



**Wheelchair Basketball Canada (WBC) – U23 Men  
National Team Selection Process  
2025 U23 Men America’s Zone Qualifier**

**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to outline the process for Wheelchair Basketball Canada (WBC) to select athletes to represent Canada at the 2025 IWBF U23 Men’s America’s Zone Qualifier.

The goal of the U23 Men’s program is to assemble the best possible teams to perform at the: 2025 IWBF U23 Men’s America’s Zone Qualifier.

No more than 12 players will be selected to the National Team that will represent Canada at the 2025 IWBF U23 Men’s America’s Zone Qualifier..

**2. Timing**

The athletes selected to the National Team will be made known to the national team pool athletes no later than the dates listed below known as the selection dates. The National Team athletes will be formally announced to the public on/or after the appeal period (14 days) has passed.

2025 IWBF U23 Men’s America’s Zone Qualifier. – Selection Date January 6, 2025

**3. Decision making process**

The final recommendation for selection to the National Team is made by the U23 Men’s Head Coach, in consultation with the High Performance Director, Next Gen Player Development and Recruitment Coordinator, Senior Men’s National Team Head Coach, and program assistant coaches.

Information used to inform decision making will be from:

- Previous Canada Next Gen Camps,
- IPPs that have been tracked with athletes that are currently monitored,
- Provincial Coach recommendations
- Attendance at this past summer (July 2024) Next Gen Camp.
- Play at CWBL Junior events





#### **4. Appeals**

An athlete who wishes to appeal the decision of the Head Coach regarding their position as a member of the U23 Men's National Team that will represent Canada at the 2025 IWBF U23 Men's America's Zone Qualifier, has the right to do so, by following the WBC Appeals Policy (available at [www.wheelchairbasketball.ca](http://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca) or through the National Office). They will have 14 days from the time of the Selection date to file an appeal.

#### **5. Eligibility**

Athletes must be Canadian citizens, or otherwise eligible to compete for Canada according to IWBF regulations and be members in good standing with Wheelchair Basketball Canada.

Athletes must be born on/or after January 1, 2003.

Athletes must have a medically-documented physical disability and be deemed eligible by the IWBF classification rule to be considered for selection to the U23 National Team.

The Head Coach has the final authority on deciding whether an athlete should be included in the national team pool in a given year.

Athletes are required to have a recognized physical impairment as per the updated 2021 IWBF classification rules as released October 1, 2021. **IWBF Website:**

<https://iwbf.org/2021/08/02/iwbf-to-implement-changes-to-classification-rules-and-regulations/>

Considerations include but not limited to:

- Commitment to WBC High Performance values
- Commitment to training in a decentralized training environment in respective Province
- Commitment to attend U23 training sessions, zoom calls and qualifications when invited

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- The ability of the athlete to travel independently to U23 training camps and competitions
- The classification of the athlete, in comparison to the other athletes in U23 program pool
- Athlete ability to continue to train and be ready to compete for Canada at the 2025 U23 Men’s World Championships
- Athlete fee assessment (to be determined amount) will be included for World Championship Event.

**6. Criteria for Selection**

The primary criteria for selecting athletes to the National Team is to select the best team possible, ensuring the classification needs based on the primary line-up combinations, special line-up combinations, and substitution for players in the primary line-ups are met.

The measurement criteria can be broken down into the following:

Category	Examples
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oncourt / Steady, positive and specific communication</li> <li>• Off Court / Communicates well with Head Coach and Wheelchair Basketball Canada when called upon communication is timely and informative all information requested is properly filled out</li> </ul>
Attitude / Motivation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive attitude on and off court with coaches, IST and other teammates</li> <li>• Open to feedback and dialogue with others</li> <li>• Shows good listening skills and willingness to improve</li> </ul>
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athlete is independent, mature, honest, motivated and able to perform hygiene routines as required on their own</li> </ul>



Intensity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athlete shows in control chair and body aggression on court and energy without taking unnecessary fouls</li> </ul>
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Role understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athlete performs on court chair positioning, maturity, intelligence and able to make in game adaptations to style of play</li> </ul>
Technical ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athletes base technical skills passing, shooting, ball handling, dribbling and pushing are considered to be level appropriate for a U23 athlete</li> </ul>
Tactical ability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athlete base tactical skills are at a U23 level where decisions can be made at a quick pace both offensively and defensively. Both on and off ball</li> </ul>
Team Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athlete is committed to the team no matter if playing on court or cheering from the sidelines.</li> <li>Athlete contributes to a positive team atmosphere</li> </ul>
Point Line Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line up criterion is used by coaches to field a competitive Canada U23 team</li> <li>Athletes know their classification and internationally IWBF is a 14pt line up</li> <li>All athletes are looked upon as per their classification and the number of competitive 14pt line ups that can be created</li> </ul>
Nutrition and Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Athlete is familiar with healthy eating habits and demonstrates this when eating and bringing appropriate snacks for training or competition</li> <li>Athlete health both on and off the court is stable without injuries that IST staff have not been informed about</li> </ul>

**Additional criteria for consideration:**

- Factors related to team cohesion and team dynamics



- Commitment to a wheelchair basketball program and to training as demonstrated through attendance at training and competition throughout the year and with athlete Club and Provincial team
- Commitment to regular and prompt communication with the Head Coach, IST Staff, WBC staff and the athlete's monitoring system in use for reporting.
- Ability to fit the overall team style of play and philosophy of play
- Evaluation during the year in competitive events at an elite level.
- The future potential of an athlete to compete in various levels of WBC High Performance National sport program (ie. World U23 Championships, Senior level programs, World Championships, Para Pan Am, Paralympics, Training camps)

## **7. WBC athlete program standards**

### **7.1 National Team athletes' post-selection criteria**

Athletes selected to the National Team maybe removed from the roster for any 2025 events, up until the final IWBF deadlines, under the following scenarios:

- Failure to meet training or competition commitments, as determined by the Head Coach;
- Injury or illness that will prevent them from training properly in advance of, and/or competing at a high enough level (as determined by the program medical staff in consultation with the Head Coach);
- Violation of the Athlete/National Sport Organization (NSO) Agreement;
- Gross breach of discipline, as per the WBC Code of Conduct;
- Investigation for cause; and
- Violations of anti-doping rules.

It is the responsibility of the Head Coach to determine the athletes that are to be named as alternates, should it be necessary to replace an athlete named to the National Team. All national team pool athletes may be considered by the Head Coach as alternates.

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