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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

-- SOFTBALL --

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

1. Athlete Eligibility

In order 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 Softball 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.

** Any player who is not currently a member or is uncertain of their Softball BC membership status, are eligible to participate in the camp as temporary coverage for the camp will be provided by the Partners Council. Full Softball BC memberships can be applied/renewed in the upcoming season. For membership inquiries, please contact Jackie Desilets at programcoordinator@softball.bc.ca.

2. Age Eligibility

The 2023 NAIG softball competition will consist of male and female teams in the following age categories:

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 the BC Lacrosse Association.

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- 16U (defined as born 2007 & later*)
- 19U (born 2004 & 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 fourteen (14) athletes for each of the 16U and 19U male and female teams 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

All Coaches must have the following coaching certifications or equivalent): NCCP - Competition Introduction Stream - Softball Competition Introduction Trained.

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

19U Female

Head Coach Joni Frei
Asst. Coach Jocelyn Cater

16U Female

Head Coach Jay Lang
Asst. Coach Hunter Lang

19U Male

Head Coach Randy Potskin
Asst. Coach

16U Male

Head Coach TBA
Asst. Coach TBA

5. Selection Process

BC Indigenous Provincial Softball Camps and “Team BC Development Squads”

The Team BC NAIG Program for Softball will form “Team BC Development Squads” from athletes identified through the 2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Softball Camps.

Development Squad athletes are those identified by Team BC Coaching Staff as having demonstrated strong potential to earn a position on the final Team BC 2023 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

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Training Camp(s) in the spring of 2023 (exact date(s) and location(s) to be confirmed) with the 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 2020 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from July 15 to 23, 2023. Development Squad members not chosen for the final roster may be named to an 'alternate player' list.

2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Softball Camps

The 2023 BC Indigenous Provincial Softball Camps will serve as the Athlete Identification Camp for Team BC to identify softball athletes for the Team BC Development Squads.

- The BC Indigenous Provincial Softball Camps will serve as Athlete Identification Camps to identify athletes for the Team BC Development Squad. Players that participate in a BC Indigenous Provincial Softball Camp that meet eligibility will be automatically eligible for Team BC Development Squad consideration.
- There are four (4) camps scheduled. The registration information will be circulated to I-SPARC and partners email lists and posted on I-SPARC Facebook page and website. Athletes are requested to attend one (1) of the Camps:
 - October 15, 2023 Prince George
 - January 29, 2023 Langford
 - January 28, 2023 Coquitlam
 - Interior TBD
- Athletes must register and submit registration fee prior to deadline. Online registration accepted at: <https://isparc.perfectmind.com/SocialSite/MemberRegistration/MemberSignIn>.
- Athletes will be evaluated at the camp they attend by Team BC Coaching Staff and/or any additional evaluators appointed to assist with athlete ranking process.
- Team BC Coaching Staff shall make the nominations to the Development Squad from the pool of athletes that participated in the Camps (and any eligible absentee applicants).
- Team BC Development Squad nominations will be finalized within 30 days of the final Camp to allow coaches an opportunity for due diligence regarding player evaluations and any reference checks.
- While their performance at the Camp(s) will weigh heavily in the Development Squad nomination process, athlete selection criteria may also include other contributing factors including conduct, attitude, ability to work with others, commitment to training, experience, positional requirements, recent performance results and other criteria determined by the Coaching Staff.
- 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.
- Development Squad members will be required to attend a mandatory training camp in spring of 2023 (exact date and location to be confirmed).
- Team BC Coaching Staff will select the members of the final Team BC roster for the 2023 NAIG at the conclusion of the spring 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 Camp, but also other contributing factors including conduct, attitude, ability to work with others, 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 a Regional Selection Camp (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 a Selection 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 Selection Camp.
4. Athletes attending a Selection 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.

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Inquiries

Inquiries regarding Team BC and 2023 NAIG, please contact us at teambc@isparc.ca or call 250-856-0850.

Team BC Chef de Mission

Michelle Webster

Provincial Coordinator, Performance Sport

Joel Harry