



BC ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2007 – 2008

Post Secondary Institution

Guidelines, Policies and Procedures

CONTENTS

Introduction	<i>BC Athlete Assistance Program</i> Post Secondary Institution BC Athlete Assistance Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Program Objectives	3
Section 1	<i>Institution/Sport Eligibility and Sport Funding Allocation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Post Secondary Institution Eligibility▪ Sport Eligibility<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Post Secondary Institution Sport Program Requirements○ Specific Requirements for Open Championship Sports▪ Sport Specific Funding Allocation▪ Percentage Funding Allocation▪ Future Sport/PSI Eligibility and Funding▪ Withdrawal of BC AAP Sport Funding	4
Section 2	<i>Selection Criteria and Student Athlete Funding Levels</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Student Athlete Selection▪ Student Athlete Funding Levels▪ Student Athlete Funding Allocation Procedure▪ Gender Equity Funding Allocation	6
Section 3	<i>Student Athlete Eligibility</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Post Secondary Institution Enrollment▪ Citizenship and Residency▪ Use of Banned Substances and Methods▪ Withdrawal of BC AAP Sport Funding▪ Federally Carded Athletes	7
Section 4	<i>Administration and Timelines</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Critical Path▪ Reporting Requirements▪ PSI Contribution to BC AAP Funding▪ Non-Compliance with PSI Requirements▪ Post Secondary Institution Communication Commitment▪ Public Recognition of Funded Athletes	8
Section 5	<i>2007/08 BC AAP Eligible Post Secondary Institutions and Sports</i>	10

INTRODUCTION

BC ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The **BC Athlete Assistance Program** (BC AAP) is an athlete-centred program of financial assistance funded by the Province of British Columbia and administered by the Sport and Recreation Branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts. The program seeks to recognize high performance athletes who are participating in programs offered through a provincial sport organization or post secondary institution and competing in recognized national or international competitions to relieve some of the pressures associated with training and competition needs.

Beginning in the 2006/07 fiscal year, provincial funding for the BC Athlete Assistance Program was increased from \$700,000 to \$1.4 million. Subsequently, four priority program areas were identified for allocation of these funds:

- Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs)
- Post Secondary Institutions (PSIs)
- Athletes with a Disability
- Open Funding and Recognition Pool

POST SECONDARY INSTITUTION BC ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The intent of the BC Athlete Assistance Program (BC AAP) is to provide financial support to partially offset training, competition and education costs for identified BC high performance student athletes striving to achieve championship performances while representing their post secondary institution (PSI), province and country in athletic competition.

This document provides all necessary information to assist administrators, coaches and student athletes become familiar with the objectives, selection criteria and allocation guidelines of the program.

Program Objectives

1. To support student athletes as they strive to achieve athletic and academic excellence;
2. To recruit and retain BC student athletes in British Columbia; and
3. To contribute to improved performances of identified BC student athletes at intercollegiate regional and national championships.

The program reaches its objectives through adherence to the guiding principles of being athlete centred, equitable, accessible, fair and merit based in its decisions.

Section 1 INSTITUTION/SPORT ELIGIBILITY AND SPORT FUNDING ALLOCATION

Post Secondary Institution Eligibility: All registered British Columbia post secondary institutions (PSIs) will be eligible (see Section 5 for list of eligible PSIs).

Sport Eligibility: To participate in the BC AAP, the post secondary institution must meet the following eligibility criteria:

1. The intercollegiate sport must compete in the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA), Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) or National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national intercollegiate championships that have a national qualifying structure; or
2. PSIs that offer intercollegiate programs in Cross Country, Golf and Rowing that are involved in CIS, CCAA or national sport organization open national intercollegiate championships (no qualifying structure in place) must provide quality program requirements which include:

Post Secondary Institution Sport Program Requirements:

- *Coaching Qualifications:* The head coach must have a minimum Level 2 National Coaching Certification and must be actively working toward Fully Registered Level 3 certification.
- *Competitive Program:* The PSI must be actively competing in a BCCAA, Canada West or NAIA competition structure and/or supplemented by a league or series of sanctioned events.
- *Training and Competition:* Student athletes must participate in a full academic year training and competition program.
- *Support Services:* The PSI should offer its athletes access to Sport Science and Sport Medicine services such as athletic therapy, physical rehabilitation and sport science testing.
- *Facilities:* The PSI should offer performance training and competition facilities for its athletes.

Specific Requirements for Open National Championship Sports

- The PSI must commit to sending representation from its institution for the funded sports to its open national championships in the year of funding.
- The PSI BC AAP representative must signed a BC AAP Sport Program Commitment Form and fax it to the Sport and Recreation Branch prior to any funds being released.
- The PSI cannot allocate the flexible 25% funding allocation from each sport to an eligible open national championship sport if it has not signed a BC AAP Sport Program Commitment form and received BC AAP funding.
- If a PSI that has received BC AAP funding and decides not to send their athletes in the funded sport to the open national championship will be required to reimburse the Government of British Columbia.

Sport Specific Funding Allocation: Sport-specific funding allocations are determined based on the following factors:

1. A correlation between the percentage of athletes a PSI has been allocated and the percentage of funding that they receive (factoring in the 2 to 1 funding ratio);
2. A 2 to 1 weighting ratio for funding between CIS sports and BCCAA sports has been established to recognize greater tuition costs with CIS institutions and/or greater depth/quality of CIS competition and sport programming; and
3. The number of student athletes identified per eligible sport is based on a maximum official competition team size (CIS, CCAA or NAIA player regulations) for these sports.

Percentage Funding Allocation

Post secondary institutions will retain the flexibility to allocate funding according to their institution's selection criteria but these criteria must reflect current BC AAP Guidelines, Policies, and Procedures including an expectation that funding will be allocated equitably between male and female student athletes unless the eligible sport only services a single gender. In addition at least 75% of the student athlete funding allocated towards specific intercollegiate sports at an institution must be directed to the student athletes from that sport. *The remaining 25% can be reallocated to any other BC AAP eligible sport.* The Sport and Recreation Branch will monitor to ensure that 75% of the sport specific funding allocation is being directed appropriately.

Future Sport/PSI Eligibility and Funding: As a result of possible changes to the list of eligible sports and PSIs, sport funding allocations may fluctuate annually. Each post secondary institution will be informed of any sport eligibility or funding changes in advance of the next BC AAP program year.

Withdrawal of BC AAP Sport Funding: The Sport and Recreation Branch has the authority to withdraw and/or seek reimbursement of BC AAP support to any PSI, sport or its student athletes, if it is deemed that the PSI or sport is no longer in compliance with the policies of the BC Athlete Assistance Program.

Section 2 SELECTION CRITERIA AND STUDENT ATHLETE FUNDING LEVELS

Student athletes at differing levels of excellence will receive commensurate levels of financial support, based on selection criteria and rankings established by the particular post secondary institution. Such criteria may include the educational or working environment of the student athlete, the required time and financial commitment of the student athlete to excel in the specific sport and the overall limits of funds available.

Student Athlete Selection: Student athlete selection in each sport will be based on program objectives set out by the BC Athlete Assistance Program. The PSI will establish a Selection Committee that will be responsible for the identification, ranking and selection of student athletes for funding assistance through the BC Athlete Assistance Program.

Student Athlete Funding Levels: The PSI will be responsible for determining the funding amount each of the selected student athletes will receive based on sport-specific funding allocation criteria. A minimum of \$500 to a maximum of \$5,000 is strongly recommended.

Student Athlete Funding Allocation Procedure: The BC AAP funding allocation for each eligible sport will be sent to the PSI. The institution is in turn responsible for sending the student athletes selected for the program their individual cheque along with a letter which will recognize the contribution of the Province of British Columbia. The following sentence acknowledging the Provincial contribution and its support of the BC Athlete Assistance Program must be prominent in all cheque transmittal letters to student athletes:

“The BC Athlete Assistance Program is funded and administered by the Provincial Government in support of BC athletes in reaching their athletic goals and encouraging the pursuit of their career aspirations.”

Gender Equity Funding Allocation: Post secondary institutions must allocate funding equitably between male and female student athletes unless receiving gender designated funding.

Section 3 STUDENT ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

The BC Athlete Assistance Program will be athlete-centred in that awards will be allocated to individual student athletes based on their demonstrated commitment to high performance sport and excellence while competing for their post secondary institution, British Columbia and Canada. Student athletes must meet sport-specific selection criteria based on the following minimum standards:

Post Secondary Institution Enrollment: The student athlete must be academically eligible to compete for their institution and must maintain full-time status in order to qualify for BC AAP.

Citizenship and Residency: To be eligible for BC AAP funding, a student athlete must be a resident of British Columbia for at least one year prior to his/her date of nomination.

Use of Banned Substances and Methods: *BC's Policy on Sport and Physical Activity* clearly outlines the "ethical pursuit of excellence" – which includes competing without the use of banned substances – as one of its pillars of support to sport. The Province of British Columbia strongly opposes the use of prohibited substances and methods as they are contrary to the ethics of sport and may be harmful to the health of athletes.

Since we look to our elite athletes to set the standards for all who aspire to be at the top level of competition, athletes who are suspended by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport and/or their respective International Sport Federation for an anti-doping rule violation, will be declared permanently ineligible for BC Athlete Assistance Funding and the student athlete will be asked to reimburse the BC AAP funding received for the current program year.

Withdrawal of BC AAP Sport Funding: The Sport and Recreation Branch has the authority to withdraw BC AAP support to any student athlete if it is deemed that the student athlete is no longer in compliance with the policies and requirements of the BC Athlete Assistance Program.

Federally Carded Athletes: It is strongly recommended that student athletes who receive funding through Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program should not be eligible to receive BC AAP funding.

Note: Student athletes that meet eligibility criteria may not receive BC AAP funding.

Section 4 ADMINISTRATION AND TIMELINES

The post secondary institution is responsible for providing the resources that will allow a student athlete to excel and fulfill their potential. PSIs will be required to continuously meet the guidelines, policies and procedures outlined in this manual.

Critical Path: Post secondary institutions will be receiving their funding allocations in one installment, with the goal of releasing funds in September. This will allow PSIs the flexibility to fund its student athletes at an appropriate time based on their competitive season and federal carding announcements.

Reporting Requirements: The Sport and Recreation Branch requires documentation by the PSI on the following items:

Pre-Funding Documentation (for Open National Championship Eligible Sports ONLY)

- BC AAP Sport Program Commitment Form

Post-Funding Documentation

- BC AAP Athlete Funding Summary Report - list of athletes who were selected to receive BC AAP funding and the amount allocated to them. Information detailing the athlete's hometown, area of study and accomplishments may be required.

The following table outlines the timelines for form distribution, funding allocation and reporting requirements.

Date	Documentation
August/September	Eligible sports for BC AAP program year funding are determined.
September 2007	PSIs (with Open National Championship Eligible Sports) to submit BC AAP Sport Program Commitment Form for the program year to the Sport and Recreation Branch.
September 2007	BC AAP funding released to PSIs
Feb 15, 2008	Submit BC AAP Athlete Funding Summary Report to Sport and Recreation Branch.

All cheques are to be distributed to student athletes prior to the end of the fiscal year March 31st, 2008.

PSI Contribution to BC AAP Funding: A financial commitment by the PSI toward providing supplemental funding in support of BC AAP student athletes is strongly encouraged.

Non-Compliance with PSI Requirements: Non-compliance with any of the procedural, administrative, training, competitive, communication, coaching, reporting or funding requirements by a post secondary institution will be reviewed by the Sport and Recreation Branch and, at its discretion, will result in measures ranging from determination of a probationary period (during which a PSI/sport must meet required standards) to a

recommendation of total withdrawal of PSI/sport eligibility to receive funding from the BC Athlete Assistance Program.

Post Secondary Institution Communication Commitment: It is expected that PSIs provide a link on their website to BC AAP information, as well as in other written communication (e.g. newsletter).

Public Recognition of Funded Student Athletes:

The Government of British Columbia, in its effort to recognize the accomplishments of British Columbia student athletes, may publish the names of BC AAP recipients at its discretion. The personal information would be distributed with the prior permission of the student athletes and would be limited to name, hometown, images and biographical highlights related to their athletic accomplishments.

Section 5 2007/08 BC AAP ELIGIBLE POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND SPORTS

Post Secondary Institutions

Camosun College
Capilano College
Columbia Bible College
College of New Caledonia
College of the Rockies
Douglas College
Kwantlen College
Langara College
Malaspina University College
Selkirk College
Simon Fraser University
Thompson Rivers University
Trinity Western University
University of British Columbia
University of British Columbia Okanagan
University College of the Fraser Valley
University of Northern British Columbia
University of Victoria

Eligible Sports

Badminton
Baseball
Basketball
Cross Country *
Field Hockey
Football
Golf *
Hockey
Rowing *
Rugby
Soccer
Softball
Swimming
Track and Field
Volleyball
Wrestling

* These identified sports that compete at CCAA or NSO Open National Championships are only eligible if the Post Secondary Institution commits to sending its athletes to the national championship in that program year.