



Canadian Sport Institute Pacific and **SportAbility (Para Hockey)** Athlete and Coach Nomination Criteria 2026-27

Criteria Approved : Sept 28 2026

CSI Pacific Representative	<i>Andrew Latham</i>	Date 09/28/26
	Signature	
SportAbility Representative	<i>Donna Cumming</i>	Date September 25, 2026
	Signature	

PURPOSE

Canadian Sport Institute Pacific, through a partnership with the Province of British Columbia (BC), viaSport, the network of PacificSport centres, and SportAbility collaborates to deliver programs and services to place BC athletes¹ onto National Teams, and ensure athletes and coaches have every advantage to win medals for Canada. The partners work jointly to encourage sport excellence and increase podium performances in communities throughout BC.

This template provides a standardized process to identify athletes and coaches within the SportAbility high performance program as well as athletes who are tracking against key development pathway metrics toward national teams. The levels within the targeting seek to create a common standard across all sports; hence, the template must be used in its entirety. PSO/DSOs are able to adapt the template to suit their own purposes (e.g. branding, application process, etc.) provided all relevant information is contained within.

Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport athlete and coach support for the Sport Canada AAP Carded nomination focuses on athletes and teams 0-4 years from the international podium, identified by the sport-specific Podium Pathway (Figure 1) and Gold Medal Profile. These athletes and teams represent the current generation of National Team athletes who are carded by the NSO through Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program.

Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport athlete and coach support for the Canadian Development and Provincial Development nomination focuses on athletes and teams 5-12 years from the international podium, identified by the sport-specific Podium Pathway (see Figure 1 below) and Gold Medal Profile. These athletes and teams represent both the next generation (5-8 years away) and future generations (9-12 years away) of Olympic and Paralympic or World Championship medallists.

Figure 1 – Podium Pathway (LTAD 3.0)



¹ In general, a BC athlete is defined as an athlete born, developed, and/or trained/centralized (for a minimum of three months) in British Columbia.

DETAILS

Through the above partnership, and with the above purpose in mind **SportAbility** may nominate athletes and their coaches who meet specific criteria for Canadian Sport Institute Pacific / PacificSport athlete or coach registration. Upon registering, athletes and coaches can engage in enhanced programs, benefits, and selected support services through Canadian Sport Institute Pacific and the network of PacificSport regional centres in BC.

Canadian Sport Institute and PacificSport athlete support is divided into **four levels** based on performance, each with a slate of designated benefits. Please click on the following for an outline of Canadian Sport Institute athlete and coach benefits, programs, and services.

Targeted athletes are nominated by **SportAbility** based on the athlete criteria below. Any enquiries regarding the sport-specific selection criteria can be made to **Donna Cumming**, donnacumming@sportabilitybc.ca. As a general principle, all athletes are expected to demonstrate evidence of their ongoing performance progression and tracking toward **SportAbility** high performance program benchmarks to remain targeted. **Donna Cumming** and the Canadian Sport Institute technical lead working with **SportAbility** have the final authority over the Canadian Sport Institute nomination process.

The athlete and coach nomination cycle for Canadian Sport Institute / PacificSport / **SportAbility** targeting runs **November 1st – October 31st** annually, and athletes are selected based on performances from the previous 12 months. Athletes who meet criteria throughout the annual nomination cycle may be added to the **SportAbility** targeted athlete list, on a case by case basis, by contacting the PSO/DSO Technical Representative **Donna Cumming** at donnacumming@sportabilitybc.ca.

ATHLETE/COACH ENROLLMENT

Once the athlete or coach is nominated, he or she will be notified by **SportAbility** and will be provided with information on how to enroll. All athletes and coaches must enroll with Canadian Sport Institute / Pacific Sport in order to receive athlete or coach supports and benefits.

CORE CRITERIA

1. For PSO/DSO nominations, athletes must be considered in good standing (at the discretion of the PSO/DSO) with SportAbility as a competitive athlete and meet the definition of a BC athlete.
2. In principle, all athletes nominated should have a designated coach who is responsible for planned programming. Specific coach criteria must be identified under coach nominations.
3. Athletes who fail to meet targeting criteria due to injury or absence, may remain on SportAbility's nomination list at coach's discretion when:
 - a. There is an expectation the athlete in question would have met criteria if no injury or absence had occurred. **AND;**
 - b. The athlete in question was previously nominated by SportAbility in the previous 24 months.
 - c. There is an agreed timeline on the return to play process
4. Required to participate in Provincial Team and/or National Team programming such as required tournaments and weekly training with local clubs.
5. Follow designed training programs.
6. Minimum age of targeted athlete is 16-years-old, however at the discretion of CSI staff exceptions can be approved
7. Maximum number of athletes at each level based on historical conversion rates from 2019-2025, identified by CSI Pacific and communicated to the sport by CSI staff. At the discretion of CSI staff exceptions can be approved

LEVEL-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Canadian Sport Institute Criteria

Sport Canada AAP Carded

Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:

- Athletes who appear on the Sport Canada AAP Carding List and verified by the NSO. These athletes are in the High Performance (HP/T2W) stage of the Podium Pathway.
 - It is the responsibility of SportAbility in consultation with the NSO, to identify and nominate any Sport Canada AAP Carded athletes meeting Core Criteria.

Canadian Development

Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:

- Athletes who compete on the senior national team in eligible events, but do not receive Sport Canada AAP funding, and verified by the NSO. These athletes are in the High Performance (HP/T2W) stage of the Podium Pathway. **OR;**
- Athletes who are in the HP Athlete Development (L2W/T2W) stage of the Podium Pathway (including Gold Medal Profile), and verified by the NSO. If the NSO does not have an approved

Podium Pathway, the following criteria will be used:

- Athletes who have been targeted as “NextGen” defined as the expectation to be selected to the senior national team in eligible events **within 24 months**, and verified by the NS

Provincial Development Level 1

Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:

- Athletes who are in the Athlete Identification & Development stage of the Podium Pathway, and who are tracking toward the HP Athlete Development stage according to the NSO-specific Podium Pathway and Gold Medal Profile. If the NSO does not have an approved Podium Pathway, the athlete must be tracking toward Canadian Development and meet the criteria below:
 - Met specific performance-based benchmarks in accordance with an overall athlete monitoring and tracking framework (utilizing Gold Medal Profile) **AND**;
 - Athletes at this level are anticipated to convert to national team program as a Canadian Development or Podium athlete within a maximum duration of five years (combined Provincial Development Level One and Two) **AND**;
 - Competed at the appropriate¹ age group or junior world championships in an eligible event (or equivalent international developmental event) in the past 24 months, **OR**;
 - Won a medal in an eligible event at their sport-specific national senior/open, appropriate age group or junior championships (or equivalent level of performance standard) in the previous 24 months.

Provincial Development Level 2

Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:

- Athletes who are in the Athlete Identification & Development stage of the Podium Pathway, and who are tracking toward Provincial Development 1 according to the NSO-specific Podium Pathway and Gold Medal profile. If the NSO does not have an approved Podium Pathway, the athlete must meet the criteria below:
 - Met specific performance-based benchmarks in accordance with an overall athlete monitoring and tracking framework (utilizing Gold Medal Profile) **AND**;
 - Athletes at this level are anticipated to convert to national team program as a Canadian Development or Podium athlete within a maximum duration of five years (combined Provincial Development Level One and Two) **AND**;
 - Competed in an eligible event at the appropriate² age group national championships (or equivalent level of performance standard) in the previous 24 months, **OR**;
 - Won a medal in an eligible event at their appropriate age group provincial championships

Coach Nomination

¹ Definition of appropriate is based on a number of factors such as peak development age, average age of National Team, sport's competition schedule, and logical pathway progression. Final determination will be made by CSI Pacific.

Canadian Sport Institute Criteria:

Coaches are nominated when they are the coach of an athlete who achieves designated criteria. The PSO/DSO may nominate up to two coaches per athlete in cases where both the Provincial/National coach and a personal coach have a significant impact on the athlete's training program. While not required, it is highly recommended that PSO/DSO nominated coaches meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be the lead person designing and implementing an annual training program for the athlete.
- Be designated as Provincial or Regional coach by the PSO/DSO.
- Be designated as a National Development / Senior National coach by the NSO.
- Be designated as athlete's coach of record based on sport-specific criteria below.

AND,

- NCCP Competition Development Trained Status or ACD coach.

Sport Specific PSO Criteria

Canadian Development Criteria 1.0

SportAbility Sport-Specific Criteria:

- **1.0** Member of a Para Hockey National team representing Canada at a World Para Hockey Challenge, International Games Series, World Championships, or Paralympic Games in the previous 12 months;
OR
- **1.1** Invited to Para Hockey National Team Selection Camp within the previous 12 months as confirmed by the NSO;

OR

- **1.2** Named to National Development Para Hockey Roster in the previous 12 months

Evidence to be provided by PSO/DSO in order to confirm nomination.

Provincial Development Level 1 Criteria 2.0

SportAbility Sport-Specific Criteria:

- **2.0** Invited to a National Development Team Camp within the previous 12 months
- OR active member of the Women's Para Hockey National Team; **AND**
- **2.1** Member of the BC Provincial team; **AND**
- **2.2** Attended a Provincial Team training camp in the previous 12 months; **AND**
- **2.3** Competed at National Championships, Western Canadian Sledge Hockey Tournament, London Blizzard Sledge Hockey Tournament and/or International Women's Para Hockey tournament (ie.

Women's World Challenge) ; **OR**

- Have been evaluated by SportAbility staff and placed on the high performance athlete pathway for a minimum of 3 months. Evaluated at the Train to Compete level of the Skills Matrix (see Appendix A) on a minimum of 70% of skills.

Evidence to be provided by PSO/DSO in order to confirm nomination.

Provincial Development Level 2 Criteria 3.0

SportAbility Sport-Specific Criteria

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- **3.0** Member of the BC Provincial Team or Development Team; AND
- **3.1** Attended a development training camp in the previous 12 months; AND
- **3.2** Competed at National Championships, Western Canadian Sledge Hockey Tournament, and/or London Blizzard Sledge Hockey Tournament; **OR**
- **3.3** Have been evaluated by SportAbility staff and placed on the high performance athlete pathway for a minimum of 3 months. Evaluated at the Train to Train level of the Skills Matrix (see Appendix A) on a minimum of 70% of skills.

Evidence to be provided by PSO/DSO in order to confirm nomination.

Coach Nomination

² Definition of appropriate is based on a number of factors such as peak development age, average age of National Team, sport's competition schedule, and logical pathway progression. Final determination will be made by CSI Pacific.

Appendix A: Para Hockey Skills Matrix

LTAD Stages		Skills Matrix								
	Skating	Shooting	Stickhandling	Passing	Turning	Stopping	Puck Protection	Body Contact/ Checking	Stick Checking	Angling
Train to Win	Can perform all skills in game situations at full speed	Continues to develop shooting speed and accuracy in game situations	Can adapt to varying game situations while maintaining control of puck	Can perform all passing skills accurately and at speed in varying game situations	Can perform all turning skills consistently at speed in varying game situations	Can perform all stopping skills consistently at speed in varying game situations	- Player uses both hands and a combination of body positioning and sled positioning to keep the defender on the outside and shield the puck. - Player is able to skate and create separation after successfully shielding the puck	Understands when body contact can be utilized in game situations and when angling is the better option	Can perform all stick checking skills at speed in varying game situations	The player has a great understanding of the timing and route of the angle required, and is able to match the speed of an attacker using acceleration or speed checks. The player times their skating well, making adjustments to gain hip positioning and avoid any "cutback" from the offensive player.
Train to Compete	- Can perform all Train to Train skills in varying game situations - Can use body and sled effectively in a game	- Decision making and shot selection mastered - Learning to effectively tip Able to shoot while moving, able to shoot with forehand or backhand on either hand	- Has full control of puck while moving at high speeds - Learning to protect puck from opponents at high speeds Able to stick handle all around the sled (under/in front/side/ behind), uses deception.	- Able to make direct, area and saucer pass with either hand, forehand or backhand, utilizes deception. - Has large window to receive pass, able to reach in front and behind, catch backhand, adjust skating	Turn is not initiated with any strides, but instead with control of hips. Balance and speed are maintained through the entire turn and the player is able to continue their stride out of the turn.	Back pick to execute quick stops, in full control when stopping	Player has head up, is able to shield puck by using both hands with head up	- Taking and giving contact while skating - Taking and giving contact at speed and with puck carrier - Hunt for loose pucks	Utilizing different forms of stick checking to disrupt the attack	The player is able to quickly adjust speed and angle according to the speed of the attacker - whether it's a short/tight angle or a wider long angle.
Train to Train	- Can untip with ease - Can side stop - Can turn on one blade - Learning to angle Varies stride length, reaches forward for a full stride, controls speed, head up	- Can raise the puck effectively and consistently - Has decision making skills to choose right type of shot - Can deliver intended shot most of the time Able to shoot for targets with either hand	- Can effectively track and receive puck under sledge while stationary - Starting to stickhandle under sledge in motion Able to stick handle on either hand	- Able to make pass while moving, with head up Able to catch puck coming from any angle in stride, can use picks to catch but only when necessary	Back picking for tight turns, head up while turning, full control	Able to hockey stop on both sides	Player reads pressure, and shows some understanding of where to place the puck to protect from defending players	Understanding how to properly give out contact, without causing a penalty through sled-to-sled contact (t-bone)	Forcing turnovers by skating and forcing the puck off the opposing player's stick with a successful stick check	The player is able to match the speed of an attacker on a wide angle
Learn to Train	- Can untip independently - Able to slide hands up and down sticks between skating and puck handling positions	Able to raise the puck off the ice - Learning differences between wrist shots, snap shots, and passing	- Can carry puck at increasing speeds - Learning to stickhandle while moving - Learning to stickhandle under sled Able to skate and handle puck	- Able to make pass to a stationary or moving target with both hands Able to catch a pass with both hands, does not "punch" or glove the puck	Able to get up on one blade while supporting with inside hand, while continued picking, in both directions	Turns and drifts to a stop	Player is able to keep head up while controlling the puck and read where pressure is	Basic body contact and understanding how to receive contact and stay on their blades	Ability to skate and stick-check an opposing player who has the puck, without causing a penalty	Understanding the concept of angling and how to position the body and sled to take away the space of an attacker
FUNDamentals	- Learning how to untip independently - Can do a wide turn Able to pull self forward and turn by picking on one side	- Can consistently hit the net while stationary - Able to direct the puck towards the net while moving	- Learning to switch grip on stick between skating and shooting Able to stick handle while stationary	- Able to control the puck and make a direct pass to stationary target - Able to give target and catch a pass to dominant hand on the tape.	Able to turn by picking with one arm	Stops picking and drags sticks or hands			Ability to skate and move stick from hands towards ice surface	
Active Awareness	- Learning how to propel forwards - Needs help when tipped over - Learning how to turn Able to sit upright and hold sticks	- Learning to shoot at a target within 2-5m Able to direct the puck towards the net while stationary	Learning to handle puck stationary or at slow speeds	Learning to pass to player or target within 2m	Learning to use head and body to turn in the direction they want to go	Learning to stop by crossing sticks underneath of sled				