

# Rick O'Connor

2020 Inductee - Builder/Sportsperson Category

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Mr. Rick O'Connor is no stranger to softball in British Columbia. His involvement started with Softball BC in 1986, when he began coaching his oldest son through Maple Ridge and Kamloops.

In 2007 Rick was recruited by Bob Philip, former UBC Athletic Director to start a softball program at UBC.



Over the last thirteen years Rick has remained an integral part of UBC Softball through his involvement with fundraising and support of the program personally and financially. Rick has always shared a passion for supporting Women's Softball in British Columbia by also sponsoring the Canadian Open/Canada Cup through his company, Black Press.

In 2008 when the program started, the team was funded entirely by its co-founders. In order to start the program, Rick hired a head coach, bought uniforms and equipment, helped recruit players, and helped with scheduling. Once the team was declared 'varsity' a year later they received minimal financial support from the university. Over the life of the program, he has raised over \$500,000 through golf tournaments, pub nights, the UBC Millennium Breakfast, raffle tickets, and many other initiatives. UBC softball has raised the most money of any Women's sport at UBC.

In 2014, UBC Softball was in jeopardy of being eliminated as a varsity sport through an internal review by the university and was even given the "death sentence" at one point. Rick fought to have softball remain a sport at UBC even offering to continue to self-fund the program. In the end, the program was reinstated and currently plays in the NAIA Cascade Conference with their home games being played at Softball City. In 2025, Rick was inducted into the UBC Sports Hall of Fame as a builder.

As well as being an outstanding sponsor, Rick also coached with the White Rock Renegades '88 in 1998-2000 and again from 2003-2004. Softball BC is proud to induct Rick O'Connor into the Hall of Fame under the Builder category.