



2015 PAN AMERICAN 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

The Canadian Men's and Women's Senior Water Polo Teams will compete in the 2015 Pan American Games with the goal of fielding their most competitive team at that given time , pursuing a gold medal placing at these Games and taking advantage of a major competitive preparation opportunity for the 2016 Olympic Games.

In accordance with FINA rules, the 2015 Pan American Games will serve as the direct continental qualifier for the men's program only for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Further qualification opportunities for both teams will be available at the Olympic Qualification Tournament scheduled for the spring of 2016

This document will outline the process which will be used by Water Polo Canada to identify athletes eligible to compete in the 2015 Pan American Games, and to provide the criteria on which selection of this team 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 2015 Pan American Games.

The Water Polo Canada 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 2015 Pan American Games.

The Head Coach of each of the Canadian Men's and Women's Water Polo Teams will have the final authority in the selection of all athletes of their respective rosters for the 2015 Pan American Games Team.

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

FINA Eligibility Criteria

Only NOCs recognized by PASO and whose national aquatics federation is a member of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) may enter athletes in the water polo competition of the Pan American Games. In water polo, Canada is considered as a qualification zone to the Pan American Games and is therefore automatically qualified.

Eligibility Conditions

In order to be eligible for selection on the Canadian Women's Pan American Games' Team, an athlete must:

- Be a member in good standing with Water Polo Canada
- Be a Canadian citizen. All competitors that participate in the XVII Pan American Games Toronto 2015 must have the nationality of the NOC with which they are registered. A competitor's nationality is determined according to the Pan American Games Regulations, Section IV, Item 3.
- Hold a valid Canadian passport that does not expire on or before 26 January, 2016
- Have signed and submitted the COC Athlete Agreement and Eligibility Condition for the Pan American Games by no later than June 3, 2015

Please note that the Water Polo Canada eligibility criteria is consistent with the Pan American Games and International Federation (FINA) criteria.

The FINA eligibility criteria can be found at www.fina.org and, in the event of a discrepancy, the original FINA version will prevail. In the event of changes by FINA to the selection and eligibility criteria, Water Polo Canada is bound by these changes and will inform the membership as soon as possible

Rio 2016 Olympic Games Qualification system

The Pan American Games is the first qualification opportunity for the 2016 Rio Olympics for men's water polo only. In this case, the best-ranked NOC from these Pan American Games will qualify for the Olympics Games. For women's water polo, Brazil automatically obtains the continental nomination for the Americas, as the host nation of the 2016 Olympic Games.

The Pan American Games will also serve to identify the nations that will be eligible for the Water Polo Olympic Games Qualification tournament to be held in April 2016 for both the men's and women's teams. The top three placed teams from the women's tournament (excluding Brazil) and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th placed teams from the men's tournament (excluding Brazil) will qualify for that tournament.

Athlete Selection Criteria and Process

Selection of the Athlete Pool

The athlete pool will consist of any athlete eligible to represent Canada at the 2015 Pan American Games (see Eligibility Conditions above) who has demonstrated the potential to earn a

position on the Water Polo Canada Pan American Games Team. 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.

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, Canadian Select League, university/college (NCAA), national training center, high performance league, 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 Pan American Games Team

Once the athlete pool has been established, final rosters will be selected for specific competitions up to and including the Pan American Games. While some objective criteria will be used 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 Pan American 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 2015 Pan American Games will be examined in the selection of the final roster for the 2015 Pan American 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

- January 2015 – Establish Athlete Pool
- January to April 2015 – Teams centralized at National Training Centers (excluding NCAA athletes), common training events with other countries, minor international competitions
- April – June , 2015 – FINA World League preliminary and Super Final rounds
- No later than June 3rd, 2015 – Nomination of the Water Polo Canada Men’s and Women’s teams to the Canadian Olympic Committee
- July 10-26, 2015 – 2015 Pan American Games (water polo competition runs from July 7-15, 2015)

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 Pan American 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 June 3rd, 2015.

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 June 3rd, 2015 will also be subject to COC, Toronto 2015, UANA and/or 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 UANA 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 Pan American 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 2015 Pan American 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 Pan American Games Team will be made public through posting on our website (www.waterpolo.ca) by October 31, 2014.

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 2015 Pan American Games.

Each Head Coach will be responsible for nominating their respective team's coaching staff and non-technical staff 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 April 30th, 2015 and the selection is subject to change at the discretion of the Head Coach and HPD.