

## **Sport Definition Parameters**

**SPORT IS A REGULATED FORM OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ORGANIZED AS A CONTEST BETWEEN TWO OR MORE PARTICIPANTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING A WINNER BY FAIR AND ETHICAL MEANS.** Such contest may be in the form of a game, match, race, or other form of competitive event.

Sport is governed and sanctioned by a sport governing body (sport federation) that holds the responsibility for, notably, setting out the rules of play, either at the national level or at the world level, for awarding the organization of its championship(s), and designating the winner(s) of its championship(s). For the purpose of determining eligibility to its funding programs, Sport Canada has established that a sport should meet the following set of characteristics.

Its primary activity involves physical interaction between participants and/or between participants and the environment: air, water, ice, snow, ground, special surface or apparatus, with or without the use of a special conveyance (e.g., bicycle, canoe, horse, luge, parachute, sailboat, skate, ski, wheelchair).

It requires specialized neuromuscular and cardio-vascular skills - such as speed, strength, stamina, flexibility, balance, precision and coordination - that involve large muscle groups or those which the individual has the ability to utilize, and which can be taught, learned and improved.

It relies on recognized general principles of long term athlete development that are adapted to the specific sport and are designed to provide a technically and ethically safe and sound sport experience at all levels of the continuum from initiation to playing, to training and competing up to and including performing at the highest levels of the sport, under the guidance of qualified coaches.

It involves formal rules and procedures to ensure a safe and fair outcome for all participants.

It requires fair, ethical and effective tactics and strategies.

It requires a competitive format and structure, sanctioned by the recognized governing body for the sport, either at the national or world level, and open to all participants who meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the rules of the sport.

Its competitive events require the on site presence of officials sanctioned by the sport governing body to objectively, fairly and consistently apply the rules.

The main form of the sport may comprise two or more competitive sub-forms called events or disciplines that share the main characteristics of the sport with variations according to various parameters: different distances, styles, apparatus, weight categories, gender, etc. An event is a specific competition (specific distance, technique, gender) that is contested for the purpose of designating a winner or champion for a specific geographic region (country, continent, world) and for a specific period of time (year, Olympiad). Men's 100m sprint, women's Giant Slalom and men's 8s in rowing are examples of events (also designated as medal events). Events that are similar in nature or share common traits may be grouped under the heading of a "discipline". Men's freestyle wrestling, men's Greco-roman wrestling and women's freestyle wrestling are three disciplines within wrestling, each comprising various weight categories that make up the sport's medal events. Similarly, road, track and mountain bike are three cycling disciplines.

Consistent with Sport Canada's policy for persons with a disability in support of inclusion, forms or adaptations of sports that have been developed specifically for athletes with a disability are considered distinct disciplines within the mainstream sport and its governing body.

### **Limitations for funding purposes:**

Certain categories of sports or competitive activities fall outside Sport Canada parameters for funding purposes and are therefore excluded:

- Sports in which athletes directly use and control motorized propulsion as a component of competition. (e.g., racing of automobiles, motorcycles, power boats, aircraft, snow machines, etc.).
- Games of skill such as billiards, darts, board games (chess, bridge, scrabble), and electronic games.
- The professional or commercial component of sports, owned and/or operated outside the jurisdiction of the sport's recognized National or International Sport Federation by private enterprises, promoters, major professional leagues, franchises or other professional associations.
- Related forms, variations or adaptations of existing sports, disciplines and/or events will generally be considered as disciplines within the original sport and not be considered as a distinct sport for eligibility purposes, regardless of the fact that such related forms, variations or adaptations may be organized independently from or outside existing NSOs.
- Competitions (multi-event or multi-sport) and competitive activities developed as a variation, adaptation, combination or dimension of other non-sport or sport activities will not be eligible (e.g., police, firefighter, military games, life-saving competitions, ski patrol competitions, etc.).

These limitations are based on 2 principles:

- A. Sport Canada is committed to providing support at the highest level of international competition, this means supporting the sport's most competitive events at the international level (i.e., Olympic, Paralympic and World Championship events) as well as their relevant developmental counterparts domestically as per each NSO's Long Term Athlete Development.
- B. Given limited funding resources, it is not feasible to provide support to all sports, let alone all events.

Sport Canada reserves the right to determine whether an application falls outside its sport definition parameters.