



2026–2027 AGE GROUP NATIONAL TEAM (AGNT) PROGRAM SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

A. INTRODUCTION

Purpose

This document outlines the selection process, timelines, eligibility requirements and selection criteria for Water Polo Canada's 2026–2027 Age Group National Team (AGNT) Program. It is intended to provide athletes, coaches, parents, clubs and member Provincial Sport Organizations with a transparent and consistent framework governing selection to WPC Age Group National Teams.

Water Polo Canada (WPC) hereby outlines the selection process and criteria for its 2026–2027 Age Group National Team (AGNT) Program.

The AGNT Program consists of two complementary components:

- AGNT Talent Pool programming (selection and preparation process)
- AGNT events (international competitions and training camps)

Definitions:

- AGNT – Age Group National Team
- AGNTTP – Age Group National Team Talent Pool
- NCL – National Championship League
- NDC – regional National Development Centre
- HPD – High Performance Director
- PSO – Provincial Sport Organization

Age Groups and Team Composition:

- The 15U (Cadet) AGNT Program will consist of athletes born in 2012 or later.
- The 17U (Youth) AGNT Program will consist of athletes born in 2010 or later.
- The 18U (Junior Development) AGNT Program will consist of athletes born in 2009 or later.
- The 20U (Junior) AGNT Program will consist of athletes born in 2007 or later.
- For Age Group Pan American Championships and World Championships, WPC will select 14–15 athletes and a minimum of three (3) alternates per team, age group and gender. National Development Teams traveling to training camps only (18U) may include a higher number of participants (up to approximately 18-20).
- In exceptional circumstances, athletes may be considered for participation in more than one AGNT program.

Planned AGNT Events:

The 2026–2027 AGNT Program is expected to include the following international events:

- Junior (20U) World Championships
- 2027 Cadet (15U) Pan American Championships
- 2027 Youth (17U) Pan American Championships
- International training camp opportunities for 18U athletes

Specific dates and locations for all World Aquatics and Pan American events remain to be confirmed.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- Be a registrant in good standing with Water Polo Canada.
- Participate, if invited, in their designated National Development Centre (NDC), provincially recognized training program, or Senior National Team Training Centre.*
- Be a member of their Provincial Team.*
- Compete in the National Championship League (NCL).*
- Have no outstanding fees or fines owing to Water Polo Canada, their Provincial/Territorial Section, or their registered club.
- Be eligible to represent Canada in accordance with World Aquatics (AQUA) regulations.
- Hold a valid passport permitting participation for Canada under applicable World Aquatics (AQUA) and Pan American Aquatics (PAQ) regulations, where required.

- Not be subject to any judicial, disciplinary or criminal investigation that, in the opinion of Water Polo Canada, could reasonably be considered detrimental to the organization.
- Sign all applicable Water Polo Canada Athlete Agreements, including acknowledgement of the Water Polo Canada Code of Conduct, and be registered under the Canadian Safe Sport Program.

*Athletes competing in the NCAA or with professional clubs outside Canada are exempt from these specific eligibility requirements.

Exceptions

In exceptional circumstances, athletes may be selected to the AGNT Talent Pool and/or an Age Group National Team outside of the process outlined in Section B. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Professional Athletes:** WPC may evaluate athletes competing professionally through live scouting, video analysis and match broadcasts.
- **Senior National Team Training Centre Athletes:** Where scheduling conflicts arise due to Senior National Team commitments, athletes training within the Senior National Team environment may be evaluated and selected outside the standard AGNT selection camp process.

Selection of Athletes

Eligible athletes will be considered for selection to AGNT events in accordance with the selection process and criteria outlined in Sections B and C of this document.

Selection is limited to athletes who satisfy all eligibility requirements described above.

B. SELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINES

The 2026–2027 AGNT Program will be delivered in two phases:

- **Phase 1:** Selection Process (*October 2026 – February 2027*)
- **Phase 2:** Final Roster Preparation and Competition (*April – September 2027*)

WPC intends to follow the timeline outlined below.

Please note that, at the time of publication, the final National Championship League (NCL) calendar has not yet been confirmed. An updated version of this document will be published prior to the start of the NCL season, confirming the dates and locations of AGNT selection camps. Whenever possible, WPC intends to schedule AGNT selection camps adjacent to NCL events.

1. Provincial Athlete Identification and Recommendations

Timeline: By **October 9, 2026**

- Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) and National Development Centre (NDC) coaches submit athlete recommendations to WPC.
- Recommended athletes must demonstrate the minimum performance standards established by WPC.
- Individual invitations to the initial Future Stars / Rising Stars AGNT Selection Camps, including program details and participant costs, will be issued by **October 20, 2026**.

2. Initial AGNT Selection Camps (Future Stars and Rising Stars Camps)

Approximately 30 invited athletes per gender per camp

Timeline: November–December 2026 (*exact dates and locations to be confirmed*)

- Selection camps will be held in both Eastern and Western Canada and, whenever possible, will be scheduled adjacent to National Championship League (NCL) events.
- Separate camps will be held for the 20U and 15U age groups for both men and women (*exact age-group structure to be confirmed*).
- AGNT coaching staff will complete and provide individual athlete assessments, including identified development priorities, within 21 days of each camp.

Objectives

- Assess athletes' technical, tactical, physical and psychological readiness.
- Evaluate performance within a high-performance training environment.
- Benchmark athletes against National Team performance standards.

Evaluation Areas

- Game Performance
- Tactical Understanding
- Position-Specific Competencies
- Physical Testing
- Coachability and Adaptability

Note: Invited male athletes engaged in NCAA programs may be exempted from participation in this initial training camp, but will be required to participate in the final selection camp in order to be eligible for selection onto AGNTs for summer 2027 events.

3. Invitation to the Final AGNT Selection Camps (Future Stars and Rising Stars Camps)

Timeline: By **December 15, 2026**

- Individual invitations, including camp details and participant costs, will be issued.
- Approximately 30 athletes (*26 field players and 4 goalkeepers*) will be invited to attend the Final Selection Camp for each gender and age group (*one 20U camp and one 15U camp; exact age-group structure to be confirmed*).

Selection decisions will take into consideration:

- Performance data
- Positional requirements
- Long-Term Athlete Development considerations

4. Final AGNT Selection Camps (Future Stars and Rising Stars Camps)

Timeline: January –February 2027 (*exact dates to be confirmed*)

- Final Selection Camps will be scheduled adjacent to National Championship League (NCL) events whenever possible.
- By the conclusion of each camp, WPC will confirm the maximum program cost, participation fee and payment requirements for each AGNT event, including any refundable deposit required from potential team members.

Objectives

- Identify the athletes best positioned to contribute to international success.
- Confirm positional depth across the roster.
- Assess team chemistry and tactical execution...

Evaluation Components

- Daily Training Assessments
- Internal Competition
- Scrimmages
- Physical Testing
- Tactical Assessments
- Individual Athlete Assessments...

Note: Invited female athletes engaged in NCAA programs may be exempted from participation in this final training camp, but will be required to have participated in the initial selection camp in order to be eligible for selection onto AGNTs for summer 2027 events.

5. Announcement of AGNT Program and Final Program Fees

Timeline: By **March 1, 2027**

WPC will publish:

- Final program cost / participation fee for each AGNT event
- Payment schedule

WPC is committed to confirming final program fees at least three months prior to each international event. For any event scheduled within three months of March 1, final program fees will be confirmed earlier to ensure this commitment is met.

6. Announcement of the AGNT Long Lists

Timeline: By **March 1, 2027**

- Publication of a Long List consisting of **19 athletes** (*16 field players and 3 goalkeepers*) for each competing AGNT (the Long List may include more athletes for National Development Teams).
- The AGNT Long Lists will be published on the WPC website and shared with the water polo community regardless of whether all invited athletes will have accepted their invitation.

Exception: For any team scheduled to begin programming prior to **July 1**, the Long List will be published at least **75 days** before the anticipated program start date.

Athletes named to the Long List will remain subject to ongoing evaluation, including:

- Performance
- Injury status
- Demonstrated training commitment
- Behaviour and alignment with National Team culture and expectations...

7. Final Roster Selection and Announcement

Timeline: By **March 15, 2027**

- Final roster of **13 field players and 2 goalkeepers per competing AGNT** (and up to 18-20 players per Development Team).
- Final team selections will be announced through WPC communication channels, including direct communication with athletes, the WPC website and social media platforms.

Exception: For any team scheduled to begin programming prior to **July 1**, final roster selection will be confirmed at least **60 days** before the anticipated program start date.

Final roster selection will take into consideration:

- Performance at the Final AGNT Selection Camp
- High Performance League performance
- Athlete availability
- Positional balance and team requirements
- Tactical considerations
- Medical considerations

C. SELECTION CRITERIA

Age Group National Team Talent Pool (AGNTTP)

The Age Group National Team Talent Pool (AGNTTP) consists of athletes who are eligible to represent Canada at international events and who have demonstrated the potential to earn selection to an Age Group National Team.

Approximately 30 athletes from each AGNT program will be identified and ranked within the AGNTTP. Athletes selected to the AGNTTP will remain eligible for inclusion throughout their respective age-group eligibility, subject to continued performance and compliance with the eligibility requirements outlined in this document.

Athletes selected to the 2025–2026 AGNT Talent Pool remain eligible for selection to the 2026–2027 AGNT Program, provided they continue to satisfy the eligibility requirements outlined above and take part in the Selection Process described above (Section B).

All invited athletes who participate in the 2026–2027 AGNT Selection Camps (Future Stars and Rising Stars) will automatically be included in the 2026–2027 AGNT Talent Pool.

The AGNT Talent Pool will maintain two depth charts:

- Position-specific athlete rankings
- Overall athlete rankings

Selection to Age Group National Teams

Selection to an Age Group National Team is limited to athletes who have been identified within the 2026–2027 AGNT Talent Pool and who satisfy all eligibility requirements outlined above.

Final team selection will be based on the evaluation process described in Section B and the selection priorities established by WPC for each respective program.

Selection Principles

The following factors will be considered along with any other factors which, in the discretion of the National Team Head Coaches, are deemed relevant. The subjective and objective elements involved in the selection of AGNTs will include, but are not limited to:

- Technical and tactical competencies
- Physical performance and athletic capacity
- Competitive performance in domestic and international events
- Coachability and learning ability
- Culture contribution and team-first behaviours
- Positional and team requirements/ needs
- Long-term National Team potential
- Attendance and performance at selection activities...

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.

Authority for Selection

The Water Polo Canada Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) have delegated authority for the administration of this selection process to the High Performance Director (HPD).

Selection recommendations for each Age Group National Team will be made by the respective AGNT Head Coach in consultation with the Pathway Technical Lead.

The Pathway Technical Lead will oversee the implementation of this selection process and provide recommendations to the High Performance Director. Final team selections are subject to the approval of the High Performance Director.

In accordance with the objectives and priorities of each program, AGNT Head Coaches and the Pathway Technical Lead retain the discretion necessary to recommend the athletes and team composition best suited to achieving international success.

Language

In the event of any inconsistency or difference in interpretation between the English and French versions of this document, the English version shall prevail.

Amendments and Unforeseen Circumstances

Any amendments to this Selection Process or the associated AGNT Program Plan may only be approved by the Chief Executive Officer of Water Polo Canada and, where applicable, will be communicated through an official addendum to this document.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the reasonable control of Water Polo Canada that prevent this Selection Process from being implemented as described, the High Performance Director will submit recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer. After considering all relevant circumstances, the Chief Executive Officer shall have the authority to determine an appropriate course of action that best supports the integrity of the selection process and the objectives of the AGNT Program.

Questions regarding this Selection Process may be directed to Water Polo Canada's Pathway Technical Lead:

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