

## **2021-22 WPC Senior National Team Selection Criteria & Process**

Disclaimer: As a result of the uncertainty of the COVID-19 Pandemic this document may be revised at WPC's discretion during the 2021-2022 season in order to adapt to any unforeseen circumstances.

### **1. PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this document is to describe the selection criteria and process for the 2021-22 Senior National Team Talent Pool of the Senior Men's and Senior Women's National Team Programs. The criteria and process are a combination of objective and subjective evaluations and will be aligned with the objectives for the Senior National Team Program and Water Polo Canada's Strategic Plan (2017-2021) of Reaching International Excellence.

### **2. OVERVIEW:**

- a. Selection to the Senior National Team Talent Pool (SNTTP) will be completed using mainly results from the 2020-2021 season at Senior, Junior and Youth National Team activities, domestic competitions and scouting completed by the National Team Coaching staff during the 2020-2021 season. The overall SNTTP will not be limited to a specific number of athletes and WPC shall make additions throughout the 2021-2022 season depending on athlete availability and is reliant on in-person scouting by the National Team Staff where a final SNTTP will be established as a May 1, 2022 for any remaining events that remain for the 2021-2022 Season.
  - i. Any updates to the SNTTP will be communicated by publication to the Water Polo Canada Website.
- b. Athletes not selected to the 2020-2021 SNTTP and who wish to try out for the Senior National Team 2021-2022 can refer to Appendix A - Senior National Team Tryout.
- c. Athletes selected to the SNTTP will be selected to participate in the training camps and competitions of the Senior National Teams for the 2021-2022 season.
- d. Eligibility will be limited to athletes who meet the Eligibility Requirements as described in this document.

### **3. AUTHORITY FOR SELECTION:**

- a. Water Polo Canada's Board of Directors has delegated the authority for all decision-making under this process to the High Performance Director (HPD) and the Senior National Team Head Coaches of the Men's and Women's National Teams. The HPD and the Senior National Team Head Coaches, at their sole discretion, may solicit any feedback from additional technical experts and officials during any part of this selection process.
- b. Medical bye: If an athlete is unable to participate in or complete any part of the selection process due to an injury or illness, Senior National Team Head Coaches have the authority to add that athlete to the Athlete Pool if they believe this is appropriate based on the athlete's ability as demonstrated through training and results during the 2020-2021 and/or current season and if it is aligned with the objectives for the SNTTP and the

Strategic Plan Vision. A Medical Bye requires a signed and dated letter from the Senior National Team Sport Medicine Physician (Dr. Suzanne Leclerc or her designated substitute) stating that the athlete is unable to participate for a medical reason.

- c. Family Emergency Bye: If an athlete is unable to participate in or complete any part of the selection process due to a family emergency, the Head Coaches have the authority to add that athlete to the 2021-2022 SNTTP if they believe this is appropriate based on the athlete's ability as demonstrated through training and results during the 2020-2021 and/or current season and if it is aligned with the objectives for the 2021-2022 SNTTP and the Strategic Plan Vision. A family emergency is defined as:
  - i. Death, injury, or medical emergency relating to the following family members: a parent, step-parent, grandparent, step-grandparent, brother, sister, step-brother, step-sister, son, daughter.
- d. The HPD and SNT-HC have the discretion to determine if another unforeseen circumstance justifies a bye.
- e. Furthermore, the HPD is responsible for ensuring that the process outlined in this document is properly followed and that the selection process is fair and equitable for all athletes.

#### **4. APPEALS PROCESS:**

- a. Selection decisions for the SNTTP may be appealed under the Water Polo Canada Appeals Policy.

#### **5. AMENDMENTS AND UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

- a. Changes to this Selection Process will only take place with the approval of the Water Polo Canada's Executive Director to be added as an addendum if approved.
- b. In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Water Polo Canada that prevents the fair implementation of this Selection Criteria and Process as written, the HPD will provide their recommendation to the Water Polo Canada Executive Director who shall have the full discretion to resolve the matter as they see fit, taking into account factors and circumstances that they deem relevant.
- c. All changes will be communicated via the Water Polo Canada website via publication. Athletes are responsible to stay informed of any amendments to the SNTTP.

#### **6. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS**

- a. Be a registrant in good standing with Water Polo Canada;
- b. Be in good standing and not have any outstanding fees/fines payable to Water Polo Canada, a Provincial Territorial Section or a registered club;

- c. Be training in an environment that is deemed suitable by the Senior National Team Head Coach and the HPD, including having an approved professional league contract as per Annex A of Water Polo Canada's Athlete agreement;
- d. Be a Canadian citizen or in the process of becoming a citizen or permanent resident before 6 months before the end of the quadrennial in course;
- e. Be eligible to compete for Canada per FINA Rules;
- f. Hold a valid passport that does not expire on or before March 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming year;
- g. Is not subject to a judicial or criminal investigation that may be detrimental to Water Polo Canada at Water Polo Canada's discretion;
- h. Have signed the WPC Consent form, WPC Athlete Agreement, which references the WPC Code of Conduct.

Note: any otherwise eligible athlete in the process of becoming a Canadian citizen or permanent resident must demonstrate proof of that at point of entry into the selection process and that their final selection on the team will be dependent on their eligibility to compete for Canada as per FINA rules (item c.).

## 7. DISMISSAL FROM THE SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM TALENT POOL

- a. In collaboration with Senior National Team Head Coach, the HPD and the Executive Director may remove an athlete from the SNTTP where the athlete:
  - i. Is unable to meet performance expectations;
  - ii. Is unable to meet minimum physical standards;
  - iii. Is unable to demonstrate progress since the beginning of the 2020-2021 season;
  - iv. Is unable to perform due to injury, illness, or for other medical reasons, as determined by Water Polo Canada's Medical Lead (Team Doctor & Physiotherapist);
  - v. Violated the Water Polo Canada Code of Conduct and Disciplinary; Procedure (found at: <https://waterpolo.ca/content/policies-and-bylaws>);
  - vi. Exhibits any conduct that is detrimental to the image of the National Team Program;
  - vii. Voluntarily withdraws/retires;
  - viii. Commits fraudulent misrepresentation;
  - ix. Fails to uphold the **Water Polo Canada Athlete Agreement**.

## 8. SELECTION OF SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM TALENT POOL

- a. The SNTTP will consist of any athlete eligible to represent Canada at who has demonstrated the potential to earn a position on the Water Polo Canada Senior National 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.
- b. Factors that will be considered in assembling the athlete pool include:
  - i. Previous and current performance in international competition;
  - ii. 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.);
  - iii. Technical Ability;
  - iv. Tactical Ability;

- v. Physical Ability;
  - vi. Intangible qualities including but not exclusive to: composure, attitude, work ethic, peer influence, leadership skills, team dynamics, travel mentality, coachability, performance under pressure, mental toughness;
  - vii. Demonstrated commitment to a lifestyle conducive to the training and preparation for, and playing of, international water polo;
  - viii. Demonstrated ability to play within a team environment, including contribute to and enhance team performance.
  - ix. Adherence to the Senior National Team monitoring protocol
- c. The above factors are not weighted, are not listed in an order of importance and may be revised from time to time to ensure short term and long-term success in international competition for Canada.
- d. Document such as Water Polo Canada internal depth charts, team evaluations and Gold Medal Profiles shall be used to support the selection of the SNTTP.

## **9. SELECTION TO SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM TRAINING CAMP AND COMPETITION**

- a. Once the SNTTP 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:
- i. Positional requirements (both starters and reserves);
  - ii. Competition requirements (i.e. opponents, location, etc.);
  - iii. Team dynamics;
  - iv. Attitude;
  - v. Leadership ability;
  - vi. Mental toughness;
  - vii. Other such considerations
- b. The evaluation of these elements will be an ongoing process from the identification of the SNTTP up to the selection date of the Senior National Team training camp or competition.
- c. The above factors are not weighted, are not listed in an order of importance and may be revised from time to time to ensure short term and long-term success in international competition for Canada.
- d. 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.
- e. Although selection to events prior will be examined in the selection of the final roster, all objective and subjective criteria will be reviewed by the Head Coach with the goal of selecting the best team for the competition.

## 10. LANGUAGE

- a. Where there is a difference in interpretation between the French and English versions of this document, the English version shall prevail.

## 11. TIMELINE

- a. Every program year (September-August), WPC will attempt to respect the following SNTP timeline and administrative cycle:
  - i. **Sept 15-30.** National Team Head Coaches' and Lead Coaches complete AAP & SNTP with an updated National Team depth chart.
  - ii. **By October 1.** National team managers will inform identified athletes of their potential status with Water Polo Canada.
  - iii. **By October 31.** Publication of the Water Polo Canada SNTP.
  - iv. **Ongoing** Updates to the SNTP.

**APPENDIX A**  
**- Senior National Team Tryout -**

**PROCESS TO REQUEST A TRYOUT FOR THE CANADIAN SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM**

An athlete who is currently not a member of the Senior National Team Talent Pool (SNTTP) may request a tryout for the Senior National Team before April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, which must be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, upon meeting Eligibility Criteria and accepting the Conditions of the Tryout:

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Has competed at a FINA World Championships as part of Youth, Junior or Senior National Team of any National Federation and placed within the top-10 teams in the tournament;
2. Is an active athlete playing within a league that is recognized by Water Polo Canada;
3. Was not removed by the SNT Coaching Staff from a previous Senior National Team Program and/or SNTTP;
4. Be a registrant in good standing with Water Polo Canada;
5. Not have any outstanding fees/fines payable to Water Polo Canada;
6. Be a Canadian citizen or in the process of becoming a citizen or permanent resident before the end of the quadrennial in course;
7. Be eligible to compete for Canada per FINA Rules;
8. Hold a valid passport that does not expire on or before March 1<sup>st</sup> of the upcoming year;
9. Pay any required fees;

Note: any otherwise eligible athlete in the process of becoming a Canadian citizen or permanent resident must demonstrate proof of that at point of entry into the selection process and that their final selection on the team will be dependent on their eligibility to compete for Canada as per FINA rules (item c.).

**CONDITIONS OF THE TRYOUT**

1. The athlete will not be eligible to compete in the 2021-2022 season unless selected to SNTTP by the Senior National Team Head Coach and approved by the High Performance Director;
2. The Senior National Team will determine a timeframe of minimum of five (5) days and a maximum of fourteen (14) days for the athlete to tryout;
3. The athlete requesting the tryout will be responsible for any expenses incurred for the duration of the tryout;
4. The athlete will submit the following forms one month before the camp via email to (lmelancon@waterpolo.ca):
  - a. A letter from a doctor informing Water Polo Canada that the athlete is cleared to participate in the tryout.
  - b. Completion of Water Polo Canada Anti-Doping course
5. Is prepared to meet any of the below conditions established jointly by the HPD and Senior National Team Head Coach:
  - a. Relocation to the National Training Center in Montreal
  - b. Relocation to compete with an approved professional league club
  - c. Relocation to location that is deemed acceptable by the Senior National Team Head Coach including following an enhanced training program.

## **TRYOUT REQUEST PROCESS**

1. The request of the athlete should be sent directly to the High Performance Director while copy the Senior National Team Head, Lead Coaches and National Team Manager.
2. The Senior National Team Coaching Staff and High Performance Director shall jointly determine time for an athlete to complete a tryout at the National Training Center in Montreal.
3. The National Team Manager shall communicate with the athlete to provide any logistical information for the tryout.

## **DISCLAIMER**

1. All athletes who are part of the SNTTP may be nominated to Sport Canada for Athlete Assistance Program support (AAP). The number of months an athlete receives shall be aligned with the prioritization of carding as described in the 2021-2022 WPC AAP Criteria Policy.