

WHO ARE THE STAKEHOLDERS IN CANADIAN SKYDIVING? UNDERSTANDING THE COMMUNITY BEHIND THE SPORT

*Written on behalf of CSPA Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Committee
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As part of its mandate, the CSPA Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Committee works to understand how individuals enter, progress through, and remain engaged in the sport. To do this effectively, the Committee must consider the full range of people and organizations whose actions, needs, and perspectives influence a participant's experience. These individuals and groups are referred to as stakeholders. In this context, a stakeholder is "a person or group with an interest or concern in something, or who is affected by a decision or activity." In skydiving, that definition comes to life through the many contributors who shape safety, training, operations, and the overall environment in which participants develop. Identifying these stakeholders helps clarify how the sport functions as a connected, interdependent community—and ensures that LTAD planning reflects the realities of everyone involved in supporting participant growth and long-term engagement.

What Does "Stakeholder" Mean in Skydiving?

In the context of Canadian skydiving, a stakeholder is any individual, group, or organization that has a meaningful connection to the sport—whether through participation, regulation, service delivery, safety oversight, or commercial activity. Stakeholders influence the sport, are affected by decisions within it, or contribute to its development and sustainability. Stakeholders aren't just spectators to the sport's evolution. They are active participants whose perspectives help shape standards, policies, and the overall culture of skydiving in Canada.

Who Counts as a Stakeholder?

Skydiving in Canada operates within a broad and interconnected network of stakeholders whose roles, responsibilities, and interests collectively shape the sport's safety, development, and long-term sustainability. At the centre of this ecosystem are skydivers and students—certified jumpers, tandem and solo students, and competitive athletes—whose experiences, needs, and progression inform much of the system's design, from training pathways to safety standards. Supporting them is a layer of technical and instructional expertise: instructors, coaches, learning facilitators, officials, riggers, and equipment manufacturers who uphold national training requirements, maintain gear integrity, and ensure that the sport's technical foundation remains strong and consistent across the country. Operational delivery depends on dropzones, aircraft operators, manifest staff, ground crews, and other staff, who provide the physical infrastructure and day-to-day logistics that make skydiving accessible and safe. Even those who are not currently jumping, volunteers and individuals who maintain affiliation for community or governance reasons, continue to contribute through historical knowledge of the sport, leadership, and ongoing engagement.

Beyond the immediate sport environment, national and provincial organizations play a critical role in setting standards, shaping policy, and representing Canadian skydiving domestically and internationally. The CSPA, its Board of Directors, committees, staff, and partner sport bodies work together to define expectations, certify training, and advocate for the sport within the broader Canadian sport system. Government and regulatory partners such as Transport Canada and Nav Canada influence airspace access, aviation regulations, and operational compliance, ensuring that skydiving aligns with national safety and aviation frameworks. Surrounding all of this is a wider circle of community and industry partners—insurance providers, tourism organizations, local businesses, media, and event partners—who support the sport's economic footprint, public visibility, and integration into local communities. Together, these interconnected groups form the ecosystem that enables skydiving in Canada to function, evolve, and thrive.

Why Stakeholders Matter

Recognizing stakeholders isn't just a governance exercise—it's a way of acknowledging that skydiving thrives when its community is connected, informed, and engaged. Each stakeholder brings a unique perspective that strengthens safety, innovation, and the long-term health of the sport.

When policies, programs, and decisions reflect the needs and realities of all stakeholders, the sport becomes more resilient, more transparent, and more aligned with the values of the people who make it possible.