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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

### -- SOCCER --

#### Subject to change

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

\*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](mailto:teambc@isparc.ca).

### 1. Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible for participation on Team BC for North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), athletes must:

- 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 current member in good standing with BC Soccer for the 2022/23 season.
- Be fully COVID-19 vaccinated as per the NAIG policy. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

*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 basketball is sanctioned and supported by the Basketball BC.*

#### PARTNER AGENCIES



## 2. Age Eligibility

The NAIG Soccer competition will consist of both male and female teams in the following age categories:

- 19U (born 2004 & later)
- 16U (born 2007 & later)

\*Regarding matters of safety and maturity, Team BC is seeking athletes born no later than 2010.

## 3. Team Composition

Team BC is seeking up to maximum of ten (10) athletes for each of the 16U and 19U teams in the male and female divisions to compete at NAIG.

Coaching staff for each team will consist of maximum of one (1) Head Coach, one (1) Assistant Coach, one (1) Manager per team. The staff composition must have a minimum of one (1) same gender staff per team.

## 4. Coaching Staff

Team BC is pleased to confirm its volunteer coaching staff for 2023 NAIG:

### 19U Female

Head Coach Peter Moses  
Asst. Coach Jamie Denny

### 19U Male

Head Coach Blake Wilson  
Asst. Coach Terrence Pierre

### 16U Female

Head Coach Leslie Robinson  
Asst. Coach Haedon Turner

### 16U Male

Head Coach Ivan Nikolov  
Asst. Coach Tristyn Kaitt

## 5. Selection Process

The selection process for soccer athletes will include two (2) phases as outlined below followed by a Spring Training camp:

### PHASE 1 – REGIONAL ID CAMPS

Open to any eligible athlete. Athletes interested in joining Team BC must attend one (1) of the **BC Indigenous Regional Soccer Camps** held in August 2022. Athletes will have an opportunity to showcase their skills and talent with the goal of being advanced to the BC Indigenous Provincial Soccer Selection Camp (Agassiz, BC). Regional Camp locations include:

Region	City	Venue	Date
Fraser/Van Coastal	Chilliwack	Tzeachten Sport Fields	August 6/7, 2022
North/Interior	Hazleton	Gitanmaax Soccer Fields	August 13/14, 2022
Vancouver Island	Cowichan/Duncan	Siem Lelum Gym Fields	August 6/7, 2022

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\*Please note schedules may be subject to amendment depending on registration numbers.

\*\* Please note if registrations for this location are low, the camp may be moved to one day (Saturday) for both genders, all ages.

- Regional camp registration fee is \$25/person.
- Athletes must register and submit camp registration fee prior to deadline of 4:00 PM of the Monday prior to the camp they are registering for (i.e. Deadline of Monday, September 9 for participation in September 14/15 camp; etc.).
- Athletes may only register for and participate in their specific age category and gender for which they are eligible.
- Athletes must check-in at the camp 30-60 minutes prior to their applicable time slot.
- Athletes will need to present their CareCard and their proof of Indigenous ancestry (e.g. Status card/Provincial Métis card which also serves as their photo ID). Athletes who need to use the Declaration of Indigenous ancestry form will need to bring a copy of their supporting documents with their CareCard.
- Athletes will need to bring a dark and a light-coloured shirt.
- Athletes are encouraged to bring their own soccer ball if you have one (clearly marked with their name) as there are only a limited number of spare balls available at these events.
- Bring your own water bottle for refilling.
- Athletes who do not have current 2022/23 BC Soccer membership must also purchase/renew their membership as part of their registration for the BC Aboriginal Regional Soccer Camp at \$25/person.
- Athletes will be evaluated under the same camp format and athlete evaluation tools at all camps. A Team BC Coach will be at each camp to lead the evaluations.
- Athletes will be informed at the camp by way of an invitation letter if they have been advanced to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final phase of the selection process.

**Athletes must pre-register. Registration available online [HERE](#)**

**PHASE 2 – PROVINCIAL SELECTION CAMP:** Athletes identified at a Regional Camp for advancement to the next phase will be invited to the BC Indigenous Soccer Selection Camp (invitation only) held September 3-4, 2022 in Agassiz.

- Team BC selections are intended to be finalized upon the conclusion of the Provincial Selection Camp. Coaches may identify their eighteen (18) Team BC athletes as well as athletes who will serve as alternates (see Section 9 – Alternates). Up to 4 alternates.
- Please note some coaches may opt to invite up to a maximum of 14 players to the Spring 2023 training camp to determine final roster and alternate selections at this phase (i.e. A Phase 3).

While athlete's performance, technical abilities and skills, and experience at the Camp weigh heavily in the selection process, athlete selection criteria may also include other contributing factors including conduct, attitude, commitment to training, experience, positional requirements, leadership, recent performance results, and other criteria determined by the Coaching Staff.

Team BC Coaching Staff/Selection 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.

## 6. Absentee Consideration

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

- Absentee requests must be submitted in writing, with any appropriate documentation (e.g. doctor’s note), to Team BC ([teambc@isparc.ca](mailto:teambc@isparc.ca)) before their respective regional camp **registration deadline** and include the following: player’s contact information (same info as required on the registration form), details on reason for absence, their competitive sport history and recent performance results. Contact information for two coach/sport references must also be provided. **Contact Team BC for the application form.**
- In the case of sudden injury, illness or emergency, the absentee request must be submitted in writing as soon as possible before the start of the event to [teambc@isparc.ca](mailto:teambc@isparc.ca). 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 event in person to observe and participate in any non-physical sessions (e.g. ‘chalk-talks’), the athlete is encouraged to attend the Camp.

Athletes attending the Camp/Championships receive greater priority for selection and no spot is guaranteed through Absentee application. Any athlete selected to Team BC through Absentee application will be subject to same Camp/Championships registration fees as players who attended the selection event.

## 7. Team Expectations

Upon selection to Team BC or Team BC Development Squad, 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.

## 8. Dismissal

An athlete may be removed from 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

## **10. Alternates**

Where necessary and appropriate, an athlete removed from the Team may be replaced by an alternate, provided the alternate athlete is eligible. The selection of the replacement will be based upon previous results and selection criteria and shall be the decision of the Head Coach.

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 alternate athletes.

## **11. Appeals**

Any dispute relating to Team BC selections to be brought according to following procedure. 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 selections/announcement of the Development Squad, or, 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. 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.

## **12. Inquiries**

Inquiries regarding Team BC and 2023 NAIG, please send contact us at [teambc@isparc.ca](mailto:teambc@isparc.ca) or call 250-856-0850.

Team BC Chef de Mission	Michelle Webster
Assistant Chef de Mission	Kim Leming
Assistant Chef de Mission	Joel Harry