



MEMORANDUM

TO: BCSS MEMBER SCHOOL PRINCIPALS & ATHLETIC DIRECTORS
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: ULTIMATE AS DEMONSTRATION SPORT
DATE: JANUARY 25, 2018
CC: LOCAL ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS, BCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In June last year, BCSS received a request to investigate the viability of adding Ultimate from a large number of schools. The staff looked into the matter and found that 105 member schools in five (5) different zones already had teams registered with the provincial sport organization (PSO) to compete in a PSO led event for high school teams. Some concerns from this non-BCSS event were that it appeared to be used as a fundraiser for BC Ultimate (the PSO) with the money not staying within the school sport system, and that there was a lack of consistent eligibility rules amongst the teams and regions. The schools who requested we look into the matter felt that a BCSS championship may be a solution to ensuring that fees are assessed appropriately, and that a standard set of eligibility rules could be used.

With the findings, the Board of Directors has authorized the hosting of a BCSS Ultimate Championship as a demonstration sport this coming spring. It is classified as a demonstration sport, as the membership hasn't added Ultimate as a sport to the BCSS list of recognized activities. For this year, the event will contest two (2) tiers, with BCSS medals and plaques awarded to the placing teams, but no BCSS banner.

The Board and staff feel Ultimate would be a great addition as it often attracts a different set of students to participate from some of our other activities, and is a sport with low costs and low barriers to entry both for the school and the students. It is a true co-ed sport, with both males and females playing together, and while there is a winner and loser of each game, Ultimate has a unique culture where there is a major focus on sportsmanship, camaraderie and school spirit. In many ways, these events take on a festival type atmosphere more than an ultra-competitive championship and are very much aligned with the purpose and goals of our association.

For this year, as a demonstration sport, the BCSS office will be coordinating the event, with the help of some school-based volunteers and supporters. The event is scheduled for May 24th and 25th and will be played in Surrey. We will be working with local associations and zones to communicate berthing structures and other critical information.



While a motion to add Ultimate to the list of official BCSS activities is forthcoming for the 2018 AGM, we hope that you will consider putting a team together for this coming spring season to build awareness and excitement around this new sport. We also will be working to provide resources to assist coaches and teachers, who may not be entirely familiar with the game.

BCSS will be publishing a detailed information package in early February regarding the rules of the game, the structure of championships, tiering and other logistical matters. Please keep your eye out for this.

It is our hope that the membership will see this as BCSS being responsive to the members and being creative to better serve the students around the province. As always, we are here to answer any of your questions. Don't hesitate to contact the office with inquiries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Abney".

Jordan Abney
Executive Director