

## BC FERRIES SPORT EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

*Deadline: Applications must be submitted at least 12 business days before the first day of travel*

*Funding is available for travel through March 31, 2016*

### BACKGROUND:

BC Ferries and ViaSport British Columbia recognize that travel is often a barrier to amateur sport teams as they seek competitive opportunities for their athletes.

To assist in removing this barrier, the BC Ferries Sport Experience Program has been developed to provide travel support to not-for-profit sport organizations. Eligible applicants may apply for up to 2 one-way passenger vouchers per eligible traveller. Through this exciting program, BC Ferries and ViaSport British Columbia will assist with ferry travel costs for athletes, coaches and team managers.

### WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications may be submitted, individually or for a group by:

- Athletes aged 18 years and younger or someone representing the athlete (e.g. parent, guardian, coach)
- Not-for-profit Provincial or National Sport Organizations
- Not-for-profit Local Sport Organizations, clubs and associations that are:
  - a member in good standing of an appropriate Provincial Sport Organization OR working in partnership with an appropriate provincial organization; and
  - demonstrate inclusive and equitable practices that maximize sport, recreation, physical activity and leadership opportunities in the community
- Coaches or officials traveling to a recognized certification or professional development opportunity

### TRAVEL ELIGIBILITY

Vouchers may be used by athletes that are traveling to compete in International Events, National Championships, Western Canadian Championships, Provincial Championships or Selection Camps (does not include pre-season, tournaments, regular season league or event play).

Eligible events are defined as:

**International Event:** An elite level event such as a World Cup where you have qualified to represent Canada.

**National Championship:** An event sanctioned by the relevant NSO where you have qualified to represent BC. The winner of said event would be crowned National Champion.

**Western Championship:** An event sanctioned by the relevant PSO/NSO where you have qualified to represent BC. The winner of said event would be crowned Western Canadian Champion.

**Provincial Championship:** An event sanctioned by the relevant PSO where you have qualified to represent your city or region. The winner of said event would be crowned Provincial Champion.

**Selection Camp:** A camp or event after which an athlete is chosen by the relevant PSO to represent Team BC.

- In the event of uncertainty, ViaSport will contact the relevant PSO to determine event eligibility.

Coaches and managers traveling with athletes are eligible to be included in applications, but funding athletes is the priority of the program.

Vouchers may also be used by coaches or officials traveling to a recognized certification or professional development opportunity.

Due to overwhelming demand, vehicle costs are no longer able to be covered under the BC Ferries Sport Experience Program.

## APPLICATION CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT:

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Submitted by an eligible applicant using the supplied online form
- Submitted a minimum of **12 business days before** travel start date

Due to overwhelming demand, we are unable to fulfill all applications and requests. Priority will be given to:

- Supporting athletes aged 18 years and younger traveling to (in descending order): International Events, National Championships, Western Canadian Championships, Provincial Championships, or Selection Camps
- First time users of the BC Ferries Sport Experience Program

The goal of the program is to support as many athletes as possible. Based on priorities and demand, certain applications may only be approved for partial funding (i.e. a request for a round trip may be approved for a one-way trip).

## APPLICATION SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION:

Applications are collected on a rolling intake basis and ordered by travel date. Applications are then prioritized based on the outlined criteria above, and funding is allocated based on funds available.

It is ViaSport's policy to notify every grant applicant of the status of their application. Applicants will be notified of their application status by email between 2-10 business days before the first day of travel outlined in the application.

If successful, vouchers will be emailed in PDF format to the email address provided in the application. In order to be valid for travel, **the vouchers must be printed out and presented to the BC Ferries agent at the ticket booth at time of check-in. Vouchers presented on electronic devices will not be accepted. Vouchers are valid for only the routes/dates shown. Unauthorized use of the voucher will result in the inability for BC Ferries to apply the applicable subsidy to your travel fares.**

## CONDITIONS:

Applicants agree to and acknowledge the following conditions:

- A maximum of 2 one-way passenger vouchers per eligible traveller will be considered and partial funding may be awarded based on demand
- All information provided in the application is true and complete
- Vouchers are only valid for the event, route and dates specified on the application. Once the application is submitted, changes cannot be accommodated.
- Vouchers are only valid if printed (vouchers will not be accepted at the terminal by showing a smart phone or computer screen)
- Applications received within the 12 business day deadline will not be considered.

If successful, applicants will be required to complete a survey to report on the outcomes of the event and trip. The survey will be distributed to successful applicants via email after travel has concluded.

## HOW TO APPLY:

**Deadline:** Applications will be accepted if submitted a minimum of 12 business days before the first day of travel.

Application Steps:

- Complete the online application form on the ViaSport website (*see **Important Online Application Note** below*)
- An automatically-generated email will be sent to the email address provided in the application to confirm you have successfully submitted an application (*make sure to check your junk/spam folder*)
- 2-10 business days before the first day of travel, you will receive another email to notify you of the success of your application
- If successful, the email will contain PDF vouchers – you **MUST** print out the vouchers before traveling

### **Important Online Application Note:**

You are able to save the form and return to it at a future time. Please copy the link given and save it in a safe place. You can use this from any computer anytime within the next 30 days to resume answering questions on the form. Without the link, the data you have entered cannot be retrieved and you will have to start filling out the form at the beginning.

You can also get the link emailed by entering your email address and clicking send.

If you wish to discuss your proposal and its eligibility prior to submitting an application, contact:

Email: [grants@viasport.ca](mailto:grants@viasport.ca)

To stay informed about more grant opportunities, sign up for our eNewsletter on our website: [www.ViaSport.ca](http://www.ViaSport.ca) or follow us on Twitter: [ViaSport](https://twitter.com/ViaSport).