



## **2023 PAN AMERICAN GAMES INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

(Version 2.0- August 25, 2023)

### **Summary of Key Changes from v1 to v2:**

- **Replacement of FINA with new name WAQ (World Aquatics)**
- **Clarification of Appeals process & timeline**
- **Change to selection date of Coaches from August 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>**
- **Change of Internal Nomination deadline, from September 1<sup>st</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>**
- **Updated competition dates (following competition schedule change):  
October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup> (previously announced as October 22 to 28 )**

### **Introduction**

The Canadian Men's and Women's Senior Water Polo Teams will compete in the Santiago 2023 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/or a successful qualification for the 2024 Olympic Games.

In accordance with WAQ rules, the 2023 Pan American Games will serve as the direct continental qualifier for the men's and women's program for the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris. Further qualification opportunities for both teams will be available at the 2023 and 2024 WAQ World Aquatic Championships (scheduled for July 2023 and February 2024, respectively).

This document will outline the process that will be used by Water Polo Canada to identify athletes eligible to compete in the 2023 Pan American Games, and to provide the criteria on which selection of this team will be based.

### **Contact**

For clarifications or questions on the contents of the INP, please contact Water Polo Canada's High Performance Director Mr. Olivier Pineau, at: [opineau@waterpolo.ca](mailto:opineau@waterpolo.ca) .

### **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 2023 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 2023 Pan American Games.

The Head Coach of each of the Canadian Men's and Women's Water Polo Teams (or, in the absence of the Head Coach, his / her designated substitute) will have the final authority in the selection of all athletes of their respective rosters for the 2023 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.

### **WAQ & PASO / Santiago 2023 Eligibility Criteria**

Only NOCs recognized by PASO and whose national aquatics federation is a member of World Aquatics (WAQ, formerly 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.

Water Polo Canada will be able to enter one Men's Team and one Women's Team at the Pan American Games, comprised of 12 players each.

Each qualified team will be able to bring (1) AP Alternative athlete, and therefore 13 players.

### **Eligibility Conditions**

- Be a Canadian citizen. All competitors that participate in the XVIII Pan American Games Santiago 2023 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](#).
- Have a valid Canadian passport that does not expire on or before May 05, 2024
- Have signed and submitted the COC Athlete Agreement and PASO/Santiago 2023 Conditions of Participation Form by no later than September 15, 2023. Where the athlete is under the age of 19 years, the parent or guardian must also sign these agreements
- Be a member (registrant) in good standing with Water Polo Canada
- Have signed and submitted the Water Polo Canada Athlete Agreement by no later than September 03, 2023
- Compliance with vaccination requirements and policies of the of the NSO, COC, WAQ, Pan Am Sports and Chile (if applicable)
- The athletes must have signed and submitted the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games Athlete Eligibility Condition Form.
- All participating athletes must be at least 16 years old on December 31st, 2023.
- To be eligible for participation in the Santiago 2023 Pan American Games, a competitor must comply with Panam Sports Regulations, WAQ rules and must be entered by his or her NOC.

(See Santiago 2023 Pan American Games Aquatics Qualification Systems at:  
<https://www.santiago2023.org/descargas/en/Aquatics.pdf> )

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

The WAQ eligibility criteria can be found at [www.worldaquatics.com](http://www.worldaquatics.com) and, in the event of a discrepancy, the original WAQ version will prevail. In the event of changes by WAQ to the selection and eligibility criteria, Water Polo Canada is bound by these changes and will inform the membership as soon as possible

### **Paris 2024 Olympic Games Qualification system**

The qualification opportunities for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games for the men's program, which is a twelve (12) team tournament, are as follows:

- 1) 20<sup>th</sup> WAQ World Championships – Fukuoka (JPN) 2022 (held in July 2023)
  - The two (2) highest places NOCs from the 20<sup>th</sup> WAQ World Championships – Fukuoka (JPN) (held in July 2023) will each obtain one (1) quota place.
- 2) Host Country
  - The host country NOC will automatically obtain a quota place.
- 3) Continental Qualifications
  - The highest placing NOC/NF in each of the five (5) Continental Championships will each obtain one (1) quota place.  
Should any of these NOCs have already obtained a quota place at the 20<sup>th</sup> WAQ World Championships – Fukuoka (JPN) (held in July 2023), then the next highest placed NOC from the respective Continental Championships will obtain a quota place.  
Should any of the Continental Championships not take place, the next highest placing NOC from that respective Continent at the 21<sup>st</sup> WAQ World Championships Doha 2024 will obtain a quota place.  
Should there be only one (1) representative from a specific continent, this NOC will obtain a quota place.
- 4) 21<sup>st</sup> WAQ World Championships Doha 2024
  - The four (4) highest placing NOCs at the 21<sup>st</sup> WAQ World Championships Doha 2024 will each obtain one (1) quota place. The teams that are eligible to take part in the qualification tournament is specified in WAQ Rule BL 9.3.10.3.6.

The qualification opportunities for the 2024 Paris Olympic Games for the women's program, which is a ten (10) team tournament, are as follows:

- 1) 20<sup>th</sup> WAQ World Championships – Fukuoka (JPN) 2022 to be held in 2023
  - The two (2) highest placing NOCs from the women's competition at the 20<sup>th</sup> WAQ World Championships – Fukuoka (JPN) (held in July 2023) will each obtain a quota place
- 2) Host Country
  - The Host Country NOC will automatically obtain a quota place.
- 3) Continental Qualification
  - The highest placing NOC in each of the five (5) Continental Championships will each obtain a quota place. If the NOC is already qualified at the preceding 20<sup>th</sup> WAQ World

Championships – Fukuoka (JPN) (held in July 2023), then the next highest placed team from the respective Continental Championships will qualify

Should any of the Continental Championships not take place, the next highest placing NOC from that respective Continent at the 21<sup>st</sup> WAQ World Championships Doha 2024 will obtain a quota place.

Should there only be one representative from a specific continent, this NOC will obtain a quota place.

4) 21<sup>st</sup> WAQ World Championships Doha 2024

- The two (2) highest placing NOCs at the 21<sup>st</sup> WAQ World Championships Doha 2024 will each obtain a quota place. The teams that are eligible to take part in the qualification tournament is specified in WAQ Rule BL 9.3.10.3.6.

### **Athlete Selection Criteria and Process**

#### ***Selection of the Athlete Pool***

In order to be selected to the 2023 Pan American Games Team, eligible athletes will first be selected into an athlete pool. This athlete pool will consist of any athlete eligible to represent Canada at the 2023 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 National Championship League, university/college (NCAA), national training center, high performance league, etc.)
- Abilities demonstrated in competition and training evaluated using WPC's internal Gold Medal Profile
  - Technical Ability
  - Tactical Ability
  - Physical Ability
  - Mental Ability
  - Intangible qualities including but not exclusive to: composure, attitude, work ethic, peer influence, leadership skills, team dynamics, travel mentality, coachability, performance under pressure;
- 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
- Adherence to the Senior National Team monitoring protocol

### ***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 (*statistical analysis from previous competitions and gold medal profile progression*) 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 (or, in the absence of the Head Coach, his / her designated substitute), 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,
- 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.

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.

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.

Although selection to events prior to the 2023 Pan American Games will be examined in the selection of the final roster for the 2023 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 2023 – Establish Athlete Pool
- April 2-8, 2023 – Pan Am Aquatics Championships – Bauru (BRA)
- ~~May 2023 – FINA World Cup – Intercontinental Tournament~~
- From June 2023– Teams centralized at National Training Centers (excluding NCAA athletes, and athletes under approved Professional League Contracts as per Annex A of the Water Polo Canada Athlete Agreement)
- June 2023 – WAQ World Cup Super Final
- July 10, 2023 - Pan Am Aquatics will confirm to Panam Sports and to the NOCs the teams that have qualified
- July 14, 2023 - The NOCs will confirm to Panam Sports and to Pan Am Aquatics the teams that will participate
- July 14 – 30, 2023 – 20<sup>th</sup> WAQ World Championships – Fukuoka (JPN)
- **September 20, 2023 – Internal nomination of the Water Polo Canada Men’s and Women’s teams**
- September 22, 2023: Deadline for filing appeal
- **September 25, 2023 - Nomination of the Water Polo Canada Men’s and Women’s teams to the Canadian Olympic Committee**
- **September 29, 2023 – Santiago 2023 Entry-by-Name Deadline. Pan Am Sports Late Athlete Replacement Policy comes into effect. Deadline for final appeal decisions (no later than 10:59pm EDT)**
- October 20 – November 5, 2023 – 2023 Pan American Games (water polo competition runs from October 30 – November 4, 2023 inclusively)

## **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, prior to nomination to the Canadian Olympic Committee. 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 Canadian Pan American Games Team and/or the image of Water Polo Canada, the National Team program or the Canadian Olympic Committee.

## **Appeals**

Notwithstanding the deadline to file an appeal indicated in the Water Polo Canada Appeal Policy, appeals regarding the Santiago 2023 Team selection that are to be heard under the Appeal Policy must be filed no later than September 22, 2023. Decisions rendered under WPC's Appeal Policy may be appealed to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) and must be filed no later than September 25, 2023.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, if all parties agree, and provided that an appeal has otherwise been filed in accordance with the Water Polo Canada Appeal Policy, WPC's internal appeal process may be bypassed and the appeal may be heard directly before the SDRCC as a first and final appeal instance.

A final decision in any appeal must be made and communicated to the COC no later than September 29, 2023 at 10:59pm EDT. For the avoidance of doubt, a decision is considered to be final where there is no further right of appeal or the party(ies) have waived their right to a further appeal before the SDRCC.

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

The Team will be nominated to the Canadian Olympic Committee no later than September 26 2023.

Changes to the final roster of twelve (12) athletes may be permitted up to the technical meeting however all substitutions after the nominations have been submitted to the COC on September 26, 2023 will also be subject to COC, Santiago 2023, PAQ (Pan Am Aquatics) and/or WAQ regulations and procedures. No changes are permitted after the technical meeting for any reason. Changes are subject to COC Team Selection Committee approval after the nomination deadline of September 28, 2023. The PASO/Santiago 2023 Late Athlete Replacement Policy comes into effect on September 29, 2023.

It will be the team manager's responsibility to confirm the final roster of twelve (12) athletes to the event organizers and PAQ 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.

## **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](http://www.waterpolo.ca)) by December 31, 2022.

## **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.

Water Polo Canada recognizes that athletes, athlete entourage and staff may, for safety reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic, also decide not to travel to and participate in events indicated in this INP that will be used for nomination to the Santiago Pan American Games Team, even in circumstances when the event may proceed as planned, and even when Water Polo Canada has decided that it will travel to and participate in the event because it has decided, following consultation with medical and public health safety experts, that it is safe to do so. In such circumstances, athletes will be responsible for any impact that their decision may have on their Pan American Games qualification, ability to obtain Pan Am Games quota spots or domestic nomination to the Santiago Pan American Games Team.

### **Vaccination Policies and Requirements**

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, all members of the traveling teams (including athletes, coaches, and support staff) will need to ensure that they are up to date on the vaccination policies and vaccination requirements of the NSO, COC, WAQ, Pan Am Sports, the IOC and the host country of the event. Should there be any changes to vaccination requirements to attend the games, Water Polo Canada will communicate these via emails.

#### [Chile Vaccination Requirements](#)

### **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 2023 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 September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the selection is subject to change at the discretion of the Head Coach and HPD.

Note: for all sections of this document referring to the National Team Head Coach: in the absence of the Head Coach, his / her designated substitute (as assigned by the HPD) will be responsible for completing assigned duties and for making decisions normally made by the Head Coach.

#### **Staff Requirements:**

- Member in good standing of Water Polo Canada
- Be in good standing with the Professional Coaching Program of the Coaching Association of Canada (*for members of the Coaching Staff*)

- Have a valid passport that does not expire on or before May 05, 2024 (passports usually have to be valid for up to 6 months after the Games).
- Sign, submit, and comply with the COC Support Team Agreement and Organizing Committee (OCOG) Conditions of Participation form (Eligibility Conditions form for Pan American Games) no later than September 25, 2023 (cannot be later than COC registration requirements deadline).
- Where applicable, comply with the vaccination policies and vaccination requirements of the NSO, COC, WAQ, Pan Am Sports, and the host country of the event.