



2025- 2026 Age Group National Team Program Selection Process

Water Polo Canada is announcing the selection process for the 2025-2026 Age Group National Team (AGNT) Program.

The Age Group National Team Program consists of:

- Age Group National Team events
- Age Group National Team Talent Pool programming

Age Groups and Team Composition

- 16U AGNT programs will be comprised of athletes born in 2010 or later.
- 18U AGNT programs will be comprised of athletes born in 2008 or later.
- 19U AGNT programs will be composed of athletes born in 2007 or later.
- For AGNT Pan American Games and World Championships, Water Polo Canada will name 14 athletes and 3 alternates for each age group.
- Exceptional athletes will be considered for multiple AGNT's.

2025-2026 Age Group National Team events include:

- 2026 Cadet (16U) World Championship
- Youth (18U) World Championship
- Junior (19U) Pan American Teams

Specific dates and locations for all World Aquatic and Pan American events are TBC.

Age Group National Team Talent Pool

The Age Group National Team Talent Pool will consist of athletes eligible to represent Canada at international events and who have demonstrated the potential to earn a position on an Age Group National Team.

Thirty ranked and selected athletes from each Age Group National Program will be included in an overall Age Group National Team Talent Pool (AGNTTP) and will continue to be part of this talent pool throughout their Age Group National Program eligibility.

The AGNTTP will include two depth charts:

- Athletes ranked by position
- Overall player ranking

The AGNTTP will be reviewed and revised (if applicable) by current Age Group National Team coaches twice a year (November and March); any revisions made to the AGNTTP list of athletes will be distributed to all National Team coaches and NDC / Provincial coaches.

Selection of Athletes

Selection of eligible athletes to Age Group National Team events and AGNTTP's will be considered based on 2025-2026 Cadet (16U) and Youth/Junior (18U & 19U) Selection Processes, as outlined below.

- Recommendation by NDC / Provincial Program Coaches
- Invited and attend East / West Future Stars / Rising Stars Camp (Fall 2025)
- Invited and attend National Team Final Selection Camp (Winter 2026)

For more information, please see the following documents:

- 2025-2026 Canadian Cadet (16U) National Team Selection Process
- 2025-2026 Canadian Youth/Junior (18U & 19U) National Team Selection Process

Any athlete that has been selected to the 2024-2025 Age Group National Team Talent Pool is eligible for selection to the Age Group National Team for the 2025-2026 season.

Selection is limited to athletes who meet the Eligibility Conditions as described in this document.

The Pathway Technical Lead will have a high degree of discretion and flexibility, to select the best possible teams, in accordance with program priorities and objectives.

Exceptions

Athletes may be selected to Age Group National Team programs and Age Group National Team Talent Pools outside of the process described above in exceptional circumstances, including (but not limited to) the following:

- Professional Athletes: Water Polo Canada will be actively scouting athletes competing for professional clubs through video feeds and livestreams.
- Senior National Team Training Center Athletes: If there is a direct conflict due to commitments of the Senior National Team, Senior National Team Training Center athletes may be selected independently of scouting events.

Eligibility Conditions

- Be a registrant in good standing with Water Polo Canada
- Participate in their identified National Development Center, provincially recognized program or Senior National Team Training Center *
- Be a member of their Provincial Team *
- Be competing in the NCL
- Not having any outstanding fees/fines payable to Water Polo Canada, a provincial Territorial Section or registered club
- Be eligible to compete for Canada as per AQUA rules
- Hold a valid passport making one eligible to compete for Canada as per AQUA and PAQ rules (specific to athletes participating in sanctioned AQUA or PAQ events)
- Not be subject to a judicial or criminal investigation that may be detrimental to Water Polo Canada, at Water Polo Canada's discretion
- Have signed any Water Polo Canada Athlete Agreement (as applicable/requested), which references the Water Polo Canada Code of Conduct, as well as being a registrant under the Canadian Safe Sport Program

** NCAA and foreign athletes are exempt from these specific eligibility conditions*

Authority For Selection

Water Polo Canada's Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) have delegated the authority for all decision-making under this process to the High Performance Director (HPD).

Age Group National Team Selections will be recommended by the Head Coaches of each respective Age Group National Team.

This process will be overseen by the Pathway Technical Lead, with all final selections being subject to final approval by the HPD.

Selection Process Timelines

The program year will be split into two distinct segments / components. Water Polo Canada will attempt to respect the following AGNTTP timelines and administrative cycle.

- Selection process (Oct 2025- Feb 2026)
 - Final Roster Preparation and Competition (Mar 2026- Sept2026)
- 1) Sept 1, 2025 - Completed NDC / Provincial Program player recommendation and evaluation submitted to WPC Pathway Technical Lead.

- 2) Sept 15, 2025 – Invitation letter to athletes selected to 18U/19U East / West Rising Stars and 16U Future Stars Selection Camps
- 3) September 30, 2025 - Water Polo Canada to announce Age Group National Team Coaches for each 2025- 2026 Age Group National Team and Program
- 4) March 1, 2026 - Water Polo Canada will issue invitation letters with summer event program details to all selected Age Group National Team roster athletes and three alternates. The final 14 player roster will be announced publicly by March 15, 2026.
**Should a World Championship event occur in the winter of that respective competitive year, final preparation and event cost range will be released as of September 15th.*

Language

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

Amendments And Unforeseen Circumstances

Changes to any Age Group National Team Selection Policy or Program Plan will only take place with the approval of Water Polo Canada's Chief Executive Officer, to be added as an addendum if approved.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Water Polo Canada that hinder the fair implementation of this Selection Process as outlined, the High Performance Director (HPD) will submit a recommendation to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Water Polo Canada. The CEO will have full discretion to resolve the matter, taking into account all relevant factors and circumstances.

Should you have any questions, please contact Water Polo Canada's Pathway Technical Lead: patoaten@waterpolo.ca