



Sanctioning FAQs

What is Sanctioning?

The purpose of sanctioning is to ensure that events are conducted in a fun, safe and fair (responsible) manner, and in accordance with the rules and guidelines of the sport.

Sanctioning is an indication to authorities, sponsors, and participants that the event organizers have considered foreseeable risks and taken appropriate steps to minimize such risks. In doing so it ensures a safe and quality event for all participants, officials, volunteers, and spectators.

The rules of the sport are relatively simple, and deal primarily with timing a race. They provide a framework to ensure fairness of competition, and a mechanism to resolve disputes should they arise.

What type of events can be sanctioned by BC Athletics?

All foot races held on road or trails, no matter what the distance, should be sanctioned. A race is not defined by how fast the participants might be. Runners of all ages and abilities will strive equally hard if there is a clock at the finish, or if there is a reward for finishing ahead of another person. If an event is timed and results published, or awards presented based on finishing positions, it is a race. Competitive races require stricter adherence to the rules of competition, but are otherwise no different from events for recreational runners.

Races that are inclusive of participation by para-athletes (wheelchairs, blind, ambulatory) can be sanctioned, subject to appropriate safety guidelines.

Races that allow other means of propulsion, such as cycling, rollerblading, etc. cannot be sanctioned by BC Athletics, but may be sanctioned by other provincial sport organizations.

A Fun Run, or Charity Walk, in which no times are recorded, no results published, and everyone receives equal reward no matter how quick they are, is not considered a race, and hence doesn't need to be sanctioned. A benefit of becoming sanctioned access to our sanctioning insurance program.

BC Athletics is supported by:



#2001-B - 3713 Kensington Ave, Burnaby, BC V5B 0A7

www.bcatletics.org

Tel: 604-333-3550

Fax: 604-333-3551

A Member Branch of:



What benefits does an event gain from sanctioning?

Benefiting the event

- Event promotion. BC Athletics provides the most comprehensive calendar of events in BC, and is the primary site used by anyone looking for information on the sport.
 - BCA will highlight your event in our event calendar and provide a live link to your website.
 - For two weeks before your event it will also be featured on our home page.
 - After the event, we will post a link to your results on our website and if you would like to provide a short written report on your event, we will include it in our blog.
 - We'll also help promote your event wherever we have a promotions table, if you provide us with brochures or posters for your event. This includes expos at major events such as the Vancouver Sun Run, the Vancouver Marathon, the TC10K, and the Victoria Marathon.
- A benefit of sanctioning is comprehensive liability insurance at a competitive rate. An event may opt out of our insurance coverage, through a fee and required insurance documentation.
- Access to guidelines, and advice on the safe conduct of a race. Including:
 - Risk management and assessment guidelines
 - First Aid / Medical planning guidelines
 - Course measurement guidelines and standards
 - Officiating guidelines
 - How to time a race guidelines
 - Guidelines for the inclusion of para-athletes
 - Guidelines on age appropriate race distances
 - Sample waiver
 - Race etiquette guidelines for participants
- Access to experienced, qualified officials for higher performance events and dispute resolution.

Benefiting the participants

- Recognition of performances. If an event is sanctioned and certified, performances of BC Athletics members can be included in national and provincial rankings, and will be eligible for BC and Canadian record ratification.
- Knowledge that they are participating in an event that meets safety standards.

Benefiting the sport community

- Sanctioned events can leverage the benefits which derive from an organization of provincial scope and perspective. BCA provides connectivity to the broader world of athletics and makes local activities more relevant and productive. You will be adding your voice to create a stronger constituency for the sport. There is strength in numbers, whether for making representations to government, generating sponsorship, creating media interest or developing national heroes.
- Inclusion in a unified calendar that attempts to avoid multiple events being held in the same geographic area on the same day.

BC Athletics Sanctioning, Frequently Asked Questions

- Support programs such as [RunJumpThrowWheel](#) that introduce the next generation to sport, encouraging an active lifestyle, in age appropriate, skill development activities; and team programs that provide the opportunity for BCs best to advance to National Championships and represent Canada internationally.

How much does sanctioning cost?

The following is a rough guide to the cost of sanctioning an event with and without insurance provided by BC Athletics:

Participants	Cost without insurance	Cost with insurance
100	\$120.75	\$252.00
200	\$136.50	\$425.25
300	\$152.25	\$585.38
400	\$168.00	\$732.38
500	\$183.75	\$879.38
1,000	\$262.50	\$1483.13
2,000	\$420.00	\$2428.13
5,000	\$892.50	\$4475.63

What is the difference between sanctioning and certification?

Sanctioning and course certification are two separate functions. A sanctioned event can be run on an uncertified course; and certified courses may be associated with unsanctioned events.

Sanctioning is concerned with risk management, safety, and fair competition. Course certification is an indication that the course has been accurately measured in accordance with international standards. Sanctioning is valid for one year and is subject to yearly review and re-application. A course certification is valid for 10 years, provided the course does not change. BC Athletics can help your event with the Athletics Canada process of course certification.

Who is BC Athletics and what authority does it have to sanction events?

BC Athletics is the authorized non-profit amateur Provincial Sports Organization for the sport of Athletics, and retains the exclusive right to sanction Track & Field, Road Running, Marathons/Ultras, Cross Country/Trail/Mountain Running, and Race Walking events in BC.

BCA provides services to the sport that events and clubs would be unable to provide on their own:

- For Athletes
 - Comprehensive Event Calendar
 - Sport Accident & Injury Insurance
 - Performance Rankings
 - Provincial Championships & Series
 - BC Teams Program
 - Athlete Assistance Program
 - Education

BC Athletics Sanctioning, Frequently Asked Questions

- Run Jump Throw Wheel Program
- For Coaches
 - Education and Certification
 - Professional Development
 - Insurance
- For Officials
 - Education and Certification
 - Professional Development
 - Insurance
- For Clubs
 - Club Insurance
 - Facilities development
- For Race Directors
 - Sanctioning (ensuring safety standards – medical & communications)
 - Course certification
 - Promotion
 - Technical Support & Officiating
 - Liability Insurance

BC Athletics is a membership based organization, with approximately 80 member clubs and over 6,400 individual members.

Approximately 160 road and cross country/trail events were sanctioned in BC in 2017, hosted by both member clubs and non-member organizations. Collectively these events hosted over 130,000 participants.

How does an event apply for sanctioning?

Sanctioning requires a pre-race application and a post-race sanctioning form. The sanctioning process is as follows:

1. Apply to sanction an event using one of these forms:

For [Road Races](#)

For [Cross Country / Trail Races](#)

The upfront sanctioning fee is \$26.25 if the event is hosted by a BCA member club, or \$52.50 if the event is hosted by a non-member organization.

At this time you also indicate whether you will use the BCA liability insurance, or if you will provide your own.

If you provide your own there is a \$52.50 Insurance Waiver fee, and you must provide proof of equivalent liability insurance. The details on what the BCA liability insurance covers are provided here:

http://www.bcathletics.org/documents/bca_alt_ins_checklist.pdf

and requires this waiver to be signed if you opt out:

<http://www.bcathletics.org/admin/js/elfinder/files/Documents/PDF/Waiver%20and%20Indemnity.pdf>

BC Athletics Sanctioning, Frequently Asked Questions

2. On your race entry forms and website you should indicate that the event is sanctioned by BC Athletics. This relates to your prospective entrants that you are taking the steps to run a great event and support athletics in our community.
3. Your race entry fees should allow BC Athletics athlete members to pay \$3.00 less to enter than non-members. This recognizes that there is no need to remit liability insurance fees for these members who are already covered through their BCA membership. You can either request their membership number when entering, or provide BC Athletics with a discount code that we can promote to members on our event calendar. This gives BCA another avenue to promote your events to our membership.
4. After the event you complete the [Post-Event Remittance Form](#)

You remit \$0.15 for each person who registered for your event, irrespective of whether they are a BCA member or not.

If you elected to use the BCA liability insurance you remit a fee for each non-BCA member, based on the sliding scale shown on the form. You can manually check your list of participants against the list of BC Athletics members to reduce the insurance fee remitted, as members are already insured with BC Athletics.

More Questions?

For additional information, visit the website, www.bcathletics.org, or contact

Clifton Cunningham

BC Athletics, Technical Manager Road & Cross Country Running
Suite 2001-B, 3713 Kensington Ave
Burnaby, BC V5B 0A7

Clifton.Cunningham@BCAthletics.org