



JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUAD ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

(Approved August, 2023)

OVERVIEW OF JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUAD PROGRAM:

1. The objective of the Junior National Squad is to prepare and support top Canadian junior athletes in their pursuit of international success. Junior National Squad Athletes will have progressed through Provincial pathways and be actively playing at a national level and higher. Junior National Squad athletes' short-term goal will be to represent Canada with the mid-term objective of transitioning to the Next Gen and Senior Squads.
2. Junior National Squad Athletes will be within the Train to Compete stage of the Long Term Development (LTD) and must be age eligible for the following year's World Junior Championships (Approx. August 15th, 2024)
3. Junior National Squad Athletes will have access to a wide array of services including coaching support, centralized training, funding opportunities, and secondary support services. See appendix A for a more detailed listing.
4. The Junior National Squad will be named to begin June 15th of the same year.

PURPOSE:

5. This Policy governs Squash Canada's selection of the Junior National Squad. The Junior/Athlete Pathway and High Performance Committees will select appropriate athletes to the Junior Squad annually.

COMMUNICATION:

6. This Policy, and any amendments to it will be posted on the Squash Canada website supplemented by other appropriate communication networks.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

7. To be named to the Junior National Squad an athlete must meet the following eligibility criteria:
 - a) be a member in good standing with his/her provincial/territorial squash association and a player in good standing with Squash Canada pursuant to any prior Athlete Agreement executed by the athlete and not subject to any disciplinary action by either their provincial/territorial squash association and/or Squash Canada; **and**,
 - b) Meet the eligibility requirements to represent Canada at World Titled Championships as determined by the World Squash Federation (WSF). (<https://www.worldsquash.org/world-championship-regulations-2/>);
 - c) be a registered and active member of the WSF including a SPIN number.

- d) To formalize selection to the Junior National Squad, the athlete must sign a Squash Canada – Athlete Agreement which outlines mutual responsibilities, including those related to safe sport, code of conduct and anti-doping, among others. (<https://squash.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Squash-Canada-Athlete-Agreement-2019-2020.pdf>)

JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUAD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:

8. To be considered for selection to the Junior National Squad an athlete must be fully prepared to satisfy the following responsibilities and expectations in the year selected:
- a) Play a minimum of **3 national circuit events and 6 total domestic events annually** (to be determined by the Junior/Athlete Pathway Committee by September 1st of the same year as selection)
 - b) Play Canadian Junior Closed Championships and Canadian Junior Open.**
 - c) Play a minimum of **1 international event annually** (USJO, BJO, Dutch/Pioneer)
 - d) Play a minimum of **1 senior Provincial/National Event annually** (Provincial Champs, CDN Team Champs, etc.)
 - e) Attend training and playing sessions/camps as available and required. These opportunities will be facilitated regionally in conjunction with provincial/territorial associations and limit travel wherever possible.
 - f) Submit YPI, competition schedule and training log annually.
 - g) Submit regular physical and technical testing results (3x annually minimum).
 - h) Regular communication including liaising between SC and primary coach/support team.
 - i) Hold a Top 20 Overall Female/Male Junior Canadian Ranking.
 - j) Provide media availability (interviews, photography, etc.) and community service to Squash Canada within reason when requested.
 - k) If any of the above requirements are not able to be met due to injury or other unforeseen circumstances, selected athletes may apply for an exemption. Athletes may request exemption, in writing, to the Manager of Athlete Development, which will be considered, and accepted or rejected, on an individual basis by the Junior Athlete Pathway Committee and/or the [Manager of Athlete Development](#).

2023-24 JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUAD ATHLETE SERVICES:

9. Team members will receive the following benefits and services, as Squash Canada budgets may permit:
- Support from Manager of Athlete Development
 - Support in Developing YPI, Competition Schedule and Training Program
 - Subsidized access to centralized training programming
 - Training camps as scheduled
 - Team Canada Uniform
 - Ability to represent Canada at international events (subject to criteria)
 - Possible funding opportunities
 - Access to Canadian Athlete Insurance Program
 - Subsidized NCCP coach training
 - Wildcard and local recommendations to Canadian PSA hosts
 - Access to coaching, sports psychology, training plan, scheduling, nutrition, injury and rehab support, etc.
 - Access to Mentorship Opportunities including career, sponsorship, and marketing support
 - Other Sport Canada support programs as applicable

JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUAD TIMELINE AND SELECTION CRITERIA:

10. The Junior Squad will build up over a 3-year period with the goal of up to 12 female and 12 male athletes actively pursuing high performance international squash. Squads will be named and evaluated annually.
11. The Squash Canada Junior/Athlete Pathway and High Performance Committees will select the Squad between June 15th and August 15th of the same year of selection, at their sole discretion based on (but not limited to) the following considerations:
 - a) Athlete potential as a NextGen and Senior National Team Member;
 - b) Athlete commitment, professionalism, training environment and support team;
 - c) Club Locker Ratings and NJC Rankings as of July 15th of the same year as selection;
 - d) Head-to-head results;
 - e) Previous international competition experience and performance;
 - f) Age eligibility for Pan-Am, Commonwealth, and World Junior Championships;
 - g) Testing results, Match and Training Videos, Interviews and References as required.