



British Columbia
School Trustees
Association

June 12, 2018

Mike Allina

President

BC School Sports

2003A – 3713 Kensington Ave.

Burnaby, B.C. V5B 0A7

Dear Mr. Allina,

Re: Request for BC School Sports to review its policies in relation to small rural schools

At the most recent Annual General Meeting of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA), our membership passed the following resolution:

‘That BCSTA request that BC School Sports review its policies that impact the ability of small, rural schools and impede their ability to field teams qualified to participate in BC School Sports and specifically give consideration to:

1. removing restrictions on transferring to and from small, remote districts;
2. transferring between schools in small communities/districts or combining teams;
3. allowing Grade 7 students to play on high school teams;
4. increasing the number of eligible years a student can play to six;
5. setting dates for provincial berths early; and
6. establishing an alternate “tiering” system.’

Our members believe very strongly that all students, regardless of their geographic location, local school configuration, or community attributes should be provided with reasonable opportunities to participate in extracurricular sports. While we understand and support the need for regulation and oversight of competitive athletics, we want to ensure this is balanced by rules and processes that encourage and support participation by all students. In a province as large and diverse as ours, ‘one size’ rules can provide barriers to students in specific situations that do not fit the standard urban mold.

The intent of our motion is to encourage your organization to review its policies and processes with a view to enabling and encouraging student participation in extracurricular sports programs in small, rural schools that cannot meet the current standards. Any changes that you might implement in this regard would be appreciated and valued not only by our members, but by the students and families who attend school in the remote geographic locations.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to any future dialogue on this important proposal that you might consider. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss this matter or to explore potential solutions.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gordon Swan".

Gordon Swan

President – BCSTA