



JUNIOR MEN'S & WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM
ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

(As of January 26, 2016)



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OVERVIEW

In the spring of 2011, Squash Canada conducted a Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Competitions Review as well as a High Performance Review which brought together some of the country's top current and past players; leading squash coaches and sport administrators to discuss Squash Canada's strategic direction and the current competition and performance structures.

Through this process, Squash Canada contracted world-renowned high performance experts who both facilitated the discussion and made recommendations to the organization. The recommendations from both the Competitions and Performance Reviews indicated that the current junior national team selection process had a few shortcomings including:

1. Not enough Head-to-Head results between squad members
2. Not enough meaningful interaction between players across the country
3. Not all the best players were named to a squad, making them eligible for team selection
4. The selection process was ambiguous and was not clear for all the eligible players
5. The best players did not play in the same events or in the same categories

From the discussion(s) and recommendations from the expert group, Squash Canada is unveiling a new national team selection process for junior aged players beginning with the 2012 – 2013 squash season (commencing September 2012). The new process is based on excellence and will do the following to improve the competition structure of the country:

- Creates a more **transparent** process for national team selection which selects players based on excellence in competitions
- Provides a **flexible** process where players may choose to participate in events based on their schedule; it is more flexible for junior eligible US and Canadian based collegiate players
- **Is a inclusive** process which does not name members to a squad; players have a chance to participate in the process and qualify for a selection trial
- Allows for more **level appropriate** competition
- Increases the potential for '**Head-to-Head**' interaction among prospective team members
- Utilizes a more **efficient** measure for talent identification
- **Aligns competitive structure** more effectively and **within the principles of LTAD**

JUNIOR MEN'S & WOMEN'S NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the Junior National selection process is to put forward a team of players that competitively best represents Canada at the World Junior Team Championships and to prepare Canadian squash players for podium finishes at major international events. This selection process also attempts to ensure that the best players participate in the appropriate level of competition and will encourage, promote and support player participation in the identified national selection events as well as National Championships.
2. Player selections are based on the performance and points accumulated in the identified selection events and the National Championships. Additional points will be awarded to players who achieve excellence in internationally recognized events and US College Squash. In exceptional cases, where a player cannot achieve enough points to qualify directly to the team or to a final selection trial, a player may apply for a wildcard spot into the final selection trial, providing they meet the Wildcard Application criteria and standards.

COMMUNICATION OF NEW SELECTION PROCESS

3. Squash Canada will partner with its Provincial / Territorial Association partners to communicate the launch of this new selection process with its membership. Squash Canada will also publish this document on its website and in the High Performance Manual.
4. Squash Canada communicated this selection process in the fall of 2011.
5. Any amendments to this Policy will be immediately posted on the Squash Canada website.

AUTHORITY FOR SELECTION

6. The Board of Directors of Squash Canada has delegated the authority for all decision-making under this Policy to the High Performance Committee.

SIZE OF TEAM

7. The size of the World Junior Championship Team will be determined by the World Squash Federation, currently four (4) active players and one (1) reserve player (non-travelling).

ELIGIBILITY

8. To be eligible to be considered for selection, a player must:
 - a. Meet the eligibility requirements as determined by the World Squash Federation, currently:
 - i. Under 19 years of age on the final scheduled day of the event.
 - ii. Have been born in Canada, or be a Canadian Citizen, or a naturalized citizen of Canada, or have resided in Canada for at least three (3) years immediately preceding the World Junior Championships.
 - b. Be a registered member in good standing of a Provincial/Territorial Squash Association.
 - c. Pay any required fees.
9. The eligibility requirements listed in Section 8 may be amended upon notification from the World Squash Federation. In any conflict with this policy and the eligibility requirements of the World Squash Federation, the World Squash Federation's decisions and eligibility requirements will prevail.
10. Players will be considered **ineligible** if they have represented another country in the three (3) years preceding the start date of the World Junior Championships in a recognized International Squash Team Championship (i.e. WSF World Championships, Regional Championships, or Official Match between Countries) in any age group.

11. Players who cannot compete in the second (2nd) year of a two (2) year selection cycle due to graduating from the U19 age category will have their selection points dropped and removed from the point's race. They will not be eligible to participate in this selection process or to be named to the World Junior Championship Team.
12. International students residing or attending school in Canada will not be permitted to participate in the Junior National Championships and Final Selection Trial.

SELECTION PROCESS

13. On an annual basis, Squash Canada will select a Junior National Team to represent Canada at either the Men's or Women's World Junior Championships. The selection process will be a two (2) year process.

Please refer to the High Performance Manual to determine which year of the Junior National Team Cycle each gender is participating in.

Designated Selection Events, the Canadian Junior Championships & Canadian Junior Open

14. Each competitive year, Squash Canada will nominate four (4) events for the National Team Selection Process (the "Designated Events"). Two (2) events will take place in Ontario and two (2) in Western Canada (Alberta & British Columbia).

- a. **For National Selection Events:** Please refer to the Squash Canada High Performance Manual for details on these events

NOTE: The top 3 events will be considered in a player's National Selection Points Total.

15. International players are eligible to participate in the events listed in Section 14, unless determined otherwise by the Event organizers.
16. Players who participate in the Designated Events will receive National Selection Points based on their order of finish as described in Table #1. **It is mandatory for each player to participate in three (3) of the four Designated Selection Events in each year of the two-year cycle (participation in the U-17 category counts as participation);** only the three (3) best results will be used for calculation purposes.
17. In addition to the Designated Events, the following Additional Events will also be used to calculate National Selection Points based on their order of finish as described in Table #1:
 - a. Canadian Junior Open (Results in each year of the two (2) year selection cycle).
 - b. Canadian Junior Squash Championships (Results in each year of the two (2) year selection cycle).

TABLE #1 – NATIONAL SELECTION POINTS TABLE

National Selection Events (3 best results)		Canadian Junior Open (CJO)			Canadian Junior Squash Championships		
	U19 Draw		U17 Draw	U19 Draw		U17 Draw	U19 Draw
Champion	30	Champion	30	45	Champion	45	60
Finalist	24	Finalist	24	36	Finalist	36	48
3 rd Place	20	3 rd Place	20	30	3 rd Place	30	40
4 th Place	16	4 th Place	16	24	4 th Place	24	32
5 th Place	12	5 th Place	12	18	5 th Place	18	24
6 th Place	8	6 th Place	8	12	6 th Place	12	16
7 – 8 th Place	4	7 – 8 th Place	4	6	7 – 8 th Place	6	8

18. In addition to the Designated Events and Additional Events, National Selection Points will also be awarded for U.S. College Championships, U.S. Junior Open and the British Junior Open (“Bonus Events”) for players who compete and excel at these events based on their order of finish as described in Table #2.

TABLE #2 - BONUS NATIONAL SELECTION POINTS TABLE

EXCELLENCE POINTS	US Junior Open*		British Junior Open *			
	U17 Draw	U19 Draw	U17 Draw	U19 Draw		
Champion	20	30	60	90		
Finalist	16	24	48	72		
3rd – 4th Place	12	18	40	60		
5th – 8th Place	8	12	32	48		
Top 16	0	0	24	32		
<i>NOTE: These events are not mandatory, however players who achieve excellence will accumulate points</i>						

POINT DETERMINATION (Positions 1 & 2)

19. Point values were determined as follows:

- a. Designated Events are weighted as 1.0 (30 Points) for the Winner
- b. Canadian Junior Open
 - i. U17 Division is weighted as 1.0x
 - ii. U19 Division is weighted at 1.5x
- c. Canadian Junior Squash Championships
 - i. U17 Division is weighted 1.5x
 - ii. U19 Division is weighted as 2.0x
- d. US Junior Open
 - i. U17 Division is weighted as 0.67x
 - ii. U19 Division is weighted as 1.0x
- e. British Junior Open
 - i. U17 Division is weighted as 2.0x
 - ii. U19 Division is weighted as 3.0x
- f. US College is weighted as 3.0x

20. Players will accumulate National Selection Points annually, during the Squash Canada competitive season (September 1st – May 31st), by participating in Designated Events, Additional Events and Bonus Events. Squash Canada will total the player’s three (3) best Designated Events National Selection Points and add them to any Additional Selection Points or Bonus Selection Points, to determine the player’s accumulated National Selection Points.

21. The total accumulated National Selection Point in Year 1 and Year 2 will be tabulated to determine a final ranking of the players. For example:

Example: U19

Name	Event #1	Event #2	Event #3	Event #4	CJO	Jr. Nationals	Excellence PTS	Total
John Doe	30	30	30	24	45	60	0	195
Jim Smith	24	20	24	30	30	48	16	172
Mark Johnson	20	24	20	24	36	40	12	156
Mike Evanson	16	16	16	20	24	32	8	116

22. The **two (2) highest ranked players**, determined by tabulated National Selection Points from Year 1 and Year 2, will **automatically be selected to the World Junior Championship Team**.

Tie-Breaking Procedure

23. In the event that two or more players have the same accumulated points after accumulation, the tie will be broken as follows (If tie-breaking rule (a) does not lead to a conclusion, move onto the next subparagraph (b), etc.):

- a. Squash Canada ranking at date of determination of selection.
- b. The order of finish at the Canadian Junior Squash Championships
- c. Head to head results over the competitive season (Year 2)
- d. The player with the best order of finish in Year 2 of the Designated Events

24. The **eight (8) next highest ranked players**, determined by tabulated National Selection Points from Year 1 and Year 2, will **advance to a final Selection Trial** to determine the final two (2) positions on the World Junior Championship Team and the (1) non-travelling reserve on the World Junior Championship Team. The winner of the Selection Trials will determine the 3rd place selection for the World Junior Championship Team.

SELECTION TRIAL (Positions 3, 4 and 5 (non-travelling reserve))

25. The Junior National Team Selection Trial is a **non-funded event**, therefore players who have qualified must one hundred percent (100%) **self-fund** their related expenses to attend the Selection Trial.

26. After Squash Canada has determined the number of players competing in the Selection Trial, Squash Canada will determine the format, date and location of the Selection Trial. Format example:

EXAMPLE ONLY

DRAW FORMAT – Based on 12 players	ROUND ROBIN FORMAT – Based on 12 players
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 16 person draw (12 players) with 4 first round byes ✓ 4 seeded players will receive first round byes ✓ Non Elimination Event with players playing positions 1 to 12 out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 4 pools of 3 players each (1 seeded player in each pool) ✓ Top player from each pool advance to semi-final playoffs with: <p style="text-align: center;">POOL A Winner vs. POOL D Winner POOL B Winner vs. POOL C Winner</p> ✓ Winners of each semi-final playoff to determine 3rd and 4th positions on the team and losers’ playoff for alternate’s position (5th position)

NOTE: Squash Canada may choose not to fill the 4 Wildcards / Development Spots (please see applicable criteria below – paragraph 32)

Seeding Protocol – Selection Trial

27. The seeding protocol for the Selection Trial are as follows:

- a. The top four (4) players will be seeded in accordance with their Canadian National Junior Ranking after the conclusion of the competitive season (Canadian Senior Nationals).
- b. In the event that there are players tied in the rankings, the tie will be broken by the head-to-head records from the most recent competitive season at time of seeding.
- c. If there are no head-to-head results between the tied players, the player with the most Selection Points from Year 1 and Year 2 will be provided the better seed.
- d. All remaining players will be drawn randomly.

Date of Selection Trials

28. It is the intent of Squash Canada to hold the Selection Trials around the 3rd weekend of May. Please refer to the Squash Canada High Performance Manual for confirmed dates. In the event that the selection trial must be played earlier or later, Squash Canada will publish any change in date on its national website a minimum of fourteen (14) days before the Selection Trial date.

SELECTION TRIAL (Position 3, 4 and 5)

29. The winner of the Selection trials will determine the 3rd place selection for the World Junior Championship Team, the rest of the trial participants will be awarded points as per the following table. Each trials participant's points will be added their season point total and the two highest athletes will be selected to the 4th place selection and the 5th place selection (non-travelling reserve):

NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION TRIALS	POINTS
1 st Place at National Selection Trials	Automatic selection to World Jr. Team
2 nd Place at National Selection Trials	175 points
3 rd Place at National Selection Trials	150 points
4 th Place at National Selection Trials	125 points
5 th Place at National Selection Trials	100 points
6 th Place at National Selection Trials	75 points

WILDCARD/DEVELOPMENT SPOTS

30. Squash Canada may consider providing players Wildcard / Development spots within the Selection Trial for those players who have not previously qualified for the Selection Trial as described herein. **It is mandatory for each Wild Card player to have participated in three (3) of the four Designated Selection Events in each year of the two-year cycle (participation in the U-17 category counts as participation) unless at full time college during one of the years**

31. Squash Canada may actively recruit athletes to participate in trials if they have shown recent and proven performance in the following events: Junior Nationals, College Squash Championship or other appropriate event in the year of selection.

32. Any player wishing to apply for a Wildcard/Development will have five (5) days from the conclusion of the Canadian Junior Nationals to submit in writing to the High Performance Committee (HPC) the following:

- Notice of their intention to apply for a Wildcard/Development spot;
- Contact information;
- All evidence that supports the reasons for granting a Wildcard/Development spot.

33. Squash Canada's HPC will receive Wildcard/Development spot requests from players and the HPC will determine which Wildcard/Development spots it will award based on the following criteria **weighted in priority from a - d:**

- Player Potential** – Does the player have the potential to make the Canadian National Junior Team? Squash Canada will consider the following to determine Player Potential:
 - Age of the player – is he/she eligible for future world championships
 - The player's training environment (are they attending US College?)
 - Any significant wins / loses over existing qualified players?
 - Has the player previously been named to the Canadian Team or named to a squad?
 - Does the player have the potential to represent Canada on the international stage?

- b. **Previous Results** – Does the player have previous results which merit consideration? Squash Canada will consider the following to determine Previous Results:
 - The overall player record from during the most recent competitive squash season
 - Significant results over other qualified players over the most recent competitive squash season
 - Order of finish at Canadian Jr. Squash Championships in the most recent competitive squash season
 - Best order of finish from the Selection Events in the most recent competitive squash season
 - Past performances in major Canadian or International events.
 - c. **National Rankings** – Squash Canada will consider the national rankings of the player as well as the provincial / territorial ranking of the player. Squash Canada will consider the international ranking of the player and will consider US College players ranked in the Top 50.
 - d. **Injury or Absenteeism** – Did the player not accumulate enough points due to injury or did the player not participate in the selection process due to the fact they attend US College or University?
34. **The HPC reserves the right to grant up to four (4) Wildcard/Development spots or not grant any Wildcard/Development spots based on the applications received and applicable criteria described herein.**
35. A minimum number of four (4) HPC Committee Members must approve the Wildcard/Development Spot request in order to grant a Wildcard/Development Spot.
36. Decisions on Wildcard/Development selections will be rendered within five (5) days of the closing deadline for Wildcard/Development applications.
37. Members of the HPC are required to remove themselves from any discussions and decisions if there exists a conflict of interest.
38. Squash Canada’s Performance Director will notify the player requesting a wildcard if their request has been granted or denied.

REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN SELECTED AND REMOVAL

39. Upon selection and in order to remain on the World Junior Championship Team, a player must:
- a. Sign an Athlete Agreement
 - b. Provide to Squash Canada all required documents (medical records, birth certificate, etc.)
 - c. Participate in all World Junior Championship Team events, activities and meetings
 - d. Ensure proper equipment, clothing and funds
 - e. Obey all rules established by Squash Canada
 - f. Assist Squash Canada in public relation and fundraising projects where required
 - g. Pay any required fees (i.e., player levies)
40. Once selected to a team, a player may withdraw or be removed for the following reasons:
- a. Breach of the Athlete Agreement
 - b. Failure to satisfy the minimum training standards set out by the Head Coach
 - c. Failure to adhere to team rules and Squash Canada’s Policies and Procedures
 - d. Failure to remain competitive-ready leading up to the event. Players who do not remain competitive-ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the World Junior Championship Team. It is the obligation of the player to immediately report any injury, illness or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level.

- e. Voluntary withdrawal/retirement
- f. Fraudulent misrepresentation

41. Where a player is to be removed, the HPC will have the discretion to remove the player from the World Junior Championship Team, provided the player is given an opportunity to be heard, and to replace the player with the non-traveling reserve. Alternatively, the player may be removed from the World Junior Championship Team in accordance with Squash Canada's Discipline and Complaints Policy and/or in accordance with the player's Athlete Agreement.

EVENT STRUCTURE / FORMAT

42. All Designated Events in the U19 age category only shall consist of a main draw with full feed-in consolation and a bronze draw for players defeated in the 1st round of consolation. Each participant shall receive a minimum of 3 matches. The same format will apply for the Canadian Junior Open and the Canadian Junior Squash Championships.

43. All Designated Event draws and seedings will be made by the host Provincial / Territorial squash association; and the draws will be posted on the event website and/or the host province's provincial website. Squash Canada will seed and create the draw for the Canadian Junior Open and the Canadian Junior Squash Championships as well as any final Junior National Team Selection Trial.

44. Players wishing to participate in a Designated Event must enter through the respective Provincial and Territorial association website or club only. Squash Canada does not enter players for the Designated Events. Players wishing to enter the Canadian Junior Open or Canadian Junior Squash Championships must enter through Squash Canada.