



BCSS Governance Proposal

As we approach the BCSS May 1st AGM and the governance vote we continue to try and provide clarity to questions or inaccuracies that are out there. It is our goal that the membership feels well informed on the proposal. To assist in that, in the coming weeks we are distributing a series of short memos each with a specific theme.

We have also recorded a frequently asked questions video which addresses many other common questions that you can view by clicking [here](#)

Financial considerations of the proposed Governance Structure

Budget

The most common inquiry is ‘What is the financial impact on schools and BCSS going to be with this new model?’ The BCSS Board and Staff have spent considerable time drafting a pro-forma budget that incorporates both the general operating costs of the organization as well as all of the costs related to provincial championships to understand what the financial requirements of the organization moving forward. As we inherit the costs of wrestling and football insurance (currently paid outside of BCSS insurance) and to the membership considers the addition of additional sports (girls rugby 15 & 7’s and boys rugby 7’s) there will be a nominal increase in membership dues. The exact amount won’t be known until set by the Board after the AGM. This is partly compounded by the uncertainty of sponsorship for this coming year coming out of COVID. We anticipate having more success in coming years with sponsorship as we exit the pandemic and return to a more normal state of operations. School sport is usually the lowest barrier form of organized sport for our student-athletes, and its important it remains that way.

Funding

BC School Sports is the only school sport governing body in Canada who doesn’t receive any core funding from the provincial government as a result we have had to rely on membership fees, gaming funds and sponsorship monies to support the operations of the organization. In 2018 the gaming branch expressed some concerns with our current structure, where BCSS Sport Commissions maintain independent finances and accounting practices. This led to a concern that without a change in our current governance model that continued gaming funding may be at risk.

Sponsorship

While a few of our sport commissions have been successful leveraging sponsors for their individual sport, this proposed model allows a more global corporate approach towards sponsorship for the organization. As the BCSS brand grows, assisted greatly by the alignment of championship branding, we are confident that in coming years we can leverage the BCSS brand to secure additional sponsorship to benefit our sports and student-athletes.

BCSS Commission Support

While our sport commissions operate their finances independently from BCSS, they do rely on the financial support of BCSS to run their provincial championships. In the 5 years prior to the pandemic, BCSS has provided \$970,000 in financial support to our 19 sport commissions. This doesn’t include the bookkeeping services BCSS provides free of charge for the 11 commissions who have elected to use it. The proposed governance structure will consolidate all the finances of school sport which will provide our schools with full financial transparency as well as an increased efficiency at the school level with a single entity invoicing for provincial championships.

Should you have any questions about anything within the governance recommendation, please don’t hesitate to reach out to a Board member or the BCSS office.