



**September 2017**

# NEWSLETTER

## **BC SCHOOL SPORTS**

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# Welcome Back

*from Jordan Abney, BCSS Executive Director*

As the energetic hum of students returning to our hallways builds, and the excitement of a school year is upon us, it is my great pleasure on behalf of BC School Sports to welcome you back for the 2017-18 year.

BC School Sports, is a member-based organization, and there are 455 schools in BC that choose to be a member of BCSS and support our goals. We passionately believe in educational athletics and the value they bring to our student-athletes, schools and communities. Thank you for your support as we, together with our local associations, sport commissions, zones and schools look to provide meaningful and positive experiences for nearly 90,000 students around the province.

Here is a brief summary of some important notes or dates:

- **BCSS Handbook:** You should have all received your handbooks by now. You will notice a much different physical format with a large document and a different layout. We made this change to make the document easier to read, navigate and understand. It will take a while to get used to some of the new numbering, but I hope you all find the changes helpful in using the handbook.
- **Policy Changes:** There were 35 motions passed at the AGM in May. You will note in the handbook any areas shaded in grey are the sections that are newly updated. Please do take a moment to review them. Of note is the modest changes to the Eligibility Officer role, which is one where the EO now only can approve Eligibility Applications when it meets the standards as outlined in policy. Any exceptions outside of policy, can only be approved by the Eligibility Appeals Committee. For this reason, we have added more EAC meetings, so that there are three meetings in each season of play. Please note these dates, and applicable deadlines for your submissions.
- **Eligibility Officers:** After 5 great years of service to BC School Sports, Andy Gilbert made the decision to retire (again!). We thank Andy for his unwavering commitment to BCSS and the hours and hours he put in. This leads me to welcome Bob Jackson, as our new Eligibility Officer for 2017-18. Bob has a lifetime of service to amateur sport, with a great deal of that coming from educational athletics. Bob will primarily adjudicate Eligibility Applications and Grade 7 Eligibility Applications from BCSS Member Schools. Lawrence Veal, who last year served as the EO-2 primarily handling school declarations, is also returning this year. We are lucky to have both these talented people, after years of educating youth, now serving them in this selfless manner.
- **Tiering Appeals:** If your school wishes to file a tiering appeal, which changes your entire school's numbers for all sports, the deadline to do so is **October 1, 2017**.
- **Annual Report:** For the first time, this summer BCSS published an annual report highlighting the 2016-17 year. If you haven't had a chance to view it yet, you can do so [here](#).

We are committed to serving the membership to the very best of our abilities. We look forward to moving forward on the BCSS Rezoning Project and the development of the BCSS Strategic Plan this year. We ask you keep us updated of any personnel changes within your school's administration or athletic department leadership.

Wishing you the very best for a wonderful 2017-18 school year.

Jordan Abney  
Executive Director  
BC School Sports

# 2017 - 2018 Rule Changes!

The 2017 BCSS AGM was a great success! We had 215 member schools represented, who voted either in person, by proxy, or online in advance. 35 of our 37 resolutions passed, meaning there will be many new rules in place this school year. To make finding the rule changes easier, we have **highlighted them in grey** in the handbook. Below is a quick summary of some of the larger rule changes:



## **Legal Contingency Fund**

A one-time fee of \$30 will be collected from every member school with their membership fees to maintain the legal contingency fund for the 2017-2018 school year.

## **Team Eligibility and Tiering Classifications**

In previous years there has been 3 registration deadlines per season of play. In 2017-2018 there will be 2 registration deadlines per season of play.

- **Team Registration Deadline:** Athletic Directors will have to create a team in STARS (with a coach) and add the minimum number of students to that team.
- **Roster Registration Deadline,** Athletic Directors will have to have rosters finalized by this date.
- **Fines** are now going to be assessed based on the number of days before provincials a team or student-athlete needs to be added to a roster.

## **Tiering**

- Aquatics has now moved to tiering their championships (A, AA, AAA).
- Girls volleyball and boys basketball have adjusted their tiering numbers for the 2017-2018 school year.

## **Tiering Appeals:**

Tiering appeals are due **October 1st** of each year. Remember tiering appeals effect the whole schools enrolment numbers. Please refer to the handbook detailed reasons to for tiering appeals.

## **Jointly Sponsored Teams**

Any schools can now join together to form a joint team. There will be restrictions put on each team as to whether they are eligible or not to compete at provincials based on enrolment numbers.

## **Transfers**

Member schools are now able to appeal a denied transfer directly to the Eligibility Appeals Committee.

## **Eligibility Applications**

Further detail has been added into the eligibility application rules:

- The eligibility officer is now able to request further information from other parties deemed relevant.
- The eligibility officer does not have the authority to grant exemptions beyond what is outlined in 38.0.0.

## **Eligibility Appeals:**

- The fee for Eligibility Appeals has increased to \$250 and will be invoiced upon receipt of the application. If the appeal is approved, \$200 of the fee will be refunded to the member school.
- The Eligibility Appeals Committee may use information available to them from BCSS or information that is publicly available to assist in rendering a decision.
- There are now three appeal dates per season of play. These dates can be found in the Handbook and Calendar.





## New Eligibility Officer

BC School Sports is happy to announce our new Eligibility Officer, **Bob Jackson**. Bob has a lifetime of service to amateur sport, with a great deal of that coming in educational athletics. Bob is a certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) from the National Inter-scholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). He spent 17 years as a teacher and 16 more working as the District Athletic Facilitator for Richmond. During this time he served on the BC School Sports Eligibility Ad-Hoc Committee, the Eligibility Appeals Committee and the Soccer Commission. Bob served on the BCSS Board of Directors from 1981-1987 including two years as President. Away from school sport, he is current Chair of KidSport Richmond, and Vice-Chair of Richmond Sports Council. Bob will primarily adjudicate Eligibility Applications and Grade 7 applications. Please join me in welcoming Bob to this role.



## STARS Reminders

When students are being entered in STARS, remember they are subject to a **TWO business day approval period**.



## Membership Packages

Membership Packages have been sent to school district offices! Keep an eye out for delivery in September. The 2017-2018 Handbook and Calendar are also accessible online.



## Principal & AD Changes

If you have any Principal or Athletic Director changes at your school, please contact [info@bcschoolsports.ca](mailto:info@bcschoolsports.ca) immediately to make the changes.

# Fall Deadlines

**September 5<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup>**



September 19	Eligibility Appeals Committee Submission Deadline (2:00pm)
September 23	Eligibility Appeals Committee Meeting
September 30	Membership Fees Due
October 1	Tiering Appeal Deadline
October 4	Team Registration Deadline (Fall)
October 10	Eligibility Appeals Committee Submission Deadline (2:00pm)
October 14	Eligibility Appeals Committee Meeting
October 18	Roster Registration Deadline (Fall)
October 20-21	Council Meeting and Board of Directors Meeting
October 31	Eligibility Appeals Committee Submission Deadline (2:00pm)
November 4	Eligibility Appeals Committee Meeting



# Fall Championships

**September 5<sup>th</sup> - December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

November 2-4	A Boys Soccer	Nakusp
November 4	Cross Country	Vancouver
November 8-10	AA Field Hockey	Surrey
November 15-17	AAA Field Hockey	Richmond
November 17-18	Aquatics	Richmond
November 20-22	AA Boys Soccer	Burnaby
November 23-25	AAA Boys Soccer	Burnaby
November 23-25	A Boys Volleyball	Kamloops
November 29 - December 2	AA Boys Volleyball	Langley
November 29 - December 2	AAA Boys Volleyball	Langley
November 30 - December 2	A Girls Volleyball	Fernie
November 30 - December 2	AA Girls Volleyball	Vanderhoof
November 30 - December 2	AAA Girls Volleyball	Vancouver
November 30 - December 2	AAAA Girls Volleyball	Langley
December 2	AA Football	Vancouver
December 2	AAA Football	Vancouver

# 2017-2018 BCSS Forms

BC School Sports has released updated versions of the forms. Please use these when submitting applications to BCSS. Outdated forms will not be accepted!



[View Forms Here](#)



## 2017-2018 BCSS Calendar

The Calendar of Events as well as 2017-2018 Provincial Championship Dates are on page 8 and 9 of this year's handbook. Please refer back to it as needed. We have also attached an iCal file available to download for your convenience.



## Accommodation Directory

The BCSS accommodation directory for the 2017-2018 year is now updated! If your team is travelling this season and you're looking for great rates and a great place to stay, make sure to check it out.

[View Directory Here](#)



## #ThanksCoach

September 23-30, 2017

National Coaches week is a week to celebrate the tremendous positive impact coaches have on athletes and communities across Canada. This week is an opportunity to recognize coaches for the integral role they play by simply saying #ThanksCoach.

With events held across the country to celebrate coaching, National Coaches Week provides coaches with the recognition they deserve for the time they devote to ensuring Canadians live an active, healthy lifestyle. For more information on what is happening in BC, visit:

[www.coach.ca/nationalcoachesweek](http://www.coach.ca/nationalcoachesweek)



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BCSS would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their generosity and support:

