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2023 JEUX
AUTOCHTONES
de l'Amérique du Nord



North American
INDIGENOUS
GAMES 2023

Team BC 2023 North American Indigenous Games ATHLETE SELECTION PROCESS

-- CANOE / KAYAK --

The following document outlines the eligibility and selection process for athletes to represent Team BC in the sport of canoe/kayak at the 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 15 to 23, 2023.

Goals

- Increase awareness of opportunity of canoe/kayak and NAIG
- Form a strong, competitive and coordinated Team BC in the sport of canoeing/kayaking to participate at Halifax 2023 North American Indigenous Games
- Recognize and support athletes in their development and preparation
- Produce medalists at the NAIG
- To transfer talented athletes to Canoe Kayak BC development programs
- To integrate programs with Canoe Kayak BC

Objectives

- Create a culture of excellence and accountability
- To recognize that privilege comes with hard work
- Provide support to coach development

Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) Partner – Canoe Kayak BC

The Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation Council (I-SPARC) is responsible for the Team BC program for the North American Indigenous Games. With guidance and oversight provided by its Provincial Indigenous Canoe/Kayak Committee, I-SPARC is also supported in the Team BC athlete and coach development processes through partnership with PSO partner, Canoe Kayak BC. Canoe Kayak BC is committed to:

- Assisting with the hosting the BC Indigenous Canoe/Kayak Championships

The Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC) is responsible for managing the Team BC Program for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) and is supported by the Province of BC. The Team BC NAIG program in the sport of lacrosse is sanctioned and supported by Canoe Kayak BC.

PARTNER AGENCIES



- Providing relevant coaching education opportunities
- Providing opportunities for athlete development by way of training camps and competitions
- Supporting communities that are pursuing sustainable development programs in their efforts to acquire appropriate equipment

The Indigenous Sport, Physical Activity & Recreation Council (I-SPARC) is responsible for managing the Team BC Program for the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) and is supported by the Province of BC. The Team BC NAIG program in the sport of lacrosse is sanctioned and supported by Canoe Kayak BC.

PARTNER AGENCIES



1. Athlete Eligibility

In order to be eligible for participation on Team BC for North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), athletes must meet NAIG eligibility requirements as follows:

- Meet the sport-specific age requirement
- Be a resident of BC
- Be born of Canadian or American Indigenous ancestry. Athletes will be required to provide proof of ancestry (e.g. Status Card, Provincial Métis Card, First Nations/Treaty Card, Inuit and Inuvialuit identification)*.
- Be a member of CanoeKayak BC
- Be fully COVID-19 vaccinated as per the NAIG policy. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

*If a participant does not possess one of the specified cards/ID, there is a Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry Form that must be completed and submitted together with supporting documentation to I-SPARC c/o Team BC Chef de Mission.

Please note any athlete that requires the Declaration of Indigenous Ancestry form is not guaranteed eligibility to Team BC to compete at NAIG until the Declaration and supporting documentation is approved and endorsed by Team BC for NAIG submission.

The form will be available in September 2022. If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to teambc@isparc.ca.

2. Age Eligibility

The 2023 NAIG competition will consist of male and female singles, doubles and mix doubles events for the following age categories:

- 19U (defined as born 2004 & later*); and
- 16U (defined as born 2007 & later*); and
- 14U (defined as born 2009 & later*)

*Regarding matters of safety and maturity, Team BC is seeking athletes born 2004 and 2010.

3. Team Composition & Events

Team BC may nominate up to maximum of six (6) male and six (6) female athletes for each of the age categories listed above (up to a maximum overall total of 36 Team BC canoe/kayak athletes to compete at NAIG*). An athlete is allowed to compete in a maximum of six (6) canoe/kayak events and all registered competitors must race at least two (2) events.

**maximum may be amended pending overall contingent maximums.*

Events featured at Halifax 2023 NAIG are as follows. K1 = kayak (single); MC1 = marathon canoe (single); MC2 = marathon canoe (doubles).

Category:	14U (2006 & later)		16U (2004 & later)		19U (2001 & later)	
Gender:	M	F	M	F	M	F
200m	K1	K1	K1	K1	K1	K1
1000m	MC1, K1	MC1, K1	MC1, K1	MC1, K1	MC1, K1	MC1, K1
3000m	MC1, K1	MC1, K1	MC1, K1	MC1, K1	MC1, K1	MC1, K1
6000m	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	MC1, K1	MC1, K1
1000m (Dbls)	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2
3000m (Dbls)	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2
6000m (Dbls)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	MC2	MC2
1000m M Dbl	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2

3000m M Dbl	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2	MC2
6000m M Dbl	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	MC2	MC2

4. Athlete Selection Process

BC Indigenous Provincial Canoe/Kayak Championships and “Team BC Development Squads”

The Team BC NAIG Program will form a “Team BC Development Squad” for the sport of canoe/kayak following the 2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Canoe/Kayak Championships. The Championships will serve as the athlete identification event to identify eligible athletes to be nominated to the “Team BC Development Squad.”

Development Squad athletes are those identified by Team BC Coaching Staff as having demonstrated potential to earn a position on the final Team BC NAIG roster. Athletes named to the “Team BC Development Squad” are expected to spend the fall and winter months continuing to train and prepare on their own. Development Squad members will be required to attend mandatory Team BC Training Camp in the spring of 2022 (exact date and location to be confirmed) with the ultimate goal to be named to the final Team BC NAIG roster following their performance at the spring camp.

Only those Development Squad members who are named to the final Team BC NAIG roster will participate in the Halifax 2023 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 15 to 23, 2023.

Athletes are requested to enter and compete in the 2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Canoe/Kayak Championships to be held as follows:

2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Canoe/Kayak Championships March 4 – 5, 2023

HOST: Nanaimo Canoe and Kayak Club, Loudon Park at Long Lake

- Age categories for both male and female (to align with 2023 NAIG age category birth years) will include:
 - 19U (defined as born 2004 & later); and
 - 16U (defined as born 2007 & later); and
 - 14U (defined as born 2009 & later)
- Events for both male and female athletes at the Championships will include:
 - Canoe singles in 1000m and 3000m
 - Kayak singles in 200m, 1000m and 3000m
 - There will be no double events featured in the 2023 Championships
- Athletes are permitted to compete in their respective age category only at the Championships.
- Registration fee is \$50/person. The registration form will be circulated to I-SPARC and CanoeKayak BC email lists and posted on I-SPARC and CanoeKayak BC social media page(s) and websites.
- Athletes are requested to pre-register and submit registration fee prior to deadline of 5:00 PM, Friday, February 24, 2023 to secure a spot. Registration available at the following link: <https://isparc.perfectmind.com/SocialSite/MemberRegistration/MemberSignIn>. Please fill out the Expression of Interest form as well as the BC Indigenous Provincial Canoe/Kayak Championships form.
 - Late entries will be permitted only if enough canoes/kayaks are available, but no later than **March 1, 2023**.

Team BC Development Squad

The Team BC program for NAIG will form a “Team BC Development Squad” for the sport of canoe/kayak following the 2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Championships. This development squad will continue to train towards the ultimate goal of athletes being selected to the final Team BC NAIG roster (final NAIG roster to be confirmed no later than May 1, 2023).

- Athletes will be observed at the Championships by a sub-committee of the Provincial Indigenous Canoe/Kayak Committee and any additional evaluators appointed to assist with athlete ranking process (the Nomination Committee).
- The Nomination Committee will nominate athletes to the Team BC Development Squad; Nominees will come from the pool of athletes that participated in the Championships (and eligible absentee applicants).
- Our goal is to produce the best ever performance results for BC as a province and to facilitate each athlete’s best ever performance.
- The Nomination Committee operates under the principles to create quality, competitive teams to represent BC at NAIG and that selection should be free from bias as a result of nepotism, favouritism, or affiliation. They are responsible for ensuring transparency in the process and that good selection principles have been applied.
- Athletes finishing in first place at the Championships are NOT automatically guaranteed a spot on Team BC Development Squad. While their performance at the Championships will weigh heavily in the nomination process, athlete selection criteria may also include other contributing factors including conduct, attitude, ability to work with others, commitment to training, experience, recent performance results and other criteria determined by the Coaching Staff.
- The Nomination Committee will consider the following in identifying athletes to the Team BC Training Squad:
 - The number of points the athlete earned at BC Indigenous Provincial Canoe Championships (see below for point system)
 - The distance a finisher may be behind the winner of each event
 - The time differential behind a previous NAIG medalist
 - The age and stage of development of each athlete
 - Other contributing factors including conduct, attitude, ability to work with others, commitment to training, recent performance results and other criteria determined by the committee.
- Athletes nominated to the Team BC Development Squad will be notified within 30 days of the conclusion of the Championships. Athletes must accept or decline their nomination to be a member of the Team BC Development Squad in writing as per instructions provided upon notification.

Point System Used as Part of the Team BC Development Squad Selection Process:

As indicated above, to be considered for selection to the Team BC Development Squad, athletes are to compete in the 2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Canoe/Kayak Championships that will include the following events:

- Canoe singles in 1000m and 3000m
- Kayak singles in 200m, 1000m and 3000m

Medals will be presented for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishes in each event category for each gender and age division. However, a point system will be used as one of the components for assisting with ranking athletes. An athlete’s best 2 performances in the BC Indigenous Provincial Canoe/Kayak Championships will count for points. Points will be awarded for 1st through 9th place finishes as follows:

20 points – 1st	14 points – 4th	8 points – 7th
18 points – 2nd	10 points – 5th	7 points – 8th
16 points – 3rd	9 points – 6th	6 points – 9th

Spring Training Camp and Final Team BC NAIG Roster Selections

- Development Squad members will be required to attend a mandatory training camp in spring 2023 (exact date and location to be confirmed).
- Team BC Coaching Staff will evaluate and rank Team BC Development Squad members at the training camp in order to select the members of the final Team BC roster for the 2023 NAIG at the conclusion of the training camp.
- It is understood that in making selections is to create the best possible team and selection criteria may include not only their performance at both the Championships and the Training Camp, but also other contributing factors including conduct, attitude, ability to work with others, commitment to training, experience, recent performance results and other criteria determined by the Coaching Staff.
- Team BC Coaching Staff Committees operate under the principles to create quality, competitive teams to represent BC at NAIG and that selection should be free from bias as a result of nepotism, favouritism, or affiliation. They are responsible for ensuring transparency in the process and that good selection principles have been applied.

5. Absentee Consideration (i.e. Exemption)

Athletes, who for extenuating circumstances are unable to participate in the Camp/Championships, (e.g. injury, illness, domestic affliction, conflict with a major competition), and would like to request to be considered for Team BC, may apply for “Absentee” consideration to Team BC. Procedure as follows:

1. Absentee requests must be filled out through an Absentee Form Application. This form can be requested through Team BC teambc@isparc.ca before the registration deadline (or in the case of sudden injury, illness or emergency, as soon as possible before the start of the selection event).
2. Athletes must register for the Camp as well as submit the Absentee Form.
3. Athletes requesting Absentee Consideration due to injury or illness must also submit a medical statement from their doctor or specialist describing injury and length of inactivity. If the nature of the injury would allow the athlete to attend the camp in person to observe and participate in any non-physical sessions (e.g. ‘chalk-talks’), the athlete is encouraged to register and attend the Camp.
4. Athletes attending the Camp receive greater priority for team selection and no spot is guaranteed through Absentee application. Any athlete selected to Team BC through Absentee application will be subject to any applicable Camp registration fees incurred by players who attended.

6. Team Expectations

Upon selection to the Development Squad or Team BC, an athlete is required to:

- a) Sign and honour the Code of Conduct
- b) Obey all rules established by Team BC and the Head Coach
- c) Participate in Team events, activities and meetings, as directed by the Head Coach
- d) Ensure they wear/use the proper equipment and clothing for their sport
- e) Assist and participate in team fundraising projects where required
- f) Continue with training and preparation
- g) Represent themselves, their families, their community, their team, with pride and integrity

Team expectations are not limited to the above items and there may be additional expectations communicated by the Head Coach or Team BC.

7. Dismissal

An athlete may be removed from the Development Squad or Team BC for the following reasons (not limited to):

- a) Athlete violates Team BC code of conduct or Team rules
- b) Athlete is unable to perform due to injury, illness or for other medical reason
- c) Athlete is unable to commit to Team events, activities, meetings (note that an athlete may obtain an exemption from the Head Coach)
- d) Athlete is unable to maintain training standards or meet performance expectation to the Head Coaches satisfaction
- e) Athlete exhibits behavior/conduct that is detrimental to Team BC program
- f) Athlete voluntarily withdraws

8. Alternates

Where necessary and appropriate, an athlete removed from the Team may be replaced by an alternate from the Development Squad, provided the alternate athlete is eligible and within Team BC and/or NAIG registration deadlines. The selection of the replacement will be based upon previous results and selection criteria and shall be the decision of the Coaches.

If an athlete selected to Team BC becomes ill or injured, he or she must seek immediate medical attention and report the illness or injury to Team BC. Team BC will assess the situation in order to make a recommendation. The assessment may involve requesting further information or additional medical tests. Where it is determined an athlete must be replaced, the selection of the replacement will be from among the pool of eligible Development Squad athletes.

9. Appeals

Athletes who are not selected to Team BC may appeal. The first level of appeal will be to the Team Head Coach. This appeal must be in writing (via email is acceptable) and be filed within 3 calendar days of the announcement of the team roster. If an athlete is not satisfied with this decision they may appeal in writing (via email is acceptable) to an Appeal Committee made up of Team BC Chef de Mission and/or Assistant Chef, and minimum of two members of the Provincial Sport Committee or Team BC Work Group. This appeal must be filed within 3 calendar days of the Head Coach's decision of the first level

appeal. At any time during the review/appeal process, the athlete may be required to provide additional information or evidence in support of their appeal. The athlete will receive a response from the Appeals Committee within one week of it being received and shall be the final level of appeal available to the athlete.

10. Coaching Staff

Coaching staff will consist of two (2) Coaches and one (1) Team Manager/Assistant Coach (of which you must have minimum of one per gender). Team size may permit additional coaching staff; to be determined.

Confirmed Team BC volunteer coaching staff for the Halifax 2023 NAIG as follows:

Coach	Peter Amos	Port Alberni, BC	Squamish First Nation
Coach	Crystal McCallum-Williams	Lake Errock, BC	Sq'ewlets First Nation
Coach	TBA		
Manager	TBA		

11. Inquiries

Inquiries regarding Team BC and 2023 NAIG, may contact:

ISPARC: teambc@isparc.ca or call 250-856-0850

Team BC Chef de Mission - Michelle Webster

Provincial Coordinator, Performance Sport - Joel Harry