

Wildcard System **(Individual Sports only)**

Background

The BC Games Society Board of Directors asked staff to implement a “no back filling” policy for individual sports for the 2000 BC Summer and BC Winter Games because feedback from several individual sports was that the system implemented did not work. In an attempt to find a better system, the BC Games staff introduced a “wildcard system” at a Provincial Sport Organization meeting on November 18, 2000 and subsequently requested PSO feedback (by December 15, 2000) following that meeting. The Wildcard System was introduced for the following reasons:

1. Remain committed to province-wide sport development on a zone-by-zone basis, without allowing the back filling that has occurred in previous years.
2. Allow PSOs to bring a few extra top athletes who would otherwise not qualify from their zones.
3. Maintain the established gender balance for each sport.
4. To enable PSOs to better meet the minimum athlete participation requirements as outlined in the BC Games Core Sport Policy and to foster a stronger competition.

Team sports are not allocated wildcard spots; the wildcard policy only applies to individual sports. The replacement teams policy applies to team sports.

Wildcard System

If a sport is able to fill their zone athlete totals, then the wildcard system is not needed and will not be used for that sport. If a sport is unable to fill their athlete zone totals, then the wildcard system will be applied when the zone allocation is determined with each sport.

The number of wildcard spots will generally be achieved by dividing the total number of athletes allocated to the sport by nine. The eight zones will all receive equal numbers of athletes and the remaining spots will become the wildcards spots.

The Event Manager responsible for sport for the respective Games, in consultation and negotiation with each respective Provincial Advisor, will determine the **total** number of athletes each sport can send to the BC Summer or BC Winter Games, including the number of athletes allocated per zone and the number of wildcard spots for the sport.

The intention is that wildcard spots are allocated by the Provincial Advisor to the next best athletes who did not otherwise qualify for the Games. The Provincial Advisor, in consultation with the Zone Reps and/or Coaches, will determine which athletes will fill the wildcard spots.

All athletes (including wildcards) will compete for the zone in which they live (as per the BC Games eligibility rules) and will be registered for that zone. Once all registration for a sport is completed, BC Games staff will review numbers to ensure each sport has not gone over their total number of athletes as published in the technical package for the sport.

Where a zone does not fill all of its allocated spots, those unfilled spots remain unused and cannot be converted to wildcard spots.

The male/female split of wildcard spots will generally reflect the male/female split for that sport. Example – if there were six male weight classes and four female weight classes then the wildcard spots would be broken down six and four as well.

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