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**Lacrosse New Brunswick**

**2025 Canada Summer Games**

**Athlete Selection Criteria**

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**Team Operating Policy**

**1. GENERAL BACKGROUND and INFORMATION**

a. Purpose of the document

* Provide direction for the conduct and operation of Canada Summer Games (CSG) programs to ensure it operates in the best interest of the athletes, coaches involved in the program and Lacrosse New Brunswick (LNB)

b. Program Goals

* Identify athletes and coaches who are eligible for CSG and provide opportunities for their development in a program of excellence.
* Establish a talent identification system to provide equal opportunity for all age-eligible athletes across New Brunswick.
* Design and implement training and competition programs to prepare selected team members to perform their best at a high level of competition at the CSG.
* Woman’s Program Goal: A 5th place finish or higher
* Men’s Program Goal: A 5th place finish or higher

c. Conflict of Interest Statement

* Conflict of Interest A Director, Officer, Committee or Task Team member who has an interest or who may be perceived as having an interest, in a proposed contract or transaction with Lacrosse New Brunswick or whose personal interest in a matter may conflict with the interest, missions or goals of Lacrosse New Brunswick, will comply with the Act and Lacrosse New Brunswick’s Conflict of Interest Policy and will disclose fully and promptly the nature and extent of such interest to the Board, Committee or Task Team as the case may be, will refrain from voting or speaking in debate on such contract or transaction; will refrain from voting or speaking in debate on such contract or transaction; will refrain from influencing the decision on such contract or transaction; and will otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act regarding conflict of interest.

**2. TEAM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

a. Role of the Canada Games Committee

* Monitoring-reporting functions, communication of selection criteria
* Budget approval
* Selection of Head Coach based on qualifications and requirements
* Development and implementation of policies and procedures
* Support for the coaching staff as necessary
* Committee shall consist of three active members of Lacrosse New Brunswick, one of which will be a member of LNB Board of Directors.

b. Role of the Coach

* Leading the selection process of athletes with support from LNB and selected, qualified, and independent evaluators.
* Coordinate and strategize all initiatives to provide athletes with optimal competition opportunities, ensuring their readiness for elite-level competition
* Meet required certification
* Serve as a positive role model for athletes, demonstrating integrity, honesty, fair play and leadership in honouring sport in their personal behaviour and appearance
* Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches must be active members of LNB and actively coaching lacrosse in New Brunswick (exception would be for an aboriginal coach should none be available in New Brunswick) and certified at the Competitive Development level 4.
	+ All coaches must also complete the Aboriginal Coaching Module Coaches must be so certified no later than 180 days prior to the Opening Ceremony (February 7, 2025).
	+ Note: Either the Head Coach or Assistant Coach must be the same gender as the

team they are coaching.

* + Refer to the [LNB Canada Games Staff Job Description](https://d.docs.live.net/c77f335991ca1d92/Desktop/LNB%20Canada%20Games%20Staff%20Job%20Descriptions.pdf)(Refer to Appendix 1).

c. Role of the Manager

* Refer to the [LNB Canada Games Staff Job Description](https://d.docs.live.net/c77f335991ca1d92/Desktop/LNB%20Canada%20Games%20Staff%20Job%20Descriptions.pdf) (Refer to Appendix 1).

**3. SELECTION CRITERIA**

a. Eligibility

* Men’s and Woman’s Age Category
* Athletes must be 17 years of age and under, and their year of birth shall be 2009 or 2010.
* New Brunswick will be allowed to add three ‘overage’ athletes. These three athletes will only be allowed to be one-year ‘overage’ and must be 18 years of age, and their year of birth shall be 2008.
* Refer to the [2025 CSG Box Lacrosse Technical Package](https://d.docs.live.net/c77f335991ca1d92/Desktop/Technical%20Package_Box%20Lacrosse.pdf) (Refer to Appendix 2).

* Tryouts are open to athletes who are members in good standing with LNB and/or Lacrosse Canada.
	+ Athletes must be on a registered roster with LNB after being identified as a member of the CG Training Roster. Athletes may inquire with the LNB Technical Director if they are registered.

b. Athlete Identification Process – **Woman’s and Men’s Team**

* The Head Coach oversees the athlete selection process in collaboration with Assistant Coaches and designated evaluators. The final roster, including decisions on athlete removal and replacements, is then submitted to the Technical Director of Lacrosse NB for approval. This submission includes evaluations, notes, and confirmation of eligibility. Approval is granted if the selection process is properly followed. In case of any issues, the Technical Director collaborates with the Head Coach and their team to reach a fair resolution. The board of directors has the ultimate decision-making authority if an agreement cannot be reached.
* Spring 2024: Three open tryouts will be held in three different regions of the province (Fredericton, Saint John, Moncton)
* Following the third open tryout, there may be athletes released from the program to a minimum of 36 athletes remaining in the pool
* Summer 2024: Continuous scouting of athletes remaining in the pool via club and provincial teams.
* 2025: Two invitation-only tryouts will be held. Attendance is mandatory unless excused in writing. The coaching staff reserves the right to invite athletes that had not previously attended open tryouts and that were not previous members of LNB.
	+ A minimum of 25 athletes will be invited to the invitation-only tryout.
	+ Following the second invitation-only tryout, the coaching staff will select 20-25 to be a part of the training team.
* Winter 2024-2025: Training for athletes selected for the training team
* Spring 2025: The final tryout will be held for all training team members.
* Selection camps will be advertised at a minimum of two weeks prior to the camp via various locations such as: email, Facebook, LNB website etc.
* Athletes are required to attend at least one Open Tryout to be on the Fall 2024/ Winter 2025 Training Roster. Athletes are encouraged to attend all Open Tryouts, but it is not deemed necessary.
* If an athlete is unable to attend a required tryout, they must request an exemption in writing from the coaching staff and Technical Director. Exemptions will only be granted for exceptional circumstances.
* The coaching staff reserves the right to add or remove any athlete from the tryout pool at any time.

c. Tryout Fees

* Athletes wishing to participate in the program will pay the following registration fees:
	+ Open and Final Invitation Only Tryouts - One Time $50.00
	+ New Athlete Scouted and invited to attend a tryout - $50.00

 d. Exceptions

* If an athlete is unable to attend a tryout, they may request an exemption in writing to the teams Head Coach due to exceptional circumstances prior to or within 48 hours of a missed event. If the circumstances are deemed to be ‘exceptional,’ the athlete can be evaluated using information from other events or will be granted the opportunity to attend the next tryout.
* Throughout the selection process, flexibility will allow new athletes who move into the province or athletes who have previously attended an ID/Selection Camp and significantly improved their performance to be re-evaluated prior to the final team selection. Athletes may send a request in writing (preferably by email) to the Coaching Staff to be considered for a re-evaluation. If the coaching staff considers a re-evaluation, it may be in the form of an invite to a training camp or a member of the coaching staff watching an athlete in a club competition at the coaching staff's discretion. Ongoing scouting will take place so that the released athlete can still make the final team if their athletic performance significantly improves over and above the existing training team.
* During the year of CSG, the CSG team will be the main priority for athletes selected to the training team. Athletes living outside of the province to attend educational-based programs or national team training camps may be exempt from attending training camps, practice and/or games.

 e. Selection Committee

* The selection committee will consist of the Coaching Staff, and additional qualified, independent talent evaluators as chosen by the Head coach and LNB.

 f. Assessments

* Please refer to our [Testing Protocols Document](https://d.docs.live.net/c77f335991ca1d92/Desktop/Competitive%20Player%20Skills%20Tracking%20Sheet.pdf) (Refer to Appendix 3) for skills and refer to [Fitness Test Document.](https://d.docs.live.net/c77f335991ca1d92/Desktop/Lacrosse%20Specific%20Fitness%20Test%20%281%29.pdf) (Refer to Appendix 4).
	+ Assessment of athletes will be based on all information available including performance at tryouts, league games, tournaments, Provincial, and National championships and information from club coaches.

**4. FINAL TEAM SELECTION**

a.Final Team Selection

* The final team will be selected in the spring of the year of the games (i.e. Spring 2025 for 2025 CSG)
* Athletes will be selected based on the outlined criteria in Section 4. However, the Head Coach will have final discretion to build the best possible team.
* A maximum of 18 athletes will be selected for the final team.

 b. Alternates and Substitutes

* A maximum of 4 athletes will be selected as alternates for the final team

 c. Communication to athletes not selected

* During the open tryout phase and the invitational tryout process an email, phone call or in-person conversation shall be made by the Head Coach.
* During the training group phase an in-person conversation shall be made by the Head Coach to the players not being selected and if they will be moved to an alternate status.

**5. POST SELECTION**

 a. Ongoing Commitment

* Once selected for the final team, players will receive a training and competition schedule for the season leading up to the games. Players can expect to practice and or play exhibition games weekly and participate in tournaments. Players can expect to take part in fundraising events to help reduce their cost. Athletes are required to participate actively within their home association throughout the Canada Games process and failure to do so will result in removal from the CSG process.
* Coaches will provide athletes with appropriate training and development opportunities and regularly discuss with each athlete their role on the team to outline areas of strength and areas for improvement.

b. Athletes who are selected to the CSG Team may be removed at any time leading up to and during competition on the following grounds:

* Voluntary Withdrawal from the Program
	+ The athlete must inform the coaching staff in writing of their intentions to be removed from the training team
* Code of Conduct Violation
	+ An athlete may be removed from the training team should there be a breach of conditions outlined in the LNB Code of Conduct and the Team New Brunswick Canada Games Code of Conduct
* Injury/Illness
	+ In the event that an athlete selected to the CSG Training Team suffers from an injury or illness which, in the opinion of a physician selected by the athlete, renders the athlete unable to participate in the CSG events fully, the athlete can be recommended for removal from the training or final team
	+ Recommendation may be on a permanent or temporary bias; coaching staff will heed the advice of the acting physician
* Inability or unwillingness to meet the program requirements and expectations
	+ The issue will be addressed by the coaching staff with the athlete.
	+ The coaches will have a meeting with the athlete and their parents/guardians to discuss the best course of action.
	+ The athlete will be asked to leave the program; fees will not be refunded.

 c. Replacement of a Removed athlete

* The coaching staff may choose to replace the removed athlete with another eligible athlete. Depending on the positional needs of the team, this may be an alternate or another eligible athlete in the province.

**6. APPEAL PROCESS**

a. An appeal shall be heard ONLY on the grounds that the selection process and final decision were flawed (not that the athlete did not like the decision) in such a way that:

* The Coaching Staff made a decision for which they lacked authority
* The Coaching Staff failed to follow procedures in the approved selection criteria.
* The Coaching Staff failed to consider relevant information or considered irrelevant information in making their decision.
* The Coaching Staff exercised its discretion for an improper purpose.
* The Coaching Staff made a decision that was unreasonable.

b. Process

* The athlete must present his/her request in writing to the chair of the Appeals Committee. The Appeal form can be found in Appendix F The Appeals Committee shall review the request and decide whether there are grounds for a hearing. The Appeals Committee shall also review all selection procedure documentation from the Coaching Staff. Minutes of the Appeals Committee meeting will be recorded for future reference.

1) If there are no legitimate grounds, the chair of the Appeals Committee shall call the athlete advising her/him of the decision. This will be followed up with a formal letter to the athlete.

2) If the Appeals Committee finds that there are grounds for an appeal hearing, the following procedures will take place

a) The chair of the Appeals Committee shall select a designated place, date and time to hear the appeal. This will be done no later than 48 hrs. after receipt of the appeal request.

b) The Appeals Committee shall hear the athlete’s complaint. The athlete may be accompanied by an athlete advocate (parent or guardian or legal advisor etc.)

c) The Appeals Committee shall hear from the Coaching Staff.

d) The Appeals Committee may provide the opportunity to hear from an effected party (i.e. the athlete who may be de-selected following the appeal) if it may change the outcome of the decision.

e) The Appeals Committee will make a final decision at the appeal hearing and the decision shall be final and binding.

f) The chair of the Appeals Committee will contact the athlete no later than 24 hours after the hearing by telephone to advise her/him of its outcome and this will be followed up by a formal letter and copy of the appeal findings and recommendation.

g) The chair of the Appeals Committee will contact the head coach by phone to advise her/him of the outcome. This will be followed up by a copy of the formal letter to the athlete and copy of the appeal findings and recommendation.

* To review the process to appeal a decision please refer to the [CSG Appeal Process.](https://d.docs.live.net/c77f335991ca1d92/Desktop/CSG%20Appeal%20Process.pdf) (Refer to Appendix 5)