



1538 Fulton Ave, West Vancouver, BC Canada V7V 1S6 | t: 604.903.3891 | f: 604.922.3870 | e: info@csf.ca | www.csf.ca

Background Information on Adaptive Snowboarding

Introduction

Snowboarders who have become disabled want to remain a part of the sport, recreation, and lifestyle that is snowboarding.

Adaptive snowboarding refers to a modified version of the sport, with changes in equipment, rules, and technical specifications that enable persons with physical disabilities to participate in both recreational and competitive activities.

Adaptive snowboard events are held for male and female athletes with physical disabilities such as spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, amputation, or visual impairments. Athletes compete based on their functional ability, allowing athletes with different disabilities to compete against each other.

Canadian Leadership

Since 2007 Canada~Snowboard has been developing the world's first comprehensive program for competitive adaptive snowboarding. The **Canadian Adaptive Snowboard Program** consists of athlete development camps, adaptive snowboarding competitions, training opportunities for coaches, and training materials for coaches and officials. Canada~Snowboard also developed the world's first Adaptive Snowboarding National Team.

In 2008, Canada~Snowboard hosted the first ever adaptive snowboarding World Cup in Whistler, British Columbia. This international event made history by introducing classification concepts for the first time in the history of the sport.

Canada~Snowboard's leadership role in adaptive snowboarding continues with the integration of adaptive and able-bodied events at all levels, the hosting of a second World Cup, and the adoption of a comprehensive adaptive snowboarding classification system.

"Our goal for the sport is to increase awareness, increase the participation of young riders, and gain inclusion in the Paralympic Winter Games," said Tom McIlfaterick, Chief Executive Officer of Canada~Snowboard. "As we move onwards, we will continue developing the sport through strong policies, procedures, and resources. We have, as well, taken a lead role internationally in discussions with the International Paralympic Committee, the Fédération Internationale de Ski, and the World Snowboard Federation".



Competition Format

Adaptive snowboarders compete in a time trial (also known as “sling shot”) version of the snowboard cross (SBX) event. The sling-shot format consists of each rider performing two or three timed runs, with only one rider on the course at a time. The course set up is the same as for able-bodied snowboard cross events at the provincial series level.

A sling-shot snowboard cross format provides a combination of both race and freestyle elements, while challenging the athletes regardless of their disability. The event format is also conducive to the internationally recognized classification process, which has been established by the World Snowboard Federation Adaptive Snowboard Sub-Committee.

The ideal Adaptive SBX slope will allow for the construction of all or some of the following terrain features:

- Banks (crescent shaped)
- Doubled banks
- Rollers
- Offset rollers (single, double, triple, etc.)
- Minor jumps

Other terrain features can be built, but safety considerations and the riding level of the athletes must always be respected. If the competition includes athletes in the Visually Impaired Disability Class, for safety purposes an alternate route must be created by placing a second set of gates going around potentially dangerous features.

Events

The following major adaptive events are being staged by Canada~Snowboard in the 2010 season:

- January 30 at Big White, B.C.: the Adaptive Snowboard Tour event and the able-bodied NorAm were held in conjunction for the first time.
- March 5 and 6 at Ski Martock, Nova Scotia: continued integration with able-bodied NorAms at the test event for the 2011 Canada Winter Games.
- April 2 at Mont-Tremblant, Québec: World Snowboard Federation Adaptive Snowboard World Cup and Canadian Adaptive Snowboard Nationals.

Other major adaptive snowboarding events are also taking place in New Zealand, Italy, and the United States.

Athlete Stories

Tyler Mosher is an Adaptive Snowboard Athlete and a Paralympic Cross Country Skier. A spinal cord injury from a snowboarding accident in 2000 rendered Tyler paralyzed from the waist down. Tyler learned to walk again and was able to return to competitive sports. Tyler is the 2009 Adaptive Snowboarding World Champion, the 2009 Canadian National Champion, and won the first ever World Cup in Adaptive Snowboarding in 2008. He will be competing in Cross Country Skiing at the Paralympics in his home town of Whistler in March.

In addition to his accomplishments on the hill Tyler shares his story and his approach to achieving his goals through a method that is generating great results in his professional and sporting life. Tyler is an ambassador for Healthy Living ACT NOW BC; he speaks professionally and for the Esteem Team and Canadian Paralympic Heros. He is an Active Rotarian and a Founding Board Member of the Whistler Adaptive Sports Program.

Visit www.tylermosher.com for more info.

Ian Lockey has been snowboarding for eighteen years. Following rehabilitation for a spinal injury in 1998 he developed his own approach to adaptive snowboarding in 2001. Ian has competed competitively – as an adaptive rider - in slopestyle, half pipe, and snowboard cross. He keeps a busy schedule, training over eighty days a year on the mountain, spending three days a week in the gym and mountain biking every day he can in the summer.

Zack Beaumont is an Adaptive Snowboard athlete and a member of Canada~Snowboard's Adaptive Development Team.

When Zack was born he did not have a right knee joint or tibia. At nine months of age his leg was amputated above where the knee should have been; he also had heart surgery to fix a valve that was not complete. He is now fifteen years old and has been snowboarding since he was eight. Zack is an all round athlete winning the Athlete of The Year Award from his Grade 7 elementary school. He plays competitive soccer, mountain bikes, skateboards, and does gymnastics. His ambition is to compete in the Winter Paralympics in snowboard cross. Zack is an ambassador for the sport and lit the flame at the opening ceremonies for the 2010 Paralympic Games. Outside of sport Zack is a junior counselor for CHAMPS War Amps which entails speaking and helping out other children who have had an amputation.

Want More Info?

For further information please contact:

- **Dustin Heise**, Manager, Sport Development; tel: 250-889-7345;
dustin@canadasnowboard.ca
- **Candice Drouin**, Head Coach, Canadian National Adaptive Snowboard Team; tel: 778-689-7337; candicedrouin@gmail.com
- **Web Site:** <http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/dev/adaptive/>