



# Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Branch – SPAR –

May 2025 Newsletter

## National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Updates

For many sports, the competition season is well under way, for some it is just starting. Coaches, please do not forget to take the time to make sure your certification is up to date.

The June [NCCP Multi-Sport Calendar](#) has been updated. Early registration is encouraged as most modules sell out quickly

## 2024 Alberta Sport Recognition Awards Winners

Congratulations to the 2024 Alberta Sport Recognition Awards winners! The 2024 Alberta Sport Awards will be presented by Minister Joseph Schow at the Alberta Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on June 7, 2025.

These high-performance athletes, coaches and officials have demonstrated great achievements in International and National competitions. They are all well deserving of this acknowledgement.

Since 1987, the Alberta Sport Awards have been presented annually to honour the extraordinary athletic accomplishments of our Alberta athletes, teams, coaches, and officials. Past recipients include Olympic Champions Catriona LeMay Doan, Kyle Shewfelt, Katelyn Osmond, and Erica Weibe. Alberta develops some of the best athletes, coaches, and officials in the world as demonstrated by this year's winners.

- Junior Male Athlete of the Year:
  - Aiden Norman – Swimming
- Junior Female Athlete of the Year:
  - Dianna Proctor – Athletics
- Junior Team of the Year:
  - U22 Female Box Lacrosse Team – Lacrosse
- Open Male Athlete of the Year:
  - Marco Arop – Athletics
- Open Female Athlete of the Year:
  - Hallie Clark – Skeleton
- Open Team of the Year:
  - Team Canada Sitting Volleyball Team – Volleyball
- Coaching Recognition Award:
  - Joe Cecchini – Skeleton
  - Alex Dawson – Swimming
  - Ron Thompson – Athletics
- Don Watts Coach Developer Award:
  - Jackie Cool – Swimming

- Technical Official Recognition Award:
  - Louise Buskas – Athletics
  - Drew Fischer – Soccer
  - Jeff Verhoevan – Boxing
- Sport Volunteer Recognition Award
  - Blair Carbert – Speedskating
  - Virginia Dilger – Water Polo

Congratulations again to all the award recipients. We wish you continued success as you work toward your goals and dreams! Check out the [Alberta Sport Awards Website](#) for more information on the award recipients.

## Active Communities Initiative Grant opened on May 1, 2025

The Active Communities Initiative (ACI) is open to eligible community groups, non-profit organizations, societies, and First Nations and Métis Settlements that wish to build or enhance active spaces that support sport and recreation in their communities.

ACI aims to fund capital projects that increase sport, physical activity, and recreation opportunities for Albertans. The initiative addresses sport and recreation infrastructure pressures by supporting eligible organizations to renew, expand, and/or build small to medium sized public-use community sport and recreation facilities.

Please visit the [Active Communities Initiative Grant Webpage](#) for more information and program guidelines. Deadline for all applications is June 30, 2025.

## Bids Now Open for the 2028 Alberta Winter and Summer Games

The Honourable Joseph Schow, Minister of Tourism and Sport invites municipalities and band councils to submit a bid to host either the “2028 Alberta Winter or Summer Games.”

Tourism and Sport must receive a letter of intent together with a letter of support from your municipality or band council, by June 30, 2025. Completed bids must be received by August 29, 2025.

If you have questions about the bid guidelines, please go to the [Alberta Games Website](#) for more details.

## Managing Type 1 Diabetes in Sport Webinar – May 13, 2025

Whether you are just starting out or already competing at a high level, this session will be packed with practical tips and strategies to help you stay on top of your blood sugars and perform at your best. Parents, Coaches and Caregivers are welcome!

Even if you or your athlete don't have Type 1 diabetes, this session may help someone you know, coach or care about.

- Insights tailored for athletes of all ages and skill abilities.
- Real-life experience from a Diabetic Candidate with over 20 years of lived experience in both sport and Type 1 diabetes management.
- Tools that athletes and coaches can use immediately – on and off the field.

Canadian Sport Institute Alberta (CSIAB) and Skylar Mackie are pleased to present this free Webinar in both English and French on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. For more information, and to register, please go to the [registration page](#).

## Stars of Alberta Nominations Now Open

Each year, thousands of Alberta volunteers dedicate their time and talents to making this province a great place to live, visit, and raise a family. Thanks to their dedication, Albertans have access to the cultural, recreational, and social programs that are cornerstones for building strong communities and promising futures for all our citizens.

Beginning April 28, 2025, you can recognize those remarkable individuals by submitting nominations for the [2025 Stars of Alberta Volunteer Awards](#). Up to nine awards – two in each category of youth, adult, and senior, and three in the breaking barriers category – will be presented this year on or around [International Volunteer Day](#), December 5, 2025.

Full information, including the online nomination form and outlines detailing the requirements of the form and reference letters can be found on the [website](#). Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2025.

## ParticipACTION Community Challenge

The ParticipACTION Community Challenge is a national physical activity and sport initiative. It encourages all Canadians to get active in the month of June as it searches for Canada's Most Active Community. Get active this June to help your community be crowned Canada's Most Active Community and support local sport and physical activity initiatives!

The challenge is open to everyone, and all minutes tracked on the app and website from June 1 – 30 counts toward a community's total score.

After June 30, 2025, finalist communities will be invited to submit an application to be named Canada's Most Active Community. Please visit the [ParticipACTION website](#) for more details.

## June is Recreation and Parks Month

Get ready and start your planning! [June is Recreation & Parks Month](#) (JRPM) and highlights the many benefits that recreation and parks bring to our communities and acknowledges the strong foundation of parks and recreation facilities and programs in Alberta.

June is the perfect opportunity to get active, explore the many benefits of Recreation and Parks while celebrating the ability to spend time with family and friends! We encourage you to #CelebrateJRPM by experiencing all the benefits that Recreation & Parks have to offer!

Visit your local municipal or community league website and check out what is happening in your community!

## 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.

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