



For immediate release  
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### **Sports Announced for the 2008 BC Winter Games**

The BC Games Society announced today the sports that will be a part of the Kimberley-Cranbrook 2008 BC Winter Games. BC's best developing athletes will compete in 21 sports at the BC Winter Games including Archery, Badminton, Basketball-Wheelchair, Biathlon, Boxing, Curling, Fencing, Figure Skating, Gymnastics, Hockey, Judo, Karate, Netball, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Ringette, Skiing-Alpine, Skiing-Cross Country, Speed Skating, Squash, Swimming, and Table Tennis. Athletes with a disability will compete in Basketball-Wheelchair, Curling, Skiing-Alpine, and Swimming.

"Competition for inclusion in the BC Winter Games has definitely increased over the past few years," said Frank Lento, member of the BC Games Society Board of Directors and Chair of the Sport Committee. Lento, from Fernie, is the former Chair of Hockey Canada. "Having spots for only so many athletes in our BC Winter Games allows us to include sports who are bringing their best athletes, their best coaches, and their best officials."

The BC Games Society Board of Directors recently implemented a change in the Core Sport Policy. Instead of the classifications *Core Sport* and *Optional Sport* that have been used in the past, sports are now classified in one of three ways. Priority A Sports meet the Core Sport Criteria the best, Priority B Sports meet the Core Sport Criteria, but not as well, and Sports on Probation are included in the Games with specific benchmarks or deliverables they are required to meet (this may include sports previously in the Games or new sports being added to the Games).

In November 2005, all registered sport governing bodies for sports, including Olympic and Paralympic sports, that were not included in the 2006 BC Summer and BC Winter Games were sent the application for inclusion in the 2008 BC Games. Not all sports chose to take this opportunity to develop their athletes, coaches, and officials. In total, eight sports not included in 2006 BC Winter Games applied for inclusion in the 2008 BC Winter Games.

The sport package for the 2008 BC Winter Games is available at [www.bcgames.org](http://www.bcgames.org). The sports for the Kelowna 2008 BC Summer Games will be announced in the fall of 2006.

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