



**BC SOCCER**

*DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:  
GUIDELINES*

January 2026

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The BC Soccer Development Grants Program has been designed to support key initiatives of BC Soccer’s strategic plan. These grants are open for licensed clubs and affiliated organizations to apply.

The Development Grants Program will expand the capacity for organizations to create more inclusive and welcoming environment for participants in line with Canada Soccer’s Guide to Accessibility & Inclusion and will assist in removing potential barriers for clubs to meet, or exceed, the Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program Standards.

There are five Grants Categories for member organizations to apply to: Accessibility, Diversity & Inclusion, Equity, Grassroots Development and Organizational. **The standard grant amount is \$1000, but it may be adjusted depending on BC Soccer's assessment of the initiative.**

## EVALUATION PRIORITIES

- Merit of the proposed initiative
- Alignment with BC Soccer Strategic Goals
- Equitable distribution across the province
- Funding availability

*Q: How is the paid amount decided?*

*A: The priority is to maximize the benefit for every successful applicant organization and the community whilst keeping in mind that BC Soccer has a limited budget for the Development Grants Program. Based on the Grant Reports, BC Soccer’s Soccer Operations Department will define amounts depending on factors such as number of people impacted by the initiative, expenses associated with it, how well does the program fits into BC Soccer’s Strategic goals, applicant organization’s size and capacity, longevity of the initiative, etc.*

*Q: Can the paid amount be less than \$1000?*

*A: YES. If the initiative expenses can be covered by a total that is lower than \$1000, BC Soccer can decide to adjust the Grant value so the exceeding amount can go towards helping another application.*

# DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROCESS

## ORGANIZATIONS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

- **Youth Clubs who are members of a Youth District:** any initiative that falls within a Grant Category
- **BC Soccer's Full Members (Adult Leagues & Youth Districts):** any initiative that falls within a Grant Category
- **Associate Members:** any initiative that falls within a Grant Category
- **Adult Clubs playing in sanctioned leagues:** only league-related activities are eligible for Grant applications, provided the initiative falls within a Grant Category

## APPLICATION

Organizations will need to submit an **Application Form** before the initiative happens. The current application link will be posted on the Grants Program page at [www.bcsoccer.net](http://www.bcsoccer.net).

**BC Soccer will then evaluate the application** and reach out for more details before approving the grant.

**Once the Grant Application has been approved**, BC Soccer will also provide instructions to the club regarding which information will be relevant to the Grant Report - the requested information will vary depending on the nature of the program.

*Q: Can I apply for a Grant for a program that has already happened?*

*A: NO. Applications for programs, events or initiatives that have already taken place will not be accepted.*

## REPORT

**After the initiative has taken place**, the applicant needs to submit a Report so BC Soccer can measure the program's impact. Once the club has provided all the necessary documentation/information, BC Soccer will issue the payment.

In general, the information required in the report is the following:

- Number of individuals impacted by the initiative (depends on the type of program or event; consider who the initiative is for).
- Expenses by the club and which costs will be covered by the Grant amount.
- Date and location of the initiative.
- Overall description of how the event went.

BC Soccer may also ask for any other information that is considered necessary for the Report evaluation.

## PROGRAM TIMELINE

**Application Window:** BC Soccer will be accepting Grant Applications from August 1st to May 31st.

**Reporting Windows:** June 1st to July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Payment Window:** August 1st to 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Q: What if I miss the Reporting Window deadline?*

*A: The organization will forfeit the grant for the current application*

# GRANT CATEGORIES

## ACCESSIBILITY GRANTS

### RATIONALE

This grant category supports programs and initiatives that are designed to offer participants of “all abilities” the opportunity to partake soccer activities. Programs and initiatives include “all abilities” programs, Soccer in School programs, and non-traditional soccer programs. Stats Canada shows that on average more than 1 in 10 youth in Canada have one or more disabilities. “The prevalence of disabilities among Canadians tends to increase with age. However, more than 540,000 youths aged 15 to 24 years had one or more disabilities”.

This grant also supports programs and activities that offer alternate forms of soccer such as futsal, walking soccer, co-ed soccer and U13+ Small Sided Games formats. Non-traditional programs provide a great deal of flexibility for those who are looking for something different supporting BC Soccer’s strategic objective to attract, develop and promote non-traditional forms of soccer within affiliated soccer.

The aim of the Soccer in Schools component is to introduce and connect children to the game of soccer. Therefore, BC Soccer encourages and supports member organizations who want to oversee and deliver in and after School Soccer Programs to children in grades 1 through 6. This grant is a partnership between School Districts, Member Associations and BC Soccer and helps lay the foundation for a lifelong relationship with the game, sport, and physical activity.

Sport for Life, a Government of Canada funded movement to improve the quality of sport and physical activity, highlights the importance of organizations working together to introduce sports and physical activity to children. In the latest release of the long-term athlete development plan the following statements support the development of this grant:

“A positive first involvement is likely to bring them back to continue, and a negative experience makes their return far less likely. Organizations should carefully plan the first experience of new participants.”

“Traditionally, physical education in the schools, community activity, and elite sport have been developed separately; an approach that is ineffective and expensive... When stakeholders work together, everyone wins.”

## DELIVERY EXAMPLES

**Kamloops YSA - Free Inclusive Drop-In Sessions:** “The Summer Inclusive Drop-in Program provides an excellent opportunity for individuals with a variety of abilities to experience and/or maintain the joy of the game of soccer over the quiet summer months in a safe, structured and non-intimidating environment. All participants will experience a lot of extra touches on the ball and will have the opportunity to participate in a series of small-sided games (3v3, 4v4 or 5v5). All sessions are led by experienced staff coaches and several volunteers. Parent participation and support is encouraged.”

**Port Moody SC - Adaptive Soccer Program:** “This program is offered to girls and boys, aged 6-16, and is suitable for those players who may not be able to play in mainstream soccer. All youth with disabilities/abilities are welcome.”

**Nanaimo United FC - Just for Kicks:** “Just for Kicks is a program for soccer players with special needs and is dedicated to children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Just for Kicks allows these players to explore the sport of soccer, learn skills, make friends, and participate in an activity with their peers.”



**Canada Scores Vancouver:** The organization partners with urban schools to provide high quality, team-based after-school programs that integrate soccer, poetry, and service-learning. Their approach improves students' health, academic achievement, and civic engagement. Overseeing a soccer program that targets grade 3-5 students in lower income/refugee areas of Burnaby and Surrey.



**Prince George Youth Soccer Association:** "In 2016, PGYSA created an outreach after school soccer program with the local school district, specifically targeting the lower socioeconomic status elementary schools. This program targeted children whose parents could not afford after school care, single income households, single parents, children with limited sport access, aboriginal children and hyperactive."

**Other initiatives may include:**

- Small Sided Games Programs for U13+ players
- Futsal Programs
- Co-ed Programs and Competitions
- Parent/Guardian vs Player Initiatives
- Walking and Senior Soccer Events

## RESOURCES AND SPECIFICS

For more information, we invite you to review the following: [LTPD Athletes with Disabilities](#); [NCCP Coaching Athletes with Disabilities](#); [Canada Soccer’s Guide to Accessibility & Inclusion](#) as well as the [BC Soccer’s Bylaws, Rules, Regulations & Policies](#) page.



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION GRANTS

### RATIONALE

Providing support to programs and initiatives that are designed to promote inclusion of underrepresented groups into soccer including but not limited to indigenous peoples, low-income families, newcomers to Canada, those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans (transgender), two- spirited, queer or questioning (LGBTQ+). This grant supports programs and activities that are designed to welcome people to soccer by providing accessibility and inclusion in all its forms. Current trends in Canada and BC, as well as BC Soccer’s strategic objectives to ensure there are affordable grassroots programs and to promote accessibility in all its forms, support the inception of this category.

Between 2011-2016 immigrants totaled 3.8% of population in British Columbia. These families have chosen British Columbia as their new home and BC Soccer invites them to choose soccer as their go to sport as well. Other data suggest that children from lower income households participate in sport less than children from higher income households.

### DELIVERY EXAMPLES

**Bulkley Valley Soccer – Soccer in Witset:** 2019 was the first year Witset teams registered to play with the Bulkley Valley Soccer Association. What began as an after-school program has now become a group of about 37 players who train up to twice a week and play games across the Bulkley Valley area every other weekend.



**Abbotsford Soccer Association:** With hopes to help and support the Syrian refugees in their community. A Community Services rep and their TD, Ian Knight, met regarding the possibilities of getting some of these young people involved in community soccer. ASA hosts several Summer Camps that are ideal for these young folks to attend. These are weekly camps throughout July and the first two weeks of August.

**West Vancouver Football Club:** WVFC have established a relationship with the Squamish Nation - For nearly two years, they have had club coaches providing training sessions on the reserve and they are now working on mainstreaming the program and encouraging Squamish Nation youth to play on teams in the club. Since most players who participate in them cannot afford registration fees for the regular season or for any camp/academy programs, West Vancouver FC is looking for other financial support for their Squamish Nation program. “We believe that by being able to integrate these young players into our club programs, it helps to build their confidence. They become part of a positive structure that gives them a sense of belonging, which is very important to all youth” reads their grant application.



**Other initiatives may include:**

- 3 for Free U6 to U12 Sessions: Designed to encourage new players and families to join your club, at various points of the season a set of free to join seasons can be packaged and offered for those who are unsure of their commitment to organized soccer due to financial difficulties.
- Satellite Clubs Programs: Specially in geographically vast regions, an opportunity presents itself to run programming in several locations across said region for participants who have difficulty commuting to training hubs. Clubs can designate “remote leads” and build a curriculum that will follow the main hubs training schedule. To include these remote teams with the main hub, games and activities should be scheduled from time to time.
- Community Center Outreach Programs: Similar to soccer in school activities, these are designed to increase registration by promoting clubs in a new environment. Local community centers may open their fields and gymnasiums to clubs offering sessions to their members.
- Aboriginal Bands Outreach Programs.
- Under Privileged Groups and Schools Accessibility Programs.

**RESOURCES AND SPECIFICS**

For more information on this topic, please review [Canada Soccer’s Guide to Accessibility & Inclusion](#). We also invite you to visit the following organizations’ websites for further resources on supporting these groups:

- [Indigenous Sport Council](#)
- [Canada Scores](#)
- [Jumpstart - Community Development](#)
- [Canadian Women & Sport](#)

## EQUITY GRANTS

### RATIONALE

This grant supports programs and initiatives that advance gender equity in soccer. Programs and initiatives can include development of resources, training, and removal of barriers to participation. Canada Soccer’s Guide to Accessibility & Inclusion is a valuable resource to review for more information on this. “Within the last 10 years or so, national youth registration in soccer has been gradually trending downward, particularly amongst females. While females are not unhappier with programs, they are at more risk of dropping out of the sport when dissatisfied, so meeting their needs is especially important” BC Soccer - 2018 Retention Survey.

In all provinces, this decline has been largely among female youth players, especially teenagers. The decline is occurring among ‘grassroots’ players. This specialized grant program is for member organizations who are working to enhance programming. This initiative, brought forward by the Women in Soccer Committee aligns with BC Soccer’s strategic objective of increasing the percentage players, coaches, referees, and administrators in the sport, and is designed to help the BC Soccer membership retain, attract, and enhance equitable programming.

### DELIVERY EXAMPLES

**Prospect Lake – My Sport Female Soccer Day:** This is a free one-day event to celebrate, encourage and promote female involvement in all aspects of soccer. Prospect Lake Soccer involves local teams and players to volunteer and deliver skills sessions and goalkeeper training for female youth players aged 5-17. A female-only coaching course is hosted on the day of the event for which they look to have a female youth team act as the training group. Ultimately, Prospect Lake closes the event with a BBQ for participants and their families.



**Burns Lake Soccer – High Impact Educational Opportunities:** At the time, Donna Franz was Burns Lake Soccer’s chair and Technical Lead, through our Female Initiative grant Donna was able to participate in BC Soccer’s Technical Director’s diploma in Burnaby, BC. Donna has an impact in over 300 players in the Burns Lake and Northern BC area and remains involved in her community as a leader in soccer.

**Guildford Athletic – Five Session “Try it” Camp for Girls:** Guildford Athletic Club held a five-week camp free for girls looking to play soccer. The five-session “try it” camp, for new players, came to fruition as the organization wants to increase the number of young female players in its ranks, after seeing a drop in registration. The camp focuses on fun activities and involves a weekly theme, culminating with a “World Cup” games day.

**Other initiatives may include:**

- All Female Coaching Programs: with the intention of creating and supporting environments of female participation and mentorship opportunities, all female coaching courses/workshops are a high impact activity we recommend clubs consider.
- Female Soccer Day: events such as Prospect Lake’s example above are highly encouraged; by dedicating an entire day to female participation we reduce early participation barriers in our game.
- Female Bring a Friend Sessions: if an entire day is not available in your club’s busy schedule, consider opening your doors to your players’ friends by hosting “Bring a friend” sessions. These can be arranged as one-off events during the best weather times in your season.
- Small Sided Games Female Tournaments: consider hosting 3v3, 4v4 and 5v5 tournaments for female participants, friends and guardians can get involved and participate as well.
- Educational Workshops: club wide activities to raise awareness and create learning opportunities are important to understand how we can support female participation. If interested, please visit CAAWS website for more information.



## RESOURCES AND SPECIFICS

For more information and tips regarding engaging women in sport we invite you to review the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport “Actively Engaging Women and Girls” document and [Canada Soccer’s Guide to Accessibility & Inclusion](#). To help organizations identify areas where they can focus their efforts on this topic, we encourage you to consult the [Canadian Women & Sport](#) website.

## ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

### RATIONALE

Support programs and initiatives that improve long term sustainability, enhance governance and risk management practices. Programs and initiatives can include development of tools, resources, and training for board, staff, and volunteers.

### DELIVERY EXAMPLES

**Ridge Meadows Soccer Club - “Stop Ref Abuse” campaign:** the club launched a campaign to reinforce the messaging against referee abuse on all of their home fields across Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge in the Lower Mainland. The club produced over 100 t-shirts for officials to wear during matches and printed signage aimed at parents, coaches, players, and others attending the games.

#### Other initiatives may include:

- Board & Staff Educational Opportunities such as hosting third party workshops for safe sport training, staff training to reduce turnover, boost morale and engagement, and role specific education courses.
- First Aid Good Practice and Equipment. Organizations looking to purchase first aid equipment and secure CPR-First Aid certification for coaches and team managers.
- Membership Acknowledgement Events for organizations looking into hosting events to recognize staff, players or families for their commitment and contributions to the organization.
- Criminal Record Check Good Practices. Completing CRCs is required work to uphold the duty of care owed to everybody involved in sanctioned soccer activity, organizations looking to cover the cost of conducting Criminal Record Checks can apply for an Organizational Development Grant.
- Club Licensing Support, organizations in need of support to undertake their Club Licensing Application can apply for a grant to cover the costs incurred.

### RESOURCES AND SPECIFICS

For more information on this topic, please review Canada Soccer’s Guide to Management and Operations at [Canada Soccer Resources](#).

## GRASSROOTS DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

### RATIONALE

Support to programs and initiatives that target implementation of Canada Soccer’s Grassroots Standards, including hosting of Grassroots Festivals and Canada Soccer Grassroots Coach Education Program on-field workshops.

### DELIVERY EXAMPLES

- Coach Education funding to organizations seeking to increase Head Coach certification, priority will be given to organizations with less than 60% Coach Certification Compliance through BC Soccer’s Club Licensing Application, remote organizations, and organizations without an in- house LF.
- Memorable Event Development, such as youth tournaments, jamborees, and festivals.
- In-House Coach Development Conference, coach education goes beyond mandatory certification, organizations hosting or looking to host in-house coach development conferences/sessions may apply for a grant.
- BC Soccer Learning Facilitator Nominations. Organizations can nominate technical leads to become BC Soccer Learning Facilitators. This grant will cover the \$350 minimum required certification costs associated with the applicant’s requirements. For more information please review: [Learning Facilitator Program](#).
- Hosting a regional Goalkeeper Diploma. To encourage and reward organizations looking to host BC Soccer’s GK Diploma in their region. For more information please [click here](#).
- Promote Referee Education/Registration. To encourage and reward organizations looking to increase referee development. For more information please review: [BC Soccer Referee Program](#)

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*For more information or program/activity suggestions for any of the BC Soccer Development Grants, please contact BC Soccer's Club Engagement Coordinator, Lucas Castro, at [lucascastro@bcsoccer.net](mailto:lucascastro@bcsoccer.net).*