



2016 OLYMPIC GAMES INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURES

Note: In the event of a discrepancy between this version and the French version published by Water Polo Canada, this version will take precedence for all final interpretations.

Introduction

It is the primary high performance goal of the Canadian Men's and Women's Senior Water Polo teams to compete in the Games of the XXXI Olympiad to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2016. Once qualified, Water Polo Canada (WPC) will field their most competitive team at that given time, pursuing best-ever Olympic results for each program while defining a culture of excellence in pursuit of Olympic podium results in 2020.

This document will outline the process which will be used by WPC to identify athletes eligible to compete in the 2016 Olympic Games, and to provide the criteria on which selection of these teams will be based.

Decision-Making Authority

The Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) mandates Water Polo Canada to determine the Internal Nomination Procedures (INP) for the athletes and staff that will be nominated to the COC for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Water Polo Canada's High Performance Director (HPD) is the final authority responsible for developing and approving the selection process for the team that will be nominated to the COC for the 2016 Olympic Games.

The Head Coach of each of the Canadian Men's and Women's Water Polo Teams will be the final authority in the selection of all athletes of their respective rosters for the 2016 Olympic Games Team.

Decisions on athlete selection may be made in consultation with the respective Canadian National Team Staff, including but not limited to the HPD, Assistant Coaches, Medical Staff, IST Staff, Scouts and Evaluators as selected by Water Polo Canada.

Qualification system – Games of the XXXI Olympiad – RIO 2016

Only NOCs whose national aquatics federation is a member of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) and have met the International Olympic Committee (IOC) qualification requirements may enter athletes in the water polo competition of the Olympic Games. The qualification system as stipulated by the IOC and by FINA can be found at the following link:

http://www.fina.org/H2O/docs/events/rio2016/rio_2016_qualification_system_wp_EN.pdf

Eligibility Conditions

In order to be eligible for selection on the Canadian Olympic Team, an athlete must:

- Be a member in good standing with Water Polo Canada
- Be a Canadian citizen. All competitors that participate in the XXXI Olympiad, RIO 2016 must have the nationality of the NOC with which they are registered.
- Hold a valid Canadian passport that does not expire for a period of 6 months beyond these Games (on or before 22 February, 2017).
- Have signed and submitted the COC Athlete Agreement and Eligibility Condition for the Olympic Games by no later than July 12th, 2016

Please note that the Water Polo Canada eligibility criteria is consistent with the IOC and FINA criteria. In the event of a discrepancy, the original IOC and FINA qualification system version will prevail. In the event of changes by the IOC and FINA to the selection and eligibility criteria, Water Polo Canada is bound by these changes and will inform the membership as soon as possible.

Athlete Selection Criteria and Process

Selection of the Athlete Pool

The athlete pool will consist of any athlete eligible to represent Canada at the 2016 Olympic Games (see Eligibility Conditions above) who has demonstrated the potential to earn a position on the Water Polo Canada Olympic Games Team and who has been living and training within the approved Water Polo Canada centralized senior program since May 1st, 2015 (or thereabout), including all athletes who are under a WPC-approved pro league contracts **or NCAA program**. Changes to the athlete pool may be made from time to time at the discretion of the Head Coach of each of the men's and women's teams. In such cases, centralization will be required for additional athletes named to the athlete pool.

Factors that will be considered in assembling the athlete pool include:

- Previous and current performance in international competition
- Previous and current performance outside of international competition (i.e. Canadian club system, National Championship League, university/college (NCAA), national training center, high performance or pro leagues, etc.)
- Technical Ability
- Tactical Ability
- Physical Ability

- Mental Ability
- Demonstrated commitment to a lifestyle conducive to the training and preparation for, and playing of, international water polo
- Demonstrated ability to play within a team environment, including the ability to contribute to and enhance team performance.

Selection of Water Polo Canada's Olympic Games Team

Once the athlete pool has been established (those selected to the centralized national training center programs), final rosters will be selected for specific competitions up to and including the Olympic Games. While some objective criteria will be considered to select teams, the primary selection criteria will be subjective. The following factors will be considered along with any other factors, which in the sole and absolute discretion of the National Team Head Coach, are deemed relevant. The subjective elements involved in team selection will include, but are not limited to:

- Positional requirements (both starters and reserves),
- Competition requirements (i.e. opponents, location, etc.),
- Team dynamics,
- Attitude,
- Leadership ability,
- Mental toughness,
- Other such considerations.

The evaluation of these elements will be an ongoing process from the identification of the athlete pool up to the selection date for the Olympic Games.

It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to select the best possible team for each individual competition. To fulfill this responsibility, the Head Coach will have a high degree of discretion and flexibility. It is possible, given the selection criteria, that the best individual athletes may not be selected.

Although selection to events prior to the 2016 Olympic Games will be examined in the selection of the final roster for the 2016 Olympic Games, all objective and subjective criteria will be reviewed by the Head Coach with the goal of selecting the best team for the competition.

Timelines

- May 2015 – Establish Athlete Pool
- May 2015 to July 2016 – Teams centralized at National Training Centers, common training events with other countries and international competitions program
- July 10 – 26, 2015 Pan American Games, Toronto, Canada (America's Olympic Continental qualifier for Men's Water Polo)
- March 23-28, 2016 – FINA Women's Olympic qualification tournament
- April 2016 – FINA Men's Olympic qualification tournament (exact dates TBD)
- No later than July 10th 2016 – Nomination of the Water Polo Canada Men's and Women's Olympic teams to the Canadian Olympic Committee
- August 5 - 21, 2016 – XXXI Olympiad, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dismissal from the athlete pool or from a team

In addition to the selection of athletes, the Head Coach will also have final authority over dismissal of any athlete from the Athlete Pool and/or Team. Reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to:

- Inability to maintain high training standards
- Inability to meet performance expectations in competition
- Inability to perform due to injury, illness or for other medical reason as determined by the national team medical staff members (see Performance Readiness below)
- Violation of Team rules
- Conduct detrimental to the Team and/or the image of Water Polo Canada or the National Team program.

Appeals

Internal appeals shall be made in writing to Water Polo Canada to the attention of the Executive Director. These appeals must follow the Water Polo Canada appeal procedures in place at the time when the team is announced.

Due to the urgency of appeals for the Olympic Games and if both Water Polo Canada and the appealing athlete agree, the Water Polo Canada internal Appeal Process can be by-passed and go straight to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.

Confirmation of Entries and Roster Change Deadlines (including late replacement)

The Team will be nominated to the Canadian Olympic Committee no later than July 10th 2016.

Changes to the final roster of 13 athletes may be permitted up to the technical meeting however all substitutions after the nominations have been submitted to the COC on July 10th 2016 will also be subject to COC, IOC and FINA regulations and procedures. No changes are permitted after the technical meeting for any reason.

It will be the team manager's responsibility to confirm the final roster of thirteen athletes to the event organizers and FINA Technical Water polo Committee at the technical meeting.

Performance Readiness

The Canadian Men's and Women's National Team Medical Staff (Physiotherapist and/or Doctor), in consultation with the Head Coach of each respective team, will be responsible for the assessment of performance readiness with regard to injury or illness while at the Games and leading up to the Games. On an ongoing basis, all Team members will be evaluated by the Team Medical Staff and will be required to complete the appropriate medical questionnaires.

Should an athlete be judged to be unfit to participate in the competition, he/she may be replaced by an alternate at the discretion of the Head Coach.

Prior to the Games, all pool athletes are expected to communicate any/all injury and illness issues to the Head Coach and/or Team Manager prior to the selection of the final roster. Should injury or illness occur following Team selection, but prior to departure for the Games, this must be communicated to the Head Coach and/or Team Manager immediately in order for an alternate to be selected, should this be required.

An injured athlete may be selected to the final roster for the Olympic Games if the Head Coach, in consultation with the medical staff, have a reasonable expectation that the athlete will return to competition during the event and assist the team in attaining its goals.

Pre-selection

Pre-selection of athletes to the final Team for the 2016 Olympic Games will not take place.

Alternates

It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to determine the athletes that are to be named as an alternate, should it be necessary to replace an athlete named to the final roster. All those athletes that constitute the Athlete Pool for this Team can be considered by the Head Coach as potential nominations as alternates.

Announcements

Announcement of the Internal Nomination Procedures for the Water Polo Canada Olympic Games Team will be made public through posting on our website (www.waterpolo.ca) by August 1st, 2015.

Amendments and Unforeseen Circumstances

Changes to the Internal Nomination Procedures will only take place with the approval of the HPD of Water Polo Canada. All changes will be communicated via the Water Polo Canada website.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Water Polo Canada that prevent the Head Coach from fairly implementing these Internal Nomination Procedures as written, the Head Coach will provide his/her recommendation to the HPD, who shall have the full discretion to resolve the matter as he sees fit, taking into account factors and circumstances that they deem relevant. All amendments to the Internal Nomination Procedures must conform to the Canadian Olympic Committee guidance with regards to restrictions to amendments.

Coach and Support staff selection

Appointment of all Head Coach positions for Men's and Women's National Water Polo Teams is the responsibility of the Water Polo Canada HPD. As such, the Head Coach for the Men's and Women's National Water Polo Teams are also named as Head Coaches for the 2016 Olympic Games.

Each Head Coach will be responsible for nominating their respective team's coaching and technical including Assistant Coaches, Manager, Physiotherapist, massage therapist, Doctor, IT Specialist, etc. to the Water Polo Canada HPD for final approval in accordance with the accreditation allocation as provided by the COC.

All staff will be selected no later than May 31st, 2016 and the selection is subject to change at the discretion of the HPD.