



January 4th, 2021, Vancouver, BC - The British Columbia Provincial Football Association (BCPFA) is pleased to announce the launch of our Regional Academy and Development Centre program. This new "hub" initiative has been created to support the growth and development of football throughout British Columbia.

The program will provide local training opportunities for athletes wishing to be selected to Team BC, support the training and education of community coaches, and provide development assistance to local clubs and stakeholders. This exciting initiative will be delivered and coordinated through local coaches and community partners in all regions of the province.

The BCPFA is also formally announcing the expansion of the Team BC program expanded to include age groups ranging from U14 to U19 (previously U16 and U18 only) and the addition of a provincial team program in flag football. The new flag program will support the BCPFA's application to have flag football added to the BC Summer Games.

BCPFA President, Frank Naso spoke to the announcement "we are very excited to provide a local performance pathway for athletes wishing to represent British Columbia. Importantly, athletes and parents will no longer need to take the often-long road trip into metro Vancouver in order to be considered for selection to our various provincial teams"

BCPFA Executive Directors commented: "the expansion of Team BC to include athletes from 13 to 18 years old will provide an opportunity for more BC athletes to compete at a higher level. Importantly, the addition of a flag football to our Team BC program (and hopefully the BC Summer Games) will allow us to provide a clear pathway for female athletes wishing to compete at the provincial and national level and lay the foundation for the launch a female tackle program within the next 2-3 seasons"

Operations Director and ex-BC Lion, Cory Philpot added "We have some amazingly talented athletes who live in all regions of BC and it is imperative that we provide them with a clear performance pathway to play at the highest level possible. The regional program will support a player's aspiration to play junior, college and professional football"

The BCPFA will be announcing the local coaches and community partners for each regional academy in the next two weeks.

- Athletes can register for the new program at: [bcdfa.powerupsports.com](http://bcdfa.powerupsports.com)
- More detailed information can be found at [www.bcpfa.com/teambc](http://www.bcpfa.com/teambc)

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#### **About the British Columbia Provincial Football Association (BCPFA)**

The BCPFA is the governing body for the sport of football in the province and is affiliated to Football Canada as a voting member. Our non-profit organization is dedicated to supporting & developing the sport of football in British Columbia. There are currently over 5400 football players registered through one of 36 affiliated clubs across the province.