



## Competition Support Policy

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The Calgary Spartans recognize that competition in Track and Field, Road Running, and X Country is a key part of an athlete's pursuit of excellence in athletics. We also recognize that competitive goals may vary from athlete to athlete.

The Competition Support Policy exists to support athletes so that they may continue in their goals to compete at provincial, national, and ultimately international levels.

A core component of the Competition Support Policy is to identify those competitions where the club will focus its support. The club will strive to arrange for coach presence at the identified core competitions noted in Appendix A, when we have a minimum of two or more club athletes attending (the minimum of two athletes helps to manage the rule of three in SafeSport and ensures a level of fairness where a coach will not be sent to a meet where there is only one athlete). Coach presence at out-of-town meets may require an athlete levy (charged to those athletes competing) to help cover coach travel and accommodation costs. Athlete levies related to in province out-of-town meets are nominal in nature. Athlete levies related to out of province meets will be communicated to athletes prior to the meet.

Administrative support will be offered to athletes who plan to attend core competitions in the form of meet, hotel, and flight information for out-of-town competitions, and regular emails providing updates regarding the competition. For competitions which require flight, hotel room and possibly chaperones, a pre-competition meeting should be hosted to discuss logistics and to communicate expectations to coaches and chaperones scheduled to attend.

Additional forms of competition support are:

1. The club will pay the meet registration fees for the athletes who make standard for the following competitions:
  - Outdoor Nationals (Open and U20)
  - Legions Nationals (U18 and U16)
  - Tri-Regionals Athletics Alberta fee for those who make Team Alberta
2. The club will pay for travel insurance for athletes who do not have out of country / out-of-province travel insurance when attending sanctioned out of country competitions and meets hosted in Quebec.
3. The club has developed support systems (specific to age ranges) and an Athlete Assistance program.
  - Appendix B outlines the Athletic Development (AD) specific Competition Support
  - Appendix C outlines the U16 and U18 Top Performers Reward System
  - Appendix D outlines the U20 and Open Top Performers Reward System
  - Appendix E outlines the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

# **Appendix A: Competition Support Core Competitions**

## **Core Competitions:**

- Outdoor Nationals (Open and U20)
- Legions Nationals (U18 and U16)
- X Country Nationals
- Alberta Indoor Games
- Alberta Indoor Championships
- Alberta Outdoor Provincials
- Caltaf Classic
- Spring Challenge

## **Athletic Development Specific Core Competitions:**

- Cheetah Open
- Athletic Development Provincials (if not the Cheetah Open)
- Cheetah Indoor Invitational

## Appendix B: Athletic Development (AD) Specific Competition Support

The two main competition requirements for athletes competing at levels U14 and younger are knowledge and coach support. Most competitions which AD athletes attend are located either in Calgary or Edmonton. While many of the competitions include athletes of all ages, there are core competitions specific to AD athletes (refer to Appendix A).

The Calgary Spartans will strive to arrange for coach presence (ideally one or more AD coaches) and a designated experienced parent volunteer(s) at core competitions. The parent volunteer(s) will assist in providing organizational support to less experienced athletes / parents, allowing for the coach(es) to focus more on athlete performance evaluation and providing feedback to athletes. When practical, a pre-competition meeting will be hosted (either in person or online) where information can be shared between coaches, parents and athletes, and questions asked about the competition.

### Experienced Parent Volunteer(s):

- Assist the coach as required throughout the day.
- Arrive at the venue early enough to meet athletes arriving for warm-up.
- Have a copy of the schedule and performance list on hand so they can answer any questions that arise.
- Check in with the coaches to ensure they know who has bibs (if applicable) and where the team meeting place is.
- Ensure athletes know when their next race is, advise if there's a preferable time to eat, take a bathroom break, or warm up.
- Communicate back to the board any challenges that arose during the meet or suggestions for improvement.

### AD Coach(es):

- Communicate information regarding upcoming meets with AD families; advise them which ones will receive AD coach support.
- Collaborate with the board and meet coordinator which meets the AD group will attend so the website can be updated, hotel rooms booked, etc.
- Attend or arrange for one of the assistant AD coaches to attend every meet. If this is not possible, coordinate with one of the senior coaches so they can oversee the AD group. Advise the parents who the coach on site will be.
- As much as possible, be present for each athlete's event.
- Talk to each athlete after their events to debrief and give feedback.

## Appendix C: U16, U18 Top Performers Reward System

The Calgary Spartans will reward top performers at the following competitions:

- Legions Nationals
- X Country Nationals
- Alberta Indoor Championships
- Alberta Outdoor Provincials

Rewards for athletic performance will be delivered as a credit in the Spartans athlete account, which may be used towards athlete travel and / or club registration and club facility fees. Rewards are given per event and an athlete will be rewarded for their top 2 performance reward results in any registration year (Oct 1 to Sep 30). Rewards will not be given for relay events.

	Legion Nationals		AB Indoor Championships, AB Outdoor Provincials, X Country Nationals	
	U16	U18	U16	U18
Gold	\$250	\$300	\$175	\$200
Silver	\$175	\$225	\$125	\$125
Bronze	\$125	\$150	\$75	\$75
Top 5	\$75	\$75	\$50	\$50

When athletes and / or parents of athletes want to claim their top 2 performance reward results and receive credit to their athlete account, they are required to submit the online Top Performers Reward System Form (available on Spartans' website). Submissions must include all required information, including competition name(s), date(s), age group(s), event(s), and placement(s). Regardless of whether subsequent performances would have resulted in a higher performance reward, a performance reward will not be increased once an athlete has claimed their performance reward.

For an athlete who chooses to leave the club, any performance reward credit remaining in their athlete account will be forfeited to the club. For an athlete whose account becomes dormant, the credit will remain in their account for two years, after which the credit will be forfeited to the club.

The club retains the right to modify performance reward credit amounts (if required) based on the financial circumstances of the club. Athletes receiving performance reward credits are expected to represent the club in a positive manner and to lead by example.

## Appendix D: U20, Open Top Performers Reward System

The Calgary Spartans will reward top performers at the following competitions:

- Outdoor Nationals
- X Country Nationals
- Alberta Indoor Championships
- Alberta Outdoor Provincials

Rewards for athletic performance will be delivered as a credit in the Spartans athlete account, which may be used towards athlete travel and / or club registration and club facility fees. Rewards are given per event and an athlete will be rewarded for their top 2 performance reward results in any registration year (Oct 1 to Sep 30). Rewards will not be given for relay events.

	Outdoor Nationals		AB Indoor Championships, AB Outdoor Provincials, X Country Nationals	
	U20	Open	U20	Open
Gold	\$400	\$400	\$300	\$300
Silver	\$300	\$300	\$200	\$200
Bronze	\$200	\$200	\$100	\$100
Top 5	\$100	\$100	\$50	\$50

When athletes and / or parents of athletes want to claim their top 2 performance reward results and receive credit to their athlete account, they are required to submit the online Top Performers Reward System Form (available on Spartans' website). Submissions must include all required information, including competition name(s), date(s), age group(s), event(s), and placement(s). Regardless of whether subsequent performances would have resulted in a higher performance reward, a performance reward will not be increased once an athlete has claimed their performance reward.

For an athlete who chooses to leave the club, any performance reward credit remaining in their athlete account will be forfeited to the club. For an athlete whose account becomes dormant, the credit will remain in their account for two years, after which the credit will be forfeited to the club.

The club retains the right to modify performance reward credit amounts (if required) based on the financial circumstances of the club. Athletes receiving performance reward credits are expected to represent the club in a positive manner and to lead by example.

## **Appendix E: Calgary Spartans Athlete Assistance Program (Spartans AAP) (Athlete Assistance Policy)**

To ensure that no athlete stays on the sidelines because of a financial issue, the Calgary Spartans will assist in funding athletes to train and compete. Fundraising opportunities are provided to support athletes, and include working bingos, casinos, and other opportunities.

Athletes may apply to the Spartans AAP by contacting their Spartans Coach, or a member of the Board of Directors, and expressing their need for financial assistance related to training and competing with the Spartans. If circumstances arise that require financial assistance, the onus is on the family or athlete to apply to the Spartans APP.

Prior to applying to the Spartans AAP, an athlete shall have applied for external funding as applicable (details below). Receiving external funding does not preclude an athlete from receiving support from the Spartans AAP, nor does it impair applications to the Spartans AAP in any manner.

Potential funding is available for athletes under the age of 18 from organizations such as KidSport and Jumpstart.

- KidSport Calgary provides financial support up to \$375 per child per calendar year towards sport registration fees. Their calendar runs from January 1 – December 31. For further information, please check their website at <http://www.kidsportcanada.ca/alberta/calgary/> or email the Spartans administrator for assistance at [admin@calgaryspartans.com](mailto:admin@calgaryspartans.com)
- Jumpstart Calgary funds children for sport up to \$300 per season per child subject to chapter discretion and / or local demands. There is an annual maximum \$600 per child. Applications for assistance can be submitted from January 15 – November 1 yearly. Check their website at <http://jumpstart.canadiantire.ca/en.html>

Potential funding is available for eligible athletes through Athletics Alberta and Athletics Canada.

- Athletics Alberta assists Alberta's top athletes through the Alberta Athlete Development Program (AADP). For further information check their website at <https://athleticsalberta.com/about/funding/>
- Athletics Canada supports high performance athletes, with the potential to contribute directly to Olympic and Paralympic success, through its Canadian Athletics Performance Pathway (CAPP) and Athlete Assistance Programs (AAP). For further information check their website at <https://athletics.ca/high-performance/capp-app-programs/>
- Athletics Canada supports National Team and "carded" athletes through access to additional funding sources and financial awards. For further information check their website at <https://athletics.ca/high-performance/programs-and-resources/additional-funding-sources-and-athlete-support-program/>

Spartans will treat Spartans AAP requests and related information in a confidential manner. Spartans AAP application reviews will be limited to Spartans' President, Treasurer, Vice President, and Registrar. Spartans AAP approval(s) requires the review and approval of at least 2 of the foregoing individuals.

The Calgary Spartans will work collaboratively with the family and / or athlete to ensure the athlete may train and compete. Athlete / family commitment(s) will be requested and may include working bingos and casinos (when possible) or a volunteer commitment from the parent / family member may be considered in lieu of fundraising.

Athletes who request and are approved for Spartans AAP assistance may receive support related to:

1. Waiver of registration fee (full or partial basis)
2. Waiver of volunteer commitment deposit (full or partial basis)
3. Waiver of facility fee (full or partial basis)
4. Contribution toward travel for competitions

Financial support will be provided in a sequential manner per the preceding list and in fitting with the specific situation. Support may be on a full or partial basis across various categories.