

2023 Pan-American Games Internal Nomination Procedure – Fencing

INTRODUCTION

Purpose

- ✓ The purpose of this Internal Nomination Procedure is to set out the process and criteria that will be used by the Canadian Fencing Federation to select athletes and coaches to the 2023 Pan-American Games team.

Objectives

- ✓ This Internal Nomination Procedure was developed with the objective of selecting athletes and coaches with the potential to win a medal. In the event that no athletes who are eligible for selection have demonstrated the potential to win a medal, the objective is the highest possible position of finish at the 2023 Pan-American Games.

Team Size

The number of athletes nominated to the 2023 Pan-American Games will be as follows:

- Individual events – 2 athletes per event (women’s foil, men’s foil, women’s epee, men’s epee, women’s sabre, men’s sabre)
- Team events – 3 athletes per event (women’s foil, men’s foil, women’s epee, men’s epee, women’s sabre, men’s sabre)

DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY

- The High Performance Director (HPD), in consultation with the High Performance Advisory Committee (HPAC), is responsible for developing and approving this Internal Nomination Procedure to determine which athletes will be nominated to the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) for the 2023 Pan-American Games.
- The Canadian Olympic Committee mandates the Canadian Fencing Federation to determine the Internal Nomination Procedures for the athletes and staff that will be nominated to the COC for the 2023 Pan-American Games.
- The national team coaches are responsible to put forward nominations to the HPD of individual and team athletes in accordance with the criteria found in this Internal Nomination Procedure. All nominations, including alternates and staff, must be ratified by the HPD in consultation with the HPAC.
- The HPD is responsible for ensuring that the process outlined in this document is properly followed and that the nomination process is fair and equitable for all eligible candidates.
- The HPD has the final authority over the nomination of the team.

- Where there is a lack of clarity or if unanticipated circumstances arise that are not covered in this Internal Nomination Procedure, a final and binding decision will be made by the HPD, in consultation with the HPAC.
- All Canadian Fencing Federation nominations are also subject to the approval of the COC.

Decision-making power at the 2023 Games.

During the on-site competition period during the 2023 Pan-American Games, the decision-making power will be exercised by the High Performance Director.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for nomination to the COC for Pan-American Games Team selection, an athlete must:

- Be a Canadian citizen (in accordance with Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter).
- Hold a Canadian passport that expires after May 5, 2024.
- Must be able to represent Canada in accordance with the eligibility requirements established by the FIE.
- Comply with all relevant FIE eligibility requirements.
- Sign and submit the COC Athlete Agreement and the Eligibility Requirements Form by September 1, 2023.
- Be a member of the Canadian Fencing Federation High Performance Program as of September 15, 2023.

International Federation eligibility requirements

- Respect the residency requirements established by the FIE
- Hold a license in good standing with the FIE for 2023-2024
- Must be able to represent Canada in accordance with the eligibility requirements established by the FIE.

NSF Financial Requirements

- Be a member in good standing of the Canadian Fencing Federation as of September 15th, 2023.

Alternate Athlete Requirements

- Alternate athletes selected must also comply with all of the obligations contained in this document and must ensure that all administrative and financial obligations are fulfilled within 48 hours of notification of their pending team nomination.

Doping Control Requirements

- Be available for sample collection and, if required to do so, have provided accurate and up-to date whereabouts information on a regular basis as directed by the Canadian Fencing Federation FF, FIE and/or the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) pursuant to the Canadian Policy.
- The athlete or coach must not be under suspension or any other sanction by any recognized body for any doping or doping-related offence.

NSF / COC Athlete Agreements

- In order to participate in the 2023 Pan-American Games, all athletes, including alternates, must have signed the 2023-2024 CFF Athlete Agreement, COC Athlete Agreement, and IOC / Santiago 2023 Conditions of Participation Form.
- Athletes and coaches must abide by the CFF Code of Conduct and all other Canadian Fencing Federation policies.

Other

- Athletes named to compete in the 2023 Pan-American Games will be required to comply with dress code regulations of the Canadian Fencing Federation Team and the COC.
- Athletes named to the 2023 Pan-American Games will only be allowed to use equipment that meets with the rules and regulations of the FIE and IOC.

NSF SELECTION CRITERIA

The Canadian Fencing Federation will identify the eligible athletes it will nominate as follows:

Individual and team selection

NOTE: 2 athletes will be selected for each individual event and a third athlete will be selected to compete in the team event only.

Priority 1.1 Top 25% placement in two FIE World Cup or Grand Prix events during the 2022-2023 season. Or Top 25% placement in one FIE World Cup or Grand Prix event during the 2022-2023 season and TOP 8 placement at one DIV 1 “designated” NAC (October 2022 or January 2023).

Or:

Priority 1.2 Top 30 FIE Ranking at the time of the selection date for the Senior Pan American Championships (May 19th, 2023)

Priority 2:

- In the event that more than three athletes achieve this criteria, the selection will be based on HP points accumulated for qualifying events as described in the points grid.
- In the event that only three athletes achieve this criteria, these athletes will be selected in the order of HP points accumulated for qualifying events as described in the points grid (top 2 Individual; 3rd in Team only).

- In the event that only two athletes achieve this criteria, these two athletes will be selected while the third athlete will be selected by the selection panel and will participate in the team event only.
- In the event that only one athlete achieves this criteria, this athlete will be selected and the other two athletes (one for individual and team and the other one for team only) will be selected by the selection panel.
- In the event that no athletes achieve this criteria, the athlete with the most HP points accumulated during the season will be selected and the other two athletes ((one for individual and team and the other one for team only) will be selected by the selection panel.

Tiebreaker

Should two (2) or more fencers be tied with the same point total, the tie will be broken as follows:

- By the best result (by HP points) in the designated international competitions.
Should a tie still exist, the tie will be broken
- By the best result in the most recent designated international competition

High Performance Selection Panel

The High Performance selection panel will make the initial selections for all World Championships, Pan-American Championships and Pan Am Games, and will be comprised of the following members:

- The High Performance Director (Chair);
- The national coach (or designate) for the appropriate weapon
- The Executive Director of the CFF
- The President of the CFF or a representative of the CFF Board of Directors designated by the President of the CFF.
- One HPAC representative excluding the above mentioned members.

Decisions of the selection panel will be made by majority vote.

In the event of a perceived conflict of interest (for instance where an athlete under consideration for selection is a family member, personal student or member of the same club as a panel member) the panel member will be substituted as follows:

- The HPD will be replaced with someone appointed by the CFF Executive Director.
- The National coach will be replaced with someone appointed by the HPD.
- The President of the Board will be replaced with another board representative appointed by the Board.
- The CFF Executive Director will be replaced by someone appointed by the President.

The Selection panel reserves the right to withdraw an athlete from a selection in the following cases:

1. If the athlete does not respect his/her yearly training and competition plan designated by the HPP. Exemptions can be requested in advance of a specific event. Exemptions will be granted on a case by case basis by the HPD once discussed between the HPD and the National Coach.
2. If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities as identified in the “HPP Athlete Agreement”.
3. In order to abide by a code of conduct breach decision made by the appropriate disciplinary mechanism.
4. If the athlete has outstanding debts with the CFF.

Panel Selections

In all cases where the selection panel will determine which athletes qualify for a tournament, the following criteria will be used in no particular order:

- Performance potential (e.g., next gen athletes may be prioritized)
- Training commitment (e.g., Evidence of following a 20 hour per week training schedule)
- Designated National Team training camp commitment and participation
- Tournament commitment (e.g., number of events attended, tournament readiness)
- Contribution to Team results
- Working relationship with national team program and coaches
- Disciplinary issues
- Past performance (e.g., consistently improving results over the athletes’ career or maintaining high standards - world cup finals)

Injuries

In the event that an athlete is injured (or ill), the Head Coach and the High Performance Director will consider the medical recommendations made by a CFF approved sports medicine specialist in making their final decision.

Injured or ill athletes will be tested to demonstrate their readiness as determined by the Head Coach in consultation with the athlete's personal trainer and the HPD. Such tests will consist of a controlled performance such as a competition or a test or tests or trials in observation.

The expected outcome of this test, which will take place in Canada, will be determined in advance. These athletes will not travel with the team unless the Head Coach and the HPD are satisfied that the athlete's performance is at the level that they were at when nominated for selection to the 2023 Pan-American Games Team or that the athlete's performance will be at this level by the time they compete at the 2023 Pan-American Games.

If, once at the 2023 Pan-American Games, it is determined by the HPD that the athlete is not ready for the competition as a result of an injury or illness, or it is discovered that they have not disclosed an injury or illness that, on the basis of the opinion of team medical staff, will have a negative impact on their performance or may aggravate their injury or illness, the athlete may be withdrawn from competition. In this case, the alternate will be allowed to compete.

Removal of an athlete once selected

- An athlete from being considered for nomination to the Canadian Team could be removed if the athlete is found to have committed a Code of Conduct violation by an independent disciplinary panel and that violation results in a suspension that will run through the Games, or the conduct would bring CFF's reputation into disrepute. A copy of the Code of Conduct and Ethics is available at <http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Code-of-Conduct-and-Ethics.pdf>
- The CFF will advise the affected athlete, in writing, of his/her/their decision.
- An athlete or coach will be removed from the team if he/she is in violation of any anti-doping policy or procedure as outlined by the CFF, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) they are found to have committed an anti-doping rule violation or have been provisionally suspended by any Anti-Doping Organization that has jurisdiction over the athlete.

CONFIRMATION OF ENTRIES

As of August 1, 2023, the athletes to be nominated by the COC for a position on the 2023 Pan-American Games Team will be determined. Nomination will be pending COC approval.

In addition, on August 1, 2023 the CFF shall determine the athletes it will select as alternates to the athletes it proposes to nominate to the COC for positions on the 2023 Pan-American Games Team.

Subject to any revisions required by an athlete's decision to decline a nomination to be a member of the 2023 Pan-American Games Team, or by an athlete's inability to participate at a competitive level due to a health-related curtailment of activities, the CFF shall submit its list of athlete and alternates being nominated to the COC for the 2023 Pan-American Games Team by September 26, 2023.

Substitutions after nomination to the COC are subject to the approval of the COC Team Selection Committee.

AMENDMENTS & UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

The HPD reserves the right to amend the Criteria prior to the Final Nomination Date. The HPD may amend the Criteria under the following circumstances:

1. When additional (or altered) information that is deemed relevant by the HPD to the Criteria is provided by external parties, such as (but not limited to) an event organizing committee, Sport Canada, the COC, FIE, or any other relevant organization; and
2. To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors or omissions in the Criteria.

Any changes made by the HPD are deemed to come into effect immediately upon publication on the CFF website. The HPD will publish the amended Criteria by whatever means and wherever the original Criteria were published.

- Any changes to this document must be communicated directly to affected athletes, their coaches and national team coaches.
- This clause must not be used to justify modifications after a competition or training camp that is part of these internal nomination procedures, unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance.
- Changes to this document may be required due to a typographical error or unclear definition or wording.
- In case of modification of this document, the CFF will inform the COC of the changes and reasons for these changes as soon as possible.

- If unforeseen circumstances beyond the CFF's control prevent the HPD from fairly implementing this Internal Nomination Procedure as written, the HPD will have discretion to resolve the issue as he or she sees fit taking into account the factors and characteristics and circumstances that it considers relevant.
- In cases where unforeseen circumstances make it difficult to apply the selection process fairly and objectively, the CFF Board, in consultation with the Executive Director, reserves the right to decide on the appropriate course of action.
- The HPD reserves the right to review and modify any selection criteria or decision related to the selection process in the event of rule changes or policies of the FIE or the International Olympic Committee that have an impact on the selection criteria set out in this document.
- In the event that the selection criteria are changed, the CFF will promptly post an announcement on its website announcing the changes.

APPEALS

- CFF nominations to the COC for the 2023 Pan-American Games may be appealed in accordance with the procedures set out in the CFF Appeal Policy. <http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Appeals-Policy.pdf>
- Any disagreement involving a national team player and the CFF may be heard by the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SRDCC).
- A dispute must be filed by the athlete within 7 days of CFF's publication of the 2023 Pan-American Games Team – Definite Entry and Alternate List.

GENERAL

- The Internal Nomination Procedures for the 2023 Pan-American Games will be communicated through CFF official publications, posted on the CFF web site and distributed by email to 2022-2023 CFF HPP members.

STAFF SELECTION

- The nominated team leader must satisfy the expectations and requirements of the COC's *Team Leader Position Description*.
- The HPD, in consultation with the HPAC, has the sole discretion in selecting the support staff, including team leader, coach(s) for the 2023 Pan-American Games.
- The support staff will be selected based on the principle of sending a team of specialists that is best capable of assisting athletes in achieving podium performances at the Games. All selections are subject to COC approval.

Coach Selection

- Member in good standing of CFF
- Member in good standing of the with the Professional Coaching Program of the Coaching Association of Canada
- Have completed a criminal background check
- Complete the "Respect and Sport" training available at

<http://fencing.ca/en/respect-and-sport/> or the Coaching Association of Canada Safe Sport module available at <https://safesport.coach.ca>

- Must adhere to the CFF Code of Conduct and Ethics
- The CFF HPD and HPAC will select coaches from the qualifying coaches of the Senior National Team (including personal coaches) of the Qualified Athlete. These coaches will then be appointed by the CFF for the 2023 Pan-American Games
- Coaching accreditation will be a priority:
 - The coaches of the senior national team
 - Personal coaches
- Must comply with any other requirements or obligations imposed on coaches as found in this Internal Nomination Procedure.

TIMELINES SUMMARY

| Date | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| October 1, 2022 | INP Published/circulated |
| October 7, 2022 – July 26, 2023 | Qualification period |
| August 1, 2023 | Date team will be nominated pending COC team selection committee approval September 26, 2023 |
| August 15, 2023 | Date athlete must accept their nomination |
| August 22, 2023 | Timeline or deadline for filing an Appeal |
| September 1, 2023 | Date for athletes to sign and submit the COC Athlete Agreement and the Eligibility Requirements Form to CFF |
| September 15, 2023 | Deadline to submit all documents as required in this Internal Nomination Procedure to COC |
| September 26, 2023 | Date team will be nominated to the COC |

