



Coach Chronicle

March 2007

Welcome to the BCWBS Coach Chronicle. You are receiving this publication because you are a valued member of the BC Wheelchair Basketball Society. To submit information to the Coach Chronicle please email marni@bcwbs.ca by the 15th of the month.

2007 Canada Winter Games are underway in Whitehorse

Last week the 2007 Winter Canada Games got underway in the Yukon. The Honorable Stephen Harper made the trip to Whitehorse to declare the Games officially open while athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers and locals were cheering on the amazing artistic performances displayed during the Opening Ceremonies.

Other well-known Canada Games Alumni and Olympic Medalists, such as Brian Orser, Sue Holloway and Hayley Wickenheiser, were part of the celebration as they walked into the amphitheatre with the Canada Games Flag.

The BC Provincial Junior wheelchair basketball team will be heading off to the Games on Friday March 2 to participate in week 2 of the Canada Games competitions. Stay tuned to the BCWBS (www.bcwbs.ca) and Team BC (www.teambc.org) websites for information on how the team is doing.

Leveling the playing field for Canadian athletes: Improving Anti-Doping Roles in Canada and Abroad

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has released a draft of the new World Anti-Doping Code (Code) for comment. The CCES will submit comments on the

draft of the new Code on behalf of the Canadian sport community. Once finalized, the new Code will be implemented in Canada and for Canadian sport by revising the Canadian Anti-Doping Program. The Code has been instrumental in harmonizing anti-doping rules world-wide. It has raised the standards of anti-doping programs in Canada and abroad. This has enhanced the protection of Canadian athletes' right to doping-free sport. But there is room for improvement.

The Canadian Anti-Doping Program belongs to Canadian sport and all Canadians. It is part of the rules of sport of all federally funded and recognized sports in Canada. The Program implements the Code for Canadian sportsmen and sportswomen. The views of Canadians and their sport organizations are vital to Canadian and international anti-doping rules that are fair, practical and effective. Tell the CCES what you think about the draft new Code so we can make Canada's voice heard. For further information or to let us know what you think, contact newcode@cces.ca.

Female Coach Mentorship Program

BC Games Society, the Coaches Association of BC and ProMOTION Plus are offering a Coaching Mentor /Apprenticeship Program for Female Apprentices which will run from May, 2007 to March 31, 2008. Applications are being accepted until **midnight, March 19th, 2007** to be a mentor or apprentice coach leading up to the Kimberley – Cranbrook 2008 BC Winter Games. The Coaching Mentor/Apprenticeship Program will target female coaches interested in developing their coaching skills leading up to and culminating in their attendance at the 2008 BC Winter Games. The program is based on matching an apprentice coach with a mentor coach (NCCP Level Two required). The program will be structured to support the individual needs of the two coaches and to provide a format that can benefit both the selected apprentice coaches and their mentors. A maximum of 10 mentor and 10 female apprentice coaches will be selected to attend the 2008 BC Winter Games in Kimberley - Cranbrook. Check out www.coaches.bc.ca for more information.

The Coaching Association of Canada Builds Partnerships: CAC and the Canada Games Council “It's a mutual admiration society.”

Since their beginning in Quebec City in 1967, the Canada Games have successfully provided an important and exciting competitive environment for young athletes from every province and territory. Often described as “the gateway to excellence”, the Games have also proven to be beneficial for coaches. A key element is the partnership between the Canada Games Council (CGC) and the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC). At the core of the partnership is the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP), which the CGC adopted in setting its minimum coaching standards. Accordingly, the CGC's Coach Certification Policy states that “All Canada Games coaches are required to have full NCCP Level 3 certification (Theory, Technical, and Practical) a

minimum of 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremonies.” In effect since 1993, the policy applies to all coaches appointed by provincial and territorial sport organizations to coach their respective Canada Games teams.

CAC and the CGC also share a strong commitment to ensuring that women in coaching are given more and better opportunities, CAC through its Women in Coaching Program, and the CGC through its support of the Women in Coaching Canada Games Apprenticeship Program. The initiative, which is also supported by the Provincial/Territorial Coaching Coordinators Committee, Sport Canada, the Games’ host society, and the provincial/territorial sport associations, aims to provide women apprentice coaches with domestic multi-sport Games experience and to facilitate a stronger network of women coaches and leaders at the provincial/territorial levels.

As the CGC moves in new directions, seeking to widen its scope to include between-Games initiatives, several promising new programs have been put in place under the umbrella title, “Inspiring Dreams and Building Champions”. The Canada Games FAST Track athlete grant program provides direct financial assistance to Canada’s next generation of national team athletes to support their training and competition requirements. “Our intent is to go 365 days a year to build value into the Canada Games property,” says Hylland, who points out that there is potential for developing a parallel program for coaches. “I’ve had an initial discussion with CAC because, over time, I would love to find a way to initiate another program for younger developing coaches, using the Canada Games as a lever to do that. Once the athlete grant program is on solid ground, this is certainly one of those things I want to include in our ongoing discussions with CAC.” Flett sums up the CAC/CGC partnership as “a mutual admiration society” and expects even more collaboration in the future. “We’ll be hand in hand with them as they move forward to develop new policies about coach certification requirements as the new NCCP rolls out.” Article by Sheila Robertson

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