



2021 BC Athletics Annual General Meeting - Para-Athletics Report – August 21

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Development of Para-Athletics in BC

Planned Initiatives and what has been started:

Athlete Recruitment – Working with BC Athletics Member Clubs, DSOs and rehabilitation centres to promote and encourage individuals/athletes with a disability to take part in the Sport of Athletics.

- Have introduced myself as the Para-Athletics Coordinator to all clubs and will be following up with them to provide support
- Have started connecting with DSOs and other organizations in order to find out what is being done, where the gaps are, and how we can best work together
- Working with a group of organization (Rowing Canada, BC Wheelchair Sports, etc.) to develop new points of contact to get more athletes involved
- Part of a National Para Sport Collective that is looking to improve the current landscape of sport for people with disabilities
 - This has sections on communication, capacity building, additional educational opportunities, etc.

Capacity Building – Work with BC Athletics member clubs to ensure they have capacity (i.e. resources, coaches, equipment & facilities) to support Para Athletes at the club level.

- Sent out a survey to all clubs to find out the current landscape
 - Survey can be found [here](#)
- Will be following up with clubs to get more information
 - Creating a list of clubs that are:
 - 1) Currently working with Para athletes
 - 2) Currently working with Para athletes but require additional training and resources to be more welcoming and inclusive
 - 3) Not currently working with Para athletes but have the capacity to do so
 - 4) Not currently working with Para athletes and require additional training and resources to be more welcoming and inclusive
- Collaborated on a 'Para Ready' document with Athletics Canada that should be released in the coming weeks.
- Continually updating resources available on website and identifying gaps where additional resources are needed and/or need to be created

Coach Education –In collaboration with the BC Athletics Coaching Education Coordinator work to develop/update and implement coaching education modules specific to Para Athletics.

Additionally, work to train Learning Facilitators (LFS) on the various aspects of coaching Para Athletes.

- Connected with our Coaching Education staff on areas where we think adaptation and disability focused coaching education and resources can be added in
- Went through all the Coaching materials and provided feedback to Athletics Canada
- They are working on training Learning Facilitators to be more 'Para Ready'
- Reviewed and provided feedback on Athletics Canada's Para Ready seminar for Learning Facilitators

Officials Education – In collaboration with the BC Athletics Officials Committee work to ensure BC Athletics officials are trained and knowledgeable in the Para Athletics disciplines. This would include working to incorporate Para specific curriculum in all Provincial Level courses.

- Spoke with several officials to help identify gaps and key areas when it comes to Para Athletics
- Working on a Para Athletics Technical Manual similar to the current Technical Manual

Competitions – In collaboration with the BC Athletics Track & Field Program Manager ensure there are an appropriate number of competitions for Para Athletes and work with meet/event directors to ensure competitions are held using the proper equipment / facilities and in an appropriate manner.

- Working with Fannie Smith from Athletics Canada to develop a framework that can allow clubs to ensure they have appropriate capacity and ability to address lack of competitions available to Para Athletes and how to ensure there are enough trained officials to run the events
- Reviewing current protocols and procedures and connecting with Disability Sport Organizations (i.e. BC Wheelchair Sports) to ensure proper inclusion and support
- Developing framework to help clubs ensure they are being inclusive in both language promoting events and also with their actual events and logistics