



NEXTGEN SQUAD ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

(Approved August, 2023)

OVERVIEW OF NEXTGEN SQUAD PROGRAM:

1. The objective of the NextGen Squad is to prepare and support transitioning Canadian athletes on their pathway to meet Senior National Team criteria and inclusion. NextGen Squad athletes will be in either the PSA or US College Squash stream with the objective of playing on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour and representing Canada in major international competitions.
2. NextGen Squad Athletes will be within the Train to Win stage of the Long Term Development (LTD) model who are transitioning out of junior squash. These athletes will have International experience and in many cases will have been members of the Canadian National Junior Squad.
3. There are two (2) NextGen Squad streams; PSA and US College Squash. Those in the PSA stream will actively be playing on the PSA tour with a minimum requirement of five (5) events annually. US College Squash NextGen athletes will be required to play a minimum of one (1) PSA and one (1) domestic Canadian event in addition to their US College schedule.
4. NextGen 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.
5. The 2023-24 NextGen Squad will be named by August 1st, 2023.

PURPOSE:

6. This Policy governs Squash Canada's selection of the NextGen Squad. The High Performance Committee will select appropriate athletes to the NextGen Squad annually.

COMMUNICATION:

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

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

8. To be named to the NextGen 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).

- c) be a registered and active member of the PSA
- d) To formalize selection to the NextGen 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.

NEXTGEN SQUAD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 9. To be considered for selection to the NextGen Squad an athlete must be fully prepared to satisfy the following Squad responsibilities and expectations in the year selected:

PSA Stream

- a) Compete in a minimum of 5 PSA events (Year 1), maintain a PSA Ranking in the Top 80% (Year 2) and maintain a ranking in the Top 60% (year 3 and beyond);
- b) Play a minimum of 3 domestic events (national or provincial level) annually;
- c) Attend centralized training sessions, and playing camps as required;
- d) Submit Yearly Planning Instrument (YPI), competition schedule and training log annually;
- e) Submit regular physical and technical testing results (3x annually minimum);
- f) Regular communication including liaising between Squash Canada and primary coach/support team;
- g) Maintain a top 50 Canadian Senior and/or top 20 U23 Club Locker Rating;
- h) Provide social media content and community service to Squash Canada within reason when requested;

Or,

US College Squash Stream

- a) Play a minimum of 1 PSA event annually;
- b) Play a minimum of 1 Canadian domestic event annually;
- c) Attend centralized training sessions and playing camps as required;
- d) Submit YPI, competition schedule and training log annually;
- e) Submit regular physical and technical testing results (3x annually minimum);
- f) Regular communication including liaising between Squash Canada and primary coach/support team;
- g) Maintain a Top 50 Canadian Senior and/or Top 20 U23 Club Locker Rating;
- h) Provide social media content and community service to Squash Canada within reason when requested;

2023-24 NEXTGEN SQUAD ATHLETE SERVICES:

- 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
- Possible access to Bell Canada Connect Phone Plan
- 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

2023-24 NEXT GEN SQUAD TIMELINE AND SELECTION CRITERIA:

10. The NextGen Development Squad will build up over a 3-year period with the goal of up to 24 athletes actively pursuing high performance international squash named and supported by 2024.
11. The Squash Canada High Performance Committee will select the 2023-24 Squad by August 1st, 2023 at their sole discretion based on (but not limited to) the following considerations:
 - a) Athlete potential as a future Senior National Squad Member;
 - b) Athlete commitment, professionalism, training environment and support team;
 - c) PSA Rankings as of July 1st, 2023;
 - d) Club Locker Ratings as at July 1st, 2023;
 - e) Head-to-head results;
 - f) Previous international competition experience and performance;
 - g) Age eligibility for 2022 - 2024 Pan-Am, Commonwealth, and World Championships (Junior, U21, U23 and Senior);
 - h) Testing results, Match and Training Videos, Interviews and References as required.