

9.5 Canada Winter Games

Preamble

Every four years, the Canada Winter Games (CWG) is hosted by a different city within Canada usually in February. The CWG represents the pinnacle of sporting competition for many athletes in Canada and has been used numerous times as a springboard to International and Olympic level competition. For more information on the Canada Games, please visit their website at www.canadagames.ca. Squash has been involved in the CWG since 1991 and BC has a history of producing successful teams.

Team BC is the Provincial Governments sporting body responsible for all sports from BC participating in the Canada Games, (both Winter and Summer Games.) Team BC has in the past funded the last two years of training for Squash BC athletes. As funding levels change annually we will not know the exact amount until we get closer to the funding time frame. For more information on Team BC, please visit their website at www.teambc.org.

The Canada Winter Games and Team BC place certain stipulations and requirements for inclusion and playing in the games. Squash BC will adhere to those stipulations and requirements. The following are some examples of areas that Squash BC does not have a policy on as a result: team uniforms, travel arrangements to the games, coaches level of certification, etc.

9.5.1 Definitions:

- I. "CWG Training Squad": CWG Squad may consist of up to 20 athletes, boys and girls of varying ages. This is what the athletes will be on before the CWG Teams have been announced.
- II. "CWG Team": CWG Teams will consist of 4 boys or 4 girls. These will be the athletes competing at the CWG.

9.5.2 Canada Winter Games Event

- I. Squash in the CWG has two components: a team event and a individual event with each Province/Territory, (P/T) sending one girl's team and one boy's team. Each team is made up of two U19 and two U17 athletes. The two teams compete as part of Team BC and the points obtained by squash will go towards the overall Team BC total. Boys and Girls teams and individuals are awarded separate medals for Gold, Silver or Bronze.
- II. Each athlete must qualify for their respective age category based on their birthdates by the end of the CWG competition in February. For example, if an athlete turns 17 during the CWG competition, they will have to qualify for the Games as a U19 player. If athletes turn 19 during the competition they will not be eligible to compete in the Games.
- III. Squash in the CWG has a team event against each Province/Territory (P/T). Once the two athletes from each age category have been selected to the team, those four players are ranked in position one through four within the team. This positioning is done irrespective of age categories. The goal is to field the strongest team possible in positions one through four. Each P/T is seeded by Squash Canada for the Games based on their respective teams and teams play each other during the Games for the right to proceed in the tournament draw. During a team match encounter, the number one player from Team BC plays a best of five games match against the other P/T number one player and so on down through each team's line up. (Two plays two, three plays three, etc.) The team with the most matches won, wins the team encounter. In the event of a tie, Squash Canada's tie break system is used.
- IV. Squash in the CWG has an individual event with each Province/Territory (P/T). Each P/T may nominate their top player based on the Squash Canada Rankings to compete in the individual competition. The individual draw will consist of 16 players. Further players may be added to the event, after all P/T positions have been filled. Additions to the individual competition will be based on descending order of eligible players by the Squash Canada rankings. Players competing in the individual competition must be a member of a P/T team in the CWG. Boys and Girls individual results go towards the overall Team BC points total. Individual competition Boys and Girls are awarded separate medals for Gold, Silver or Bronze

9.5.3 Squash BC Canada Winter Games Program

- I. The Canada Winter Games is a standing committee that falls under the umbrella of Player Development. The CWG Program runs on a three-year cycle, (with year 1 being 3 years before the competition etc.) and is designed to identify, select, train and develop the best teams possible with the goal of bringing home a podium result in both the boy's and girl's events.
- II. Squash BC will announce the appointment of a CWG Committee at the start of year one which will be comprised of a minimum of three selected individuals and the Executive Director of Squash BC. The Executive Director of Squash BC and persons with a conflict of interest (appearance or otherwise) will have a non-voting status on the committee. The Committee will advertise for and select a CWG Coach and CWG Manager, in the spring of year one. This group will work to create and implement a three year CWG Program

9.5.4 CWG Training Squad

- I. The Committee will select the CWG's Training Squad in the early Fall of year one. These athletes will be selected based on a combination of provincial rankings, head to head match results, age category qualification as of the CWG date, and other criteria may be used depending on circumstances. Our goal is to select the top 5 athletes in each of the four categories. (GU19, GU17, BU19, and BU17). In a limited number of circumstances, the Committee may choose one less or one more athlete based on what the Committee felt was in the best interests of the athletes and the overall program.
- II. Selection to and participation in the CWG Training Squad for the First Year in no way guarantees athletes will be selected to the Training Squad in Years Two and Three of the Program or to the final CWG Team. The target number of athletes in each age category will reduce from 5 to 4 in Year Two and from 4 to 3 in Year Three. The final CWG Team of two athletes in each age category (for a total of eight boys and girls) along with one non-traveling alternate for each category will be selected after BC Junior Open (Fall).
- III. Athletes must play in the tournaments identified by the Junior Development Committee for the Provincial Training Squad, Regional Training Squad or Interior Training Squad. The tournaments may vary for each squad member based PTS/RTS requirements. The CWG Committee may identify, at the start of each year, specific tournaments athletes must play in as additional requirements

9.5.5 Training Squad/Team Selection for the Canada Winter Games

- I. Year One (Fall): Top 5 athletes in each of the four age categories
- II. Year Two (Spring): Top 4 athletes in each of the four age categories
- III. Year Three (Spring): Top 3-4 athletes to fill out each of the four age categories
- IV. Final team and alternates will be selected after the BC Junior Open (Fall)

Note:

- I. Just because athletes do not qualify for selection in Year One of the Program does not mean they cannot be selected to the Squad in Year Two or Year Three.
- II. If an athlete decides not to participate in any year, he/she was invited to the squad that decision will be binding for the entire duration of the CWG's program. That athlete will not be eligible for Squash BC funding or other programs funded by Squash BC unless that athlete will be eligible for the next CWG cycle
- III. Selection to the Training Squad will be by committee based on a combination of provincial rankings, head to head match results, age category qualification as of the CWG date and other criteria may be used depending on circumstances.

9.5.6 Selection Committee of Final Team and Alternates

- I. The CWG Committee voting members will be responsible for making the selection decisions. They will take input from the non-voting members of the committee.

9.5.7 Team Selection

- I. Two (2) months prior to the start of the Canada Winter Games, the final team and alternate selections will be made. Teams must have no more than 2 U19 girls and boys. The committee may select 4 U17 players if they are all ranked above the U19 players. The following will make up the teams:
 - a. 2 girls and 2 boys U19 or U17
 - b. 2 girls and 2 boys U17
- II. As well there will be:
 - a. 1 girl and 1 boy u19 or U17 chosen as an alternate
 - b. 1 girl and 1 boy u17 chosen as an alternate
- III. The teams and alternates will be chosen primarily by Squash BC rankings.
 - a. If players are within 40 points, head to head results over the past 12 months will be taken into account. A playoff may be required.
 - b. Players who withdraw from 2 or more events/matches in the last six playing months before Team selection, (May through August excluded,) due to injury and/or health issues may be deemed to be unfit and not match ready.
 - c. All “challenge” matches of Year 3 squad members during year 3 will not count for ranking points and will be removed from Squash BC official rankings.

9.5.8 Team Order for the CWG

- I. Since this is a national event and appeals from other P/T’s may be made, we will use Squash Canada rankings to set team order. We will use the Squash Canada rankings as of December 15.
 - a. If players are within 40 points, head to head results over the past 12 months will be taken into account. A playoff may be required.

9.5.9 Appeals and Timelines

- I. Appeals of the selection to the squad, team or alternate positions can be made to the Executive Director of Squash BC. Timelines and process will be communicated within the correspondence to the athletes. If an athlete has not been chosen to the squad in any of the years, it may be because that athlete has not been brought to the attention of the CWG Committee. It is the responsibility of the athlete/coach/parent to make sure he or she is considered for the squad.
- II. All appellants will require to provide a deposit or bond of \$250 for their appeal to be heard. If they are successful, the deposit or bond will be returned.
- III. All appeals will be pre-screened to make sure the appeals are based on at least one of the four areas of appeal:
 - a. The decision-maker did not have the authority or jurisdiction to make the decision.
 - b. The decision-maker failed to follow the procedures set out in the relevant by-laws or policies of Squash BC
 - c. There is a reasonable apprehension that a decision-maker is biased.
 - d. The decision-maker made a decision for which there is little or no supporting evidence.