



## Message from the BC Athletics Board of Directors

Dear BC Athletics Members,

This document, and the accompanying proposed governing documents (Constitution & Bylaws), are an update to the package put forward to our membership at the recent Special Meeting on August 13, 2025.

Following the outcome of the Special Meeting, the Board of Directors conducted an internal review and reached out to members seeking feedback about the proposed updates to our governing documents. We would like to thank all members who were available to offer their feedback. Your input and insights have been invaluable.

The most consistent themes in the feedback were:

1. **The package should have included a summary of changes along with an explanation for why Governance change is necessary now.** It has been years since the BC Athletics membership have seen any proposed change to its governing documents. A clear, written explanation about the need for change and the nature of the proposed changes needs to be included in the proposed package to designated voting members.
2. **Not enough time for designated voting members to evaluate the package.** Between the Town Hall on Governance and the Special Meeting date, there was simply not enough time for many designated voting members to evaluate the package and come to an informed opinion on them; particularly at this time of the year.
3. **Some of the proposed bylaws needed extra work and/or explanation.** Bylaws regarding Conflicts of Interest, the size and makeup of the Board, and new Advisory Councils were most often cited.

We hope that this revised package, and the timing of it, reflects your input and will earn your support for this most important organizational change. You will find an updated draft of the proposed Constitution & Bylaws along with a document discussing Material Changes to the Bylaws prepared by Sport Law.

**The Board of Directors are scheduling a Special Meeting for Wednesday, October 1, 2025** to bring this revised package to a vote of the members.

The timing of this new Special Meeting reflects the importance the Board of Directors places on the need for governance change at BC Athletics and the urgency of these changes.

A full organizational review of BC Athletics by our key funding partner, viaSport, is set to take place in 2026. In our previous review, four years ago, BC Athletics received its lowest scores in the section on governance. Our score in this upcoming review will determine the level of funding we receive from the Government of BC for the following four years.

The Board of Directors made Governance reform a priority over a year and a half ago. Safe Sport issues, however, have demanded significant amounts of Board attention during that time; delaying our work on Governance. When viaSport's Operational Enhancement Initiative was announced last year, we had an opportunity to receive a full review of our existing documents and practices by experts in the field (Sport Law), who helped us prepare this package of Governance reforms.

This viaSport initiative is part of a response at the federal and provincial government levels to address Safe Sport concerns across the sport landscape. The Future of Sport in Canada Commission released its preliminary report on August 28, 2025. In it they say:

*"good governance practices are essential to creating safe and inclusive sport environments..."*

and,

*"Sport organizations at all levels, in part due to limited resources, rely heavily on well-intentioned volunteers to serve on their boards of directors. These volunteers are often former coaches, parents, or administrators from within the sport in which the organization operates. This reality presents several challenges, including a lack of financial, governance and legal skills, a lack of independence, real and perceived conflicts of interest, limited diversity...Although sport organizations receive public funding, their processes and procedures frequently lack the transparency and accountability expected by governments and the Canadian public."*

Our hope is that all designated voting members will all have an opportunity to review the updated package and will be ready to vote in favour of the changes at our next Special Meeting on **October 1, 2025**.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the BC Athletics Board of Directors. All inquiries should be directed to, [boardofdirectors@bcathletics.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@bcathletics.org).

Sincerely,

The BC Athletics Board of Directors

Darren Willis (Chair)  
Tara Self (Vice Chair)  
Chris Wray (Director of Finance)  
Bin Xu (Director)  
Brittany Therrien (Director)  
Jordan Myers (Director)  
Julie Sillars (Director)