ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA
(As of January 26, 2016)
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OVERVIEW OF THE ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

1. The objective of the Athlete Development program is to prepare Canadian high performance junior athletes to achieve Transition Squad criteria and inclusion. Athlete Development Program athletes are those fully committed to achieving the necessary performance standards and training schedule to make the Transition squad and to represent Canada in major international competitions.
2. Athlete Development Program athletes are also targeted for the Battle of the Border and the World Junior Individual and Team events.
3. Athlete Development Program athletes: Athletes within the Train to Train and Train to Compete stage of Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model who have a proven high performance junior profile. Athlete Development Program athletes may be invited to participate in Squash Canada high performance programs as and when appropriate; national camps, specialized training stints and high performance events.

PURPOSE:

4. This Policy governs Squash Canada’s selection of the Athlete Development Program athletes. Annually the High Performance Committee will choose appropriate athletes to the Athlete Development Program. Junior age athletes can be named to the Athlete Development Program at any time by Squash Canada or through a nomination from either their province/territory or their high performance coach.

COMMUNICATION:

5. This Policy, and any amendments to it, will be posted on the Squash Canada website and in the High Performance Manual.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

6. To be named to the Athlete Development Program an athlete must meet the following eligibility criteria:
   a) be a member in good standing with his/her provincial/territorial squash association and a player in good standing with Squash Canada pursuant to any prior Athlete Agreement executed by the athlete; and,
   b) be eligible to participate at the World Senior or World Junior Squash Team Championships.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SELECTION REQUIREMENTS:

7. To be considered for selection to the Athlete Development Program an athlete must meet the following selection criteria:
a) have a Canadian National Junior Ranking of top 8 in the U13, U15, U17 or U19 age groups after the completion of the previous competitive squash season (which shall be defined as the conclusion of the National Junior Squash Championships)
b) Athlete must have a proven and recent performance record. Winning matches at the following events; Canadian Junior Nationals, Canadian Junior Open, US Junior Open, Dutch Junior Open, Scottish Junior Open, British Junior Open, National Team Selection events and Provincial/Territorial Open and Closed.
c) If an athlete makes the Battle of the Border team they will automatically be selected for the Athlete Development Program.

SELECTION OF ATHLETES TO ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM:

The High Performance Committee (HPC) will convene a meeting to identify and select candidates for the Athlete Development Program prior to the start of each competitive Squash Season (Sept 1st).

8. The HPC will consider the relevant information in section 6 a, b and 7 a, b and c and may select a total of up to 8 players per age category and per gender.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CONFIRMATION & MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

9. Once Squash Canada selects an athlete to the Athlete Development Program the athlete is required to do the following to confirm and maintain his/her status in the program:

a) attend all training camps, as required of the individual athlete by the Performance Director;
b) complete sport science tests, as required of the individual athlete by the Performance Director;
c) complete and submit training logs, as required by the Performance Director;
d) maintain or improve individual fitness levels and ensure that individual competitive performance is maintained at a high standard appropriate for competition at both the junior national and junior international level. The Performance Director will inform athletes of minimum fitness standards that must be achieved throughout the year, as well as individual levels of fitness where required, based on consultation with sport science experts;
e) liaise with the Performance Director as required, and others as directed by the Performance Director;
f) maintain status as a member in good standing with the provincial/territorial squash association and not be subject to any on-going disciplinary action by Squash Canada;
g) pay any fees, levies or fines assessed by Squash Canada;
h) provide documents (medical records, classification card, birth certificate, health card, etc.) as properly required by Squash Canada;
i) comply with all rules established by Squash Canada through its policies, rules and regulations;

10. The Performance Director has the discretion to remove or suspend any athlete from the Athlete Development Program at any time due to a lack of commitment to the Talent Identification program or for not meeting the requirements set out in Section 6 and 7 above, or both.

END OF SEASON PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL:

11. An end of season performance appraisal will be conducted by the Performance Director. The appraisal result assists the Performance Director in decision-making. The review will include, but not be limited to, the following items:

a) the performance record of the athlete in major junior events and in pressure situations in the following national and international junior competitions; World Junior Team Selection events, Canadian Junior Championships, National Junior Team Trials, Canadian Junior Open, US Junior Open, Dutch and Pioneer Junior
Opens, Scottish, British Junior Opens and National Team Selection events;

b) the performance record of the U-19 junior age athlete in pressure situations in the following national and international senior competitions; Canadian Nationals, Canadian National Team Trials, Professional Squash Association (PSA) tournaments, Provincial/Territorial Open and Closed;

c) the attitude and commitment of the athlete to preparation and competition;

d) illness & injury history of the athlete;

e) the athlete’s ranking(s) to whether his/her ranking is reflective of his/her current playing standard;

f) the manner of victories and defeats – for example, if a player concedes defeat too easily or fails to apply themselves in defeating a much lower ranked player, match time in defeat will be used as a key performance indicator; and,

g) ability to build, secure, manage and benefit from engagement with an Integrated Support Team setting, (which would include squash coach, strength and conditioning coach, nutritional expert, and sport psychologist).