



# PROVINCIAL WOMEN'S SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

## Canada Games Selection Process

The purpose of this document is to outline the process that will be used to select the athletes who will comprise the 2029 Team Ontario Canada Games Team.

### Objective

The goal is to select the best team possible to compete at the Canada Summer Games as determined by those selecting the team roster. When selecting the team, selectors will use objective criteria, including physical and skill testing, alongside subjective criteria such as performance, experience, positional requirements, leadership, and an assessment of how a player would impact team cohesion. Selecting a team is part science, part art, and those selecting the roster have wide discretion to make whatever roster decisions they believe are in the best interests of the Team Ontario Canada Games Team.

### Eligibility

To be eligible for the team, athletes must be a member of a team affiliated with the Provincial Women's Softball Association P.W.S.A., be in good standing with the P.W.S.A., be a Canadian Citizen, and meet the age requirements of the Canada Summer Games during the 2029 calendar year.

Selection to Team Ontario for the Canada Summer Games is made exclusively through the P.W.S.A. Canada Games selection process. Athletes must participate in and be evaluated through this process to be eligible for selection.

### Authority for Selection

The Head Coach, in consultation with the Assistant Coaches and the Team Manager, has final authority for all selection decisions, including player removals and replacement athletes, subject to ultimate approval by the P.W.S.A. Canada Games Chairperson. In making decisions, the Head Coach, Assistant Coaches, and Team Manager may also consult with selected talent evaluators. All player personnel decisions must be approved by the P.W.S.A. Canada Games Chairperson and the Board prior to the selections being made public. However, this approval by the P.W.S.A. Canada Games Chairperson is a part of the internal approval process and **is not** an appeal process for players who believe they are not being properly considered for selection.

### Athlete Pool Selection Process

Athletes are required to attend, at minimum, one talent identification/evaluation camp.

Athletes will be put through a series of fitness tests along with game/tactical situations.

Athletes may be scouted at the following events during the spring/summer of 2026, 2027, and 2028:



- Team Ontario Talent Identification and Training Weekends
- Softball Canada Junior National Team Evaluations
- P.W.S.A. invitational tournaments, P.W.S.A. Qualifier and Grand Championship Tournaments and Softball Canada's Canadian Championships

At the conclusion of the 2026 competitive season and camps (tryouts and selection camp), the Canada Games Coaching Staff (or, if not yet identified, individuals fulfilling that responsibility) will select up to eighty (80) to form the Canada Summer Games Athlete Pool, with the Canada Games Coaching Staff to have the right to select fewer than eighty (80) athletes if they, in their sole discretion, believe that doing so would be in the best interests of Team Ontario.

The selected athletes will be notified of their place in the initial Athlete Pool in the fall of 2026.

The P.W.S.A.'s High Performance Development Program is the exclusive pathway to the 2029 Team Ontario Canada Summer Games team.

Selection to the Athlete Pool does not guarantee continued inclusion in the Athlete Pool for consideration of selection. Athletes are continuously evaluated and must continue to earn placement in the Athlete Pool at each stage.

Athletes may be added to the Athlete Pool by the Head Coach, in consultation with the Assistant Coaches and the Team Manager at any time subject to ultimate approval by the P.W.S.A. Canada Games Chairperson.

### **High-Performance Pathway & Workload Management**

The P.W.S.A.'s High Performance Development Program ("HPDP") is the primary and high performance pathway in Ontario and is the recognized pathway for development and consideration for selection to the Team Ontario Canada Games Team.

Concurrent participation in multiple high-performance programs is discouraged due to overtraining risks. This is a very real risk that the P.W.S.A. takes very seriously. It is not up to an athlete or an athlete's family to say that they voluntarily accept the risks associated with overtraining. The P.W.S.A. wants to protect its athletes by ensuring that they prioritize P.W.S.A.'s HPDP during the 2026-27 and 2027-28 off-seasons, recognizing that the athletes will be playing for clubs during the 2027 and 2028 seasons.

Athletes who participate in conflicting external programs and who do not prioritize the P.W.S.A.'s HPDP may be removed from the Athlete Pool and the selection process at the sole discretion of the Head Coach.

### **Team Selection**

The Head Coach, in consultation with the Assistant Coaches and the Team Manager, has, at their sole discretion, the right to add athletes to the Athlete Pool and to invite athletes to a final selection camp



who have not attended any previous evaluation camp, subject to ultimate approval by the P.W.S.A. Canada Games Chairperson. The discretion of the Head Coach to assemble the Team Ontario Canada Games Team that they believe is appropriate is broad, recognizing that many factors, both objective and subjective, go into making a team.

Athletes in the Canada Games Athlete Pool may have participated in evaluation activities during the 2026, 2027 and 2028 softball seasons. This is a significant commitment. However, selection to the final Team Ontario Canada Games roster is never guaranteed.

Advancement and final selection is never guaranteed and is based on ongoing evaluation right up until the start of the Canada Games.

As noted above, all Canada Games Athlete Pool athletes will be available to play for their club team in 2027 and 2028 seasons. In addition to participating with their club teams during the 2027 and 2028 seasons, the programming for the athletes in the Athlete Pool is expected to include the following, in which athletes in the Athletes Pool would be expected to participate:

During the 2026-2027 offseason (October 2026-April 2027) and the 2027-2028 offseason (October 2027 – April 2028):

- Autumn College/Showcase Event (24 – 30 athletes)
- Monthly/Bi-Monthly Training Camps
- Strength and Conditioning Programming
- Spring Training Tour (24 – 30 athletes)

During the 2028 season:

- 2028 Canada Cup/European Tour/CSG Test Event
- Final Selection Camp(s)/Tournament

Any participation by an athlete in the Athlete Pool in additional high-performance programs may be problematic and would need to be restructured or eliminated where conflicts with P.W.S.A.'s programming or workload risks exist. The expectation is that members of the Canada Summer Games Athlete Pool will prioritize P.W.S.A.'s HPDP and all Team Ontario programming. Failure to do so could result in removal from the Athlete Pool and selection process. The P.W.S.A. expects and requires that during the 2027 and 2028 season the athletes in the Athlete Pool commit first to their clubs, then to P.W.S.A.'s HPDP programming, and then, and only if possible within a limit of fifty (50) hours per month of aggregate time playing and training for softball, any other softball programming.

### **Fall 2028 Selection Camp(s)**

A selection camp or camps will be held in the fall of 2028, at which time approximately twenty (20) athletes will be named to Team Ontario, recognizing that the final roster for the 2029 Canada Summer Games will not include all of those selected at this time.



Those athletes selected to Team Ontario at this time will only play for Team Ontario in 2029, and will not participate with their clubs in the 2029 season.

Canada Summer Games Coaching Staff may name an additional five (5) to ten (10) athletes as “reserves” who will train alongside Team Ontario in the 2028-2029 offseason. These athletes will be available to their club teams for the 2029 season. However, the Head Coach reserves the right to call reserves back into Team Ontario should the need arise.

### **Roster Selection**

In May/June of 2029, and in accordance with Team Ontario Canada Games timelines for submitting team rosters, fifteen (15) athletes and three (3) alternates will be selected to the 2029 Canada Summer Games Final Competition Roster.

Note, however, that athletes may still be removed from Team Ontario and the Canada Games roster in the event of injury or should they violate any rules, requirements, or code of conduct.

As has already been noted, assembling a team is part science, part art, with a coach needing to consider both objective and subjective factors while assembling a mix of athletes that the coach believes will best represent Ontario at the Canada Games. Accordingly, the Head Coach has wide discretion when assessing athletes and assembling Team Ontario. Factors that will be considered, but not limited to, when selecting the Athlete Pool and making selection decisions, include physical, technical, and tactical aspects of the game, as well as team dynamics. Other items that will be considered are:

- Previous and current performance
- Experience
- Positional requirements primary and secondary
- Present and projected development and or improvement
- Leadership/contribution to team chemistry
- Availability for competition and training

It is understood that in making selections to create the best team, it is possible that the best individual athletes may not be selected.

The Head Coach’s discretion includes the right at any time to name an athlete to the Athlete Pool or to the roster even though that athlete may not have participated in evaluation camps or other selection activities.

### **Removal from a Camp or from the Team**

An athlete may be removed from the Athlete Pool, a training camp or other P.W.S.A. activity, or even the rostered team, at the sole discretion of the Head Coach, in consultation with the Assistant Coaches and



the Team Manager, and subject to ultimate approval by the P.W.S.A. Canada Games Chairperson, where the athlete:

- is unable to meet performance expectations
- is unable to perform due to injury, illness, or other medical reasons
- is unable to commit to the required team activities
- violates team rules
- exhibits conduct that is determined to be detrimental to the image of the Team Ontario Program

Where an athlete is being considered for removal from Team Ontario after the Fall 2028 selection camp(s) for reasons other than performance or injury, being situations where an athlete has (i) failed to commit to required team activities, (ii) violated team rules, or (iii) exhibited conduct that is determined to be detrimental to the image of the Team Ontario Program, then either the Head Coach, the Team Manager, or any other individual authorized by the P.W.S.A. for such purpose will provide the athlete with written notice of the concerns and an opportunity, if possible, for the athlete to correct their conduct.

### Appeals

A player not selected to the Canada Games Team may appeal that decision only in accordance with the P.W.S.A. appeals procedure.

### Selection Policy for Canada Summer Games Staff

See attached - Appendix A

### Thank you.

The Provincial Women's Softball Association would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Ontario - Ministry of Sport for their continued support and commitment to sports in the Province of Ontario.

**Policy Name:** Canada Games Selection Process

**Ratification Date:** June 21, 2026

**Review Date:** June 2027



## PROVINCIAL WOMEN'S SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

### APPENDIX A

#### **Selection Policy for Canada Summer Games Staff**

The P.W.S.A. is responsible for the selection of the Staff for the Canada Summer Games Team and will be selected by the P.W.S.A. at its sole discretion in the manner approved by the P.W.S.A.'s Board of Directors.

The Manager of the Canada Summer Games Team must be a member of the P.W.S.A. Board of Directors, with any individual Director interested in such position to recuse themselves from the selection process.

Notification on the P.W.S.A. website will be posted regarding the positions available, certification necessary and a deadline for receipt of applications.

The P.W.S.A. will appoint a Head Coach, two Assistant Coaches, and several Guest Coaches, as well as any other staff or officials the P.W.S.A. believes may be appropriate.

The Head Coach and all Assistants are required to provide proof of Competition Development coaching certification by January in the year of the Canada Games.

Once the deadline for applications has passed, a committee established by P.W.S.A.'s Board of Directors will review all applications for all positions and decide on the number to be interviewed in each Category.

Once interviews have taken place and decisions have been made, all results will be posted on our website.

Coaches and Manager must meet with the P.W.S.A. Board of Directors for an annual evaluation review.