

16U Boys National Program Announcement

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16U NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM - BOYS ANNOUNCEMENT

Water Polo Canada will be beginning a new Men's 16U National Team Program for the summer 2009. The 16U National Team members will be boys born 1993 and younger and they will be eligible to participate in all Camps and Tournaments organized for this age group. This is a new initiative for all involved and below are reasons for it, how it will work, goals and objectives.

Program Purpose:

This year (2009) UANA (Swimming and the Water Polo Federation of North and South America) have established a new tournament for athletes who are 16U (Pan American Championships). The reason for this tournament is for the athletes to get familiar with this competitive environment and to help our athletes to bridge the gap since FINA (International Swimming Federation) moved the age group for Junior World Championship down from 20 y/o to 18y/o.

Program Goal:

We have seen a need to organize this age group of elite athletes and to start to work with them earlier, introducing them to the Men's National Team tactical systems, skills and philosophy that they will need in the future years. The Goal is to have the base of the developmental water polo pyramid as wide as possible and not selecting/identifying athletes too early, and sending only the best 13 Athletes to the competition. Rather, we would like to see as many athletes involved in this program as possible, for the entire year. (We are looking at a pool of fifty (50) athletes at this moment).

Program Overview:

- Francis Gross (Scarborough Shadow) has been hired as the Head Coach of the 16U program;
- We will also appoint by the end of April, three (3-4) Assistant Coaches (ideally 2 from the East and 2 from the West);
- To ask all Club Coaches for their recommendation of the athletes who should be involved by **Friday April 17, 2009.**
- Please forward this information to 16U NT Head Coach, Francis Gross at francis59@rogers.com;
- If we have more than 50 recommendations from Club Coaches, athletes will also be selected at the 2009 16U National Club Championships, May 28-31 in Montreal, QC;
- Final Team selection will be based on the attached National Team criteria and the emphasis will be on fielding two (2) equal Teams to represent Canada at this age group;
- There will be requirement that athletes, as soon as Club season is completed, to join their Provincial Team or in a case that their Province does not offer a program at their level or one up, that they will train on their own and send reports to Head Coach as required;
- Collaboration between the Provincial Team Programs and NT program is essential .Due to the late notice of this 16U NT program, athletes are encouraged to participate in their Provincial Team program, even if it conflicts with the summer 2009 16U NT events and this will not effect their future role with the 16U NT program. As we move forward together (PSO and NT programs) supporting the 16U age group, long term future plans will be made available with more advance notice;
- THIS PROGRAM IS COMPLETELY SELF FUNDED AND THE PLAYER FEES WILL BE COLLECTED BY WATER POLO CANADA IN ADVANCE, OF ANY TEAM TRAINING OR COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES. AN APPROXIMATE COST PER ATHLETE WILL BE \$1900 - 2400 FOR THE SUMMER PROGRAM!

Draft Plan for the summer 2009 16U NT Program:

Depending on the final dates of Youth Pan American Games and our agreement with USA NT:

- The end of July/beginning of August centralization for two (2) weeks in two different groups. Athletes based in Western Canada will centralize either in Vancouver or Calgary and athletes based on Eastern of Canada will be centralized either in Montreal, Toronto or Ottawa. The final program decisions will be made once athlete confirmations are received and will be based on the cost, billeting opportunities, pool availability etc...
- At this moment, we are planning to send thirteen (13) athletes to Youth Pan American Games (approximate dates are August 10-20/09) in Jamaica and to send all other athletes to USA for a joint training with USA NT's. Both trips will be 7-10 days long.
- Team that goes to Jamaica to Pan Am Championships will not be, and is not intended to be, the best Canadian team since at this stage of our athletes' development, we are not looking at the results of the Team as being the most important measuring stick.
- Rather, we are looking at maximizing the opportunities for all of our athletes, introducing them to the NT stream line, identifying them, keeping all fifty (50) athletes involved for the years to come, developing their skills etc...
- All together the athletes will be together for almost all of August (approximately from the end of July to August 22, 2009)

If you have any questions or concerns, I would be more than happy to assist you.

Yours in sport,

Dragan Jovanovic
Men's National Team Head Coach
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WPC NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

When selecting an athlete for the National Team, National Team Head Coaches will base decisions on the following criteria:

4.2.1 Individual/team play characteristics

Individual ball handling
Application of skills to the game situation
Passing ability when under pressure
Ability to maintain possession in confined area
Ability to improve to meet changing situations
Ability to make and execute correct decisions under pressure
Game clock and shot clock awareness

4.2.2 Technical abilities

a) Drivers

Ability to shoot / score
Ability to create an outlet
Ability to earn an advantage or exclusion

b) 2M Guard

Ability to read the game
Ability to neutralize the opponent
Ability to counter attack

c) Center Forward

Ability to control their position
Ability to control the ball and pose a scoring threat
Ability to effectively pass to shooters
Ability to earn an exclusion

d) Outside shooters

Ability to score from outside seven (7) meters
Diversity of shots

e) Goalkeepers

Ability to block
Ability to perform accurate long passes
Ability to read the game
Ability to anticipate shots
Ability to steal balls
Ability to communicate to team-mates

f) Team Play

Work effectively with the team
Ability to play and to cooperate within the team
Ability to be involved and to communicate effectively with other players during the game, in and out of the water
Ability to adhere to the game plan
Ability to display leadership qualities, in and out of the pool
Ability to fit into the overall team chemistry

4.2.3 Needs of the team to perform at the international level

a) Physical

Height , Weight, Strength/power, Speed, Aerobic standard, Anaerobic standard, Flexibility, and Endurance

b) Tactical knowledge

International experience, Offensive system, Defensive system, Counter attack system, Power play system

c) Personal characteristics

Goal oriented, Confident, Leadership qualities, Self-motivated, Determined, Hard worker, Team player, Coach ability, Committed

All of the information in this section will also be used to determine an athlete's position on the Water Polo Canada's National Team depth chart. Additional assessment may be done at the following events: Club

Invitational, Provincial Championships, National Club Championships, MLWP, In addition to participation / performance at the NT Training Centre