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Preamble

In May of 2005 the Board of Directors of BC SCHOOL SPORTS suggested recommendations to the membership for their consideration of the rapid emergence and growth of “Schools of Choice – for Sport Excellence” in the development of sport specific education programs and their impact on interscholastic school competition province wide. Finding a solution that would provide for change yet maintain a fair and level playing field to promote balanced competition was the ultimate goal.

BC SCHOOL SPORTS continues to recognize the right of all students to choose which school they attend and which subjects they study. BC SCHOOL SPORTS, however, is charged with the responsibility of drafting, implementing and enforcing rules on eligibility for those students who seek the privilege of participating in interschool competition. The over-riding purpose of these rules continues to be to ensure fair and equitable competition for all students participating in BC SCHOOL SPORTS restricted competition.

As a parent, please ensure you are staying informed on the new changes and the impacts on student athletes. Check out the BCSS website at www.bcschoolsports.ca for more information.

For further information:

Please contact your Athletic Director or the BCSS Eligibility Officer

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Rules Which Apply to Sport Specific Education Programs

Definition:

A sport specific education program combines education with specific sport instruction/education for curriculum credit. The sport specific education program allows for sport specific training, instruction and/or competition; provides sport skills training in a targeted sport; provides other training/education such as, but not limited to, weight training, sport nutrition, or mental training to support the targeted sport.

A student is considered to be enrolled in a sport specific program if:

D3.1.1

a student is enrolled in a catchment/home school for a sport specific education program and the student receives 5 or more credits for educational courses of sports instruction (compliance and authorization must be submitted)

D3.1.2

a student is enrolled in a non-catchment school for a sport specific education program and the student receives 4 or more credits for educational courses of specific sports instruction (compliance and authorization form must be completed). These student-athletes would be ineligible to compete in that sport for their school based team.

Student Participation in an SSEP at their Home School and Student Transfers

a) any student athlete in their 3rd, 4th, or 5th year of eligibility transferring into a sport-specific education program is ineligible to participate in BCSS competition in the sport in which they receive specific sports instruction

b) any student athlete transferring from a sport specific education program back to their home school is ineligible to compete in that specialized sport for the next BCSS season of play for that sport from the date the transfer is physically completed, but is immediately eligible for all other BCSS competition for which they meet eligibility requirements.

(This rule also applies to those students who may not necessarily transfer back to a school per se – but who leave the Sport Specific Education Program and return to a regular school based program in their existing school.)

Parent Information

Parents should also remember that ALL OTHER TRANSFER rules contained within the BCSS Competitive Rules and Regulations apply to all student athletes regardless of what program choice they would like to make.

For more detailed information all parents are encouraged to review the Athletic Eligibility Overview brochure and review the BCSS website at http://www.bcschoolsports.ca/pages/policy/policy_main.php