



Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch – SPAR –

Summer 2025 Newsletter

Fairness and Safety in Sport

The [Fairness and Safety in Sport Act](#) (formerly Bill 29) establishes a balanced approach to protect the integrity of female athletic competitions by ensuring women and girls have the opportunity to compete in biological female-only divisions, while also ensuring transgender athletes are able to meaningfully participate in the sport of their choice.

The *Fairness in Safety in Sport Act* and regulation will come into force on September 1, 2025. A reminder that in-scope organizations are required to create and implement policies for athlete eligibility that align with requirements set out in the regulation, including limiting eligibility for female-only divisions to biologically female athletes. The Act also supports the expansion and creation of mixed-sex leagues, classes or divisions, where numbers warrant. Follow this link for additional [resources](#) and questions may be directed to SPAR@gov.ab.ca.

National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Updates

September 15-21, 2025, marks the 11th annual National Coaches Week! It is a time to celebrate the positive impact coaches have on athletes and communities across Canada.

To celebrate National Coaches Week and to show appreciation for Alberta coaches:

- SPAR is offering a 50% discount on NCCP Multi-Sport Modules throughout September.
- Look for FREE NCCP eLearning Modules on the Locker during National Coaches Week. Each day, between September 15-21, a different eLearning module will be offered to coaches for free!
- Coaches can view the available courses on the [NCCP Multi-Sport Calendar](#) with registration for discounted September modules opening on August 1, 2025.
- Coaches are encouraged to register early as each module has limited availability and will sell out fast.
- Join in the National Coaches Week celebration where local clubs and organizations can refer to the [National Coaches Week Participation Guide](#) to access promotional graphics and plan their own National Coaches Week events and activities.

Core Training is the first of the four-step pathway to become a [NCCP Coach Developer \(Learning Facilitator / Coach Evaluator\)](#). All Core Training modules will be offered at a flat rate of \$25 throughout September compared to the regular rate of \$65-\$105.

To access the September Core Training modules, Provincial Sport Organizations (PSO) can request the registration links by emailing abcoach@gov.ab.ca and then share it with your identified coaches. Alternatively, coaches can forward a PSO email to abcoach@gov.ab.ca and SPAR will email the registration link to them directly.

New Director – SPAR Branch

The Ministry of Tourism and Sport is pleased to announce that Glen Gamble is the new Director, Policy and Grants for the SPAR Branch!

Glen is a Government of Alberta veteran and comes to us from the Ministry of Education and Childcare, where he was the Director of the Capital Programs Branch. Glen's leadership, experience managing complex grant programs and working with a variety of stakeholders will serve him well in this new role. Welcome Glen – we look forward to working with you!

2025 Canada Summer Games begin August 8, 2028

Alberta is proud to send 495 athletes, coaches, managers, and mission staff to St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador for the Canada Summer Games. Twenty-six teams will compete in 18 sports on "The Rock" from August 8-25, 2025. The Canada Summer Games kick off on August 8 with Team Alberta marching into the Opening Ceremonies.

During the games, follow Team Alberta on [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [Facebook](#) and catch extensive live streaming and/or on-demand coverage of most sports available for free at [Canada Games TV](#).

Please visit the [Canada Games website](#) for more information on the games and the [Team Alberta website](#) for a list of Team Alberta athletes and their hometowns. You can also visit the [Games Results website](#) for Team Alberta daily results.

Good luck to everyone at the games!

Major Sport Events (MSE) Grant: Applications Open September 3, 2025

The MSE grant program builds on Alberta's reputation as an attractive destination with proven capacity for hosting a wide range of national and international sport events. It recognizes the network of strong sport organizations who demonstrate the ability to collaborate and deliver high quality events.

The program provides an opportunity to build on Alberta's strengths that include diverse natural landscapes; existing sport and tourism-related facilities; and vibrant communities with quality services and amenities.

Applications for the 2025 MSE Intake 2 open on September 3, 2025. Please visit the [MSE webpage](#) for the 2025 MSE grant guidelines and application form.

Podium Alberta Grant: Now Open

Podium Alberta, Alberta's High-Performance Athlete Assistance Program, is open for applications from June 30 to October 2, 2025.

The grant supports Alberta's high performing athletes by:

- helping athletes continue their pursuit of athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition
- encouraging athletes to stay in Alberta to live and train
- enabling athletes to successfully pursue excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals
- increasing athlete access to high-performance coaching and sports science practitioners
- enhancing training and competitive opportunities available to athletes

Please visit the [Podium Alberta webpage](#) for more information and eligibility requirements.

Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) Conference and Energize Workshop

This year, the conference theme is "Community Connections". Fostering strong connections within communities is essential for creating vibrant and inclusive spaces. The conference will be held at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise from October 23-25, 2025.

The 2025 ARPA Conference & Energize Workshop invites participants to step Beyond the Backyard and explore how recreation and parks can inspire local tourism, foster community pride, and strengthen connections to the places we call home.

Parks, trails, and recreational spaces are more than just places to visit—they are catalysts for exploration, connection, and well-being. This year's conference highlights how recreation and parks professionals can create meaningful local experiences,

from uncovering hidden gems and enhancing outdoor adventures to fostering cultural appreciation and environmental stewardship.

Registration opens at the end of July. Please go to the [ARPA website](#) for more information and receive early bird pricing.

Concussion Awareness

Access information on concussion in sport at the [Sport Information Resource Centre](#). You will find feature resources and quick facts to increase your awareness.

Our mailing address is:

Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch

Suite 500, 10055 106 Street

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1G3

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