



## FUTURE BEST Policy

**Introduction:** The Sask Sport Future Best program is specifically designed to assist those athletes who are in the “gap”. The “gap” is defined as the high performance developmental phase of an athlete’s career where they are involved in an intense level of training and competition with the personal goals and realistic potential of becoming a National Senior Team member, yet they have not reached carding status or been named to the National Senior Team. Future Best receives on-going support from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. As a result, Saskatchewan athletes will continue to receive excellent support through the Future Best program.

**Purpose:** To support the developmental needs of Saskatchewan athletes who have been identified by Bowls Canada Boulingrin (BCB) as clearly demonstrating the potential to become a national senior team member and those who are seriously committed to attain this status through intense training, technical development and competitive success.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible athletes must meet the following conditions:

- a) The athlete must be able to demonstrate they are a product of the Saskatchewan sport system. Evidence of this would be a significant and/or relevant portion of their sport development occurred while a primary resident of Saskatchewan. The athlete must also be an active member in good standing with Bowls Sask.
- b) Athletes who are pursuing a full time course of study at a Post-Secondary Institution outside of Saskatchewan, or are training outside of Saskatchewan are eligible as long as all of the other eligibility criteria are fully met;
- c) Be committed to making the BCB (Bowls Canada Boulingrin) national senior team and/or representing Canada at the international level.
- d) Must be endorsed by BCB (via the Future Best NSO Questionnaire) which verifies that they have been identified through a national talent identification process and are highly ranked on the National Team depth chart;
- e) To be eligible athletes must meet one or more of the following performance criteria:
  - have been identified as part of the developmental (“espoir”) team/pool at a National Senior Team level;
  - have demonstrated outstanding performance at the most recent National Championships or other recognized national/international senior level competitions;
  - have represented Canada as a member of a National Junior Team or have been recently named to the National Junior Team;
  - have demonstrated outstanding performance at the most recent National Junior Championships or other recognized national/international Junior level competitions.
- f) BCB must have a clearly articulated national team program with appropriate training and competitive opportunities (both domestic and international) and also must conduct a formal process for selecting athletes for national teams.

### Application Procedure:

- a) Deadline for applications to Sask Sport is December 1, annually;
- b) Bowls Sask in conjunction with the Sask First committee will identify no later than October 15th annually, those athletes who fully meet the eligibility criteria and then immediately send;
  - the application information received from Sask Sport to the identified athletes
  - the NSO questionnaire to Bowls Canada for them to complete in full and return to Bowls Sask no later November 15th
- c) Athletes will be responsible for completing the application and notifying Bowls Sask when it is complete. NOTE: Athletes who have received Future Best funding in previous years must provide a clear indication of continued improvement;
- d) Bowls Sask will submit the applications to Sask Sport Inc. by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- e) Bowls Sask will submit the fully completed NSO questionnaire on all applicants to Sask Sport Inc. by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- f) All applicants and Bowls Sask will be notified as to the results of the review in February.

- g) Athletes receiving financial support will be required to sign an agreement with Sask Sport confirming their commitment to comply with all conditions;
- h) Funds will be released to Bowls Sask for successful athletes by April 1<sup>st</sup> and will immediately be released to the athletes from Bowls Sask.

**Follow-up Statement:**

- a) Bowls Sask is required to complete the follow-up for this grant program along with a copy of the Bowls Sask audited financial statement(s) within 90 days of Bowls Sask's fiscal year end.
- b) Athletes are required to submit all records and documents related to the grant (e.g. receipts) to Bowls Sask by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the year after receiving the grant funds.

**Sask Sport Program Criteria:**

Athletes may receive up to a maximum of \$6,000 per year and will be ranked in one of 6 tiers. Tier 1, 2 and 3 levels of funding are for sports that receive Sport Canada athlete assistance funding (carding) at the NSO level. Tier 4 and 5 are for non-carded sports who have athletes that represent Canada on National Teams. Athletes do not apply to a tier for funding but rather the Sask Sport Future Best and Awards committee adjudicates all the applications we receive and determines the level of funding.

Specific details can be found on Sask Sport's website about each Tier.

**Eligible expenditures for Future Best:**

- Standard living costs (e.g. rent/mortgage, utilities, groceries, medical expenses etc.);
- Costs directly associated with training (e.g. coaching, sport science, facility fees, other athlete services);
- Sport-specific equipment;
- Costs associated with attending training camps and competitions (e.g. entry fees, travel costs);
- Education related expenses excluding tuition (e.g. books, fees).

Funding cannot be used to support off continent travel.

Athletes receiving financial support will be required to sign an agreement confirming their commitment to comply with all conditions.

**Appeal Process:** The purpose of the appeal process is to enable disputes between applicants and Sask Sport Inc. to be dealt with fairly, expeditiously and affordably, without recourse to formal legal and court-like procedures. If an appeal is being considered contact the Sask Sport Inc. office to obtain a copy of the appeal policy. Applicants have until 30 days from the written confirmation of their application status to file their appeal. To be considered Bowls Sask must support the appeal.

**Responsibilities:** There are responsibilities outlined in the Sask Sport Future Best Guidelines (found on Sask Sport's website) for Athletes, Bowls Sask and Sask Sport.