of competition.

Note: Beginning in 2016, the BC Games will require that all coaches have successfully acquired the Make Ethical Decisions course provided by Via Sport.

OFFICIALS DEVELOPMENT

The assessment of official participation by the BC Summer Games is in one area:

- PSO self-reporting on officials who move from BC Games to next level of competition.

COMPETITION

The completion schedule will be 2 full days July 22-23 and similar to the previous 2014 schedule. Scheduling for most BC Summer Games communities becomes difficult when the opening and closing ceremonies are held at the track and field venue. On morning of Sunday July 24 there will be a special event held for all Athletics athletes.

ORGANIZATION CAPACITY

The BC Summer Games relies on having key personnel in place to effectively complete the BC Summer Games process. Key positions required are the Provincial Sport Advisor and Assistant, Sport Chair, the 8 Zones Reps and the 8 Head Coaches. One of the most difficult tasks we face is attracting enthusiastic and competent people into these positions. We have been very fortunate to have had excellent volunteers but the pool is shallow. We endeavour to be diligent in succession planning and to find replacements for many of these positions in order to continue.

CHALLENGES

- Mentoring new people to manage and administer the BC Summer Games competition.
- Identifying and strengthening current areas that can be improved in service and program delivery.
- Improving athlete, parent, and coach level of knowledge of the rules of the sport.
- Better defining the roles of key personnel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Start mentoring a Provincial Sport Advisor for the 2018 Cowichan Valley Summer Games.
- Define the roles and responsibilities of the key personnel.

5 INITIATIVES FOR 2016-2017 RELATING TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVES

- Work with BC High School Track and Field Association to identify and develop zone coaches and to coordinate zone trials.
- Develop better trial selection processes and administrative processes for the games competition.
- Refine the Games competition schedule for 2016.
- Develop a deeper pool of level 2 coaches willing to participate in the BC Summer Game.
- Improve athlete, parent and coach knowledge of the rules of the Sport.

