



### Report on the 2023 – 2024 Year

School, community, competition, and Early Intervention programs and support continue. Our Fundamental Movement Skill resources were enhanced, and in person and online programming continued to build.

At our AGM in December 2023, the members approved updates to the [association bylaws](#), including the membership structure. For insurance purposes members are also required to complete a Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims, and Assumption of Risks. Please contact BC Blind Sports if you have any questions about this.

Funding is tight and costs continue to rise, and we have had to pass some of the costs on to program participants. We continue to seek new funding sources and appreciate the fund development contacts members provide to us.

BC Blind Sports was very pleased to welcome Lachlan Gilchrist-Blackwood to our staff team in April 2023. Lachlan joined us as our Sport Participation Coordinator through a grant, supporting the participation area, and helping with volunteers.

2023 sports days were held on the Island, in Kelowna, and in Vancouver, with 2024 multi-district sports days being held in Vancouver, Cowichan Valley, Langley, and Kelowna. We also held successful multi sport Camp Abilities on ProD days and over Spring Break – watch for more multi sport activities to come.



Photos – blind soccer, relay race – egg race, relay race – sack race.



### Our Vision

People who are blind, partially sighted, or deafblind participate in physical activity and sport.

### Our Mission

We advance participation in physical activity and sport by people who are blind, partially sighted, or deafblind.

### Supporters

We thank the following for their support: the Province of BC, Province of BC Gaming Grants, ViaSport BC, Government of Canada, (CGMA) Planet Bingo, Sport BC, private donors, foundations, and sponsors.

We most sincerely thank the **Victor and Anna Kern Foundation** for their continued and ongoing support of our Early Intervention Program over the last number of years. In the 2023-24 fiscal year we were very pleased to again receive funding from the **Moffat Family Fund** through the **Winnipeg Foundation**, for multi sport experiences for children and youth.



ViaSport Accredited Logo



ViaSport Logo



Government of Canada logo



BC Government Logo



Sport BC Logo



**PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT** Thank you to:

- BC Vision Teacher's Association members, UBC Vision Teacher's Program, and PRCVI
- CNIB and VLR BC, including CNIB Hubs
- CCB for various outreach activities
- Sunny Hill, BC Children's Hospital, Queen Alexandra Hospital
- Blind Beginnings for Early Intervention, programs, and referrals
- Children's Low Vision Project (CLVP)
- Canadian Deaf Blind Association - BC
- Our partner organizations who serve children who are blind (and their families) through a collective called Shared Vision
- Canadian Blind Ice Hockey

We value the **interaction we have with several other organizations in the field of blindness and in sport**, and the many joint service opportunities. Our partner organizations post and circulate information about BC Blind Sports to assist us in reaching and supporting people who are blind, partially sighted, and deafblind who may not already be in our network.

We presented to university programs to reach upcoming teachers and others. We attended conferences in the vision and sport communities. We promote our role in physical activity and sport for all participants who are blind, partially sighted or deafblind.

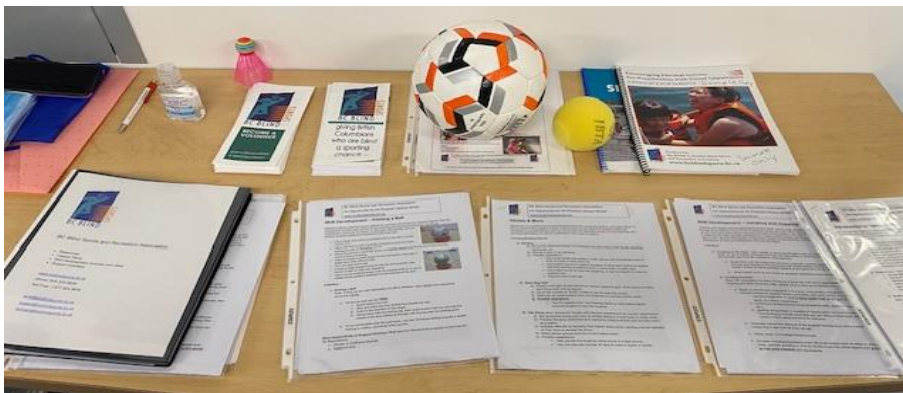


Photo – display with brochures and sport equipment



## **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SPORT**

### **Insight Project**

This project is part of our Skill Development Program and introduces adapted physical education and physical literacy activities for school-aged youth who are blind, partially sighted, or deafblind in communities throughout BC. We offer on-site (or virtual), individualized training and support to students and ongoing support to teachers, to ensure each student is participating in school and extra-curricular sport and physical activities to their best ability, along with their sighted peers. We support children and youth to participate in their community. A key focus is on fundamental movement skills.

### **Early Intervention Project**

This project is part of our Skill Development Program. The goals are that all BC's pre-school aged children who are blind, partially sighted, or deafblind are able to actively participate in physical activities, develop fundamental movement skills, and begin on a lifelong physical literacy pathway. Parents become aware of BC Blind Sports as a resource to support their children throughout their preschool years, educational careers, and into adult life. We work with others in the blindness field in BC in the early intervention area to get to know the children and families and support them in their communities to explore and become active in a variety of physical activities.



Photo – Parachute Activity



**Adult/Seniors Fitness Program** –Members from around the province are welcome to participate in the virtual fitness, yoga and dragon boat fitness classes. In person classes are also operating. Walking programs are also offered.

We were pleased to add alley bowling in Kelowna as an activity in the spring of 2023.

**Sport Guide Training** - Our many programs and activities depend very heavily on these volunteers. We continue to assist members who are looking for a guide and provide virtual as well as in person guide training and supervision. All guides are screened. Training is provided using our [Sport Guide Resource](#). A number of guides were trained in athletics, swimming, lawn bowls, and cycling.

**Active Living Network** – This program brings people together to support each other and celebrate the value of all daily physical activities. It includes informal conversations for all participants to meet each other and share ideas to create a plan to accomplish their activity goals together. They also have presentations on topics to promote health and wellness and introduce them to various activities.

**COMPETITION DEVELOPMENT** – Competitions resumed in 2023. We also continue to assist members by loaning equipment and providing individualized support and advice about training.

**Tandem Cycling** We have been loaning out more tandem bikes recently. They are also popular at sports days. We also received donations of tandems for use in our programs.





**Dragon Boat** –In 2023 four teams were active, with 3 teams, Sonar Dragons, Dragons Insight and Ex-Sighted participating in competitions. 2023 competitions included Concord Pacific, Steveston, and the Fall Classic. Three teams were fully active in 2024 with Dragons Insight and Vision Impossible being combined this year. A huge thank you is extended to **Oddball Workshop** for their grants which allowed us to participate in more competitions than usual. Oddball is the company we purchase our team uniforms from.



Photo – dragon boating.

Congratulations to Becky Armstrong who made the para team to compete in Thailand in the fall of 2023. Becky competed in 9 races and came home with 9 gold medals. See our [summer 2023 newsletter for more information](#) about Becky.

**Hockey** - Hockey ran for the full season in 2023-24 and there were also family try it days offered. Congratulations to Sean Heaslip and Gary Steeves for being selected to the 2023-24 [National Blind Ice Hockey team](#).



Photo - Try it Ice Hockey.

**Lawn Bowls** During 2023, bowlers trained in Nanaimo, Kelowna, Vancouver, and Courtenay Comox with a provincial competition being held in Nanaimo at the end of the summer, and 3 BC Blind Sports Bowlers and their directors attending nationals. The summer of 2024 saw one bowler and director attend Bowls Canada Nationals.



Photo - BC Blind Sports team Lawnbowls nationals 2023

### **Goalball**

- Two BC Men's and one Women's teams competed in 2023 at the CBSA National goalball Championships and two men's

teams competed in 2024, with Maryam Salehizadeh competing with a Quebec team.



Photo-BC Men's Goalball team in action

- In August 2023, Ahmad Zeividavi, and Doug Ripley competed on the Canadian Goalball teams at the [IBSA World Games](#) in Great Britain. Maryam Salehizadeh was named to the women's team but did not travel to the games due to injury.
- [Para Pan Am Games](#): Congratulations to Maryam Salehizadeh and the Canadian Women's Goalball team for qualifying for the 2024 Paralympic Games through their Gold Medal performance at the 2023 Para Pan Am Games. Doug Ripley and Ahmad Zeividavi played with the Canadian Men's team at Para Pan Ams, which placed 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- [Maryam](#) competed for Canada at the 2024 Paralympic Games where the team placed 5th.

**Golf** – Athletes continued to golf in their home communities. The Blind Golf ISPS Handa Competition returned to BC in 2024. BC Blind Sports supported the hosting of the event. Thanks to Darren Douma for organizing the event.

**Athletics, Swimming and Skiing and other sports** – we continue to support or promote the activities of a handful of athletes who are active at a High Performance (HP) level or competitive to HP level.





**Swimming.** Congratulations to swimmers Nika Najafi (B2, S12) and Jill Sloane (B1, S11) for their performances in 2023 and for competing at the BC Summer Games 2024 in Maple Ridge.



Photo – Jill and Nika

**Judo** - [Christina Mowatt](#), competed at the IBSA World Games and the Para Pan Ams. See our [November Newsletter](#) for an article about Christina.

## RECOGNITION

### **Sport BC President's Award**

Congratulations to Amy Amantea for being select this year as BC Blind Sport's President's Award recipient as part of Sport BC's 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Athlete of the Year Award Ceremony held in March at the Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver. This award is presented to someone who has given back by helping us build and shape our organization

Amy has been a BC Blind Sports member for a number of years. She has participated in many of our programs and has been a leader in developing our dragon boating program. Amy is a great advocate for people who are blind, partially sighted and deafblind, helping others understand the challenges our members face. Amy served on our board of directors for 10 years as a member at large and as the Athlete's Representative. She was a tremendous asset in developing policy, supporting HR, governance, and development of COVID protocols considering our participants.

**Congratulations Amy!**



## **FUND DEVELOPMENT**

We were pleased to be back giftwrapping in 2023 at Tsawwassen Mills Mall. If you are interested in helping out in 2024 you can contact [giftwrap@bcblindsports.bc.ca](mailto:giftwrap@bcblindsports.bc.ca) to connect with Tami who is kindly scheduling the volunteers again!

## **WE THANK THE FOLLOWING:**

- Our many members for their participation in our programs and for their continued acknowledgment of our support.
- Our high performance athletes and support staff who do us proud, and always remember their BC Blind Sports roots.
- Our managers, coaches, instructors, and sport guides for both their technical and administrative support.
- The members of the Board of Directors for their leadership.
  - A huge thank you to departing member of the Board of Directors, Nancy Leung. Nancy has been a long time supporter of BC Blind Sports and our activities.
- The many valuable leadership, program, and administrative volunteers who contribute so much to our organization.
- Our dedicated staff for their hard work on our behalf

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are a key component in our ability to deliver programs. They play a number of roles from coaching and instruction, to acting as sport guides, managers and program volunteers. Without this contribution of time, our programs could not be what they are.



Thank you !

Image of smiley faces



## Members of the Board of Directors 2023 – 2024

- President Brian Cowie
- Vice President Tami Boccaccio
- Treasurer Tom Ollis
- Director Bob Smith
- Director Nancy Leung
- Director Vern Short
- Director Lisa Binnie

## Staff

- Member & Volunteer Services Coordinator: Susan Flanagan
- Participation Coordinator: Lachlan Gilchrist-Blackwood
- Finance Manager: David Chung
- Office Coordinator: Linda Dooley (part time)
- Executive Director: Jane D. Blaine

Please contact [jane@bcblindsports.bc.ca](mailto:jane@bcblindsports.bc.ca) for more information about this report and our activities.

Respectfully Submitted:

Brian Cowie  
President  
On behalf of the Board

Jane D. Blaine  
Executive Director  
On behalf of the Staff

## British Columbia Blind Sports and Recreation Association

#606-4980 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5H 4K7  
(please phone before coming to the office)

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Website: [www.bcblindsports.bc.ca](http://www.bcblindsports.bc.ca)

Twitter [@bc\\_blind](https://twitter.com/bc_blind)

Facebook: [BC Blind Sports](https://www.facebook.com/BCBlindSports)

**BC BLIND SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT MARCH 31, 2024**

|  | 2024       | 2023       |
|--|------------|------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                  |            |            |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>                          |            |            |
| Cash   | \$ 50,229  | \$ 24,715  |
| Externally restricted cash - Gaming (Note 4)   | 126,759    | 131,647    |
| Externally restricted cash - ViaSport (Note 4) | 10,102     | 70,000     |
| Accounts receivable (Note 6)                   | 19,936     | 18,435     |
| Prepaid expenses                               | 11,882     | 6,181      |
|  | 218,908    | 250,978    |
| <b>LONG TERM RECEIVABLES (Note 6)</b>          | 30,000     | 42,000     |
| <b>TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 2)</b>        | 5,130      | 1,425      |
|  | \$ 254,038 | \$ 294,403 |


The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.


**BC BLIND SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT MARCH 31, 2024**

|  | 2024       | 2023       |
|--|------------|------------|
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                             |            |            |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>                     |            |            |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities       | \$ 15,786  | \$ 19,207  |
| Deferred revenue (Note 3)                      | 153,170    | 200,227    |
|  | 168,956    | 219,434    |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                              |            |            |
| NET ASSETS INVESTED IN TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS | 5,130      | 1,425      |
| NET ASSETS RESTRICTED - GAMING (Note 4)        | 3,711      | 9,255      |
| NET ASSETS RESTRICTED - VIASPORT (Note 4)      | 10,102     | 70,000     |
| NET ASSETS (DEFICIT) UNRESTRICTED              | 66,139     | (5,711)    |
|  | 85,082     | 74,969     |
|  | \$ 254,038 | \$ 294,403 |

COMMITMENT (Note 8)

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**BC BLIND SPORTS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2024**

|   | 2024             | 2023           |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| <b>REVENUES</b>                             |                  |                |
| Gaming                                      | \$ 250,066       | \$ 279,431     |
| Competition                                 | 12,197           | 6,125          |
| Contributed services (Note 5)               | 192,465          | 189,109        |
| Contributions                               | 44,532           | 27,040         |
| Covid-19 emergency support fund             | -                | 39,950         |
| Fundraising                                 | 127,053          | 133,504        |
| ViaSport grant                              | 90,040           | 90,040         |
| ViaSport program grants                     | 89,898           | -              |
| Sport BC-BCGOVT investment                  | 1,167            | 11,961         |
| Miscellaneous                               | 46,297           | 11,160         |
|   | <b>853,715</b>   | <b>788,320</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                         |                  |                |
| Awareness                                   | 23,777           | 25,826         |
| Competition development                     | 210,265          | 193,820        |
| Contributed services (Note 5)               | 192,465          | 189,109        |
| Early intervention                          | 53,908           | 59,128         |
| Fundraising & telemarketing                 | 74,803           | 82,360         |
| Insight                                     | 171,338          | 213,702        |
| Participation program                       | 27,148           | 24,048         |
| ViaSport program expenses                   | 89,898           | -              |
|   | <b>843,602</b>   | <b>787,993</b> |
| <b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>\$ 10,113</b> | <b>\$ 327</b>  |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.