



# **BC ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**2010 - 2011**

**Post Secondary Institution**

**Guidelines, Policies and Procedures**

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## 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 Healthy Living and Sport. 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.

### 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 the following requirements:

### *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 sign 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 50% 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 decides not to send their athletes in the funded sport to the open national championship the PSI will be required to reimburse the Government of British Columbia.

### **Sport Specific Funding:**

- 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.
- **NEW!!** At least 50% 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 50% can be reallocated to any other BC AAP eligible sport.* The Sport and Recreation Branch will monitor to ensure that 50% of the sport specific funding allocation is being directed appropriately.

**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 \$250 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, like yourself, in reaching your athletic and academic goals.”*

**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. 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 *permanent* resident in British Columbia. Out of province athletes who live in British Columbia just for the school year will be ineligible for BC AAP funding.

**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.

*Note: Student athletes who meet the eligibility criteria are not guaranteed 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.

**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 PSI 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. Due by March 31st, 2011.

**All cheques are to be distributed to student athletes prior to March 31st, 2011.**

**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.

**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).

**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.

**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 2010/11 BC AAP ELIGIBLE POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND SPORTS**

### **Post Secondary Institutions**

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

### **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.