



RUGBY CANADA INTERNAL NOMINATION PROCEDURES 2020 TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES MEN'S 7S TEAM

This version of the Men's Rugby 7s INP was approved on July 15th, 2020 and replaces the version of the INP approved on February 13th, 2020 and any other previous version of this INP as it relates to the Tokyo Olympic Games

Rugby Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact obtaining quota spots for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and/or domestic nomination of athletes for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of the coronavirus, Rugby Canada will respect these published Internal Nomination Procedures as written.

However, situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this Internal Nomination Procedure to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the Internal Nomination Procedure. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow this Internal Nomination Procedure to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this Internal Nomination Procedure, in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Rugby Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out the process that will be used by Rugby Canada to select athletes to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games Rugby 7s team.

This selection process has two objectives:

- Select eligible Players to form a Player Pool.
- From the Player Pool, select the best possible teams for specific events. While some objective criteria will be used to select teams, it is also recognized that there are significant subjective elements. Subjective elements include such factors as performance, experience, positional requirements, leadership and team culture.

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International Federation Criteria

The team will consist of 12 players, and 1 Ap accredited athlete (13th athlete). In the event of a discrepancy between the Rugby Canada Internal Nomination Procedure and the Qualification Criteria as published by World Rugby, World Rugby shall prevail. In the event World Rugby makes any changes to their Olympic Games Qualification Criteria, Rugby Canada will be bound by those changes and if such a change necessitates other changes to this internal nomination procedure, Rugby Canada shall make those changes and inform all affected athletes and the Canadian Olympic Committee at the earliest opportunity.

[World Rugby Tokyo 2020 Qualification System](#)

Responsibilities of Rugby Canada, Coaches and Players

Rugby Canada: to recognize the importance of having a sound team selection policy; the importance of communicating the selection criteria to athletes; and the appropriate implementation of the policy.

Coaches: to be aware of the performance criteria and use their experience, expertise and technical knowledge to support Rugby Canada in the development of a clear and comprehensive team selection policy.

Players: to understand the team selection criteria and, if necessary, immediately request further information from the coaching staff and Rugby Canada to ensure clarity of the requirements for team selection.

Player Eligibility

In order to be eligible for nomination to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games all athletes must:

- Be a member in good standing of Rugby Canada
- Be Canadian Citizens as per Rule 41 of the Olympic Charter
- Have a valid passport that expires no sooner than December 31st, 2021
- Sign and submit the 2020-2021 Rugby Canada Athlete Agreement
- Be in compliance with all relevant World Rugby requirements for eligibility
- Sign and submit the COC Athlete Agreement and Tokyo 2020 Conditions of Participation Form no later than June 30, 2021.
- Must not be serving a period of ineligibility for an anti-doping rule violation or be under a provisional suspension following the assertion of an anti-doping rule violation by either Rugby Canada, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport or any other Anti-Doping Organization

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Selecting the Pool of Athletes: (Talent Identification)

The Head Coach of Rugby Canada's 7s program and assistant coaches, in consultation with the High-Performance Leadership Group will identify a pool of players that meet the selection criteria (see below)

Note: National team talent identification and selection is an on-going process. In addition, the competitions for the 2020-2021 have been added as selection tournaments.

Selection Tournaments (2017-2021)

- World Rugby Men's Sevens Series events
 - Dubai, South Africa, New Zealand, Sydney, USA, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore, London, Paris
- Major Games, including:
 - 2018 Commonwealth Games
 - 2018 Rugby Sevens World Cup
 - 2019 Pan American Games
- Maple Leaf's sevens events, including but not limited to:
 - South America 7s
- Senior Men's XV's International Competitions from 2017 – 2021
- University 7s Competitions
- NextGen Tournaments, and competitions including but not limited to:
 - Youth Olympic Games Qualifiers
 - U18 Invitational
 - Rugby Canada Pacific Pride competitions

Players with potential may be identified in the following manner:

- Performance at National Championships – Age Grade and Senior
- Performance at other domestic competitions including University 7s
- Recommendations from Provincial / Regional HP Coaches
- Members of our Ontario and British Columbia based development academies
- National team selection camps and open try-outs.
 - The national coach shall have complete discretion in determining which athletes will be invited to national team try-outs.

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Team Selection Criteria

In order to be considered for selection, athletes must meet the attributes as per below:

OFF FIELD ATTRIBUTES:

- Demonstrates commitment to a lifestyle conducive to high performance and a positive culture. (Manages their off-field risk management plus their responsibilities of rest and recovery, nutrition and analysis)
- Demonstrates punctuality including when travelling and all activities, commitments, functions related to the national team and the NSM 7s high-performance program.
- Demonstrates a commitment to wear appropriate clothing featuring relevant sponsors during all activities, commitments, functions related to the national team and the NSM 7s high-performance program.
- Demonstrates respect and positive attitudes towards the public, their teammates, national team representatives and all Rugby Canada employees.

ON FIELD ATTRIBUTES:

- Demonstrates athletic and physical abilities - aerobic capacity, speed, speed endurance, strength and power.
- Demonstrates effective rugby sevens skillsets and techniques - passing, catching, running, tackling, contact, kicking and unit skills (scrum, line out, kick-off).
- Demonstrates effective rugby seven's tactical and strategic understanding. Also exhibits the ability and willingness to implement and execute the agreed game plan.
- Demonstrates the ability to play within a team environment, contributes and enhances team performance.
- Demonstrates in game situational adaptiveness, decision-making abilities, aggressive/assertive play and mental toughness.

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES:

- Demonstrates a positive attitude with the ability to contribute to overall team cohesiveness and positive team culture.
- Communicates effectively with teammates and coaching staff both on and off the field.
- Athletes are coachable, can listen to feedback and also take instruction.
- Demonstrate co-operation in the team environment with a desire to improve their interpersonal skills.
- Demonstrates flexibility and adaptability to change, self-motivation, confidence, determination, high standards and a goals-oriented nature.

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FOR NON-CENTRALIZED ATHLETES

- Commit to NSM7s training programs
- Commit to compete at sevens competitions
- Commit to training and assessment

Non-Compliance with Selection Criteria

The national head coach may remove a player from the national team at any time if they do not meet the provisions of the selection criteria. In order to remain on the national team, players must commit to the annual training and competitive programs as outlined by the national coach. In regard to injuries, the national coach may remove a player after consultation with team medical personnel. A written report may be provided upon request.

Players will be invited to the centralized program (August 2020-July 2021). This group will be involved in the training environment and be the primary selection pool for the World Rugby Men's Sevens Series events and invitational tournaments. Along with periodic physical, technical, tactical and psychological assessments, these tournaments will be used to determine the selection pool for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

Final Team Selection

On **May 1st, 2021** the Head Coach 7s, in consultation with his Assistant Coaches and High-Performance Leadership Group, shall select a pool of 24 players for continued consideration for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Selection will be based on continued observation using the criteria listed above.

The final selection of the 12 players, and 1 Ap accredited athlete, shall be made by the Head Coach 7s, in consultation with his Assistant Coaches and High-Performance Leadership Group, no later than the COC team nomination deadline of **June 30th, 2021**. From July 1-4, 2021 Any athlete substitution is subject to COC Team Selection Committee. July 5th, 2021, and onward any athlete substitution is subject to the LARP and COC Team selection Committee. Selection will be based on continued observation using the criteria listed above.

Note: Until the official roster is submitted players can added or removed from the team for:

- (i) Not meeting the standards listed in the criteria above (both on and off the field) that earned them the nomination to the team
- (ii) An injury or illness that would prevent them from participating in any or all of the rugby matches during the Olympic Games, as determined by the Rugby Canada medical personnel.

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Late Athlete Replacement Policy

Any athlete replacement after nomination to the COC is subject to the approval of the COC Team Selection Committee. Any such substitutions after July 5th, 2021 are also subject to the International Olympic Committee Late Athlete Replacement Policy.

Decision Making Authority

The Head Coach of Rugby Canada's Men's 7s Team, with consultation from the High-Performance Leadership Group, has final decision-making authority on all player selections.

On-site Decision-making Authority at the 2020 Olympic Games

During the training and competition period, all final decision-making authority will reside with the Head Coach of Rugby Canada's Men's 7s Team with consultation from the on-site team officials.

Should anything happen to the Head Coach of Rugby Canada's Men's 7s Team during the training and competition period and he is unable to execute decisions on behalf of the team, all final decision-making authority will reside with the Team Leader with consultation from the on-site team officials

Unforeseen Circumstances

This INP is intended to apply as drafted and, specifically, where no athletes are prevented from competing because of an unforeseen injury or other unanticipated or unforeseen circumstances. Situations may arise where unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Rugby Canada's control do not allow competition or nomination to take place in a fair manner or in the best interests of the priorities and general principles for selection as indicated in these criteria, or do not allow the procedure for nomination as described in this document to be applied.

In the event of such unforeseen circumstances the Head Coach of Rugby Canada's 7s Team will, where possible, consult with Rugby Canada High Performance Leadership Group to determine if the circumstances justify competition or nomination should take place in an alternative manner. In such circumstances, the Head Coach of Rugby Canada's 7s Team shall communicate the alternative selection or nomination process to all impacted individuals as soon as possible.

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Changes to this document

Rugby Canada reserves the right to make changes to this document, which in its discretion are necessary to ensure selection of the best players possible to represent Canada for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Any changes to this document shall be communicated directly to all national team members in the centralized training environment and updated on the Rugby Canada website (www.rugby.ca). This clause shall not be used to justify changes after competitions, camps or trials, which form part of the internal nomination procedure, unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance. The purpose of this section is to allow for changes to this document that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording before it has an impact on players. The purpose of such changes must be in order to avoid disputes over the meaning of the provisions of this document rather than to allow changes to be made to justify selection of different players than would have otherwise been selected. Such changes must be reasonably justifiable in accordance with fundamental principles of natural justice and procedural fairness. In the event of a change to this document Rugby Canada shall inform the COC and Rugby Canada stakeholders of the changes and the reasons for those changes as soon as possible.

Appeals

Rugby Canada's nominations to the COC for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games may be appealed in accordance with the procedures set out in the Rugby Canada Appeals Procedures as outlined in the Rugby Canada athlete agreement. Any dispute relating to the Rugby Canada Internal Nomination procedures for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games must be brought forward according to said protocol or may be brought directly to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre Canada.

For enquiries on the Rugby Canada Tokyo 2020 Internal Nomination Procedures please contact:

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Appendix 1: Final Evaluation Process to Select 2020 Tokyo Olympic Squad

September 2020

- Continued Training in DTE

October 2020

- Continued Training in DTE

November 2020

- Continued Training in DTE

December 2020

- World Series Stop #1 – Dubai, UAE
- World Series Stop #2 – Cape Town, SA
- Continued Training in DTE

January 2021

- World Series Stop #3 – Hamilton, New Zealand
- Continued Training in DTE and testing

February 2021

- World Series Stop #4 – Sydney, Australia
- Continued Training in DTE

March 2021

- World Series Stop #5 – Los Angeles, USA
- World Series Stop #6 – Vancouver, Canada
- Continued Training in DTE

April 2021

- Continued Training in DTE

May 2021

- May 1st – Top 24 Athletes identified and communicated
- World Series Stop #9 – London, England
- World Series Stop #10 – Paris, France
- Continued Training in DTE

June 2021

- Potential Heat Adaptation Camp

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- Continued Training in DTE
- June 30th - 12 players, and 1 P accredited athlete will be named by the Head

July 2021

- Ongoing evaluation and training of selected athletes
- Olympic Prep Camp – Travel dates TBD
- Tokyo 2020 Olympics – Travel dates TBD

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