



BASEBALL NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

2025 CANADA SUMMER GAMES

SELECTION CRITERIA & PROGRAM OUTLINE – MALE

Introduction

Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador is the sanctioning body for the sport of baseball in Newfoundland and Labrador and is mandated with the responsibility to oversee the selection and training of the Canada Games team. Baseball NL is governed by the duly elected Board of Directors and the named Executive and has prepared this document to inform all interested athletes and parents on its selection criteria and program outline for the 2025 Canada Summer Games.

The Canada Summer Games are held every four years, and are meant to showcase provincial athletes in the various sanctioned sports. The protocol and specific team composition is mandated by the Canada Games technical package and all Provinces and Territories must adhere to this. The composition of the team and the actual event are controlled by The Canada Games Council. Baseball NL's mandate is to develop a training program and selection criteria for the team that is fair and transparent whilst meeting the stated objectives and values as determined by the Baseball NL Board of Directors.

The Baseball NL Board of Directors – in cooperation with the coaching staff – has designed this program to ensure a fair and transparent process that respects the individual's right to participate and the objectives and values that Baseball NL has presented.

The 2025 Canada Summer Games will be held in St. John's and will provide for a unique experience for the selected athletes to represent our Province and the baseball community both as competitors and as ambassadors for the province all while doing so on home soil, something that has not taken place since 1977.

Enclosed please find our selection criteria and training program outline. We publish this with the intention to ensure a high level of transparency and fair selection criteria for all interested athletes and parents.

Objectives and Values

Baseball NL is desirous to develop a competitive team with the objective to improve our results from previous years and to do so in a manner that provides for a fair and inclusive process. The values Baseball NL wishes to bring to the Canada Games team are to field the most competitive team from the eligible athletes, to develop a positive team experience for all our potential athletes, and to provide a positive experience for all potential athletes.

Baseball NL values the competitive nature of the Canada Games and our athlete's ability to succeed but also believes that a cooperative and team building experience is part of that process for the long-term benefit of the sport.

Questions

The purpose of this document is to provide all potential participants with a clear understanding of the selection criteria and expectations of participants. Any questions should be directed to the Ryan Garland, Baseball NL Executive Director.

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SELECTION CRITERIA

All participants will be notified and informed of the training programs and expectations. There will be continued evaluation and decisions made regarding the training pool leading up to Spring 2025, at which time the final Canada Games team will be named. Selection Criteria includes

1. Participation in identification camps, Provincial, Atlantic, and/or National Championship participation.
2. Results at identification camps, winter training programs, Canada Games shortlist group games and tournaments, as well as results in Provincial and National Competition for those players in these competitions.
3. The player's demonstrated commitment, work ethic, team spirit, positive attitude, and attendance at Canada Games training programs.
4. Positional needs of the team.

In the special circumstance an athlete is unable to commit to the regular training program, the concerned athlete **must** demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Head Coach that they possess the skill level and competitive ability to significantly improve the prospects of the team in order to be considered for the final team. Please refer to the Special Exemption section of this document for more information.

The final team will consist of twenty (20) players. As part of the 20-player roster, there will also be overage players. Baseball Canada is currently evaluating the overage player model and the exact number of overage players is not yet determined. Baseball Canada will make its decision for 2025 after a pilot project at the 2024 National Championships. Once the final number of overage players is determined, any impacts to the training pool will be communicated to players at that time.

The 2025 Canada Summer Games Baseball Technical package outlines all of the eligibility criteria for the event. It can be found at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13X4yzaRw9UmzH_U3zPZr7CJHL15hIXhN/view

TEAM STAFF

Three coaches (at least one of which **must** be male) and one Team Manager. More information on coach certification required can be found in the NSO Technical Package at the above link.

For purposes of the Canada Games only, the Team Manager is not considered a member of the coaching staff. Baseball NL has historically included a Team Manager above and beyond the Team NL-appointed liaison as someone who will manage the Canada Games Program from onset to completion.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Baseball NL Board of Directors has established a six (6) person committee who will serve as the Selection Committee for the 2025 Canada Summer Games Team. It is comprised of:

- Kevin Higgins (Head Coach);

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- Aaron Flood (Assistant Coach);
- Ryan Sweeney (Assistant Coach);
- Darren Hancock (Baseball NL President);
- Mark Healy (Baseball NL Vice-President); and
- Greg Williams (Baseball NL High Performance Program Co-Chair)

The Coaching Staff will determine the individual player selection and roles to ensure the most competitive team is fielded. The entire Selection Committee will review and approve the decisions of the coaching staff prior to them being made public or final.

COMPLIANCE FOR SELECTED ATHLETES

All selected athletes are expected to participate fully in the Canada Games training program and/or other Baseball Development program approved by the Selection Committee. Players who do not participate fully in an approved program without the head coach's approval or demonstrate poor team attitude or disruptive behavior shall be subject to potential removal from the team. If such a non-compliance is determined, the Selection Committee will provide a first written notice (a warning) to the athlete outlining the concerns of the Selection Committee. If after a reasonable time the Selection Committee is not satisfied that the athlete has corrected the non-compliance issues outlined in the first written notice a second and final notice shall be written to the athlete explaining the non-compliance issues still unresolved. If the athlete does not clearly demonstrate corrective actions to the non-compliance issues in a reasonable time period and at the sole discretion of the Selection Committee the athlete will be removed.

SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS

A Special Exemption will be considered for athletes under the following circumstances:

1. The athlete was injured and unable to participate in the programs and can provide evidence from a recognized general practitioner (GP) or specialist.
2. The athlete is living out of province, but still meets the eligibility criteria for participation in the Canada Games as outlined in the protocol.

REQUEST FOR SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS

Athletes can by written notice to the Selection Committee apply for and be considered for a Special Exception within 30 days of public distribution of this selection criteria if an out-of-province student or if in the instance of an injury/illness within 10 days of such injury/illness occurring. Any request for a Special Exemption must be applied for within the above time frames and shall be considered by the Selection Committee. Written notice shall be provided to the athlete within 20 days of the request. Granting of a Special Exemption does not determine the selection of an athlete to the team but only allows for the athlete to be considered for selection under the selection criteria as stated in the selection criteria section. Any athlete granted a Special Exemption will have to demonstrate that he or she will be available and/or injury-free to participate in the Canada Games and be available for a reasonable period of time to train with the team if required.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

The Baseball NL Male Canada Games baseball program choose its initial training pool of players in April 2023 in conjunction with the 2022 – 2023 Baseball NL High Performance Program. This pool of players trained during the summer of 2023 both as a larger group of athletes, but also as the Baseball NL 15U Provincial Team that was selected from this group of players. While the entire training pool was retained throughout the summer of 2023, a small subset of these players travelled to Laval, Quebec to compete as Team NL at the 2023 Baseball Canada 15U National Championships.

The below detailed timeline will lay out the program since the 2023 15U National Championships

September 2023

- Three separate open tryouts – one each in the Eastern, Central and Western regions – to determine the 2023 – 2024 training pool
- Upon completion of the tryouts, a pool of 36 players, including alternates were selected

October 2023 – February 2024

- Weekly training sessions
- Three separate regroup sessions for all athletes to come together and train as a group

March 2024

- The Canada Games training group travelled to Florida to compete as two teams in an exhibition tournament where further evaluations were held
- Upon return from Florida, a group of 24 players (from the training pool) were selected
 - o The entire group of 24 athletes will train throughout the spring and summer
 - o The entire group of 24 athletes will compete in the St. John’s Amateur Baseball Senior league as a means of gaining valuable competition in the leadup to the Canada Summer Games
 - o 15/24 athletes have been selected as members of the “Host” team that will compete in the Baseball Canada 18U National Championships being hosted in St. John’s in August 2024
 - o Of the 9/24 remaining players in the training pool, three additional players will be selected as members of the “Host” team at the 18U Nationals. These players will be selected based on the needs of the team in the leadup to the 18U Nationals.

April 2024 – May 2024

- Weekly indoor training sessions at Premier Sports Academy, wrapping up May 30th.

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June 2024 – September 2024

- Continued weekly (outdoor) practice schedule in addition to monthly regroup sessions for all athletes in the training pool.
- Participation in the St. John's Amateur Baseball senior league for the 2024 season
- Participation at the Baseball Canada 18U National Championships (being hosted in St. John's) as the *Host* team

September/October 2024

- Final open tryout process for all athletes currently in the training pool, as well as athletes that may wish to try and make the team
- Upon completion of the final tryout process, a group of 22 – 23 players will be chosen. From this pool of players, 20 will be chosen in the spring of 2025 to comprise the 2025 Male Canada Games Baseball Team.

October 2024 – February 2025

- Weekly indoor training sessions at Premier Sports Academy for athletes in the Avalon region
- Individual weekly training plans for selected athletes from outside the Avalon region
- Monthly regroup training sessions for all athletes in the training pool
- Off-island travel in October 2024 within Atlantic/Eastern Canada to compete against other Canada Games teams, or elite-level competition within Atlantic/Eastern Canada

March 2025

- The Canada Games training group will once again travel to Florida to compete as one team, where further evaluation and will take place
 - o Upon returning from Florida, the final 20-player roster will be chosen to comprise the male Canada Games baseball team.

April 2025 – May 2025

- Weekly indoor training sessions at Premier Sports Academy, wrapping up May 30th.

June 2024 – August 2025

- Continued weekly (outdoor) practice schedule in addition to monthly regroup sessions for all athletes in the training pool.
- Participation in the St. John's Amateur Baseball senior league for the 2025 season
- Off-island travel to Ontario or Quebec to play against elite-level teams in pre-Canada Games events (also exploring having teams travel to NL).
- Participation as Team NL in the 2025 Canada Summer Games

NOTE: The Canada Games coaching staff reserves the right to modify the dates provided, make modifications to the events noted or to add events as they deem necessary in consultation with the Baseball NL Board of Directors.

APPENDIX A – APPEAL PROCEDURE

An appeal shall be heard **only** on the grounds that the process and/or final decision were flawed, and not because the athlete did not agree with the selection. The following scenarios would be eligible for appeal if an athlete felt that:

- 1) The Canada Games Selection Committee failed to follow the procedures outlined in the Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador Selection Criteria.
- 2) The Canada Games Selection Committee made a decision that was influenced by bias.
- 3) The Canada Games Selection Committee failed to consider relevant information or took into account irrelevant information in making a decision.
- 4) The Canada Games Selection Committee exercised its discretion for improper purpose.

Appeal Time Lines

The entire appeal process will allow for the hearing and completion of the appeal no more than 14 days after receipt of the appeal request. The athlete must present their request in writing to the Chair of Appeals Committee of Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador. This written request must be forwarded to the Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador office by mail, courier or e-mail.

Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador's Appeals Committee shall review the letter and decide whether or not the request has basis for a hearing. They shall also review all selection documentation from the Canada Games Staff.

If there are no legitimate grounds, the Chair of the Appeals Committee shall contact the athlete advising him/her of the decision. This will be followed up by a formal letter to the individual.

If the Appeals committee feels that there are grounds for an appeal hearing, the following procedures will take place:

- a) The Committee Chair shall select a designated location, date and time to hear the appeal. This will be completed no more than 72 hours after receipt of the appeal request.
- b) The Appeal Committee shall hear the athlete's complaint. He/she may be accompanied by an advocate (parent, guardian, legal advisor)
- c) The appeals Committee shall hear from the Canada Games Staff.
- d) The Appeals Committee shall make a final decision within three (3) days of the appeal hearing and the decision shall be final and binding.
- e) The Chair of the Appeals Committee will contact the coach no later than 24 hours after the decision has been rendered to advise him/her of the outcome. This will be followed by a copy of the formal letter sent to the athlete and a copy of the appeal findings and recommendations.

The appeal committee shall be comprised of:

- 1) Baseball NL Board Member, with no perceived conflict of interest, to serve as Chair
- 2) A former Canada Games participant to serve as an Athlete Representative
- 3) One other impartial individual.

APPENDIX B – CODE OF CONDUCT

1. All athletes are subject to and must respect the rules of Baseball Newfoundland and Labrador.
2. All athletes must respect the curfew as established by the coaching staff.
3. All athletes caught using drugs, alcohol or any illegal substance will be subject to disciplinary measures.
4. All athletes causing damage during any events will be asked to pay for them and could be subject to disciplinary measures.
5. All athletes must attend all team practices, meetings, and tournaments unless excused by the coach.
6. All athletes engaging in illegal or criminal activity will be subject to disciplinary measures.
7. All athletes with unacceptable language, behaviors and efforts as judged by the coach and/or manager will be subject to disciplinary measures which may include removal from the team.
8. All athletes must respect the demands of the coaching staff and show respect at all times.
9. All athletes must respect the Fair Play principles.

ALL ALTHETES WHO DO NOT ADHERE TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT AS MENTIONED IN THE ABOVE CRITERIA WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY MEASURES WHICH MAY RESULT IN REMOVAL FROM THE TEAM.