



BC SCHOOL SPORTS

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CSSF Sub-committee raises critical concerns over the proposed direction of Canadian Sport for Life in the high school education system

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MAPLE RIDGE - Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) and the Canadian School Sport Federation (CSSF) agreed to further co-operation and dialogue following the National CSSF meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario on September 30.

At that meeting the CSSF sub-committee presented the draft framework *Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) and the Canadian School Sport Federation (CSSF): A Player in the Education Sector* which was well received with respect to the similar goals of both parties according to CSSF President Sue Keenan.

“In terms of having a leading role in the implementation of the CS4L framework there has been much discussion between the membership and of course differing points of view and perspectives,” said Keenan.

The points presented are as follows.

- With regards to **aligning CSSF sport rules** with long term athlete development CSSF member associations expressed their willingness to discuss rules of play with provincial and national sport organisations. They would, however, like to retain the right to implement their own standards and rule modifications where appropriate and in some cases may not modify rules of play.
- The membership also expressed concern over **specialization**. While it is understood that a number of students choose to specialize once they reach high school, the CSSF does not support specialization in principle. The CSSF membership’s focus is an all rounded education of which participation in more than one sport activity should be apart of.
- While academies may take on different formats and goals by sport/and/or Province, the CSSF does not support the concept of **sport academies** as it may conflict with the goals of education and the objectives of high school sport.

“The CSSF continues to believe that the focus needs to be on an educational framework for school sports,” said Keenan. Such a framework maintains that the primary focus of school is educational, with academics being the most important aspect. Activities like athletics, the arts and other extra-curricular pursuits are also a crucial and integral component of the overall education process that are best served in an educational environment.

The benefits of this environment include, but are not limited to “skill development, school community, fair play, leadership, time management skills and teamwork.”

For more information:

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