



BATTLE OF THE BORDER ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA

(Approved November 2025)

EVENT INFORMATION:

This policy governs Squash Canada's selection of the athletes to compete in the Battle of the Border. The 2026 Battle of the Border will be hosted in **TBD, likely Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON, in early August 2026**. This Policy and any amendments to this Policy will be posted on the Squash Canada website. The Board of Directors of Squash Canada has delegated the authority for selections and decisions under this Policy to the [Junior/Athlete Pathway Committee](#).

The objective of the Battle of the Border is to provide a quality international athlete development opportunity for Canada's top young talent and an inspirational taste of representing Team Canada against the United States.

- Battle of the Border athletes are athletes within the Learn to Train, Train to Train, or Train to Compete stage of the LTAD model and have a proven high-performance junior squash profile.
- Each of the Canadian and American teams will be comprised of 4 males and 4 females in each of the U13, U15, and U17 age categories. The age cut off will be the same as at the Canadian Junior Championship of the same year.
- Once the Team has been selected, the final team order for the players will be at discretion of the National Team Coaches. Their criteria will be based on, but not limited to, the following: National ranking, results of challenge matches, general performance and fitness level, and on and off-court behaviour.
- Selected players should expect to pay approximately \$1750 for the tournament, not including travel which the players are responsible for. Subject to change.

TIMELINE:

1. **By January of same season** – The Expression of Interest (EOI) registration will be released and communicated.
2. **Prior to First Selection** – Register using the EOI form [here](#). The EOI fee is \$100, and EOI registration is mandatory for selection. Those not selected will be refunded.
3. **April 1** – The first selections occur, as per the Selection Criteria below.
4. **Following the Canadian Junior Closed Championships** – The second selections occur, as per the Selection Criteria below.
5. **Within 2 weeks of selection** – A \$400 deposit will be paid, and the event athlete agreement will be signed.
6. **As soon as possible after selection** – Athletes will book flights or travel and complete any required training (ex. Canadian Safe Sport education).
7. **Minimum one week prior to event** – Remaining full event payment (EOI fee and deposit subtracted from the total). Estimated fee schedule will be indicated on the EOI registration page.

8. **1-3 weeks prior to event** – Expect a Team announcement via press release and a Team Canada meeting.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. Meet the respective age eligibility requirements;
2. Meet the relevant event criteria;
3. Be a Citizen of Canada, or a Permanent Resident of Canada, or be a resident of Canada for at least three (3) years continuously immediately preceding selection (provided that residents who are in Canada as students or who are temporary workers are not eligible). Notwithstanding the foregoing, a junior who is a student but who is residing in Canada with a parent who is a Permanent Resident of Canada or who has been a resident of Canada for at least three (3) years, will not be so disqualified;
4. Be a registered member in good standing of a Provincial/Territorial Squash Association and a player in good standing with Squash Canada;
5. Be prepared to comply with any potential vaccination requirements;
6. Fill out an Expression of Interest [here](#) which will close two weeks prior to initial selections, and pay a \$100 deposit (refundable if not selected);
7. Have no documented serious on or off court conduct violations of Squash Canada's Code of Conduct;
8. Pay any required deposits and fees; and
9. Have played a minimum of 3 NJC tournaments within 12 months preceding selection.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Spots on the Canadian Team will be offered to players in the following sequence:

1. The 1st and 2nd ranked players on the U15 and U17 National Junior Circuit rankings, and the 1st and 2nd ranked players on the U13 Club Locker Ratings on April 1st will be auto-selected. Should any player(s) decline the position, the next highest ranked player will be selected, and so on.
 2. 1st and 2nd place finishers in the boy's and girl's U13, U15, and U17 age categories at the most recent Canadian Junior Closed Championships will be auto-selected. Should any player(s) decline a position, the next highest-placed eligible player(s) will be selected.
- In the event of an NJC ranking tie, the players' head-to-head results will break the tie. If tied in head-to-head results, the player with the most recent win will be selected. If there are no head-to-head results, the player with the higher rating will be selected. In the event of a rating tie, the players' finishing positions at the most recent Canadian Junior Closed Championships will break the tie.
 - To confirm acceptance of the selection and to 'hold' their spot, each player will be required to submit to Squash Canada a \$500 security deposit within two weeks of acceptance of their position, which may only be refunded if the player incurs a documented injury or other extenuating circumstance and as accepted at the sole discretion of the Junior/Athlete Pathway Committee.
 - The player(s) identified above will be required to confirm or reject their opportunity to participate within 72 hours of the invitation from Squash Canada.

INJURY/EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE PROVISIONS:

If a player is unable to attend the required number of designated selection events through injury or extenuating circumstance and wishes to be considered for selection, the player must submit an Injury/Exceptional Circumstance application to info@squash.ca no later than 11:59 pm EDT on the last day of the Canadian Junior Squash Championships the year of selection as supported by relevant medical and any other documentation. It will be at the Junior/Athlete Pathway Committee's sole discretion whether to accept or reject the application.

REQUIREMENTS TO REMAIN SELECTED AND FOR REMOVAL:

Upon selection and in order to remain on the Battle of the Border Team, a player must:

- Possess a valid WSF Squash Personal Identification Number (SPIN);
- Sign a Squash Canada - Athlete Agreement;
- Provide to Squash Canada all required documents (medical records, birth certificate, etc.);
- Participate in all Battle of the Border events, activities, and meetings;
- Ensure proper equipment, clothing, and funds;
- Obey all rules established by Squash Canada;
- Assist Squash Canada in public relations and fundraising projects where required;
- Pay any required fees (i.e., player levies); and
- At all times, agree to acquaint themselves with, and strictly abide by the Squash Canada Code of Conduct, Discipline and Complaints Policy, Appeal Policy, and all other policies, rules, and regulations of the organization located [here](#). In addition, all athletes who have been selected or received an endorsement by Squash Canada may be required to adhere and consent to the UCCMS (Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport).

Once selected to the team, a player may withdraw or be removed for the following reasons:

- Breach of the Squash Canada Athlete Agreement;
- Failure to satisfy the minimum training standards set out by the Head Coach;
- Failure to adhere to team rules and Squash Canada's Policies and Procedures;
- 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 Battle of the Border 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;
- Voluntary withdrawal/retirement; or
- Fraudulent misrepresentation.

Where a player is to be removed, the Junior/Athlete Pathway Committee will have the discretion to remove the player from the Battle of the Border Team, provided the player is given an opportunity to be heard, and to replace the player with the non-travelling reserve. Alternatively, the player may be removed from the Battle of the Border Team in accordance with Squash Canada's Discipline and Complaints Policy and/or in accordance with the player's Squash Canada - Athlete Agreement.

Withdrawals made without valid reason such as medical illness or bereavement and/or without sufficient notice may still be subject to the full or partial payment of the coaching and endorsement fees, at the

discretion of Squash Canada. Squash Canada reserves the right to request appropriate supporting documentation.