BC SCHOOL SPORTS
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BC SCHOOL SPORTS
ELIGIBILITY CLARIFICATION
GRADE 8 AND 9- Home schools and Movement
17 June 2011

PART D - STUDENT-ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

BCSS recognizes the right of all student-athletes to choose which school they attend and which subjects they study. BCSS, however, is charged with the responsibility of drafting, implementing and enforcing rules on eligibility for those student-athletes who seek the privilege of participating in interschool competition. The over-riding purpose of these rules is to ensure fair and equitable competition for all student-athletes participating in BCSS restricted competition.

A) <u>Eligibility Rules – Grade 8 and 9s effective September 2011</u>
The group reviewed the resolution accepted at the 2011 AGM and discussed several main areas of concerns as identified by LVISSA specific to a student-athletes home schools being determined in Grade 8.

1) Regulation 12.3.1b – requirement to modify the wording to capture the essence of this particular section.

D12.3.1 Student-athlete advancing to a More Senior School:

a) A student-athlete graduating from a middle school or junior secondary School may proceed to the school into which his/her middle school orJunior secondary school normally feeds, without any restrictions

b) Notwithstanding D12.3.1a) above, a student-athlete graduating from a **middle school/ junior secondary** may proceed to any other public school in the **same** school district, as long as District policy is followed.

("Online Transfer Form" must be completed online with the registration of the student-athlete on the online Student-Athlete Registration Form. In addition, all requested documents as noted above must be forwarded to the BCSS office within seven (7) school days of the online registration)

-no additional paperwork regarding this transfer will be required. Self-regulation and District policy will suffice.

2) Middle schools who do not register teams or student-athletes with BCSS - the student-athletes have not declared their home school status and will do so the first day of secondary school. Because of this, they carry their eligibility with them to secondary school.
Even if the middle school were registered members and had registered teams, BCSS already has language regarding the transfer of students from a middle school setting to their more senior

school to follow district policies. Given that districts have catchment and cross boundary transfer processes, the grade 8 students will carry their eligibility with them as they advance, provided they meet the deadlines and requirements of the transfer process. However, those Grade 8 student-athletes, who choose to play up to a secondary school team do declare their status and will be expected to transfer to that secondary school or be subjected to the eligibility rules of BCSS. **In the case of middle schools that are grades 7-9 this statement applies to grade 9 student-athletes.**

3) Movement of Grade 8 and 9 students – latitude and flexibility for movement as noted:

   Grade 8 and 9 for the school year 2011-2012

   Grade 8 for the school year 2012-2013

   And transfers from public to public, public to non-public, non-public to public, non-public to non-public will be treated the same. 'Student-Athletes entering a non-public or public school in any secondary grade level, other than the school's most junior grade, are not eligible to compete until an Eligibility Application has been submitted and the Eligibility Officer has approved that application'.

   Non-Public Schools whose first entry grade is after grade 8. A simple Grade 8-9 Eligibility Application must be submitted to the Eligibility Officer for new student-athletes entering the school indicating that they have entered at the most junior grade.

4) Grade 8-9 Eligibility Application– a new simplified one page eligibility application will be created for Grade 8-9s for the term 2011-2013 to allow for this two year transition period.

BCSS philosophy is that when a student has a natural transition (transitioning from junior or middle school environment) to a secondary school, all students will have the opportunity to choose their secondary school (provided they follow district policy or enter the non-public school's most junior grade).