



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### PROVINCIAL FACILITY ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY – FEBRUARY 2026

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: MARCH 20, 2026

#### A. Introduction

Volleyball in British Columbia is experiencing a surge in popularity. Since the return to sport following the COVID-19 pandemic, we have witnessed a remarkable increase in participation rates, with double-digit percentage growth each year (see *Background Information* for more detail). While this growth is a positive indicator of the sport's vitality and appeal, access to facilities is a significant challenge and barrier to the ability of Volleyball BC and its member clubs to meet this demand.

To address these challenges, Volleyball BC (VBC) seeks to assess the availability of indoor and beach volleyball spaces, identify opportunities, and develop a strategy to increase the availability of facilities for volleyball. We are seeking a consultant with knowledge of sport infrastructure and experience of identifying and developing comprehensive strategies to increase facility access. The outcome of this work is the creation of a data-driven strategy to identify and support ways to support the continued growth of volleyball through access to appropriate places to play.

#### B. Objectives

The primary objective of this project is to develop a comprehensive strategy to increase access to indoor and outdoor facilities, based on a robust review and assessment of volleyball-appropriate facilities across the province. Specifically, the project aims to:

1. Understand the landscape, availability and distribution of volleyball-appropriate facilities (indoor and outdoor) across British Columbia.
2. Conduct a needs and opportunity assessment:
  - a. Inventory detailed information on current availability and use of facilities for volleyball.
  - b. Assess participation and growth trends in volleyball to overlay with facility availability.
  - c. Review the needs of current and future competition structures and formats.
  - d. Review trends relating to facility access /development for sport use, including public policy and examples of innovative solutions.
  - e. Outline current and predict future needs to support growth of the sport.
  - f. Analyze and identify strengths / weaknesses in the distribution of volleyball-appropriate facilities.
  - g. Identify and explore short, medium, and long term opportunities across the province.
3. Effectively engage with a wide range of representatives, including facility operators, clubs, and community stakeholders to gather insights and perspectives on facility availability and opportunities.
4. Create a detailed and comprehensive strategy:
  - a. Clearly identify the role that Volleyball BC and that member clubs can play.

- b. Define and prioritize actions, including identifying geographic areas of need and opportunities.
  - c. Articulate and detail actionable recommendations to address identified issues and to support future growth in volleyball participation.
5. Develop a detailed implementation plan, including timelines, key milestones, resource implications, potential partnerships and any other considerations.

### C. Background Information

- Youth club volleyball has experienced a significant increase in demand with 47% growth in participation over the last three years:

	2022			2023			2024			2025			Increase in teams per Region 2022 to 2025	Increase in Athletes per Region 2022 to 2025
	Teams	Athletes	Coaches	Teams	Athletes	Coaches	Teams	Athletes	Coaches	Teams	Athletes	Coaches		
Kootenays	2	20	3	6	54	8	8	96	16	11	133	25	450%	565%
Okanagan	96	1046	203	105	1197	240	123	1400	281	135	1598	259	41%	53%
Fraser Valley	136	1545	367	148	1744	410	161	1961	453	178	2091	502	31%	35%
Lower Mainland	130	1548	362	148	1741	404	180	2180	580	191	2379	546	47%	54%
Island	50	558	155	57	683	148	71	859	156	87	1027	216	74%	84%
North	18	203	39	28	326	52	31	365	78	33	396	82	83%	95%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>4920</b>	<b>1129</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>5745</b>	<b>1262</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>6861</b>	<b>1564</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>7624</b>	<b>1630</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>54%</b>
	<b>Increase 2022 to 2023</b>			<b>14%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>12%</b>								
	<b>Increase 2023 to 2024</b>						<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>24%</b>					
	<b>Increase 2024 to 2025</b>									<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>4%</b>		

- There are over 80 volleyball clubs around British Columbia, the majority of whom have identified a lack of access to practice facilities as one of the main factors inhibiting their operations and accommodation of demand.
- In 2024-2025 VBC undertook a comprehensive review of club volleyball competition structure to identify [changes to accommodate the continued growth in demand](#). Adapting our format to accommodate facility availability was a key consideration in this work. We are currently in Year 1 of implementing changes and will be running 200+ tournaments over the 2026 season.
- Our Provincial Championships are staged over 3 weekends at Tradex, Abbotsford, and the Olympic Oval in Richmond. In 2026 we will be accommodating over 700 teams in these signature events compared with 500 in 2023.
- Beach volleyball is experiencing a similar increase in popularity. Participation in Volleyball BC youth beach volleyball tournaments has increased in the Lower Mainland, Island and Okanagan. Between 2024 and 2025, the number of teams participating in Youth Beach Provincial Championships increased from 277 to 372, necessitating a second competition site.

- Volleyball BC has undertaken some work to improve access and availability to facilities: We currently operate a 6-court facility in Burnaby and have created a [Provincial Facilities Development Fund](#) to support the long-term development, acquisition, or lease of facilities for volleyball programming in the province.

#### D. Consultation and Engagement

The project will be directed and supported by a small Working Group composed of VBC Board and staff. A central priority will be to ensure that this project and the resulting recommendations are based on consultation and engagement with community, including the following groups:

1. Facility Operators: Connect with public and private facility operators to understand needs and identify opportunities and challenges.
2. Clubs and Administrators: Consult with clubs and club administrators to understand needs, challenges, and opportunities.
3. Community stakeholders: Discuss and determine the challenges and opportunities with select community representatives including municipalities, sport tourism, and sport partners.
4. Volleyball BC Board of Directors and Staff: Involve board and staff as appropriate to ensure strategic alignment, operational feasibility, and consideration of implementation costs.

Methods of engagement will be finalised in discussion with the successful consultant but may include online meetings, focus groups, surveys, and interviews to facilitate participation.

#### E. Timeline

Here is an outline of the expected project phases and timeframes:

<b>End of March 2026</b>	<b>Appointment of Consultant</b> Project initiation meetings with Working Group to set objectives and expectations
<b>April-May 2026</b>	<b>Needs Assessment and Consultation</b> Conduct a thorough needs assessment with data analysis, growth trends, participation data and mapping of facility access. Consultation with key groups and representatives, including online meetings, surveys, interviews, and focus groups.
<b>June 2026</b>	<b>Presentation of Needs Assessment and Preliminary Findings</b> Present needs assessment to the Working Group with identification of key themes and preliminary insights.
<b>July-Aug 2026</b>	<b>Development of Strategy</b> Develop draft strategy with actionable recommendations based on the analysis conducted.
<b>Sept 2026</b>	<b>Presentation of Draft Strategy and Recommendations</b>

	Share draft recommendations for feedback to ensure alignment with community needs and expectations
<b>Oct 2026</b>	<b>Finalization and Delivery of Strategy and Implementation Plan</b> Finalize the strategy, incorporating feedback, and present the final report and implementation plan to the VBC Board and staff.

#### F. Submission Requirements

- Proposals must be submitted as a single document, inclusive of all tables, figures, and appendices. Submissions should detail the proposer's vision for the project, proposed methodology and timeline, qualifications of the project team, and examples of past projects, particularly those in youth sports environments.
- Proposals must include a detailed budget. Volleyball BC is committed to achieving the best value while ensuring the affordability of consultancy services, given our status as a non-profit organization. We are seeking proposals that offer a balance of quality, innovation, and cost-effectiveness. Proposers are encouraged to present a budget that reflects a comprehensive understanding of the project's scope and VBC's financial considerations.
- We are committed to fostering an inclusive community and we invite proposals from a diverse range of individuals and organizations. We value different perspectives and experiences, recognizing that they are crucial to our success and the development of a vibrant, inclusive volleyball community.
- Proposals must be submitted by **March 20, 2026**. Submissions must be sent to [procurement@volleyballbc.org](mailto:procurement@volleyballbc.org)

#### G. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following evaluation rubric. A key component that will be assessed within all elements of the rubric is the consultant's demonstrated ability to connect and engage respectfully and effectively with multiple groups as a foundation to their work.

Understanding of the Project (25%):	Bidder's grasp of the project's objectives, challenges, and VBC's goals. Acknowledgment of the project's scope and the specific needs of VBC.
Proposed Methodology (25%)	Thoroughness, innovation, and feasibility of the proposed methodology. Addresses community engagement, data analysis, and development of strategy and recommendations.
Team Qualifications and Experience (20%)	Qualifications and experience of the team members who will be working on the project, especially their background in sport facilities and infrastructure.

Past Project Examples (15%)	Relevance and success of past projects similar to this RFP. Demonstrated ability in managing similar challenges and achieving results.
Cost Proposal (15%)	Proposed budget for value for money, realism, and alignment with non-profit considerations.

- Each proposal will be scored on a scale from 1-5 for each criterion, with the total score determining the ranking. This rubric ensures a balanced evaluation of proposals based on factors critical to the project's success. The weighting listed above with the evaluation criteria indicate the relative weighting anticipated by Volleyball BC and is shown to give general guidance to Consultants in the preparation of proposals. The evaluation criteria will be applied to all proposals fairly and without bias to any Consultant or proposal and the same criteria and weightings will be applied to all proposals.
- Shortlisted proposals may be invited to a short interview as part of the final selection.
- Volleyball BC reserves the right to select the proposal that best meets our needs and objectives, not necessarily the one with the lowest cost. Our decision will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of all proposals against our criteria, which includes alignment with our values, the quality of the proposal, and the proposer's understanding of our requirements.
- Volleyball BC is under no obligation to award a contract as a result of this Request for Proposal and reserves the right to terminate this Request for Proposal process for any reason, at any time. VBC may then do nothing, re-tender, sole-source or complete the work with the organisation's own forces.
- Volleyball BC appreciates all proposal responses; however only short-listed or successful candidates will be contacted.

#### H. Legal Terms

- By submission of a proposal the Consultant agrees to maintain in confidence all information provided by Volleyball BC in relation to the Request for Proposal. The contents of the Request for Proposal and any information provided by Volleyball BC or its consultants in relation to this Request for Proposal may not be used or disclosed by a Consultant for any purpose other than in relation to the proposed or actual submission of a proposal.
- All documents, reports, working papers or other materials submitted to Volleyball BC shall become the sole and exclusive property of Volleyball BC, in the public domain, and not the property of the Consultant. The Consultant will be required to assign any and all copyright to the Volleyball BC. VBC will have exclusive rights to copy, edit, publish, and re-use all material in connection with this project and as reference material for future works without further compensation to the Consultant.



- No proponent shall have any claim for any compensation of any kind whatsoever, as a result of participating in this Request for Proposal process, and by submitting a proposal each proponent shall be deemed to have agreed that it has no claim.
- Volleyball BC reserves the right to cancel this Request for Proposal at any time and for any reason, and will not be responsible for any loss, damage, cost, or expense incurred or suffered by any Consultant resulting from that cancellation.
- Consultants must comply with all VBC policies including the Code of Conduct and Ethics. Individuals must have a valid Criminal Record Check and complete the Volleyball BC Screening Disclosure Form.

#### I. **Contact**

Interested individuals may direct any questions to Emma Gibbons, Chief Executive Officer, at [egibbons@volleyballbc.org](mailto:egibbons@volleyballbc.org)

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