

SEPTEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME BACK!

In what seems like only the blink of an eye, the calendar reads September and our schools are once again alive with the energy only a new school year can bring. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back to a year we can only hope provides more normalcy and routine than the last. I hope each of you found some time to get away and recharge over the summer after what was such a difficult year for everyone.

BCSS and our member schools face a monumental task ahead, as we look to restart our athletic programs after 17-months with little training and no competition. The pandemic continues to affect all of us, but we are so excited that school sport is returning.

To that effect, BCSS has published its Return to School Sport Guidelines (Sept 2, 2021) as the most current guidelines. While we are thrilled that we can once again train and compete as normal, the safety and well-being of our student-athletes, coaches and officials remains our highest priority. We ask that all administrators, athletic directors and coaches carefully review the guidelines, which provide further context and detail about school sport, building on the Ministry of Education's K-12 guidelines. While the ministry has mandated what is required, we urge students and staff to use all practical tools to reduce the chance of COVID-19 transmission, even if not required. Most importantly, we strongly suggest all student-athletes who are eligible to receive the vaccine do so quickly.

Elsewhere, BCSS has been working hard to prepare for a great year under the new governance structure. We have some new staff, who you will meet in this newsletter. Remember that we are here in the office to support you in delivering great school sport experiences for your student-athletes. Please do not hesitate to reach out if in need of guidance, support or clarification. BCSS is offering three webinars in the first weeks of the years for AD's. Each one will contain the same information, but we strongly recommend that every AD, regardless of how long they have been in the role, attend one of the webinars. We will cover essentials to the job, what's new in policy, COVID related changes and adaptations, how to navigate the new governance structure, the benefits of CIAAA membership and more. Again, we strongly recommend every AD attend one of the webinars.

I am thrilled to announce two new corporate partners for BCSS, both of whom bring further value to our members. You will learn more about Gipper and Hudl on the next page. We are excited for you to meet them!

Given the magnitude of changes to the organization combined with the break from competition, we felt it was an appropriate time to give the look and feel of the organization a bit of a refresh. You will notice a new logo and wordmark for BCSS this year. It's not an entire rebrand, as we still have the medal/flame, but a subtle modernization. We hope you like it and will feel proud to display it in your school as a proud member school. The BCSS brand is one that is collectively owned, shared and stewarded by all our member schools. We look forward to raising the profile of school sport moving ahead.

I wish each of you a great start to the new school year. We know there may be bumps along the way, but we are excited to see student-athletes competing for their schools once again.

Best.

Jordan Abney, Executive Director





















RETURN TO SCHOOL SPORT

BCSS has just published our Return to School Sport Guidelines, which has just been reviewed by the BCCDC. These guidelines have been sent directly to each BCSS member school administrator and athletic director.

BCSS will be using more of a dynamic response model this year, rather than pre-established stages, as often changes in orders or guidance may affect school sport, but not necessarily change a stage.

You can find the Return to School Sport Guidelines here.

NEW CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS



BCSS was thrilled to introduce last week our newest partner. Gipper is now the **Official Social Media Graphics Solution of BCSS**. Gipper is an online platform that makes creating great social media easy and fast to do from anywhere, without having to learn design programs. We know that AD's are stretched to the max and don't have time to pull together professional and complex social media posts. Gipper provides the template, an easy system to customize with your colours, logos, and pictures, and lets you post effortlessly to your accounts. BCSS members receive a discount on their school's subscription.

Learning directly from our new partners at Gipper, they'll discuss how to better use social media and the Gipper platform to save time, stay organized, and effectively tell your school's story.

Join us for a virtual webinar on September 23 @ 3:15 pm to make the most out of social media this school year!



BCSS is also proud to introduce Hudl as the **Official Sports Video and Technology Partner of BCSS**. Hudl provides video services for coaches to review and breakdown game film. It also has a service that allows you to send the video to Hudl and in 24 hours receive a full stats breakdown back. Lastly, they offer schools their Hudl camera, which is a camera to be installed in the gym or at the field, that is automatic, and can track the play automatically without requiring an operator for games to be streamed.

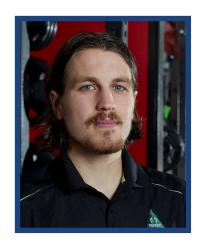
BCSS Football teams have used Hudl for years. Now, schools will receive a 50% discount as a member of BCSS on their team subscriptions that can be used for Football, Basketball, Volleyball, and more.

Hudl will be hosting Town Halls for <u>football coaches on September 14 @ 7:00 pm</u>, and for <u>volleyball coaches</u> <u>on September 21 @ 7:00 pm</u>. Please make sure your coaches know about these events.

STAFFING DIRECTORY

DARRIN MOREIRA

BC School Sports would like to welcome Darrin Moreira to his role as **Manager of Sport**. Darrin has a varied background in sport. He was a varsity volleyball player during his undergraduate studies before completing a master's degree in High Performance Coaching from UBC. In addition to being a varsity volleyball coach, he has worked as a strength & conditioning coach in a number of sports including bobsleigh and Track & Field. He has also competed in triathlon & trail running. When he's not at work, he enjoys spending time with his cats as well as bouldering, surfing, skiing, and riding his motorcycle.



JULIE STEVENS



BC School Sports would like to welcome Julie Stevens to her role as **Manager of Sport**. As a 30-year rower turned coach, Julie has watched junior athletes gain confidence, determination and other values that she believes are taught by sport participation, and takes great joy in watching young athletes grow into capable adults shaped by these values. Believing that there's a place for everyone to participate in sports, she is the founder and lead coach of the para-rowing program at the Delta Deas Rowing Club.

After stepping away from her role at Rowing BC almost 10 years ago, the passion for supporting youth in sport has brought her back to the sport community. When Julie's not out on the water coaching rowing, she can be found working in her garden, or cheering for her two sons at their sporting activities.

TOM DINSDALE

After sitting on the BCSS Eligibility Appeals Committee, many of those as chair, Tom recently retired from his district administrative role and has become the new BCSS Eligibility Officer. Tom comes well-informed on BCSS eligibility policies. Our Eligibility Officers are contracted and receive little compensation for the tremendous work they do. We are so thankful that after so many years of service on the EAC, Tom continues to serve student-athletes in BC School Sports.



EVENTS

Tuesday September 14	Football Coaches Town Hall from Hudl	7:00 PM
Thursday September 16	E-Sports Introduction	3:00 PM
Tuesday September 21	Volleyball Coaches Town Hall from Hudl	7:00 PM
Thursday September 23	Athletic Director Gipper Intro Session	3:15 PM
Thursday September 23	E-Sports Rules Webinar: For E-Sports Coaches 3:0	

^{*}Underlined text is a hyperlink

FALL IMPORTANT DATES

DEADLINES

Tuesday September 14	Eligibility Appeals Committee Submission Deadline (2:00 PM)		
Thursday September 20	Membership Fees Due		
Tuesday September 28	Eligibility Appeals Committee Deadline (2:00 PM)		
Friday October 1	Tiering Appeal Deadline		
Wednesday October 6	Fall Team Registration Deadline		
Wednesday October 20	Fall Roster Registration Deadline		
Tuesday November 2	Eligibility Appeals Committee Submission Deadline (2:00 PM)		
Tuesday December 7	Eligibility Appeals Committee Submission Deadline (2:00 PM)		
Wednesday December 15	Winter Team Registration Deadline		

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES

Annual Membership Packages were sent out in late August, keep an eye out for the delivery at the beginning of September. The 2021-2022 Handbook and Calendar are also accessible online.

View the online calendar and handbook here

BCSS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR WEBINAR 2021-2022



Note: The same content will be covered in these sessions. It is **strongly recommended** each AD attend **ONE** of these sessions. Please register ahead of time using the links below.

REGISTRATION LINK

Thursday September 16	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<u>Register Here</u>
Tuesday September 21	2:45 - 4:45 PM	<u>Register Here</u>
Friday September 24	1:00 - 3:00 PM	<u>Register Here</u>

COACHES

We recognized the need to clean up our coaching data to ensure that it's accurate for the purposes of reporting, but also for contact information in case of emergency. We have archived all coaching data entered in STARS prior to June 2021 which will require that all coaches be re-entered in STARS. To simplify this process, we have created a template that will provide you the option of adding all your coaches to one excel document which can be forwarded to BCSS staff, and we will upload to STARS. Alternatively, you can still add your coaches individually as you add your teams.

STARS coach bulk upload template can be found here.

STUDENT-ATHLETES

GRADE 8 BULK UPLOAD

Athletic Directors are encouraged to bulk upload all their grade 8 students before the first deadline, this will save you time as you enter each season of play as the students will already be in STARS. Grade 8 students will be automatically approved up until the October 6, Fall Team Registration deadline, if they meet the requirements outlined in the BCSS Rules and Regulations. You can download the template directly from STARS or *here*. If you have any problems with the bulk upload you can email the template to BCSS office staff and they will be happy to assist you with the upload.

STARS REMINDERS

If you have any Administrator or Athletic Director changes at your school, please email the BCSS Staff at info@bcschoolsports.ca

When adding new students to STARS, remember they are subject to a **2-business day approval** period.

BCSS CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTS

BCSS Provincial Championships are the most anticipated and sought-after event for any student-athlete participating in high school sport. It is critical that our member schools step up to support and run successful championships. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, some sports saw a limited number of bids to host. Currently we are seeking hosts for several upcoming championships, and we require your assistance, as members, to ensure that these championships are well executed.

Host schools receive an automatic berth to the championship, being able to provide a once in a lifetime opportunity for their students to compete and perhaps even win a provincial title at their own school. Any member school in good standing, in the appropriate tier, with the required facilities, may host a provincial championship. Due to the tight timeline, the 2021-2022 and Fall/Winter 2022-2023 championship hosts bids can be approved quickly by the Board of Directors. Please see the hosting-information-including-available-championships-and-bid-package.

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

Under the new governance structure, the Legislative Assembly, the decision-making body will meet twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring. The fall meeting, the Annual Planning Meeting, is scheduled for November 15-16 in Burnaby. Member schools wanting to pursue policy changes whether it be to eligibility or transfer rules, sport regulations or anything else found in BCSS policy, should work with their zone leadership to bring motions forward.

Alternatively, there are policy committees that may also bring forward motions, and their ideas and suggestions may also certainly originate within schools. Of course, you can always contact the BCSS office for guidance and discussion relative to potential policy ideas and the best pathway to bring a motion forward.

E-SPORTS

BCSS is continuing to explore and evaluate the demand for E-sports. We had a very successful trial last year with approximately 35 schools participating. We have again partnered with PlayVs, the North American leader in interscholastic e-sports to enhance the experience even further this year. We will be offering two games, across two seasons of play and hope to see even more schools come on board.

BCSS and PlayVs will be holding an informational webinar at 3:00pm on Thursday September 16 for any school possibly interested in participating. You will get information on the structure of the league, the technological requirements, costs and guidance on how to build your program. You will also have the ability to ask questions. The link for the webinar can be found here.

CIAAA

A reminder that every Athletic Director registered in STARS is a member of the Canadian Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (CIAAA) and has access to the resources, network and professional development offered by the organization. Please review this **brochure** for instructions on activating your membership, as well as information about the various development opportunities and resource bank.





MANDATORY COACHES CONCUSSION TRAINING



A reminder that all team personnel including but not limited to coaches, trainers, teacher sponsors, and team managers must complete the **Concussion Awareness Training Tool (CATT)** prior to any interaction with student-athletes. The certification is valid for 2 years.

GIRLS RUGBY

At our 2021 AGM, membership passed the addition of Girls Rugby 15's as a sanctioned BCSS activity. With this addition, schools with girls' rugby teams will now be required to add their teams and rosters to STARS.

Rugby 7's for both girls and boys has been added as a demonstration sport this year. More details will follow as we approach the Spring season of play.

ACCOMMODATION DIRECTORY

Are your teams travelling this school year? Do you need a place to stay? Check out the BCSS online Accommodation Directory to view hotels across the province and find great team rates!

View the Accommodation Directory here.



TIERING

As noted in our 2020-2021 year-end memo, after a thorough analysis of the effects on student enrollment due to the pandemic, the Board of Directors has decided to use the 2019-2020 enrollment numbers for the purposes of tiering. If a school has seen a material change in their enrollment from 2019-2020 to their actual enrollment in 2021-2022, the school can file an appeal to have their numbers re-evaluated. A school can submit this anytime between **September 20, 2021** and **October 1, 2021**. This generally is done when there is a significant population reduction (greater than 5%), or because of a change of school configuration (addition or removal of a grade) or new school boundaries due to a school opening or closure in the district. Tiering appeal forms can be requested by contacting the BCSS office staff.

PLAYING UP A TIER IN A SPECIFIC SPORT

Schools will still have the option to play up in a specific sport by submitting a playing up from which can be requested through the BCSS office. (NB: Boys' basketball who functions on a 2-year tiering cycle will see 2021-2022 serve as the 2nd year of the cycle, therefore there will not be the option to submit a playing up request for this sport).

ELIGIBILITY FORMS

Prior to the start of each school year BCSS staff update all our forms to reflect any rules changes that passed at the AGM. In addition, this year, we have made some changes to the names of forms which have also been reflected in policy. Please ensure to use the 2021-2022 forms which are located under the resources tab of our website.

- School Declaration Form is now referred to as Change of Residence Form to be submitted when a student transfers school due to a change of primary residence.
- **Compliance and Authorization Form is now referred to as a Notification of Transfer Form** to be submitted when a student transfers school after their home school.

SANCTIONING

Hosting or Travelling to An Event

Competition between two or more BCSS member school is automatically sanctioned. When you are travelling to or hosting an event with an out of province team sanctioning is required.

Complete the **Hosting** and/or **Travelling** <u>sanctioning</u> on the website **at least 30 days in advance** of the event or fines will apply.

Third Party Event Sanctioning

If your school wishes to attend an event that is not hosted by a member school (eg: university, club, community etc.) please ensure the event has been sanctioned by BCSS before attending. This is a list of BCSS third party sanctioned events on the **BCSS homepage**.



FUNDING PARTNER



CHAMPION PARTNER



PREMIER PARTNER



OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS



Official Partner for Social Media Graphics Solutions



Official Supplier of BCSS Apparel



Official Sports Technology Partner