
MEMORANDUM

TO: TRACK AND FIELD COACHES, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
FROM: HARP SOHI, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, SPORT AND EVENTS
SUBJECT: PARTICIPATION AND QUALIFICATION OF ATHLETES WITH DISABILITIES
FOR TRACK AND FIELD PROVINCIALS
DATE: MAY 24, 2023
CC: ZONE PRESIDENTS, ZONE SECRETARIES, T&F SAC MEMBERS, BCSS PRINCIPALS

As BCSS Track and Field Provincials is fast approaching, we wanted to offer some clarification on the participation and qualification pathways for our student-athletes with disabilities for the 2023 BCSS Track and Field Championships at MacLeod Athletic Park (Langley) on June 8-10.

Provincials will provide opportunities under two different classifications. The first will be **Athletes with Disabilities - Intellectual Impairment (AWD-II)** or commonly referred to as T20/F20 by World Athletics. Formerly we had worked with Special Olympics to provide these opportunities but that arrangement was not serving our schools and student-athletes as well as we had hoped. Therefore, we are excited to offer the opportunity more broadly for these student-athletes to wear their school colours and compete amongst their peers. BCSS Provincials will have AWD-II athletes competing in 3 events, the 100m, the 400m and the Shot Put. Note a student-athlete can compete in one or multiple of these events.

Schools that have student-athletes that wish to compete in the AWD-II events can contact Andrew Lenton, BCSS Championship Meet Director to add their name to the potential start list. Emails containing names, gender and school of the AWD-II athletes can be sent to alenton68@gmail.com. We will have 16 berths for each male and female student-athletes that are eligible to compete as an AWD-II. We will require these athletes to be registered in STARS. We recognize that some students with Intellectual Impairments may be exceed the age limit for participation, and we will make an exception to allow their involvement if they are active members of their school community. Call the BCSS office for assistance registering an overaged student-athlete.

The deadline to submit names to Andrew Lenton is noon on Monday, May 29. At this point, we will fill the berthing out based on zone, and backfill any openings from zones that have more participants. We are hoping to fill out each discipline to have a full field. BCSS will confirm no later than the end of the day on Tuesday, May 30, if your athlete has received a spot.

The second classification we will offer is **Athletes with Disabilities - Ambulatory (AWD-A)**. This classification will be for any student-athlete who is ambulatory but is affected by a physical disability. Traditionally we have referred to this as a 'para-athlete. We will again have 16 berths in each of the 3 events, the 100m, 400m and Shot Put for boys and 16 berths in the same events for girls. It is our hope that many of our zone championships had events for these athletes. Qualifying athletes can be registered directly with Andrew Lenton by email. Please email alenton68@gmail.com to register AWD-A athletes by providing their Name, Gender and School no later than Monday, May 29.

We are excited to expand these offerings and ask for support from our member schools and track and field supporters in helping get these deserving student-athletes onto the field of play and out to Langley to experience a provincial championship. Should you have any questions or require further support or clarification, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Julie Stevens or anyone in the BCSS office.