

AMATEUR SPORT LEAGUE FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Last updated May 21, 2021

Q: What is the Amateur Sport League Fund?

A: The Amateur Sport League Fund was developed to provide one-time financial relief for B.C. based and/or B.C. owned amateur sports leagues and teams to assist with the financial impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund was established by the Province of British Columbia (read the funding [announcement](#)) and is administered by viaSport British Columbia. viaSport is an independent sport agency funded by the Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport to support the amateur sport system in the province.

Q: What is this fund intended to do?

A: The goal of this fund is to provide a one-time grant of relief funding, based on financial need, to B.C. leagues and teams that compete at the provincial, national or international level, do not compensate athletes as employees, and can demonstrate at least 30 percent loss in revenue since March of 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. The intent of this fund is to help ensure that B.C.'s leagues and their teams remain viable for when sport returns to our communities. viaSport and the Province of British Columbia recognize the significant economic and community value of these organizations, their staff, volunteers, athletes and fans.

Q: Why is this funding needed?

A: Without revenue from things such as ticket sales, registration fees and sponsorship, many amateur sport leagues and teams in B.C. have been profoundly financially impacted by the pandemic. This investment is another important step the B.C. Government and viaSport are taking to help ensure leagues and teams exist post pandemic, so that sport and community development opportunities continue to be available once there is a safe return to sport in B.C.

Q: Who is eligible to apply for this funding?

A: ALL APPLICANTS must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Your organization's sole or primary operations are located and conducted in B.C., meaning
 - Your organization is incorporated/registered in B.C.
 - Your organization has a unique business, society or charity number
 - For-profit organizations must also:
 - Have the majority (51%) of all shares or other ownership interests in their business owned by one or more B.C. residents
 - Currently pay taxes in B.C.
- Your organization does not compensate athletes as registered employees, nor are athletes entitled to receive compensation under provincial or federal employment legislation
- Your organization has experienced at least a 30 per cent loss in revenue due to the impacts of COVID-19, not taking into account any provincial or federal COVID-19 relief funding

- Your organization is not:
 - a school sport, or post-secondary league or team
 - an ESport league or team

Applicants must also meet ALL of the eligibility criteria for the stream they apply to. Applicant can apply to ONLY one of the following streams (*defined in [Guidelines](#)*):

- **Stream 1:** Organizations which are directly responsible for sanctioning or overseeing the operation of one or more **Sport League(s) or Competition Series**
- **Stream 2:** Organizations which are directly responsible for the operations of one or more **Sport Teams**

Relief funding will be available to non-profit and for-profit organizations that meet all of the eligibility criteria outlined in **application criteria and [Guidelines](#)**.

Q: With respect to business ownership particulars, are there any specific eligibility requirements to be aware of?

A: To be eligible for this grant, it is a requirement that the majority (51%) of all shares or other ownership interests in the business is owned by one or more B.C. residents. Only B.C. owned businesses will be considered for this grant, as this provincial grant program is specifically available for local businesses owned and operated in B.C.

Other supports for businesses are available on the [Economic Supports for Businesses](#) webpage. Additionally, the [B.C. Business COVID-19 Support Service](#) provides information and support to business owners to help navigate challenges from COVID-19. Advisors are ready to help at 1-833-254-4357, Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Q: Are there any specific eligibility requirements to be aware of for teams?

A: This funding is not intended to support teams which are formed for the sole purpose of competing in a Tournament, including teams which are formed for the sole purpose of representing B.C. at National or International Championships. Teams must compete in regularly scheduled league play as described in the **application criteria and [Guidelines](#)**.

Q: Are we eligible to apply if we run a competition event within a series?

A: No. This funding is not intended to support event hosting. Applying organizations must be directly responsible for sanctioning or overseeing the competition series in its entirety. Organizations which lead one-off competitive events (e.g., tournaments, championships) are ineligible for this funding.

Q: How do I know if my Sport League, Competition Series or Team meets the B.C. Games Zones requirements?

A: The [Sport League](#), [Competition Series](#) and [Sport Team](#) templates allow you to easily calculate if you are reaching the number of required zones.

Q: Are B.C. “rep” teams eligible?

A: No. This funding is not intended to support teams which are formed for the sole purpose of competing in a Tournament, including teams which are formed for the sole purpose of representing B.C. at National or International Championships. Teams must compete in regularly scheduled league play or series competition.

Q: Can a local sport club apply for this funding?

A: Yes. They must oversee or sanction the operation of a league, competition series or team that meet ALL of the [eligibility requirements](#).

Q: Our organization oversees or sanctions more than one Sport League, Competition Series or Team which meets the eligibility criteria. Can we apply for all of them?

A: While some organizations may oversee two types of operations (e.g., a Sport League and a Team), applicants must select one stream and are unable to submit multiple applications. It is recommended that you select the stream which BEST reflects the majority of, or largest proportion of your operations. For example, if your organization oversees a Sport League and Team, you will apply for one or the other, but not both.

Once you have selected your application stream, you CAN apply for multiple operations under that stream. For example, if your organization is directly responsible for overseeing or sanctioning two leagues, you should select **Stream 1: Sport Leagues** and will be able to enter information on both the leagues you oversee. All Sport Leagues, Competition Series and Teams for which you submit information must meet ALL of the eligibility criteria.

Q: Our Competition Series involves a number of regional events that lead up to a Championship. Do we meet the eligibility requirements?

A: To be eligible, EACH competition in the series (minimum four annually) must draw teams or athletes from:

- International: two or more countries, AND at least three jurisdictions (e.g., states or provinces)
- National: or more provinces or territories, one of which must NOT share a border with B.C.
- Provincial: four or more B.C. Games zones

You will be asked to verify that for at least four events annually, teams or athletes are drawn from the required jurisdictions described above. Regional events typically do not draw teams or athletes from a large enough geographical region.

Q: Can, school sports, college and/or university teams apply for this funding?

A: A school sport, or post-secondary league or team, OR an esports league or team are ineligible to apply.

Q: Do we need a B.C. business, society or charity number to apply?

A: Yes. A unique B.C. business, society or charity number is a requirement for all applicants. Applicants must be registered themselves, and cannot borrow or use another organizations number to apply.

Q: Where is the application posted?

A: Information on the grant and application process is available on viaSport's website [here](#).

Q: When is the application period?

A: Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. PST on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. Applications submitted after this date and time will not be reviewed.

Q: Will late applications be accepted?

A: No. Once the application period closes, no late applications will be accepted for any reason.

Q: How can organizations contact viaSport about questions or to discuss their application?

A: If an organization has any questions, or wishes to discuss their application and its eligibility, contact ASLF@viaSport.ca.

Q: Can I save my application and return to it?

A: Yes. In the top right corner of the application you will see the option to 'save and continue later'. You will be asked to enter your email address and a unique link will be sent to you. Please keep a copy of this email as viaSport does not have access to this information.

Q: How does the grant work?

A: Eligible applicants must apply to one of the following streams, defined in **application criteria and [Guidelines](#)**:

- **Stream 1:** Organizations which are directly responsible for sanctioning or overseeing the operation of one or more **Sport League(s) or Competition Series**
- **Stream 2:** Organizations which are directly responsible for the operations of one or more **Sport Teams**

Applicants are unable to apply on behalf of others. For example, a league may only apply for relief funding based on their own financial need, and cannot submit an application for funding on behalf of their competing teams.

Q: What information will be requested in the application?

A: Applicants will be asked to provide basic information about their organization, and asked to input financial data related to their operations, including details on receipt of COVID-19 emergency funding, annual expenses related to staffing, rent, insurance, accounting and IT, as well as an estimate of COVID related expenses.

Then, applicants will input specific information related to the eligible Sport Leagues, Competition Series or Teams that they are responsible for sanctioning or overseeing (e.g. number of athletes, number of competitions, level of play).

Applicants will be asked to upload the following documents:

- [Certification of B.C. Ownership](#) (for-profit organizations only)

- B.C. registered incorporation number (society or company), Charitable Registration Number, or federal business number
- Date of Incorporation/Registration
- Most recent two years of audited or reviewed financial statements (i.e. Fiscal Years Ending 2019 and 2020)
- Year-to-date financial statements and trial balance to March 31, 2021
- [Sport League](#), [Competition Series](#) or [Sport Team](#) Template

Applicants can view the questions that will be asked [here](#).

Q: Why does the application including asking for Gender Based Analysis (GBA+) information? Will this be used to determine who receives funding?

A: The Gender-based Analysis (GBA+) questions are voluntary and will not be used to evaluate your application. The Province of B.C. collects this information, should you choose to include it, to assess how diverse groups may experience policies, programs and initiatives. Your responses will not be tied directly to your application.

Q: Can I apply on behalf of others?

A: No. Applicants are unable to apply on behalf of others. For example, a league may only apply for relief funding based on their own financial need, and cannot submit an application for funding on behalf of teams competing in their league.

Q: What kinds of expenses are these funds intended to relieve?

A: This funding is intended to help eligible amateur sports leagues and/or teams experiencing financial hardship due to the pandemic with operational costs. Eligible expenses may include expenses associated with:

- Essential licenses, fees and dues, IT costs
- Salaries, wages and benefits
- Professional fees (accounting, bookkeeping)
- Rent, mortgage, storage costs or utilities
- Insurance
- Development of COVID safety or Return to Sport Plans
- COVID-19-related supplies (cleaning supplies, signage, PPE)

Q: What expenses are ineligible expenses?

A: Ineligible expenses include:

- Professional development activities created and delivered on a one-to-one basis including coach training
- Costs related to attending professional development activities (including travel costs)
- Feasibility and market study costs
- Travel
- Hospitality

Funds cannot be used to cover expenditures already supported by other government COVID-19 emergency measures including, but not limited to, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA), and the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance (CECRA) for small businesses.

Q: How will funding be determined?

Applicants will be asked to provide financial data related to their operations. Funding will be determined based on demonstrated financial need.

Q: Will funding be awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis?

A: No. The evaluation of all applications, and calculation and distribution of any funding will begin once the application period closes. Applying early will not increase chances of funding; however, it is not recommended to wait to begin your application close to the application deadline in case you run out of time.

Q: Does it matter how organizations allocate the funding received?

A: Funding is intended to help sustain amateur sport league, series and/or team operations. As long as funding is spent on eligible expenses related to the eligible league, competition series or team operations, organizations can determine where best to allocate the funds.

Q: What if some of those costs have been covered by other government COVID-19 emergency relief measures?

A: Funds must **not** be used to cover expenditures already supported by other government COVID-19 emergency measures, including but not limited to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit ([CERB](#)), the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy ([CEWS](#)), the Canada Emergency Business Account ([CEBA](#)), and the Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance ([CECRA](#)) for small businesses.