TEAM SELECTION POLICY
VOLLEYBALL MANITOBA

Selection Policy Statement

Selection to Team Manitoba is a privilege that comes with the responsibility to proudly represent the Province and Association at National and International competitions.

Volleyball Manitoba has established specific eligibility and selection criteria to be used in all of the Team Manitoba provincial programs. The goal is to identify and select players for our provincial pathway and drive the development of volleyball in Manitoba.

Eligibility for Selection

- The player must be a registered member in good standing with the Volleyball Manitoba.
- The player must be a permanent resident of Manitoba to be selected to Team Manitoba. *
- The player must be medically fit to compete in both training and competitions.
- The player must be eligible to travel Nationally and/or Internationally.

*** Residency Exceptions:**
Exception to the permanent residency requirement, will be considered on a case specific basis by the Provincial High Performance Coach and/or Executive Director provided that the athlete can substantiate in writing that:

- He/She cannot receive the required level of training or access similar Provincial level programming in their primary area of residence.
- He/She is out of the Manitoba temporarily during the year (to train and or compete with a specific club or coach)
- He/She is attending a post-secondary institution outside-of-Manitoba.
- Other extenuating circumstances that require the athlete to be out of the province.

It is recognized that in certain circumstances, eligibility requirements are set by other entities (Canada Games council) and in such case the requirements of that entity take precedence.

It is also recognized that an athlete who is a resident of a region other than Manitoba, would require the permission and release from their Provincial Association as well as permission from Volleyball Canada to compete for Team Manitoba at National level competitions.

In all cases, the onus is on the athlete to request a residency exception(s) in writing.

Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

Physical Assessment

- Ability to meet accepted standards in the following physical indicators: height, vertical jump, speed, functional strength and mobility, agility.

Individual Skill Assessment

- Demonstrated proficiency of the major skills areas most relevant to their preferred position. The major skill areas include Ball control, Serve receiving, Setting, Attacking, Blocking, Defending, Serving

Tactical Assessment

- Ability to read the play and make proper decisions on court.
- Ability to utilize information provided by the coaching staff and relate it to individual or team performance.
- Ability to effectively communicate with teammates and coaches during training and matches.

Behavioral Assessment

- Demonstrates qualities conducive to individual improvement such as: Self-motivated, strong work ethic, responsible and focused.
- Demonstrates qualities conducive to team success such as: Strong leadership, positive attitude, effective communication and coachable.

Potential to develop

- In the opinion of the coaches responsible for selection, the athlete possesses some of the characteristics necessary for future performance at the Provincial or National level.

Number of Positions Available

The number of positions available in a Team Manitoba program is dependent on the roster size allowed under the regulations of the competition(s) attended as well as the determined depth of the athlete pool. The number of positions available will be announced each year when the Team Manitoba program information is released.

It is recognized that in certain circumstances, the number of positions available are set by other entities (Canada Games council) and in such case the requirements of that entity take precedence.

Age Groups

Volleyball Manitoba follows the guidelines of the Canadian Long Term Athlete Development model in designing the Team Manitoba programs and sets the age groups accordingly.

Age eligibility for a Team Manitoba Volleyball program will be based on the following factors:

- Ability to meet the program's standards through the assessment process
- Maximum age dictated by Volleyball Canada competitions
- Maximum age dictated by other entity (Canada Games, Western Canada Games) where Team Manitoba will compete.

Late-Developing Player Exception
For any given Team Manitoba program, an exception to the maximum age rule could be granted to an athlete who doesn't meet the technical and tactical assessment standards of their own age group due to a late introduction or limited exposure to higher level beach or indoor volleyball. All exceptions will be approved by the High Performance Provincial Coach. An exception to the maximum age rule will only be granted if:

- The player meets the technical and tactical standards of the lower age group program
- There is an open spot for the player in the program
- The player can participate in all the program's planned activities (indoor)
- The player scores very high in the Potential Assessment

Selection Process

TEAM MANITOBA INDOOR
There will be three (3) steps to the Selection Process. Those steps are designed to ensure fairness and to provide a more inclusive environment for athletes throughout Manitoba.

Step 1: Player Identification
Interested players will complete the Team Manitoba Athlete Identification Form for their chosen program. The intention of the form is to create a list of interested players to be considered for the final selection camp.

The Team Manitoba Athlete Identification forms will be reviewed by:

- Provincial High Performance Coach
- Team Manitoba Head Coaches of the respective age group.

Step 2: Selection Camp Invitation
Following the review of the Athlete Identification forms, players will be invited to attend the Team Manitoba selection camp at the date and location set by Volleyball Manitoba.

It is the intention of Volleyball Manitoba to provide as many athletes as possible with the opportunity to compete for a position with a Team Manitoba program.

Step 3: Final Selection
At the conclusion of the selection camp, athlete selection will be made by the head and assistant coaches in cooperation with the Provincial High Performance Coach. Player selections will be reviewed to ensure that:

- There was no club/team biases in the selection made by the coaches
- All selections were based on the Team Manitoba Selection Criteria
- The selections are aligned with the primary focus of the respective Team Manitoba program

The Chair of the Provincial Performance Committee will be informed of the final selections prior to the players being notified by Volleyball Manitoba.*

* There may be instances of timing for booking of travel, accommodations or roster submission that may limit the amount of time the Chair of the Provincial Performance Committee can review athlete selections. Every effort will be made to make the selection process as efficient as possible and inform athletes in a timely manner following the conclusion of the selection camp.

Injury During Selection Process (Indoor)
In the case where an athlete participating in the selection process gets injured before the player selection is announced, the following procedure will be implemented:

(1) If an evaluation of the player has already been done, that evaluation will be considered for the final selection. To be eligible to be selected, the athlete will have to:
    - Demonstrate that they are following a return-to-play protocol designed by a health professional
    - Provide the provincial highperformance coach with a letter from their therapist/doctor confirming that they will be cleared to play for Team Manitoba in the current season based on the best available knowledge at the time.

In the case of a selection camp or training that is immediately followed by a Team Manitoba competition, the assessment of the player's ability to play may be done by an on-site therapist or health professional other than the athlete's own therapist/doctor. The assessment will be shared with the coaches and a decision will be made if the athlete will be able to benefit and contribute to Team Manitoba during the competition given their condition. This decision will be shared with the athlete and/or their parents/guardians immediately. The final decision will be made with the long-term health of the athlete as the main consideration.

(2) If an evaluation of the player has not been completed, an assessment of the player's ability to train and be evaluated by the end of the selection process will have to be provided to Volleyball Manitoba. The assessment will be completed by:
    - The camp therapist if the injury happens during an official Team Manitoba selection camp.
    - The player's personal therapist/doctor if the injury happens outside an official Team Manitoba selection camp or the athlete prefers to be evaluated by their personal therapist/doctor.

Following that assessment, three (3) scenarios can be considered:
1) The athlete is deemed apt to complete the selection process
    - The athlete will follow the normal selection process
(2) The athlete is deemed unable to complete the selection process but is likely to be healthy for Team Manitoba training
    - The respective coaches and provincial high performance coach will consider past evaluations of the player, any information that was gathered on the player before the injury happened and past involvement in Team Manitoba programs to make a decision to extend an invitation.
    - If no past evaluations are available, the athlete may still be considered for Team Manitoba training programs but due to travel and roster requirements may not be included in teams travelling to competitions.
(3) The player is deemed unable to complete the selection process and won't be healthy for Team Manitoba training
    - The athlete will be removed from the selection process

The program coaches along with the provincial high performance coach will involve the athlete and/or their parents/guardians in their decision to consider the status of the athlete in the selection process based on the injury assessment. The final decision will be made with the long-term health of the athlete as the main consideration.

TEAM MANITOBA BEACH

The Team Manitoba Beach athletes will be selected following a process that includes training and competition components. Athletes will be selected as a team. A current assessment of skills and potential will be considered along with results from the past 2 seasons at Provincial, National or International beach volleyball events. The current Team Manitoba Beach Selection process applies only to signature competitions (Canada Games, Western Canada Games) where the number of eligible teams are set by the technical package of the games.

There will be three (3) steps to the Selection Process. Those steps are designed to ensure fairness and to provide a more inclusive environment for athletes throughout Manitoba.

Step 1: Player Identification

Interested players will complete the Team Manitoba Athlete Identification Form for their chosen program. The intention of the form is to create a list of interested players to be considered for the final qualification event.

The Team Manitoba Athlete Identification forms will be reviewed by:

- Provincial High Performance Coach
- Team Manitoba Head Coaches of the respective program.

Step 2: Training Camp Invitation

Following the review of the Athlete Identification forms, players will be invited to attend the Team Manitoba training camp at the date(s) and location(s) set by Volleyball Manitoba.

It is the intention of Volleyball Manitoba to provide as many athletes as possible with the opportunity to train for a position with a Team Manitoba program. Athletes are not required to participate in the training program to compete in the Selection Tournament.

Step 3: Final Selection

Team selection will be made based on placement of teams at a qualification tournament.

Alternates will be ranked in order of tournament placement following the last qualifying team.

Team members qualify as a team and not as individuals, meaning that they have to participate in the signature competition together. If an athlete from a qualified team decides not to attend the signature competition, the team is disqualified, and the berth is given to the next ranked alternate team.

> **EXCEPTION**: An athlete of a qualified team will be allowed to find a new partner (see page 5) to participate in the signature competition if the following exceptional cases occur:
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> - Injury, providing the injured athlete is able to provide a valid doctor's note
> - Force majeure event

Injury During Selection Process (Beach)

Injury Pre-Selection Tournament

Athletes must participate in selection tournament in order to qualify for signature competition. If an athlete is unable to compete in selection tournament due to injury they will not be considered.

Injury During Selection Tournament
Any athlete that becomes injured during the selection tournament and is unable to compete they will be unable to be selected for signature competition. The athlete will have the opportunity to be considered as an alternate if they choose based on their final placement (based on timing of their injury).

The teammate of the injured athlete will also be unable to be selected and will have the opportunity to be an alternate if they choose based on their final standing.

Injury Post Selection Tournament
If a player is injured after the selection tournament has been completed an assessment of the player's ability to return to play prior to the signature competition must be done by a therapist or health professional. The assessment will be shared with the coaches and a decision will be made if the athlete will be able to perform at the level required. This decision will be shared with the athlete and/or their parents/guardians immediately. The final decision will be made with the long-term health of the athlete as the main consideration.

Following that assessment, three (3) scenarios can be considered:

(1) The athlete is deemed apt to train a minimum of 1 week prior to the signature competition
    - The athlete will follow the normal training process
(2) The athlete is deemed unable to train 1 week before but is likely to be healthy for the signature competition
    - In this scenario it will be up to the discretion of the competition coach and the provincial performance coach to determine whether or not the athlete will continue to prepare for the signature competition.
    - If an athlete is deemed unable to compete in the signature competition due to injury see scenario number 3 (below).
(3) The player is deemed unable to compete and will not be ready to participate in the signature competition
    - If an athlete is unable to compete in the signature competition due to injury two scenarios will be considered:
        (1) The uninjured partner no longer wants to participate, and the team is removed from competition. An alternate team is then chosen based on placement of selection tournament.
        (2) The healthy partner wants to participate, and a new partner is found through the following process:
            - The uninjured partner, the signature competition coach, and the provincial performance coach will then select a replacement player from the highest ranked alternate team.

Approved by the Provincial Performance Committee
June, 2019