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Team BC 2023 North American Indigenous Games ATHLETE SELECTION PROCESS

-- RIFLE SHOOTING --

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

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 Aboriginal ancestry. Athletes will be required to provide proof of ancestry (e.g. Status Card, Métis Card, First Nations Card, Treaty Card, Inuit and Inuvialuit identification)*.
- Be a current member in good standing with BC Target Sports Association (BCTSA)**.
- Be fully COVID-19 vaccinated as per the NAIG policy. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

** If an athlete needs to open or renew BCTSA, this can be completed through BCTSA at www.bctsa.bc.ca

*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 NAIG Rifle (.22) competition will consist of both male and female events 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.*

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 rifle shooting is sanctioned and supported by the BC Target Sports Association.

PARTNER AGENCIES



3. Team Composition

Team BC is seeking two (2) males and two (2) females per age category for a maximum number of eight (8) shooters per team. Some of these athletes may also be entered into 2023 NAIG Rifle “Team events” (for teams of three (3) members only).

4. Team BC Coaching Staff

Team BC will appoint one (1) head coach and one (1) team manager. One must be male, one must be female.

Curt Smecher	Head Coach	Métis Abbotsford, BC	curt@smecher.bc.ca
Nicole Gerow	Assistant Coach & Manager	Ts'il Kaz Koh First Nation Burns Lake, BC	tomboy_chick87@hotmail.com

5. Athlete Selection Process

5.1 Athlete Expression of Interest Form

All eligible rifle shooters wishing to be considered to Team BC for 2023 NAIG are first required to register in the Team BC Registration System and fill out the “*Expression of Interest Form*” as well as the *Rifle Scorecard* **before April 2, 2023**.

The registration application is available online at:

<https://isparc.perfectmind.com/SocialSite/MemberRegistration/MemberSignIn>

Athletes who submit their “Expression of Interest” via the registration system will later be invited to participate and compete in a ‘**Team BC Prospect Postal Match**’.

5.2 Team BC Prospect Postal Match

A Postal Match is a match competition in which the official targets are mailed to the registered competitors. Competitors will fire their shots at a local gun range using the specific target(s) provided which have been marked for identification. The fired targets must be witnessed and attested by a coach/range/club official and are then mailed back before a set deadline for scoring and ranking. This format allows competitors from across the province to participate only requiring them to access their nearest gun range with the support of a coach/range/club official to witness/attest.

Athletes are expected to make best efforts to practice in the weeks leading up to the Postal Match. The Postal Match package (containing rules, targets, etc.) will be distributed via mail no later than March 31st and athletes must complete their target shooting before **Wednesday, April 22nd, 2023**. Targets sent back must not be post-dated later than April 22nd.

Following the conclusion of the postal match, Team BC Selections will be finalized no later than **Friday, May 1st, 2023**.

5.3 BC Indigenous Provincial Rifle Shooting Camp

Rifle shooters who are interested in Team BC for 2023 NAIG are encouraged to attend the 2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Rifle Shooting Camp where Team BC Head Coach, Curt Smecher will facilitate a 2-day development camp with match competition conducted on day 2. This is an OPTIONAL development opportunity open to youth interested in rifle shooting. Details below.

- **March 11-12, 2023**
 - Saturday, March 11, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
 - Sunday, March 12 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
- **Location:** Abbotsford Fish and Game Club.
- Open to all male and female Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuit) youth born 2004-2010.
- Registration is free. This event is optional but is a great opportunity for the athletes to learn from our Team BC coaches.
- Equipment for the camp will be provided. You do not need to bring your own Rifle.
- Athletes must register prior to the deadline of **Thursday, March 9, 2023** to secure a spot. Spots are limited.

The 2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Rifle Shooting Camp serves as an opportunity for Team BC Head Coach, Curt Smecher to meet interested youth, and observe their skills and technique in both developmental and competitive match scenarios. However, attendance at this Camp is **OPTIONAL** and does not automatically enter a youth into consideration for Team BC. Athletes interested in Team BC will still be required to complete the formal Athlete Expression of Interest form and participate in the Postal Match.

6. Important 2023 Dates

Date	Action	Notes
February/March	Practice period	Athletes make best effort to train and practice at a local gun range. If not already connected to a range, contact BC Target Sports Association or I-SPARC for assistance.
Thursday, March 9	Deadline to apply for the BC Indigenous Rifle Shooting Camp	Register here - https://isparc.perfectmind.com/SocialSite/MemberRegistration/MemberSignIn
March 11-12, 2023	BC Indigenous Provincial Rifle Shooting Camp Location: Abbotsford Fish and Game Club	(Optional) Opportunity for athletes to develop their skills, experience match play competition, learn more about Team BC NAIG opportunity. (this is an optional development opportunity)
Tuesday, March 31	Postal Match details issued via mail to those athletes that submitted Expression of Interest form	Packages sent via mail.
April 2, 2023	Athlete registered in Team BC registration system including Expression of Interest and Rifle	Registration can be found at this link. Athletes must be registered in order to be considered for Team BC for 2023 - https://isparc.perfectmind.com/SocialSite/MemberRegistration/MemberSignIn

	Shooting Scorecard	
Wednesday, April 22	Deadline to complete participation in the Team BC Prospect Postal Match	Postal Match competitors must complete match within this competition window. Targets must be mailed back and postmarked no later than Wednesday, April 22 nd .
Friday, May 1	Team BC selections confirmed	Coaching staff will notify parents/athletes
May 16-17, 2023 (May long weekend)	BC Target Sports Association - Provincial Rifle Championships, location TBC	Training opportunity for Team BC NAIG athletes. Team BC NAIG athletes will be expected to attend this event.
June 1, 2023	Team BC fee due date	Team BC athletes will be required to submit their fee by this deadline. Fee includes NAIG registration fee, Team BC flight to/from Halifax via Vancouver, accommodations, & meals at the Games. The fee is \$450.
July 15-23, 2023	2023 North American Indigenous Games	Halifax, NS. Travel days are July 15 with return on July 23, 2023.

7. Selection Guidelines

While athlete's performance, technical abilities and skills demonstrated via the Postal Match weigh heavily in the selection process, athlete selection criteria may also include other contributing factors including conduct, attitude, commitment to training, recent performance results, progress reports on training, coach references, and other criteria determined by the Coaching Staff/Selection committee.

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, favoritism, or affiliation. They are responsible for ensuring transparency in the process and that good selection principles have been applied.

8. Team Expectations

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

- a) Sign and honor 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.

9. Dismissal

An athlete may be removed from Team BC or a Team BC Development Squad 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 from the Development Squad or athlete short list, 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 athletes.

11. 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 I-SPARC leadership. 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

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