

BC FERRIES DISABILITY SPORT EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Applications must be submitted at least 10 business days (between and including Monday to Friday, not including weekends and public holidays) before the first day of travel.

Funding is available for travel from April 1st, 2025 through March 31st, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

The BC Ferries Disability Sport Experience Program will provide travel support specifically to Disability Sport Organizations and their members. Eligible applicants may apply for up to two one-way passenger vouchers per eligible traveller. Through this exciting program, BC Ferries and viaSport British Columbia assist with ferry travel costs for athletes, coaches, athlete companions, and team managers.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Athletes of any age or someone representing the athlete (e.g. caregiver, parent, guardian, coach, partner) affiliated with a Disability Sport Organization
- Not-for-profit Provincial and National Organizations
- Not-for-profit Local Sport Organizations, clubs and associations that:
 - Are a member in good standing with an appropriate Disability Sport Organization OR are working in partnership with an appropriate Disability Sport Organization; and
 - Demonstrate inclusive and equitable practices that maximize sport, recreation, physical activity, and leadership opportunities in the community
- Applications may be submitted individually or on behalf of a group: **When multiple athletes from one club or organization are applying for travel to the same event, only one application should be submitted**

TRAVEL ELIGIBILITY

Vouchers may be used by athletes of any age, coaches, managers, club volunteers and staff and athlete companions who are affiliated with a Disability Sport Organization and are traveling for tournaments, participation camps, events and regular league play in British Columbia.

Eligible events are defined as:

Tournaments: An event sanctioned by a Disability Sport Organization that brings together three or more teams or competitors to compete within British Columbia

Participation Camps, Events, or Regular League Play: A sport event organized or sanctioned by a Disability Sport Organization where individuals or teams have to travel within British Columbia to participate.

- In the event of uncertainty, viaSport will contact the relevant PSO or NSO to determine event eligibility.

Other Eligibility include:

- Coaches, managers, club volunteers and staff, and athlete companions are eligible to be included in applications, but the priority of the program is to fund travel for athletes. Additional parent chaperones are not eligible to receive funding.
- Coaches, staff members, or officials traveling to a recognized certification or professional development opportunity

Please Note* If you are competing at an international event, national championship, western championship, provincial championship or selection camp, you can apply for the [BC Ferries Sport Experience](#).

APPLICATION CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT:

Applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- Submitted by an eligible applicant (as outlined above) using the supplied online form
- Submitted a minimum of **10 business days** (*between and including Monday to Friday, not including weekends and public holidays*) before the first date of travel. Exceptions will **not** be made for late applications
- The following holiday dates are **not** included when calculating 10 business days: Good Friday, Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Canada Day, BC Day, Labour Day, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Family Day

Due to overwhelming demand, we are unable to fulfill all applications and requests. Priority will be given to:

- First time users of the BC Ferries Sport Experience Program.

The goal of the program is to support as many athletes as possible. Based on priorities and demand, certain applications may only be approved for partial funding (i.e. a request for a round trip may be approved for a one-way trip).

APPLICATION SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION:

Applications are collected on a rolling intake basis and ordered by travel date. Applications are then prioritized based on the outlined criteria above, and funding is allocated based on funds available.

It is viaSport's policy to notify every grant applicant of the status of their application. Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by email between two and 8 business days before the first day of travel outlined in the application.

If successful, vouchers will be emailed in PDF format to the email address provided in the application. In order to be valid for travel, **the vouchers must be printed out and presented to the BC Ferries agent at the ticket booth at time of check-in. Vouchers presented on electronic devices will not be accepted. Vouchers are valid for only the routes/dates shown. Unauthorized use of the voucher will result in the inability for BC Ferries to apply the applicable subsidy to your travel fares.**

CONDITIONS:

Applicants agree to and acknowledge the following conditions:

- A maximum of two one-way passenger vouchers per eligible traveller will be considered and partial funding may be awarded based on demand.
- All information provided in the application is true and complete.
- Vouchers are only valid for the event, route, and dates specified on the application. Once the application is submitted, changes cannot be accommodated.
- Vouchers are only valid if printed (vouchers will not be accepted at the terminal by showing a smart phone or computer screen).
- Applications received within the 10 business day deadline will not be considered.

If successful, applicants will be asked to complete a survey to report on the outcomes of the event and trip. The survey will be distributed to successful applicants via email after travel has concluded.

HOW TO APPLY:

Deadline: Applications will be reviewed if submitted a minimum of 10 business days before the first day of travel.

Application Steps:

- Complete the online application form on the viaSport website (see **Important Online Application Note** below)
- An automatically-generated email will be sent to the email address provided in the application to confirm that you have successfully submitted an application (*make sure to check your junk/spam folder*)
- Two to 10 business days before the first day of travel, you will receive another email to notify you of the status of your application
- If successful, the email will contain PDF vouchers – you **MUST** print out the vouchers before traveling

Important Online Application Note:

Complete the online application form here:

<https://viasport.ca/grants/bc-ferries-disability-sport-experience-program/>

You are required to create an account to apply for the grant. If you have applied for any grants through our online portal before, please use your existing account. You are able to save your application and return to it at a future time. Please be reminded to review your application prior to submission as you will not be able to modify your application after.

CONTACT AND OTHER GRANTS:

If you wish to discuss your request and its eligibility prior to applying, please contact:

Grants at viaSport BC

Phone: 778-655-1756

Email: grants@viasport.ca

If you wish to learn more about how we are transforming and scaling the impact of sport in our province, upcoming grant opportunities, and the latest sport and physical activity news in BC:

- Sign up for our [monthly newsletter](#)
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- Visit viasport.ca

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR VOUCHER HOLDERS – HORSESHOE BAY TERMINAL

Starting October 15, 2025, BC Ferries requires reservations for all travel from Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay) to Nanaimo (Departure Bay) due to terminal construction.

If you're using a voucher or gift certificate, please:

- Call BC Ferries at 1-888-223-3779 to book and pay in advance;
- Provide your voucher number during the call;
- A credit card is required to hold the booking (no-show fees apply);
- Bring your voucher to the terminal with you just in case.

Travel from Nanaimo (Departure Bay) to Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay) remains unchanged — you can still book online with a voucher.

More info: www.bcferries.com/hsb-travel