

Wheelchair Basketball Canada (WBC)
National Team Selection Process - Men
2026 IWBF World Championships

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline the process for Wheelchair Basketball Canada (WBC) to select a national team of twelve (12) athletes to represent Canada at the 2026 IWBF World Championships in Ottawa.

Three (3) alternates will be identified to continue in the process and be available should circumstances arise that prevent an athlete from the original twelve to attend the 2026 IWBF World Championships tournament.

The National Team selection will include consideration between assembling a team to podium and providing opportunities for emerging senior team athletes.

The official WBC National Team window runs from May 1 through the conclusion of the World Championships.

2. WBC National Team Athlete Pool

The WBC National team athlete pool shall consist of eligible Canadian wheelchair basketball athletes identified and assessed by Wheelchair Basketball Canada as potential national team representatives. Athletes included in the pool are selected from the national team depth chart, which is established in accordance with the WBC Gold Medal Profile Rankings.

3. Timing

The athletes selected to the National Team will be shared with all national team pool athletes no later than June 30, 2026. The National Team athletes will be formally announced to the public on/or after the appeal period of seven (7) days has passed.

4. Decision making process

The final recommendation for selection to the National Team will be made by the WBC selection committee which consists of the:

- High-Performance Director,
- Program Head Coach, and
- Next Gen Player Development Coordinator

The information used to determine the selections will be an ongoing process from the time of the identification of the national team pool athletes up to the selection date for the outlined event.

Athletes participating in competitive events that conflict with a National team camp will continue to be considered throughout the process provided they meet the criteria outlined in this document in sections 5 and 6.

Athletes with confirmed medical circumstances that prevent them from actively participating in an outlined camp or event will be in consideration moving forward provided they meet all communication and return to play protocols provided by WBC and WBC Medical.

5. Evaluation Events

Ongoing – September 2024 to August 2028

Domestic club, professional, university and provincial team camps, games and competitions.

February 2026

Toronto Cup #2 Games – February 13-15, 2026

April 2026

CWBL Finals – April 17-19, 2026 – Edmonton, AB

May 2026

WBC Nationals – May 15-17, 2026 – Richmond, BC

National Team Athlete Selection Camp #1 - May 18-22, 2026 – Richmond, BC

- Invitations will be sent to athletes on March 16th, 2026, who are considered of interest for the National team using WBC GMP Depth chart data

June 2026

WBC Junior National Championships – June 5-7th, 2026 - Quebec City, QC

National Team Final Selection Camp – June 22-28, 2026

- Men's National Team, Toronto, ON
- Invitations will be confirmed by May 29th, 2026, with athlete confirmations required by June 1st, 2026
- At the conclusion of the June 2026 Final Selection Camp, twelve (12) athletes will be invited to represent Canada at the 2026 IWBF World Championships tournament and attend all camps and competitions leading to the World Championships.
- Three (3) alternates will be identified to continue in the process and be available to attend all camps/competition as requested. Alternates will form the pool of athletes for selection should circumstances arise that prevent an athlete from the original twelve to attend the 2026 IWBF World Championships tournament.

Absences

- Athletes unable to attend mandatory activities due to professional team commitments or documented medical reasons remain eligible for selection.

Evaluation of Absent Athletes

- Evaluation will be based on past results, current performance in other environments (stats/video), and previous national team GMP assessments.

6. 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 have an eligible Impairment for the sport of Wheelchair Basketball and player meets the IWBF minimum impairment criteria and be deemed eligible by the IWBF classification rules to be considered for selection to the National Team.

The WBC selection committee has the final authority on deciding whether an athlete should be included in the national team pool.

7. Criteria for Selection

The primary criteria for selecting athletes to camps and National Teams is led by the Next Gen Player Development Coordinator and is outlined below.

- Commitment to WBC's National Team High Performance Values,
- Use WBC's Gold Medal Profile to evaluate the athlete's position on the depth chart,
- Emerging senior team athletes with Gold Medal Profile attributes to challenge for a team position for the 2026 Worlds and the 2028 Paralympics,
- Medical/Physical status at the time of selection and projected availability,
- Factors related to team cohesion and dynamics, including acceptance and execution of presented roles,
- Based on confirmed classification, the athlete can contribute within proposed line-ups,
- In good standing with Sport Canada and fulfilling all AAP Criteria,
- Special line-up combinations, and
- Substitution for players in the primary line-ups are met.

Additional criteria for consideration:

- The ability of the athlete to travel independently to National Team camps/competitions.
- Commitment to the program and to training as demonstrated through attendance at training, camps, competitions, virtual and in person team meetings throughout the year
- Commitment to regular and prompt communication as requested with WBC and program team staff
- Consistent reporting and submission of training reports as required in the athlete's monitoring system
- Ability to fit the overall team style of play (speed, full-court press, back-picking, high tempo defense, fast breaking)
- Evaluation during the year in competitive events at an elite level.

NB: Being nominated for a Senior card does not guarantee that an athlete will be selected to the National Team to represent Canada at any major competition (Paralympics, World Championship, Qualification Tournament).

Using these criteria, the WBC Selection Committee will choose a team to represent Canada that provides a cohesive environment, an opportunity for emerging senior team athletes and positions Canada to challenge for the podium.

8. WBC athlete program standards

National Team athletes' post-selection criteria

Athletes selected to the National Team may be removed from the roster for any 2026 events, up until the final IWBF deadlines, under the following scenarios:

- Failure to meet training or competition commitments, as determined by the WBC selection committee.
- 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 WBC selection committee);
- Violation of the WBC Athlete Agreement.
- Gross breach of discipline, as per the WBC Code of Conduct.
- Violations of Canadian Safe Sport Program,
- Investigation for cause; and
- Violations of anti-doping rules.

Upon selection, National Team athletes are expected to make a full commitment to the entire WBC National Team program and competition schedule.

*Dates are subject to change due to financial considerations, competitive opportunities, and facility availability. The official WBC National Team window runs from May 1 through the conclusion of the World Championships. Athletes who anticipate any conflicts from May 1 to September 19, 2026, should reach other immediately to the WBC High Performance Director.

SMNT – 2026 Schedule*

- July 9–17, 2026 – National Team Tournament, Toronto, ON
- August 15–24, 2026 – National Team Tournament, Cologne, Germany
- September 2–19, 2026 – IWBF World Championships, Ottawa, ON

9. Appeals

An athlete who wishes to appeal the decision of the WBC Selection Committee regarding their position as a member of the National Team that will represent Canada has the right to do so, by following the WBC Appeals Policy (available at www.wheelchairbasketball.ca or through the National Office). They will have 7 days from the time of the Selection date to file an appeal.

<https://www.wheelchairbasketball.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/WBC-Safe-Sport-Policy-Manual-FINAL-1.pdf>