



# Northwest Territories **SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

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## **NWT Soccer Association Player Equipment Policy**

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The Northwest Territories Soccer Association actively participates in such an exciting event to help advance the competitiveness of soccer in the North. Whether you are a volunteer, player, parent, coach, manager or chaperone, we are excited that you have decided to be part of such an important event and we appreciate any suggestions you may have along the way to help improve our processes for the future.

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### **Coaching Staff**

Selecting an appropriate Coach is the first step to ensure that Team NWT gets the most out of their experience. Duties of the Coach shall include:

- Acting as an appropriate role model at all times during soccer activities on and off the field in front of W/CSG participants;
- Overseeing the training of the athletes;
- Preparing and implementing a training regime that include both skill and fitness development which progresses throughout the W/CSG program.

**Coaches and Assistant Coaches will be selected based on, but not limited to the following criteria:**

- Past coaching & playing experience;
- Current Coaching Certification;
- Desire/intent on continuing within the coaching certification program;
- Ability to implement the Canada and Western Canada Summer Games program as agreed upon by the Coaching Staff and ultimately set forth by NWT Soccer;
- Valid CPIC with vulnerable sector check;
- 2 Letters of Recommendation.

Selecting a capable and committed Manager to keep the team organized is the next biggest challenge to ensuring a solid team of parents and players. Duties of the Manager shall include:

- Arranging for appropriate chaperones to be present at all times outside of actual games. Head coaches may not be considered as chaperones;
- Identifying Regional Trainers for all respective athletes where possible and a Fundraising Manager and communicate responsibilities to each;

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- Organizing transportation for the teams to and from events.

## **Managers will be selected based on, but not limited to the following criteria:**

- A general knowledge of the NWT Soccer Association policies, and of soccer in the NWT;
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills;
- Financial and/or business experience;
- Ability, willingness and availability to act as a chaperone;
- Ability to implement the Canada and Western Canada Summer Games program as agreed upon by the Coaching Staff and ultimately set forth by NWT Soccer;
- Has taken or willing to take some level of coaching education or certification;
- Valid CPIC with Vulnerable Sector.

Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Managers will be required to apply by February 28<sup>th</sup> of the year preceding the Games, using the relevant application form found on the NWT Soccer website.

The Executive Committee will, pending the receipt of appropriate applicants, announce within one month of the application deadline, the successful Coaching Staff; and reserves the right to solicit interest from outside the pool of received applications, if appropriate applicants have not been identified by the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline.

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## Program Structure

A Selection Camp for the selection of the 'Initial Training Squad' will be held in or around June in the year prior to the Western/Canada Summer Games competition. In the fall of that same year, an additional camp will be held to identify the 'Final Training Squad'. This will allow an opportunity for the Coaching Staff to identify progression in athlete development and to allow other athletes who have just moved into the territory to potentially join the program.

A neutral selection committee will be established which is responsible for selecting the 'Initial Training Squad' during the Summer Selection Camp (~June). The committee will be a balance of regional representation and qualified individuals who know the technical and tactical aspects of the game will help to ensure an unbiased and transparent player-selection process. Following the Summer Selection Camp, an 'Initial Training Squad' of approximately 20 players for each of the Boys and Girls squads will be listed on the NWTSA website at [www.nwtkicks.ca](http://www.nwtkicks.ca) within two weeks following the Camp.

Players who have submitted a written request explaining their absence from the Summer Selection Camp **and** have been given permission by the Head Coaches to miss the Camp for a

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valid reason, will be invited to attend the Fall Selection Camp (Nov) of the same year where the 'Final Training Squad' will be identified. Players may also be invited to the Fall Selection Camp if they were not contacted to attend the initial tryout in the summer and if they've submitted their interest to participate in the W/CSG program to the NWT Soccer Association. It's unfair to the players and to the success of the program if individuals are prohibited from participating due to miscommunication or a lack of identification.

The 'Final Team' selection will occur in the summer of the Games during a 'Final Team Selection Camp'. This late selection will help maintain a healthy and eligible pool of athletes in case of an injury. It will help to avoid complacency by the players as they will have to continue to train to ensure a position on the 'Final Team', and it will allow all 20 members of the 'Final Training Squad' a chance to participate in all of the HP Camps, tournaments and summer training leading up to the Games.

All players on the 'Final Training Squad' not selected for the Final Team are encouraged to continue training with the squad as it will offer additional physical activity and skill development. In the event that a member of the Final Team is not going to attend the Western/Canada Summer Games for whatever reason, a member of the 'Final Training Squad' who has shown continual commitment and development may be asked to take their place.

Each of the male and female 'Final Training Squads' will benefit from 4 High Performance camps run by the Head Coaches, one National and one International event as determined by the Coaching Staff. These events will be at an extremely high-caliber to ensure the most beneficial exposure as possible.

Provisions will be made to allow the Coaching Staff to:

- Consider players who have just moved into the territory before the 'Final Training Squad' has been identified;
- Consider previously identified players at the Fall Selection Camp who were unable to attend the Summer Selection Camp but given permission by the Head Coaches to continue in the process;
- Bring players from the Summer Selection Camp onto the Training Squad to replace a player for whatever reason;
- Bring players from the 'Final Training Squad' onto the final team to replace a player for whatever reason;
- Both the third and fourth points are at the discretion of the Head Coaches and the NWT Soccer Association

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Players that are attending school and participating in a sports program outside of the Northwest Territories are encouraged, but not required to attend the High-Performance camps. However, they are required to attend the National and International Events as these provide the only opportunities for the team to play together as a team and on a regulation-sized pitch prior to the Canada Summer Games.

After the final team is selected, any players involved with Club Teams will be released from their respective teams in order to dedicate all of their soccer time and enthusiasm to the Canada Summer Games Program.

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## Training

After being selected to the Initial CSG Training Squad, every athlete is required to submit a completed Fitness Form and endorsed Player/Parent Contract within one month of the 'Summer Selection Camp' to their respective manager. Both of these forms can be found online at [www.nwtkicks.ca](http://www.nwtkicks.ca)

These fitness forms will be used by the Head Coaches to assist with athlete specific training advice to help our athletes stay on track for reaching a competitive level for the Canada Summer Games. Training sessions will be developed by the Coaching Staff and Regional Trainers that will be assisting with the implementation of this regime to ensure it doesn't conflict with existing soccer commitments. The Sport North NT Excel program fitness requirements will also be included in the development of the training regime. In January, the year of the Canada Summer Games, the intensity of training will be increased to a minimum of once a week, and possibly more depending on the availability of each regional trainer. In July of the year of the Games, the intensity of training will intensify yet again.

Fitness is ultimately each player's responsibility, regardless of circumstance or time of year, with exception in the case of injury. A failure to show progression in two consecutive fitness testing sessions will constitute a lack of commitment and will be grounds for dismissal. Where small numbers of athletes from the same area occur, the male and female contingents should be trained together.

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## Fundraising

Each individual and region has access to more resources, greater fundraising capability and different methods of acquiring funds, for this reason, the respective managers will designate 'Fundraising Managers' to oversee the acquisition and management of all funds which must be tracked individually. Tracking the amount of hours that individuals and their families work will

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allow each athlete the option to fundraise or simply pay for their child's contribution to the program. The total amount of money raised at each event throughout the program will be divided by the total amount of hours used to raise those funds. This will ensure that fundraising monies will be distributed appropriately among the individuals that put in the corresponding commitment. Players and their families are ultimately responsible for covering the costs of their athlete's portion of the CSG program whether through fundraising or out-of-pocket expenses.

There is a mandatory registration fee of \$500 for players accepting a position on the 'Final Training Squad', due two weeks following the announcement of the 'Final Training Squad'. This money will be put towards funding this program i.e. camps, travel, and accommodation. To clarify, this is not an additional fee, rather a means to ensure commitment and a method to provide parents with a tax receipt for at least a portion of their financial contribution to this program.

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### Additional Provisions

The NWT Soccer Association strongly supports our athletes giving back to the communities which provide the financial and motivational support for our athletes to participate in programs such as the Canada Summer Games. A requirement for each of our Canada Summer Games athletes is to get some level of the Canadian Soccer Association's 'Community Level' certification. This is a standard practice across the country so that knowledgeable athletes can offer their insight and experience to youth players who in turn will continue to promote and develop the sport of soccer and fitness training for years to come.

If a player has the opportunity to participate in the CSG program with another sport, we would ask parents to bring up their concern to their respective Manager and the parents of that athlete will be contacted by the NWT Soccer Association's Technical Director.

We greatly appreciate the time and effort all of the parents and Coaching Staff put into the development of the players and we would like to maximize their roles by helping to eliminate any distractions possible. A Communication Code of Conduct has been established to increase the accuracy and efficiency of communication between parents and players and the coaching staff: We ask that all questions and concerns be brought forward to the Director of High Performance or the team Managers instead of the coaches. This will help alleviate the stress and distraction of constant questions and allow the coaches to coach. We believe this is essential to an effective program as mixed or incomplete messages can be frustrating and damaging to everyone's experience.

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One of the most important criteria for the selection of athletes is their attitude and behaviour both on and off the field and their commitment to the Canada Summer Games. The NWT Soccer Association promotes this program as a means to achieve an educational and developmental experience that will stay with our athletes into the future.

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