



## BC SCHOOL SPORTS

Mailing Address: 20800 Lougheed Hwy, PO Box 97, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 7E9

Location: 21821 – 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Room 1009, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 3X2

Phone: 604-477-1488 • Fax: 604-477-1484

info@bcschoolsports.ca • www.bcschoolsports.ca

## News Release

Friday April 20, 2012

Surrey – The Board of Directors of BC School Sports (BCSS) which is the governing body responsible for the delivery of high school sports and programs across the province of British Columbia through its 425 member schools met on Friday April 20, 2012 to review the results of the BC Teachers Federation decision to withdraw support of extra-curricular activities including coaching.

BCSS relies upon the dedication, commitment and efforts of 15,000 volunteer coaches to run inter-school athletic programs for 18 sports which conclude with the 45 provincial championships. Of the 15,000 coaches, 58% are teachers including 15% that represent private/independent schools.

The Board of Directors of BCSS recognizes and respects the position of teachers during the current labour dispute with government. BCSS views extra-curricular activities including coaching as voluntary and will respect the decisions that individual teacher coaches will make on their personal involvement with school sports. We represent member schools and advocate for student athletes and their participation. As long as there are volunteers (teaching and/or non-teaching) willing to support student athletes and facilitate the leagues, zones and provincials, our athletic programs will continue. **At this point we are going to proceed with the planned spring season for the 35,000 students involved in Badminton, Golf, Mountain-Biking, Rugby, Soccer, Tennis, and Track & Field.** BCSS will continue to monitor this situation and consult with the sports commissions and local athletic associations.

BCSS is a voluntary non-profit society with a membership of 425 schools. **"BC School Sports has served the athletes and volunteer coaches in our province for over 44 years"** It is independent from government and BC School Boards. Its mission is to provide governance for interschool competition, encourage student participation in extra-curricular athletics and assist schools in the development and delivery of those programs.

### For more information contact:

**Sue Keenan**  
Executive Director  
BC SCHOOL SPORTS  
(604) 477-1488

**Raj Puri**  
President  
BC SCHOOL SPORTS  
604-581-4433

