



Societies

In BC, not-for-profit organizations are known as **Societies**. Societies are independent, democratic organizations that are required to comply with the [Societies Act](#) and their own constitution and bylaws.

Societies do not earn any profits for its members. All money is donated to the organization's cause or goal. They may be eligible to:

- Register as a charitable organization: [Canada Revenue Agency > Charities and giving](#)
- Receive funding from [community gaming grants](#) or get a [gambling event licence for fundraising](#)
- Use money to support the organization's cause or goal, but they also use some money to pay for employee salaries and administrative need.

Gymnastics BC is a registered and incorporated Society. This means we are required to hold Annual General Meetings for our Members, as well as file Annual Reports, and any changes in our Board of Directors that might happen between the last AGM and Annual Report filing and the next AGM and Annual Report filing. When our Members approves changes to our bylaws and/or constitution, we need to file those changes with Societies Online www.bcregistry.ca/societies.

Topic	BC Society
Constitution	Contains name and purposes only
Bylaws	Voting members pass bylaw amendments at general meetings
Directors	Minimum of three directors, one of whom resides in BC
Financial Review Requirements	Not required to have an audit unless required by the members or the bylaws (or by funders)
Financial Disclosures	Must prepare financial statements every calendar year; Must disclose top 10 employees, directors, or contractors paid over \$75,000 per year; Directors can only be paid if bylaws permit; Must provide financial statements to members of public upon request

The following are the types of Society filings that one might need to make:

- **Annual Report** (currently **\$40**) *This is required annually*
 - **Beginning April 2023 BC Registries will be resuming Society dissolutions for failure to file annual reports for two consecutive years.**

- **Change of Directors** (currently **\$15**) *Occurs whenever a Board member change happens outside of the AGM*
- **Change of Address** (currently **\$15**) *Occurs when the organization changes their mailing address*
- **Change to Bylaws** (currently **\$50**) *Occurs whenever the Bylaws are changed and approved by the members*
- **Extension of AGM Date** (currently **FREE**) *Occurs when an extension is requested for the AGM; AGMs are required once per calendar year.*
 - **What happens if a Society doesn't hold AGMs?**
If you believe you will be unable to have a meeting, your Society may apply for an extension between November 1 and December 31 of that year. The extension, if granted, will allow the Society to hold its annual general meeting on a date before March 31st of the following calendar year.
 - *If you are still unable to hold a meeting, file a report to let us know that no annual general meeting was held in the previous calendar year (click the "No meeting was held" box). The "No Meeting was held" box will not appear until after the year is over.*
 - *If a Society files two consecutive annual reports indicating that annual general meetings have not been held, the registrar may send notice to dissolve the Society. Learn more [HERE](#).*
- **Change of Purposes** aka "Constitution" (currently **\$50**) *Occurs if the Society's Purposes/Constitution change.*
- **Change of Name** (currently **\$50**) *Occurs when a Society wishes to change their official name.*
- **Change of Name & Purposes/Constitution** (currently **\$50**) *Occurs when a Society wishes to change their official name AS WELL AS the Society's Purposes/Constitution, at the same time.*
- **Dissolve a Society** (currently **\$15**) *Occurs when a Society intends to shut down /cease operations.*
- **Delay of Dissolution** (currently **FREE**) *Occurs when a Society has requested a dissolution but now needs to delay the original dissolution date that they chose.*
- **Subsequent Annual Report** – Same Year (currently **\$40**) *Occurs when the Society has filed an Annual Report for the year but needs to file a correction because of an error(s) in the initial report.*

Is your club a "member-funded" Society?

The BC Societies Act came into effect November 2016. One of the changes brought in was the introduction of a "member-funded" Society. If your club IS a registered BC Society but you don't know if it is member-funded; that's a good indication that the club probably is NOT a member-funded Society. **Gymnastics BC is NOT a member-funded Society.** Societies Online (www.bcregistry.ca/societies) will show your member-funded status after you login.

A member-funded society is a special subset of non-profit societies. Incorporating as member-funded will be unusual for most groups of people who want to get together to do something to benefit the community. A member-funded society exists primarily for the benefit of its members. Some examples include golf courses or private benevolent organizations. Just because the non-profit is primarily funded by its members does not mean that the non-profit should incorporate as member-funded. Only non-profits that are certain they will likely never receive sources of funds from anyone other than their members should consider doing so.

The main disadvantage of member-funded Societies is that they may only obtain a very limited amount of funding from the public or government sources. If the prescribed funding thresholds are exceeded, a Society loses its special status. As well, certain funding channels, such as community gaming grants, may be completely closed off to member-funded societies.

---- Visit [THIS LINK](#) and/or [THIS SECOND LINK](#) for more information about member-funded Societies ----