

# Canadian Sport Institute Pacific and Water Polo West Athlete and Coach Nomination Criteria 2025-26

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## PURPOSE

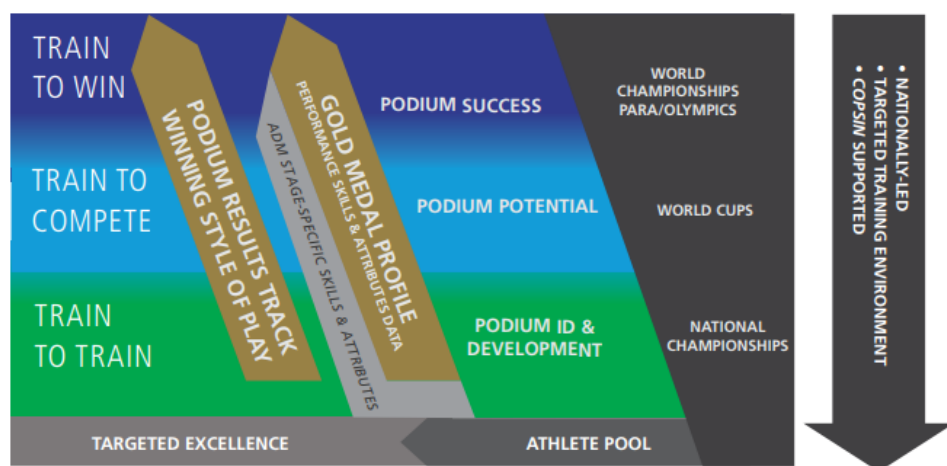
Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, through a partnership with the Province of British Columbia (BC), viaSport, the network of PacificSport centers, and Water Polo West, collaborates to deliver programs and services to place BC athletes<sup>1</sup> on national teams, and ensure athletes and coaches have every advantage to win medals for Canada. The partners work jointly to encourage sport excellence and increase podium performances in communities throughout BC.

This template provides a standardized process with which to identify athletes and coaches within the Water Polo West high performance program as well as athletes who are tracking against key development pathway metrics toward national teams. The levels within the targeted pathway seek to create a common standard across all sports; hence, the template must be used in its entirety. PSO/DSOs are able to adapt the template to suit their own purposes (e.g. branding, application process, etc.) provided all relevant information is contained within.

Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport athlete and coach support for the Sport Canada AAP Carded nomination focuses on athletes and teams 0-4 years from the international podium, identified by the sport-specific Podium Pathway (Figure 1) and Gold Medal Profile. These athletes and teams represent the current generation of national team athletes who are carded by the NSO through Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program.

Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport athlete and coach support for the Canadian Development and Provincial Development nomination focuses on athletes and teams 5-12 years from the international podium, identified by the sport-specific Podium Pathway (Figure 1) and Gold Medal Profile. These athletes and teams represent both the next generation (5-8 years away) and future generations (9-12 years away) of Olympic and Paralympic or World Championship medallists.

**Figure 1 -Podium Pathway (LTAD 3.0)**



<sup>1</sup> A BC athlete is defined as an athlete born, developed, and/or trained/centralized (for a minimum of three (3) months in a twelve (12) month period) in British Columbia.

## DETAILS

Through the above partnership, and with the above purpose in mind, Water Polo West may nominate athletes and their coaches who meet specific criteria for Canadian Sport Institute Pacific / PacificSport athlete or coach enrollment. Upon completion of enrollment and onboarding, athletes and coaches can engage in enhanced programs, benefits, and selected support services through Canadian Sport Institute Pacific and the network of PacificSport regional centres in BC.

Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport athlete support is divided into four levels based on performance, each with a slate of designated benefits. Please see Appendix A for an outline of Water Polo West targeted athlete benefits, programs, and services as delivered through Water Polo West.

Targeted National Development Centre athletes are nominated by Water Polo West based on the athlete criteria below. As a general principle, all athletes are expected to demonstrate evidence of their ongoing performance progression and tracking toward Water Polo West high performance program benchmarks to remain targeted. Water Polo West, Executive Director or Technical Coordinator, and the Canadian Sport Institute technical lead working with Water Polo West, have the final authority over the Canadian Sport Institute nomination process. Any inquiries regarding the sport-specific selection criteria can be made to [technicalcoordinator@waterpolowest.ca](mailto:technicalcoordinator@waterpolowest.ca)

The athlete and coach nomination cycle for Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport / Water Polo West targeting runs December 1- November 30 annually, and athletes are selected based on performances from the previous 12 months. Athletes meeting criteria throughout the annual nomination cycle may be added to the Water Polo West targeted athlete list, on a case by case basis, by contacting the PSO Executive Director.

## ATHLETE/COACH ENROLLMENT

Once the athlete or coach is nominated, they will be notified by Canadian Sport Institute and will be provided with information on how to enroll. All athletes and coaches must enroll with Canadian Sport Institute / Pacific Sport in order to receive athlete or coach supports and benefits.

## CORE CRITERIA

1. For PSO/DSO nominations, athletes must be considered in good standing at the discretion of the PSO/DSO with Water Polo West as a competitive- National Development Centre athlete and meet the definition of a BC athlete.
2. All athletes nominated should have a designated coach who is responsible for planned programming. Specific coach criteria must be identified under coach nominations
3. Athletes who fail to meet targeting criteria due to injury or absence, may remain on Water Polo West's nomination list at the discretion of the PSO/DSO when:
  - a. There is an expectation the athlete in question would have met criteria if no injury or absence had occurred **AND**;
  - b. The athlete in question was nominated by Water Polo West in the previous **12-month cycle**
  - c. There is an agreed timeline on the return to play process
4. Minimum age of targeted athlete is 16-years-old, however at the discretion of CSI staff exceptions can be approved
5. Maximum number of athletes at each level based on historical conversion rates from 2019-2025, identified by CSI Pacific and communicated to the sport by CSI staff. At the discretion of CSI staff exceptions can be approved

## LEVEL-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

### Canadian Sport Institute Criteria

#### Sport Canada AAP Carded

##### *Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:*

Athletes who appear on the Sport Canada AAP Carding List and verified by the NSO. These athletes are in the High Performance (HP/T2W) stage of the Podium Pathway.

It is the responsibility of Water Polo West to consult with the NSO, identifying and nominating any Sport Canada AAP Carded athletes in the province of British Columbia.

## **Canadian Development**

### *Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:*

Athletes who compete on the senior national team in eligible events, but do not receive Sport Canada AAP funding, and verified by the NSO. These athletes are in the High Performance (HP/T2W) stage of the Podium Pathway **OR**;

- Athletes who are in the HP Athlete Development (L2W/T2W) stage of the Podium Pathway (including Gold Medal Profile) and verified by the NSO. If the NSO does not have an approved Podium Pathway, the following criteria will be used:
- Athletes who have been targeted as “NextGen” defined as the expectation to be selected to the senior national team in eligible events within 24 months and verified by the NSO.

## **Provincial Development Level 1**

### *Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:*

Athletes who are in the Athlete Identification & Development stage of the Podium Pathway, and who are tracking toward the HP Athlete Development stage according to the NSO-specific Podium Pathway and Gold Medal Profile. If the NSO does not have an approved Podium Pathway, the athlete must be tracking toward Canadian Development and meet the criteria below:

- Meet specific performance-based benchmarks in accordance with an overall athlete monitoring and tracking framework (utilizing Gold Medal Profile) **AND**;
- Athletes at this level are anticipated to convert to national team program as a Canadian Development or Podium athlete within a maximum duration of five years (combined Provincial Development Level One and Two) **AND**;
- Competed at the appropriate<sup>2</sup> age group or junior world championships in an eligible event (or equivalent international developmental event) in the previous 24 months **OR**;
- Won a medal in an eligible event at their sport-specific national senior/open, appropriate<sup>2</sup> age group or junior championships (or equivalent level of performance standard) in the previous 24 months.

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<sup>2</sup> Definition of appropriate is based on a number of factors such as peak development age, average age of National Team, sport's competition schedule, and logical pathway progression. Final determination will be made by CSI Pacific.

*\*Note, there is an expectation that athletes nominated at the Provincial Development level convert into National Team programs (Canadian Development or Podium / Canadian Elite) within a maximum duration of five years (combined Provincial Development Level 1 and Level 2).*

## **Provincial Development Level 2**

### *Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:*

Athletes who are in the Athlete Identification & Development stage of the Podium Pathway, and who are tracking toward Provincial Development One according to the NSO-specific Podium Pathway and Gold Medal profile. If the NSO does not have an approved Podium Pathway, the athlete must meet the criteria below:

- Meet specific performance-based benchmarks in accordance with an overall athlete monitoring and tracking framework (utilizing Gold Medal Profile) **AND**;
- Athletes at this level are anticipated to convert to national team program as a Canadian Development or Podium athlete within a maximum duration of five years (combined Provincial Development Level One and Two) **AND**;
- Competed in an eligible event at the appropriate<sup>2</sup> age group national championships (or equivalent level of performance standard) in the previous 12 months, **OR**;
- Won a medal in an eligible event at their appropriate<sup>2</sup> age group provincial championships in the previous 12 months,

## **Coach Nomination**

### *Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:*

Coaches are nominated when they are the coach of an athlete who achieves designated criteria. The PSO/DSO may nominate up to two coaches per athlete in cases where both the Provincial/National coach and a personal coach have a significant impact on the athlete's training program. While not required, it is highly recommended that PSO/DSO nominated coaches meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be the lead person designing and implementing an annual training program for the athlete.
- Be designated as Provincial or Regional coach by the PSO/DSO.

- Be designated as a National Development / Senior National coach by the NSO.
- Be designated as athlete's coach of record based on sport-specific criteria below.

AND,

- Working towards NCCP Competition Development Trained Status or ACD coach, or hold the Sport Performance Coaching Certificate (SPCC)

## **Sport Specific PSO Criteria**

### **Canadian Development Criteria 1.0**

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#### ***Water Polo West Sport-Specific Criteria:***

- **1.0** Selected to Water Polo Canada's Senior Women or Men's National Team who are not receiving Sport Canada AAP Carding, verified by the NSO  
OR
- **1.1** Identified as NextGen (Senior National Team Talent Pool) athlete, verified by the NSO  
OR
- **1.2** Competed for Canada at the most recent FISU World University Games, verified by the NSO

Evidence to be provided by PSO/DSO in order to confirm nomination.

### **Provincial Development Level 1 Criteria 2.0**

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#### ***Water Polo West Sport-Specific Criteria:***

- **2.0** Athletes who are selected to Junior/Youth, Women's or Men's National Team in the past 12 months, verified by the NSO  
AND
- **2.1** Register with and participate at the National Development Centre BC (NDC)\*;  
AND

- **2.2** Submit an Athlete Personal Profile to PSO Head Coach

Evidence to be provided by PSO/DSO in order to confirm nomination.

## **Provincial Development Level 2 Criteria 3.0**

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### ***Water Polo West Sport-Specific Criteria***

- **3.0** Athletes who are selected to attend Junior/Youth, Women's or Men's National Team camps in the past 12 months

OR

- **3.1** Athletes who won and gold or silver in the most recent Canadian Championships (NPC)

AND

- **3.2** Register with National Development Centre – BC (NDC);

AND

- **3.3** Submit an Athlete Personal Profile to PSO Head Coach;

Evidence to be provided by PSO/DSO in order to confirm nomination.

## **Coach Nomination**

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### ***Water Polo West Sport-Specific Criteria:***

- Coach must be registered, and in good standing with Water Polo West.
- Coach must provide Water Polo West with information related to athlete progress and/or assessment as directed by Water Polo West.
- Coach must be NCCP Competitive Coach certified, trained, or in training.



## **Appendix 1 Athlete Personal Profile**

The Athlete Personal Profile should include the following information:

- Full name of athlete
- Club
- Position(s)
- Year of Birth
- Gender
- Left/right handed
- Height
- Arm span
- Name and year of teams/camps to which that athlete has been selected.