



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: October 24, 2024
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: November 13, 2024
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: General Manager of Arts, Culture and Community Services
SUBJECT: Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants – Fall 2024 Intake

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council approves 20 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants totalling \$123,500 from the 2024 Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Program Budget to the organizations listed in Table 1 of this Report under column entitled “Organization” and for the amount set out beside their name in the column entitled “Grant Recommended”.
- B. THAT the grants in Recommendation A be subject to each grant recipient agreeing to the terms and conditions of the City’s Community Sport Hosting Grant Program as outlined in this Report and otherwise satisfactory to the Director, Destination Events and Tourism or their designate and the City’s Director of Legal Services.
- C. THAT no legal rights or obligations are created by the approval of the Recommendations A and B above unless and until the grant agreement is executed and delivered by the grant recipient and the City.
- D. THAT pursuant to the Section 206(1)(i) of the *Vancouver Charter*, the organizations listed in Table 1 that are charities registered with the Canada Revenue Agency are deemed by Council to be an organization contributing to the culture, beautification, health, or welfare of the City.

Approval of Recommendation A constitutes a grant and therefore requires an affirmative vote of at least-two-thirds of all Council pursuant to Section 206(1)(i) of the *Vancouver Charter*.

Purpose and Executive Summary

This report recommends approval of 20 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grant applications totalling \$123,500 towards events that have the potential to bring direct or indirect economic, social, health and community development benefits to the City of Vancouver. This is the second

of two application intakes for 2024. The first intake took place in Spring of 2024.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

An overview of previous Council decisions related to Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Grants are contained in Appendix A.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

The Vancouver community Sport Hosting Program is comprised of the Community Sport Event Grant stream and the Community Sport Champions Recognition Grant stream, both supporting non-profit community sport organizations in the City of Vancouver.

Community Sport Event Grants provide financial support for sporting events that have the potential to bring direct or indirect economic, social, health and community development benefits to the City of Vancouver. Amounts are distributed annually to support local, regional, and new sport event initiatives. Application intake and eligibility guidelines can be found [here](#).

Community Sport Champions Recognition Grants recognize and celebrate non-profit organizations and their representatives who are making sport accessible in the City of Vancouver. This stream offers grants to advance the efforts of organizations that deliver sport and physical activity to make a positive impact in our community, while aligning with City Council's key priority areas, including but not limited to, gender equity, reconciliation and affordability. Awards are directed to a certain theme or interest based on City Council priorities and initiatives within that cycle. The chosen theme for 2024 focuses on the recognition of local indigenous sport champions from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations (MST) and the Urban Native Youth Association (UNYA). More information and list of past recipients can be found on the City of Vancouver's website [here](#).

This report focuses on the Community Support Event Grants.

Discussion

All Vancouver Community Sport Event Grant applications are reviewed by a panel comprised of representatives from the Park Board, City of Vancouver and other key stakeholders in the sport hosting community.

This report recommends 20 Vancouver Community Sport Event Grants for which applications were received in Fall 2024 under the [approved guidelines](#). A brief description of each of the recommended events listed in Table 1 is contained in Appendix A.

**TABLE 1. RECOMMENDED VANCOUVER COMMUNITY SPORT
EVENT GRANT ALLOCATIONS, FALL 2024 INTAKE**

Organization	Event	Date	Grant Recommended
1. Vancouver Pacific Swim Club	VPSC Winter Invitational	December 13-15, 2024	\$5,000
2. Vancouver Curling Club Association	Pac Rim Bonspiel	January 12-13, 2025	\$5,000
3. Canadian Dolphin Swim Club	Mies Schootman Invitational Swim Meet	January 24-26, 2025	\$5,000
4. UBC Weightlifting and Powerlifting Club	UBC New Year's Championships	January 25, 2025	\$2,500
5. RUNVAN	2025 First Half	February 9, 2025	\$5,000
6. BC School Sports	2025 BC School Sports Wrestling Provincial Championships	February 20-22, 2025	\$10,000
7. Canadian Dolphin Swim Club	Swim BC Island & Coastal Vancouver Winter Divisional Championships 2025	February 21-23, 2025	\$5,000
8. Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club	Western Canadian Jr. Super Series	March 28-30, 2025	\$10,000
9. Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	Burnwater Spring Youth Regatta	May 3, 2025	\$5,000
10. British Columbia Deaf Sports Federation	2025 World Deaf Ice Hockey Championships	May 7, 2025	\$15,000
11. Hastings Baseball Club	Fred Ritchie Invitational Tournament	May 16-19, 2025	\$5,000
12. Canadian International Dragon Boat Festival Society	Vessi 500 Championship	May 23, 2025	\$5,000
13. Vancouver Thunderbirds Track Club	Longest Day Road Race	June 13, 2025	\$5,000
14. Latincouver Cultural & Business Society	Get Ready 4 World Cup	July 12-13, 2025	\$5,000
15. Vancouver Comets Netball Association	2025 Vancouver Mixed Netball Tournament	July 19, 2025	\$3,500

Organization	Event	Date	Grant Recommended
16. Hastings Baseball Club	Little League 9/10 Provincial Championships	July 20-26, 2025	\$10,000
17. Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Tennis Society (VTA)	Vancouver International Pride Tennis Tournament	August 1-4, 2025	\$5,000
18. The Canada One Athletic Foundation	KitsFest 25	August 8-10,2025	\$5000
19. False Creek Canoe Society	Head Up the Creek	October 25, 2025	\$2,500
20. BC Wheelchair Sports Association	Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Championships	November 13-16, 2025	\$10,000
		TOTAL	\$123,500

Financial Implications

The recommended Community Sport Hosting Event Grants will be funded from the 2024 Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Program Budget as detailed below.

TABLE 2. VANCOUVER COMMUNITY SPORT EVENT GRANTS, FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Program Stream	2024 Budget	Previously Approved Grants	Current Report Recommended Grants	2024 Budget Remaining
Community Sport Event Grant Program	\$239,721	\$89,000	\$123,500	\$27,221
Total	\$239,721	\$89,000	\$123,500	\$27,221

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends that Council approve 20 grants totalling \$123,500 as outlined in the body of this report. The Recommendations are aligned with the recommendations of the Vancouver Community Sport Event Grant review panel and are the result of a review process consistent with the policy and guidelines approved by Council. This is the second of two application intakes for 2024.

APPENDIX A

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

This appendix provides an overview of the previous Council decisions related to Community Sport Hosting Grants:

2004: Council approved a policy statement in support of celebrations, sporting events and special events: “ Council welcomes celebrations and special events for their contribution in making Vancouver a vibrant City, in reflecting our cultural diversity and neighbourhood character, and for economic, cultural and recreational benefits they bring to the City. Council supports the facilitation of these events by staff, encourages mitigation of short-term disruptions in neighbourhoods and encourages cities to welcome these activities and to participate in them.”

2006: Council approved a Sport Hosting Policy and Sport Hosting Grant Program effective January 1, 2007, with annual funding of \$200,000 to support a range of sporting events.

2008: Council adopted the Vancouver Sport Strategy as a guide to the City's future initiatives and engagement with sport programs, facilities and events.

2011: Council approved revisions to the Sport Hosting Grant Program guidelines to improve the effectiveness of the grant and better serve local sport organizations. 2015: Council adopted the Sport Hosting Vancouver Action Plan, and approved the creation of the Sport Tourism Development Fund with funding of \$1.0 million over 2 years as the City's commitment to this Fund which will support MAJOR sport events that advance the Sport Hosting Vancouver Action Plan goals. In that same decision, Council approved the change of name from the City's current 'Sport Hosting Grant Program' to the 'Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Grant Program', and directed staff to review the program and provide recommendations for any changes necessary to enhance the grant program. This grant program has an ongoing annual Operating Budget funding of \$200,000.

2016: Council approved revisions to the 'Vancouver Community Sport Hosting Grant Program', expanding the type of events that are eligible for funding at a community level, including Local or Regional Sport Tournaments, New Sport Event Initiatives, and Annual Sport Events.

2019: Council approved the recommendations for the City Participation in Women Deliver 2019 Conference (RTS 12946) including approval of the allocation of \$35,000 from the 2019 Sport Hosting Program budget to launch the new program stream of “Community Sport Champions Recognition” that will align with the themed Women Deliver objectives. Each year, the theme of the recognition program will change.

Approval of grant recommendations requires eight affirmative votes.

APPENDIX B
OVERVIEW OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL SPORT TOURNAMENT GRANT
RECOMMENDATIONS FALL 2024 INTAKE

This appendix provides a brief description of each of the recommended events listed in Table 1 of this report.

1. **Vancouver Pacific Swim Club – VPSC Winter Invitational:** This meet will fill a gap in racing in Western Canada and will be seen as Western Canada's Ontario Junior International (OJI) equivalent. The VPSC Winter Invitational will be a short course (SC) meet and not limited to 18 and over swimmers.
2. **Vancouver Curling Club – Pac Rim Bonspiel:** Since 1984 the Pac Rim Cup Bonspiel is an annual event that is now celebrating its 42nd year in 2024. The event is hosted by the Pacific Rim Curling League (PRCL), a 2SLGBTQ+ oriented league which boasts a membership of 240+. It is both the largest curling league at the Vancouver Curling Club, as well as the largest in the province of BC.
3. **Canadian Dolphin Swim Club – Mies Schootman Invitational Swim Meet 2025:** The CDSC Mies Schootman Invitational Meet has been held at the Vancouver Aquatic Centre annually for the past 14 years. The club's signature event draws approximately 450 age group (youth) swimmers, their coaches and supporters from swim clubs all over the Lower Mainland and regional areas of BC.
4. **UBC Weightlifting and Powerlifting Club - UBC New Year's Championships:** The first BC Powerlifting Association sanctioned competition of 2025, the UBC New Year's Championships is hosted at the AMS NEST and run by student volunteers.
5. **RUNVAN – 2025 First Half:** Recognized as Canada's fastest half marathon, the event is capped at 2,500 runners and kicks off the running season as athletes prepare for the Vancouver International Marathon. The 21.1KM scenic route starts at Roundhouse Community Centre, continues past Sunset Beach along the Seawall and back towards the historic Yaletown neighbourhood.
6. **BC School Sports – 2025 BC School Sports Wrestling Provincial Championship:** This competition will feature twenty-nine weight classes of male and female wrestlers from throughout the province who will compete on behalf of their school to advance and become the winner of their weight class. Hosted at the PNE Forum, it's a celebration of student athletes and their athletic prowess.
7. **Canadian Dolphin Swim Club – Swim BC Island & Coastal Vancouver Winter Divisional Championships:** This is a Swim BC Winter Divisional Championship Competition for youth aged 8-18. The meet allows a high level of competition among swimmers from Vancouver and the lower mainland to prepare for provincials, reducing the cost of travel, and making training competitions more accessible to local athletes.
8. **Vancouver Lawn Tennis and Badminton Club - Western Canadian Jr Super Series:** The Western Canadian Jr. Super Series is a new event which is part of Badminton Canada's Jr Elite Circuit. The differentiator is that this event will only allow the best in the country to contest in this premier event which has increased point values for participants as a lead up to the National Junior Championships later in the year. This event is part of the philosophy of

increasing meaningful competition and in the Learning to Win LTD stage. Because it is the first event as such, we expect a large number of spectators from across the country.

- 9. Canadian International Dragonboat Festival Society – Burnwater Youth Regatta:** The Burnwater Youth Regatta (BYR) sets the tone in the morning, and Burnwater Spring Sprint (BSS) in the afternoon brings the speed, as our one-day season opener race marks dragon boat's annual return to False Creek. The race features high school teams from around the Sea to Sky corridor, Lower Mainland, and Fraser Valley, as well as local under-24 teams from the community and post-secondary institutions.
- 10. World Deaf Hockey Championships Organizing Committee – 2025 World Deaf Ice Hockey Championships:** The World Deaf Ice Hockey Championships are the quadrennial ICSD-sanctioned sport event for the participants, male and female, with hearing loss of several levels being moderate, severe, and profound. Furthermore, it provides an opportunity for participants to share competition experience in their own cultural level related to being either Deaf or Hard of Hearing and to communicate each other with use of sign language.
- 11. Hastings Baseball Club – Fred Ritchie Invitational:** Hosting 16 little league teams from the Greater Vancouver area and Fraser Valley; this year invitations to clubs from the Greater Victoria area who have expressed an interest in attending will also be extended. This tournament is among the only Little League tournaments in the lower mainland for the 9-10 year old age group as most other associations have stopped hosting tournaments in this age group post-pandemic.
- 12. Canadian International Dragonboat Festival Society - Vessi 500 Championship:** The Vessi 500 Championship (V500) is one of Canada's biggest dragon boat races with 110+ team entries racing annually in Mixed, Women, and Open divisions. Racers range in age from 12 to 80+ reflecting our desire to create opportunities for everyone to participate in sport at a range of levels.
- 13. Vancouver Thunderbirds Track Club – Longest Day Road Race:** The event is a celebration of running and a welcome of the summer, a time for the community to come together competing in 5km and 10km races, followed by a social event in the form of a bbq and party with music and kid's events. Benefits from the event support the Elementary Track and Field Outreach Program.
- 14. Latincover Cultural & Business Society – Ready 4 World Cup 2025:** Part of the #LatinAmericanExperience at Carnaval Del Sol organized by Latincover. A two-day soccer tournament with 8 teams at Andy Livingston Park Soccer Fields celebrating culture and sport.
- 15. Vancouver Comets Netball Association – 2025 Vancouver Mixed Netball Tournament:** The Vancouver Comets provide open opportunities for all genders, ages and ability to play netball in a welcoming environment year-round. Vancouver Comets are the reigning US Open Champions, and host the only international netball tournament in BC. This one-day tournament will see over 150 athletes, umpires and spectators join us at the UBC Student Recreation Centre to participate and watch international netball.
- 16. Hastings Baseball Club – Little League 9/10 Provincial Championships:** Hastings Little League will be hosting the district representatives in the 9-10 year old age group from 7 districts from across BC including the Island and the Kootenays. It will be a round robin

tournament format followed by a playoff round played at Hastings Community Park baseball fields.

17. Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Tennis Society - Vancouver International Pride Tennis

Tournament: The Vancouver International Pride (VIP) Tournament is an annual tournament attracting over 140 LGBTQ2S+ tennis players to Vancouver over Pride Weekend. Athletes come from across Canada, the US, Mexico and Asia-Pacific. The VIP Tournament is one of the stops on the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA) World Tour.

18. The Canada One Athletics Foundation – KitsFest: The annual KitsFest is a three-day festival of sports and culture. The culmination of multi-sport tournament; incorporating free public activities and entertainment for all ages.

19. False Creek Canoe Society – Head Up the Creek Rowing Regatta: The Head Up the Creek Rowing Regatta on Vancouver's False Creek takes place on Canada's most accessible urban waterway. The race crowns the City of Vancouver Rowing Champion, with competitors ranging in age from 14 to 70. It is the last race of the season.

20. BC Wheelchair Sports – Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Championships: The Birmingham National Wheelchair Tennis Tournament is a four-day tournament hosted at the UBC Tennis Centre in Vancouver, BC. This event will welcome players from across the country to compete across multiple divisions including the Men's Open, Women's Open, Quad, and Junior divisions in Singles and Doubles events.