Water Ski National Teams Program Structure and Funding Overview

NATIONAL TEAMS PROGRAM

The National Teams Program provides financial, coaching, medical, insurance and other support to athletes selected to the following three teams:

1. National Team: This team supports the top athletes and is divided into six tiers. All tiers are part of the National Team, with the various tiers determining the level of financial and other support.

2. Junior National Team: This team supports athletes in the U17 and U21 age groups.

3. Development Team: This team is for U14 and U17 athletes who have competed for Canada in international events.

An athlete who declines an invitation to participate in the National Teams Program will not be eligible for any National Teams Program, Water Ski and Wakeboard Canada (WSWC) or Sport Canada funding or support, including Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) funding (carding). AAP funding is administered through WSWC's carding policy and has its own set of guidelines and requirements. For details on the AAP, please go to **WSWC AAP CRITERIA**

To receive National Teams Program financial and other support:

(a) all National Team athletes (other than those in tier 5) must submit a yearly training plan to the HP Director (HPD) as designated by the Water Ski High Performance Committee (HPC); and

(b) all National Team tier 5 athletes and all Junior National Team athletes must submit a yearly training plan to the HP Director (HPD) as designated by the Water Ski High Performance Committee (HPC).

Depending on an athlete's commitment, and If requested, the Hp Director (HPD) and support staff will assist Development Team athletes in designing their yearly training plans.

Athletes on the National Team and Junior National Team must attend the National Championships and athletes on the National Team must attend any sport science camps as determined by the HP Director (HPD). Athletes' financial support will be removed or reduced if the athlete does not attend, unless the athlete's absence is approved by the HP Director (HPD).

TYPES OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT
(See detailed criteria and support levels below)

- Enriched funding for National Team training and competition support. Enriched funding is fully dependent on budget availability and will be determined at the end of the fiscal year. (March 31st)
- program and event funding for National Team programs and events
- Canadian Athlete Insurance Program (CAIP) support. As CAIP is only available for Canadian residents, any National Team members living abroad will be provided with equivalent funding based on the current annual cost of the CAIP package.

- CAIP Travel Medical Coverage: travel medical insurance for athletes when they travel to team programs and events (as identified by the National Team Manager). Note that CAIP can only be purchased when departing from Canada.

NATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT SNAPSHOT- ELIGIBILITY FOR SUPPORT
(See detailed criteria and support levels below)

Category	Enriched Funding Eligibility	Program and Event Funding	CAIP Bronze Insurance Package	CAIP Travel Medical Coverage	Safe Sport Training
National Team Tier 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Team Tier 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Team Tier 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Team Tier 4	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
National Team Tier 5	✗	partial	✓	✓	✓
National Team Tier 6	✗	partial	✓	✓	✓
Junior National Team	✗	limited	✗	✓	✓
Development Team	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓

NATIONAL TEAMS PROGRAM CRITERIA AND SUPPORT LEVELS		
Category	**Qualification Criteria [1, 2, 3]**	**Financial Support Criteria**
National Team Tier 1: Podium	Athletes who place first, second or third in slalom, trick, jump or overall, at the last World Championships. If an athlete who qualified for this category because of a podium placement at more than one past World Championships does not place first, second or third in an event at the last World Championships, the HPD may permit that athlete to remain in this category for the next two years if the HPD believes that the athlete remains capable of a podium placement at the following World Championships.	Eligible for enriched funding for training and competitions. **(if funding is available)** Funding for all National Team program events (as identified by the HPD), including Nationals, Pan American Championships, World Championships and sport science camps. **The funding levels for each event will be dependent on the budget and may vary from event to event. Athletes will be notified in advance of the funding levels prior to the event.** CAIP insurance package coverage for athletes living in Canada or the equivalent payout for athletes living outside of Canada. CAIP travel/medical insurance for athletes when they travel to National Team program events (as identified by the HPD), including Nationals, Pan American Championships, World Championships and sport science camps.
National Team Tier 2: Carded	Athletes who receive Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) carding support from Sport Canada. WSWC currently has seven cards available.	
National Team Tier 3: World Team	The six athletes whose scores at the last World Championships were used to determine the Canadian Team score at the Championships. Athletes not already in Tiers 1-3, will be added to Tier 3 immediately upon being selected as one of the six athletes selected to determine the Canadian Team score at the World Championships in the current year. They will receive the noted funding for the remainder of the year, as of the date of being selected for the Team. (The funding is not retroactive)	
National Team Tier 4: Elite Exceptional Performance	Athletes who: (i) qualify for the US Masters; (ii) place first, second or third in slalom, trick, or jump at a professional event with at least 3 participants in the top 10 of the IWWF rankings; (iii) are in the top eight for slalom, trick or jump or the top five for overall on the rolling World Ranking List throughout the year; or (iv) placed in the top eight in slalom, trick or jump or the top three in overall at the last World Championships. Athletes may be added to Tier 4 any time during the calendar year if they achieve the above results. They will receive the noted funding for the remainder of the year, as	Funding for all National Team program events (as identified by the HPD), including Nationals, Pan American Championships, World Championships and sport science camps. **The funding levels for each event will be dependent on the budget and may vary from event to event. Athletes will be notified in advance of the funding levels prior to the event.** CAIP insurance package coverage for athletes living in Canada or the equivalent payout for athletes living outside of Canada if budget allows. CAIP travel/medical insurance for athletes when they travel to National Team program events (as identified by the HPD), including Nationals, Pan American Championships, World Championships, and sport science camps.

	funding is not retroactive)	
National Team Tier 5: U21 Exceptional Performance	Athletes under 21 on December 31 of the prior calendar year who competed in the last U17 or U21 World Championships AND competed in the last Open World Championships. These athletes must have qualified for the last Open World Championships as follows- as part of the six-person national team; competed as an independent whose scores were not used to determine the Canadian Team score at the Championships AND qualified as a top 20 men, top 15 women, or top 10 overall rankings list athlete. Wild card entries do not qualify for National Team qualification.	Funding for Nationals and sport science camps and partial funding for Pan American Championships and World Championships. **The funding levels for each event will be dependent on the budget and may vary from event to event. Athletes will be notified in advance of the funding levels prior to the event.** CAIP insurance package coverage for athletes living in Canada or the equivalent payout for athletes living outside of Canada if budget allows. CAIP travel/medical insurance for athletes when they travel to National Team program events (as identified by the HPD), including Nationals, Pan American Championships, World Championships, and sport science camps.

National Team Tier 6: World Independents	Athletes who qualified for the last Open World Championships as follows- As part of the six-person national team; competed as an independent whose scores were not used to determine the Canadian Team score at the Championships AND qualified as a top 20 men, top 15 women, or top 10 overall rankings list athlete. Wild card entries do not qualify for National Team qualification.	Partial funding for Nationals, Pan American Championships and World Championships Funding for the World Championships and Pan American Championships, if the athlete's scores will be used to determine the Canadian Team score at the Championships. **The funding levels for each event will be dependent on the budget and may vary from event to event. Athletes will be notified in advance of the funding levels prior to the event.** CAIP insurance package coverage for athletes living in Canada or the equivalent payout for athletes living outside of Canada if budget allows. CAIP travel/medical insurance for athletes when they travel to National Team program events (as identified by the HPD), including Nationals, Pan American Championships, World Championships, and sport science camps.
Junior National Team	Athletes who competed in the last U17 or U21 World Championships. These athletes will normally be in the program for two years provided they show continued improvement in performance and remain eligible to compete in the next U17 or U21 World Championships.	If an athlete is in the top 12 for slalom, trick or jump or the top six for overall on the most recent U17 or U21 World Ranking List, they may receive partial funding for U17 and U21 Pan American Championships and U17 and U21 World Championships. **The funding levels for each event will be dependent on the budget and may vary from event to event. Athletes will be notified in advance of the funding levels prior to the event.** Athletes who compete in the U17 or U21 World Championships but are not in the top 12 or six on those ranking lists will not receive any funding. CAIP travel/medical insurance for athletes when they travel to Junior National Team program events (as identified by the HPD), including Nationals, Pan American Championships, World Championships, and sport science camps.
Development Team	Athletes who compete for Canada in the U14 or U17 division at the Can-Am Challenge or Pan American Championships. These athletes will normally be in the program for two years provided they show continued improvement in performance. If the Can- Am Challenge is not held, the HPD, in consultation with the Can-Am Team Coach, may select athletes for this team based on performance, commitment and any other criteria the NTM considers relevant.	No direct funding. However, a coach will be provided for the Can-Am Challenge and Pan American Championships and, depending on commitment, the National Team Manager or support staff may assist the athletes in designing a yearly training plan. CAIP travel/medical insurance for athletes when they travel to Development Team program events (as identified by the HPD), including Nationals, Pan American Championships, World Championships, and sport science camps.

[1] WSWC's High Performance Committee (HPC) may select an athlete for a team if the athlete is unable to meet the qualification criteria because of a health-related issue (e.g., injury, illness, pregnancy).

[2] The HPC may disqualify an athlete from being included in the program or remove an athlete after qualification if: (a) the athlete's past or current conduct violates WSWC's Code of Conduct, WSWC's Social Media Guidelines, the athlete's Athlete Agreement; or (b) the athlete does not complete all mandatory training and education (e.g. Safe Sport modules, anti-doping courses, concussion education).

[3] Travel and other public health restrictions imposed because of the COVID pandemic may: (a) adversely affect an athlete's training and tournament scores; and (b) reduce the number of tournaments in which an athlete participates. The HPC may therefore make exceptions to these criteria when selecting athletes to participate in the National Teams Program if the HPC believes an athlete's training or tournament scores have been adversely affected by those restrictions.