



Canada Games Council Games Policy and Procedures

NAME:	Athlete Eligibility Policy
FUNCTIONAL AREA:	34 Accreditation & Registration
APPROVED BY:	Canada Games Council Sport Committee
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REVISION APPROVAL DATES:	N/A
RELATED POLICIES:	8.11.4 Appeal Policy

PREAMBLE

Since 1967, the Canada Games have been the catalyst for the growth of sport across Canada. Held every two years, alternating between summer and winter, the Games are Canada's largest multi-sport event and represent the pinnacle of interprovincial/territorial sport competition. Since 1967, nearly 100,000 athletes have participated in the Games. Add to that the over 100,000 coaches, officials and volunteers that have been directly involved in the planning and staging of the Games and you have some idea of the enormous reach of the Canada Games.

Athlete eligibility and residency requirements are set by the Canada Games Council (CGC) Sport Committee, in consultation with the Federal-Provincial/Territorial Sport Committee (FPTSC). Changes to these principles are not permitted without the approval of both the CGC Sport Committee and FPTSC.

Sport specific eligibility requirements are set by the National Sport Organizations (NSO) and must not conflict with the principles established by the CGC Sport Committee and FPTSC.

POLICY STATEMENT

All athletes participating in the Canada Games must meet the eligibility requirements outlined within this Athlete Eligibility Policy and the Sport Technical Package for their respective sport.

DEFINITIONS

Canada Games Council (CGC): The franchise holder and overseer of each edition of the Canada Games and steward of the Canada Games movement.

Chef de Mission: An individual responsible for the management and leadership of a provincial or territorial team.

National Sport Organization (NSO): The recognized association responsible for the overall governance and development of a particular sport in Canada. NSOs, through a Technical Representative and Major Technical Officials, run the sport competition at the Canada Games.

Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (P/TSO): Provincially/Territorially recognized sport organization responsible for the governance and development of a particular sport within a particular Province/Territory. P/TSOs are responsible for developing and selecting the teams that compete in the Canada Games, but have no formal role in the planning or staging of the Games.

Provincial/Territorial Team (P/T Team): The entirety of accredited participants and mission staff from a Province/Territory. Led by the Chef de Mission.

COUNCIL'S ROLE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

The CGC's Registration and Accreditation functional area lead will develop the tools, processes and forms required to submit, communicate and monitor requests for athlete eligibility rulings.

The CGC's Registration and Accreditation functional area lead will work as the main point of contact for the Provincial/Territorial (P/T) Chefs de Mission to submit requests for athlete eligibility rulings as well as communicate all decisions made by the CGC's Sport Committee.

CGC's Sport Committee or delegate is responsible to review and rule on all received athlete eligibility ruling requests.

The CGC will ensure NSOs and P/T Teams are aware of the Athlete Eligibility Policy and their responsibilities outlined within it.

STAKEHOLDER ROLES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

Federal - Provincial/Territorial Governments

- Establish the overarching eligibility requirements for the Canada Games.

Provincial/Territorial Teams

- Ensure that all of their athletes are eligible to participate in the Canada Games. This includes monitoring eligibility requirements, residency requirements, performance standards and/or performance guidelines.

National Sport Organizations

- Subject to the approval of the CGC, have the responsibility to establish sport specific eligibility requirements as outlined within the Athlete Eligibility Policy and published in a sport's Technical Package.

REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

1. JURISDICTION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1.1. Canada Games Eligibility Requirements

- 1.1.1.** The eligibility requirements identified in this policy shall apply to all athletes participating at the Canada Games.

1.2. Provincial/Territorial Team Rules

- 1.2.1.** Any deviations from Canada Games eligibility requirements made by a provincial/territorial team may only be of a more stringent nature.

2. CLASSIFICATION

- 2.1. Age categories should target individuals who comprise the next generation of national team athletes, typically in the train to compete (T2C) stage of long term athlete development (LTAD), and not the current generation. Flexibility in targeted stage is permitted with appropriate rationale, subject to the other principles.

For the purpose of the Canada Games, it is understood that athletes participating in the Canada Games have attained a defined level of physical, technical, tactical and psychological maturity according to their sport, whether it is classified as being of early or late specialization. These athletes typically:

- 2.1.1. Are engaged in a training process that includes participation in a supervised and periodized year-round training and competition program (e.g. more than 15 hours of training/week);
- 2.1.2. Are experienced in competing at the inter-provincial or national level;
- 2.1.3. Have access to professional multidisciplinary support and supervision (e.g. doctor, physiotherapist, nutritionist, psychologist, massage therapist, etc.);
- 2.1.4. Have not competed at senior international competitions.

- 2.2. The decision of precise stage and subsequent maximum age as appropriate is to be determined by a process led by the NSO with P/TSO input.

NSOs must formalize, and communicate to the CGC, the process by which P/TSO input is sought in determining the age category for the Canada Games. The process must include:

- 2.2.1. Consultation with Sport Canada Consultant
- 2.2.2. Consultation with P/TSO Associations
- 2.2.3. Consultation with appropriate NSO sport development/LTAD Committees and staff.

In setting the age category, the NSO must take into account the Federal, Provincial/Territorial Government's small jurisdiction strategy, which allows for overage athletes in all team sports from Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

- 2.3. NSOs that choose to set a minimum age must establish a review mechanism to consider for exemption cases (or Human Rights violations may be brought forward to the NSO by the ineligible athlete). If exceptional cases are reviewed and approved, the athlete in question must sign a waiver to save harmless the CGC, NSO, and Host Society from any physical or emotional harm sustained by the athlete through the course of normal training and competition for the Games.
- 2.4. NSOs may set different age categories for different provinces/territories provided that athletes across all age categories are shown to be in the proper stage of LTAD based on sport development.

3. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

3.1. Citizenship

- 3.1.1. Athletes must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents. A permanent resident is defined as someone who has been granted permanent residency prior to the start of the Opening Ceremony. Permanent residents have a *Record of Landing (IMM 1000)*, a *Confirmation of Permanent Residency (IMM 5292)*, a *Permanent Resident Card*, or any other document deemed eligible by immigration Canada as proof of their status.

3.2. Membership

- 3.2.1. Athletes must be registered members in good standing of their sports provincial/territorial sport organization (P/TSO) under the terms of principles 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 below.

(NOTE: In exceptional circumstances, an athlete in a given sport within a province/territory with no recognized P/TSO for the sport may be named to the P/T Canada Games team based on established criteria developed by the P/T Government and agreed to by the CGC and NSO. The established criteria should include, but is not limited to the following:

- *the athlete is an active member of an established club,*
- *is being coached by an NCCP certified coach (preferably with Competition-Development certification),*

- *is competing in regional, provincial and/or national level competitions,*
- *is adhering to a monitored yearly training plan. The criteria may also include other measures as developed by the respective P/T).*

3.2.2. The P/TSO must be recognized and/or funded by the provincial/territorial government, subject to exceptional circumstances.

3.2.3. The P/TSO must be a member in good standing of the national sport organization (NSO).

(NOTE: In exceptional cases where there is a dispute between an NSO and its P/TSO in a given sport, the CGC will contact the respective P/T government to discuss the facts of the dispute. All parties will encourage the sport to resolve the matter through the NSO's internal mediation process. Should the dispute not be resolved satisfactorily through the NSO's internal process, the P/T governments will jointly determine the participation of the affected P/TSO in the Canada Games in collaboration with the CGC).

3.3. Level of Athlete

3.3.1. Provincial/territorial teams are made up of the best athletes from each jurisdiction that have not yet represented Canada internationally at a Senior World Championships or major multi-sport Games. Senior National Team athletes and/or athletes holding an SR, SR1 or SR2 Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program card are not eligible for the Canada Games in the sport for which they hold the card.

3.3.1.1. No athlete can be rendered ineligible within 90 days of the opening of the Games due to National Team status, carding status or competing in an excluded event (i.e., if an athlete is granted National Team status for the first time, carding status or competed in an excluded event after May 6, 2021 they will still be considered eligible to compete at the 2021 Canada Games).

Athletes who hold a C1 card (as defined by Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance program) or are in their first year of Senior National Team status may be deemed eligible on a case by case basis. Requests must be submitted to the respective P/T Team Chef de Mission and approved by the Canada Games Council's Eligibility Sub-Committee.

- 3.3.2. Due to the smaller available pool of para athletes compared to able body athletes, NSOs may request to the CGC Sport Committee a modification to principle 7.3.1 for para athletes only. Any modification must continue to restrict athletes who are beyond the T2C phase of LTAD defined under principle 6.1.
- 3.3.3. NSOs may choose to include additional eligibility restrictions around amateurism, at their own discretion. All eligibility restrictions refer to the specific sport in question only (i.e. an athlete with AAP carding in swimming would still be eligible in diving even if AAP carding was an eligibility restriction for diving).
- 3.3.4. NSOs may set minimum performance standards for the Canada Games for safety reasons.
- 3.3.5. For individual sports, NSOs in consultation with P/TSOs set performance guidelines for athlete selection. For team sports, NSOs in consultation with P/TSOs set guidelines for appropriate team preparation.

3.4. Residency

- 3.4.1. An athlete's permanent residence must be located, at least 180 days prior to the Opening Ceremony, within the recognized boundaries of the province/territory they wish to represent. An athlete can only have one permanent residence. Should an athlete not meet the residency requirement, they may be ruled as eligible as defined in point 3.4.2 below.
- 3.4.2. An athlete may represent a province/territory that falls outside the recognized boundaries of their permanent residence provided they can demonstrate a commitment to the province/territory they wish to represent by:

- 3.4.2.1. Having been a member of a club or P/TSO in that province/territory for the entire previous or current competitive season;
-AND-
- 3.4.2.2. Having represented that province/territory at a national or regional championship (if applicable);
-AND-
- 3.4.2.3. Not having received direct development funding from their province/territory of permanent residence within a year of the Opening Ceremony, unless the funding jurisdiction provides permission for the athlete to compete for another team;
-OR-
- 3.4.2.4. Other similar circumstances may be considered.

3.4.3. Athletes attending school on a full-time basis outside their province/territory of permanent residence during the year of the Canada Games shall be permitted to compete for either their province/territory of permanent residence or the province/territory in which the athlete attends school.

3.5. Selection, Registration and Substitutions

- 3.5.1. Provincial/territorial teams and P/TSOs are responsible for determining the selection process of athletes within their province/territory.
- 3.5.2. An athlete is permitted to try out for any P/T they are eligible to compete for, but can only try out for one P/T per sport.
(i.e. an athlete may try out for swimming for one P/T but cannot try out for swimming for another P/T. An athlete may try out for one P/T in swimming, and may try out for another P/T in diving.)
- 3.5.3. Athletes may not compete in two sports at one Canada Games if they are scheduled in the same week.
- 3.5.4. Athletes may only compete for one province/territory at a single Canada Games.

3.5.5. Substitutions to athletes and support staff are permitted up until the teams board for their transportation to the Canada Games (via airport departure or bus departure), or, in the case of individually arranged arrivals and the home team, up until Village check-in. There will be no exceptions to this principle. The CGC's Venue Pass Policy will also follow this principle. Upon arrival at the Games, injury provisions and/or substitutions among accredited team athletes is permitted, following NSO or Technical Package guidelines.

4. PROCEDURES TO CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY OF AN ATHLETE

- 4.1. If a P/T team is uncertain regarding the eligibility of one of their athletes, the chef de mission is able to submit a request for an athlete eligibility ruling to the CGC's Eligibility Committee (a sub-committee of the CGC Sport Committee).
- 4.2. The CGC will begin accepting requests for an athlete eligibility ruling 12 months prior to the Opening Ceremony.
- 4.3. The CGC will distribute the tools and forms used to submit a request for an athlete eligibility ruling to P/T Teams chefs de mission 12 months prior to the Opening Ceremony.
- 4.4. The CGC will communicate a decision to all directly impacted parties within 21 days of receipt of the request.
 - 4.4.1. If a request for an athlete eligibility ruling is made within 60 days of the Opening Ceremony, a decision will be made and communicated to all directly impacted parties within seven [7] days of receipt of the request.
- 4.5. All decisions will be made publically available and rationale for the decision will be available on request.
- 4.6. Deadline to submit a request for an athlete eligibility ruling is 16 days prior to the Opening Ceremony (48 hours prior to the participant registration deadline).
 - 4.6.1. Exceptions may be made for substitutions made after the registration deadline has passed.
- 4.7. Decisions made by the Eligibility Committee will be subject to the CGC's appeals policy.

TIMELINES

Item	Timeline prior to Games
Tools and forms required for submitting and monitoring requests for an athlete eligibility request distributed to P/T Team chefs de mission	12 months
CGC begins accepting requests for an athlete eligibility ruling	12 months
Decisions on a request for an athlete eligibility ruling communicated to all directly impacted parties if request is received prior to 60 days before the Opening Ceremony.	21 days (from receipt of request)
Decisions on a request for an athlete eligibility ruling communicated to all directly impacted parties if request is received after 60 days before the Opening Ceremony.	7 days (from receipt of request)
Deadline to submit requests for an athlete eligibility ruling	16 days

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

- 2021 Canada Games Request for Athlete Eligibility Ruling Form
- 2021 Canada Games Athlete Eligibility Decisions