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## 8.2 TEAM SELECTION POLICY - ATHLETICS

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### Introduction

1. The Ontario Cerebral Palsy Sports Association (“OCPSA”) has the responsibility to organize, develop and select athletes and teams to represent OCPSA at National Championships, Open and Invitational Athletic events. This policy sets OCPSA’s procedures, guidelines, criteria, standards and timelines governing selection of athletes to those teams.

### Communication

2. This Policy will be published on OCPSA’s website and communicated to all eligible athletes via email.
3. Any amendments to this Policy will be immediately posted on the Organization’s website and communicated to all eligible athletes via email.

### Authority for Selection

4. The Athletics Committee, a Standing Committee of the Board, will make recommendations to the Board of Directors in regards to this policy. The Board of Directors of the Organization has the authority for all decision-making under this Policy.

### Selection Committee

5. The members of the Athletics Committee or members of a sub-committee established for team selection.

### Goals/Objectives of Selection

6. The selection criteria are designed to select athletes who will create the best possible competitive and cohesive team; OR
7. The selection criteria are designed to select athletes who show potential to be successful at the provincial level within the next five years and require further experience and development.

## Team Size

8. Team size will be dictated by the event, when this is not the case, the Selection Committee will have the discretion to name a larger team that will include a greater number of reserve athletes, or to name a smaller team due to resource constraints.

## Team Announcement

9. OCPSA will announce the selected team list by contacting selected athletes directly via telephone or email.

## Provincial Standards

10. Provincial Standards will be determined by the Athletics Committee in consultation with the provincial coach(es).

## Athlete Eligibility and Selection Criteria

11. To be eligible to be considered for selection, all athletes must:
  - a) Be a registered member in good standing of OCPSA;
  - b) Attend a minimum of three (3) events in the current competitive year;
  - c) Be eligible to participate in the event as per the rules of the event.

## Regional Teams

12. There are no additional requirements or standards to be eligible for Regional Teams. Regional Teams are open to all new and developing athletes.

## Provincial Teams

13. In addition to the requirements above, to be eligible for Provincial Teams, athletes must:
  - a) Successfully achieve a Provincial Standard.\*

*\*Note: Athletes failing to meet a Provincial Standard but wishing to compete on the Provincial Team, may apply in writing to the Selection Committee who will decide, upon their sole discretion, to add or deny the athlete membership on the Provincial Team.*

## Provincial Elite Teams

14. In addition to the requirements above, to be eligible for Provincial Elite Teams, athletes must:
  - a) Successfully achieve OCPSA Provincial Standards at a Provincial Championship or other provincially sanctioned events, excluding Regional Events.
  - b) Place in the top two (2) in a respective classification category.
  - c) Maintain a training log/journal.
15. In the event that one of the top two ranked athletes decides not to join the team, the next highest ranked athlete will be asked as a replacement for Provincial Elite Teams only.
16. Members of the Selection Committee are required to remove themselves from any discussions, ranking and voting if there exists a conflict of interest.

## Exceptions

17. Athletes may be added to the team by the Selection Committee, upon their sole discretion, if the appointed athletes were unable to participate in mandatory events, competitions or evaluations due to illness, injury, other medical circumstance or personal, educational or competitive commitments, including national team assignments.
18. If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process or its timelines to be implemented as planned, the OCPSA reserves the right to identify an alternate process or alternate timelines. Should this occur, all eligible athletes will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

## Athlete Requirements to Remain Selected or be Removed from the Team

19. Upon selection and in order to remain on the team an athlete must:
  - a) Sign a Team Member Agreement,
  - b) Provide to the OCPSA all required documents,
  - c) Participate in all team events, activities and meetings,
  - d) Ensure proper equipment, clothing and funds,
  - e) Obey all rules established by the OCPSA and Host Committee,
  - f) Assist the OCPSA in public relation and fundraising project where required,
20. Once selected to a team, an athlete may withdraw or be withdrawn for the following reasons:
  - a) Not satisfying the minimum training standards set out by the Provincial Coach(es);
  - b) Failure to adhere to team rules and OCPSA's Code of Conduct;
  - c) Failure to remain competitive-ready leading up to the event. Athletes who do not remain competitive-ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the team. It is the obligation of the athlete to immediately report any injury, illness or change in training that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level;
  - d) Voluntary withdrawal/retirement;
  - e) Fraudulent misrepresentation.

21. Where an athlete is unable to meet training standards, competitive readiness, violates team rules or the code of conduct or provides fraudulent misrepresentations, the Selection Committee will have the discretion to remove the athlete from the team and to replace the athlete with another suitable candidate.
22. The Selection Committee will notify the athlete in writing that he/she has been removed from the team and reasons for the removal.

### **Funding**

23. Any money required to be contributed by the athlete must be paid to the OCPSA two weeks before the event. Failure to pay such monies may result in athlete removal from the team.

### **Appeals**

24. Any appeal against a decision of the Selection Committee can be made in accordance with OCPSA's appeals policy.