

**LIFESAVING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026**  
**CANADIAN NATIONAL TEAMS SELECTION**  
**ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

**Name:** Lifesaving World Championships 2026  
**Location:** Port Elizabeth, South Africa  
**Dates:** November 23, 2026 to December 8, 2026 – Subject to change  
**Teams:** National Open Team – 6 women, 6 men  
National Youth Team – 6 women, 6 men

In line with its commitment to offer international exposure to its high-performance athletes, the eligibility and selection criteria for the LWC 2026 Canadian National Teams are:

**A. Eligibility**

The Lifesaving World Championships (the “Championships”) are intended for bona fide lifesavers who have demonstrated a commitment to lifesaving sport.

To be eligible to compete as a member of the National Open Team or the National Youth Team representing Canada at the Championships, the athlete shall:

- i. Be a bona fide lifesaver in good standing with the Lifesaving Society Canada and with their respective branch.
- ii. Be a registered athlete with the Lifesaving Society Canada by April 30, 2026.
- iii. Be a Canadian citizen, by birth or naturalization; or Permanent Resident of Canada by April 30, 2026.
- iv. Hold a current passport by June 1, 2026 that has an expiry date no earlier than June 8, 2027.
- v. Comply with anti-doping rules and policies set by the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) and the International Life Saving Federation (ILS).
- vi. Hold a current Lifesaving Society Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross or National Lifeguard certification that is dated no more than two years prior to December 8, 2026 by April 30, 2026. If you need a recertification to be current through LWC 2026, it must be completed by June 30, 2026.
- vii. For the National Open Team, be a minimum of 16 years of age as of December 31, 2026. There is no maximum age.
- viii. For the National Youth Team, be a minimum of 15 years of age and a maximum of 18 years of age as of December 31, 2026.
- ix. If qualifying as a pool athlete, compete in at least 1 individual event at the 2026 Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships, Laval, QC, May 29-31.
- x. Be willing and available to participate in designated training camps or regimens (including the mandatory Ontario camp on July 17-19) as required by the Head

Coach or risk removal from the team. Only the Head Coach may provide an exception to this requirement.

- xi. Be available for the duration of the tour, November 23 – December 8, 2026.
- xii. Agree to respect the Athlete agreement and the Tour Agreement.
- xiii. Submit the [application form](#) by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 11:59pm (Eastern time).

## **B. Selection Philosophy**

Selection criteria are aimed at selecting the team that will provide the best overall outcome for the National Open and Youth Team categories. Meeting a criteria does not grant an automatic selection to the team as a given athlete's contribution to the team will need to be assessed against what other athletes meeting one or more of the criteria can bring to the team.

The athlete wishing to be part of this tour must report to Canada at the request of the head coach and/or participate in a designated national team training camp or event chosen by the head coach in Canada or abroad. Failure to comply with this rule will automatically result in removal from the list of athletes eligible to be selected for this tour.

## **C. Competitive readiness**

- i. "Competitive readiness" is defined as the ability of the Athlete to achieve equal or superior performance(s) at the scheduled event, as compared to the performance(s) the Athlete achieved in qualifying or according to the time submitted.
- ii. Athletes shall remain competitively ready according to the skills (one or many according to the reason they were selected) they have been selected with (pool swimmer, open water swimmer, runner, beach flag, paddle board, surf ski, ocean man/woman, SERC);
- iii. Athletes who do not remain competitively ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury, or illness may be removed from the Team. Athletes and their Club Coach are required to immediately report any injury, illness or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level at the competition to the National Team Head Coach and the National Team Head Manager in writing via email;
- iv. The final decision on competitive readiness, after the final selection, will be made by the National Team Head Coach. The Head Coach will have absolute discretion about what factors they will consider in making the final decision.
- v. In the case of injury or illness, the Head Coach will consider recommendations made by a physician, or a health specialist (in accordance with provincial laws) in making the final decision.
- vi. Injured or ill athletes may be subject to a proof of readiness test to be determined in consultation with the athlete's club coach and personal physician, or a health specialist (in accordance with provincial laws). This test will consist of a controlled performance such as a competition or observed test or trial. These athletes will not travel with the Team until this requirement has been satisfied. If it is determined

that the athlete is not competitively ready once onsite at the event, they may be asked to return home immediately, at their own expense.

#### **D. Removal of an athlete from team**

- i. The National Team may, at any time, disqualify an athlete from being considered for selection to the Canadian Team or remove an athlete after selection based on current or past behaviour of the athlete that is inconsistent with the National Team Athlete Agreement. A copy of this document is available upon request.
- ii. An athlete will be removed from being considered for selection to the Canadian Team or removed after selection if they are found to be in violation of any anti-doping policy or procedure as outlined by the Lifesaving Society, World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES).

#### **E. Selection Criteria National Open Team and National Youth Team**

Eligible athletes must receive a majority nomination from the members of the selection committee. Considerations for the team selection will be:

- i. The athlete's potential for achieving the best result across the range of events.
- ii. The athlete's potential for qualifying for finals.
- iii. The overall balance of the team required for the event.
- iv. The athlete's contribution to the team overall, to foster a positive team culture and experience.

Individual event: defined as any event where only one athlete is required to compete. Excludes SERC, Line Throw and any relays.

To respect the consideration mentioned above, the Selection Committee will take into consideration (but are not limited to), the following:

- i. Performance equal to a top 24 finish (based on LWC 2024 National Open or Youth Teams preliminary times) in any individual ILS pool event performed between May 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026.
- ii. A Canadian record performance in a competition between May 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026 in the Open or 15-18 yr age category events in any individual event on the Program of Events at the LWC 2026.
- iii. A win in at least two individual events at the 2026 Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships Open or 15-18 yr age category and/or the 2025 Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships and/or the 2025 Orange Cup.
- iv. A win in at least two of the following events at the 2025 Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championships in the age group in which the athlete would compete at the LWC 2026: Surf Race, Beach Flags, Beach Sprint, Board Race, Surf Ski Race, Oceanman/woman.
- v. An Outstanding performance at the 2026 Canadian Pool Lifesaving Championships and/or the 2025 Commonwealth Lifesaving Championships

- and/or the 2025 Orange Cup in the Open or 15-18 yr age category in any individual event on the Program of Events at the LWC 2026.
- vi. An Outstanding performance in the 2025 Canadian Surf Lifesaving Championships in the age category in which the athlete would compete at the LWC 2026: Surf Race, Beach Flags, Beach Sprint, Board Race, Surf Ski Race or Oceanman/woman.
  - vii. Best sanctioned times in any individual ILS pool event achieved between May 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026.
  - viii. Best position in any individual ILS surf event achieved between May 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026.
  - ix. Best rankings in any individual “other sport” directly related to lifesaving sport (i.e., swimming, track and field, kayak) achieved at a National Sport Commission approved, national or international sporting body sanctioned competition or time trial event between May 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026.
  - x. Past national/international results from a recognized competition in the Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC) event between May 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026.
  - xi. Past national/international results from a recognized competition in the Line throw event as a thrower between May 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026.
  - xii. Current Lifesaving Society Bronze Cross or National Lifeguard or equivalent

The selection Committee could decide to name an athlete to the National Team prior to the final selection date if this athlete achieved exceptional international performances in an ILS Championship (depending on the event).

If an athlete is selected on a time or a performance achieved in 2025, the athlete must be able to demonstrate that he/she is in competitive readiness by submitting recent times or results equivalent to or greater than the one achieved in 2025 and must pass any performance evaluation tests required by the National Team coaching staff. See section C for more details.

After selection is announced, if the team is not complete, for the following reasons: No eligible athletes remain based on the published criteria or a selected athlete withdraws from the process and there is no substitute for this athlete’s profile (swim, craft, run), the National Team Head Coach may decide not to bring a full team to the LWC 2026.

## **F. Selection Committee**

The selection committee will proceed with the selection of the National Open and Youth Team selection before or on May 31, 2026. The final selection will be announced between May 31, 2026 and June 10, 2026.

## **G. Alternates**

The selection committee will select one or more alternates at their discretion to ensure that a number of athletes are competition ready and prepared to assume a position on

the team in the event that a previously selected athlete was to pull out (due to health or other reasons) or be removed from the team.

## **H. Decisions**

All decisions of the selection committee are unanimous and final.

## **I. Appeal**

An aggrieved athlete may appeal against a failure of the selection committee to comply with the procedures as set down in this document. That is, an appeal may be made on procedural grounds only, not on the merits of a particular selection decision.

This appeal must be made to the Sports Commission within ten (10) days of public announcement of the National Open and Youth Teams.

This appeal must be in writing setting out:

- i. The particular alleged failure of the selection committee to comply with the procedure in question;
- ii. Grounds on which the appeal is made; and,
- iii. The reasons or circumstances supporting the alleged appeal attaching all supporting documentation/evidence, if applicable.

The appeal must be accompanied by a \$100 deposit in Canadian funds, refundable in the case of a successful appeal. The Sport Commissioner will review the appeal to ensure it is on procedural grounds and not on the merits of a selection decision. Once accepted on procedural grounds, the appeal will be reviewed by the Sport Commissioner, or a person designated by the Sport Commission and two available members of the National Sport Commission who shall have no significant relationship with the affected parties and shall not have been involved with the decision being appealed and shall be free from any other actual or perceived bias or conflict.

All decisions of the Appeal panel are unanimous, final and without appeal.

## **J. Withdrawal of Participation**

These selection criteria do not guarantee that Canada will attend one or both events and/or attend these events with a complete delegation. This could in turn affect how the criteria are applied in order to reflect these changes. The Lifesaving Society of Canada is committed to providing this international sporting experience to its members and will therefore seek to avoid changes unless essential to ensure the safety and quality of the experience provided to its members.

**Note:** Where the English and French versions of this document differ, the English version should supersede the French version as the document was first written in English and translated to French.