



Section 4:

Principles that Govern 2013 Technical Packages

Technical Packages are a critical part of the Canada Games. They guide the selection of athletes by prescribing the age and eligibility requirements, assist the organizing committees by detailing tournament formats and scoring procedures, assist Chefs de Mission in verifying eligibility, help with budgeting by describing the number of participants permitted, advance coaching certification by stating minimum requirements and generally contribute to athlete development by identifying each National Sport Organisation's (NSO) version of athletes in the "training to compete" phase of its Long Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD), or other suitable phase of the model as justified by the NSO, discussed with the LTAD expert group, and approved by the Canada Games Council Sport Committee.

Every Games' coach, manager, Sport Chairperson and Mission staff has an obligation to read and understand every aspect of the Technical Package. Failure to do so could cost an athlete his or her eligibility for the Games or could affect final standings or the conduct of the competition. If someone does not understand an aspect of a Technical Package, he or she is to seek clarification from the Sport Committee of the Canada Games Council (CGC) through his or her Chef de Mission or NSO.

Technical Packages are developed primarily by NSOs, following principles outlined in this document, guidelines and requirements of the CGC. As the overall governing body of the Games, the CGC has the ultimate authority over Technical Packages, but this authority is exercised only with the knowledge and understanding of the concerned NSO.

If an individual wishes to seek clarification or initiate a change to a Technical Package leading up to a Games, the request should be first directed to the NSO or the Chef de Mission. The NSO or Chef de Mission will evaluate the merits of the request and will, if it has merit, submit the requested change or clarification to the CGC's Director of Sport for consideration. The NSO or Chef de Mission will submit the rationale for the request. Changes to age groups, eligibility requirements, team sizes or staff complements will not be considered after three years prior to the Games. Substantive changes to events or competition formats will not be considered after 18 months before the Games, unless approved by all participating provincial/territorial associations, the CGC, and the Host Society. Minor corrections will be considered at almost anytime, but will be increasingly difficult to achieve within six months of the Games. These time frames reinforce the importance of complete understanding of the Technical Package by Games' participants early.



Canada Games Council

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE MANUAL

INTRODUCTION

Within the framework of the Mandate provided by Ministers, the Canada Games Council (CGC) will have the full power to make final decisions about any aspect of the ordinary course of business of the Canada Games or Canada Game Movement, including:

(g) specifying the sport technical considerations applying to the staging of the Games.

In fulfilling its responsibility, and to protect the public interest in the Games, the CGC will ensure that sport technical considerations applying to the staging of the Games outlined in the Stakeholder Reference Manual and individual Sport Technical Packages do not compromise the promotion of sport development in Canada, or other significance of the Games, or the ability of all Provinces and Territories to participate substantially in the Games.

The CGC has delegated authority to oversee its responsibility in this area to the CGC's Sport Committee. The Sport Committee is guided by two of the CGC's strategic goals identified in its long-range strategic framework for 2009 – 2017. Specifically, these strategic goals state:

To be widely recognized by Canadians as a unique, premium, nation-building multi-sport event.

To be widely recognized by national sport organizations and governments as a significant contributor to the success of Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L).

The Principles that Govern Technical Packages are founded in the above strategic goals, as well as the values and operating principles contained in the CGC's strategic framework (see section 2 of the CGC Stakeholder Reference Manual).

PRINCIPLES

1. Classification

- a. Age categories are to be in the “training to compete” phase of the NSO's Long Term Athlete Development model, or other suitable phase of Long Term Athlete Development as justified by NSO, approved through its accepted governance structure and/or decision-making processes, and then approved by the Canada Games Council's Sport Committee.
- b. Single national age groups within a sport are preferable, unless the NSO can prove multiple age categories within a sport competition can benefit the NSO's LTAD model.
- c. NSOs are responsible for setting the age group, including the minimum age, based on technical rationale and the best fit of the Canada Games in the NSO's athlete development model. There is no longer a mandatory minimum age; however, the CGC advises that if an NSO chooses to set a minimum age, the minimum age must be based on an objective element or, where no such element exists, the NSO must establish a review mechanism to consider for exceptional cases (or Human Rights violations may be brought forward to the NSO by the ineligible athlete). If exceptional cases are reviewed



Canada Games Council

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE MANUAL

- and approved, the athlete in question must sign a waiver saving harmless the Council, NSO, and Host Society from any physical or emotional harm sustained by the athlete through the course of normal training and competition for the Games.
- d. Within the given age group selected by the NSO, the best athletes of that particular age should be permitted to participate (with the exceptions listed in principle #2, below).

2. Eligibility

- a. With the more specific alignment of ages in the “training to compete” phase of LTAD, the CGC will no longer impose ability restrictions or amateurism regulations so that the best of age can compete at the Canada Games. Carded athletes, national senior team athletes, athletes who participated at major Games, athletes who may have signed a professional contract, etc. are no longer automatically excluded from the Games. NSOs may choose to include ability restrictions or amateurism regulations, but will no longer have these restrictions automatically imposed by the CGC.
- b. Carding, national team status, or participation in a major Games, etc. refers to the specific sport in question only (ie: if an athlete carded in swimming wishes to participate in diving at the Canada Games, where diving includes a carding restriction, that athlete is deemed eligible if the card is not from the sport of diving).
- c. Athletes must be registered members in good standing of their sport’s NSO and/or Provincial/Territorial Sport Organisation (P/TSO).
- d. Athletes must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- e. NSOs may set minimum performance standards for the Canada Games for safety reasons.
- f. NSOs may set performance guidelines for the Canada Games that would be appropriate for athletes or teams at the “Training to Compete” level of competition.
- g. Athletes may not compete in two sports at one Canada Games if they are scheduled in the same week.
- h. Athletes may only compete for one province or territory at a single Canada Games.

3. Residency

- a. An athlete's permanent domicile or actual residence must be located, for at least the 180 days prior to the opening of the Games, within the recognized boundaries of the province or territory they are representing. An athlete can have only one domicile.
- b. Students attending school on a full-time basis outside their province of permanent residence during the year of the Games shall be permitted to compete for either their province of permanent residence or the province in which the athlete attends school. To be eligible to compete for the province where the athlete attends school, the student must be enrolled on a full-time basis during the current academic year.



Canada Games Council

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE MANUAL

- c. If a non-student athlete attends a recognized national training centre outside his or her province of permanent residence, the athlete is encouraged to represent his or her province of permanent residence; however, the athlete could represent the province where the centre is located under the terms of paragraph (d), below.
- d. Exceptions to the domicile requirement will be possible if the athlete can demonstrate a commitment to the province or territory she or he wishes to represent by such means as having been a member of a club or provincial sport organization in that province for the entire previous competitive season, having represented that province or territory at a previous national or regional championship or having attended school full-time the previous academic year or having been a member of a recognized national training centre full-time during the previous 12 months. Other similar circumstances may be considered.
- e. An athlete is permitted to try out for any province or territory of eligibility but can only try out for one province or territory per sport. (i.e. an athlete may try out for swimming for one province or territory but cannot try out for swimming in another province or territory. An athlete may try out for one province in swimming, and may try out for another province or territory in diving.)

4. Team Size

- a. The number of athletes permitted shall be sufficient to permit the safe and proper conduct of the competition in the sport and reflects the team complement allowable for similar events (eg. national championships). The unique tournament or competitive conditions of each Canada Games may be considered in determining team size (i.e. tournament format, number of games/rounds per day, etc.).
- b. The staff complement permitted to a sport recognizes technical and supervisory requirements for the field of play.
- c. Other issues to consider for team staff are as follows:
 - i. Technical needs:
 - athlete to coach ratio
 - degree of specialization
 - technical specialist (i.e., mechanic, rigger)
 - safety
 - building certified coach capacity through the Games within each participating jurisdiction
 - competitive and training opportunities
 - coaching involvement in competition and training
 - nature of facility
 - ii. Developmental aspect (athletes and coaches)
 - iii. Team supervision requirements outside of competition
- d. All registered athletes must intend to compete in at least one event.



Canada Games Council

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE MANUAL

5. Coaching

- a. An athlete cannot compete at the Canada Games without an accredited coach present.

Gender

- a. Teams with female athletes must have a female coach or manager; teams with male athletes must have a male coach or manager (exception: points (b) will be considered before point (a)).
- b. There is no gender requirement for sports with only one coach allowed.
- c. For individual sports where there is a quota for one coach *and* one manager, teams who are sending athletes of one gender exclusively must have either the coach or manager be of the same gender as the team.
- d. For team sports where there are 2 coaches for a separate women's team, one of the coaches must be a woman. **For team sports where there are 2 coaches for a separate male's team, one of the coaches must be male.** The application will be as follows:

Summer Games:

- Basketball
- Soccer
- Softball
- Volleyball (Indoor)

- e. For individual sports with more than one coach per team and with women competitors, one of the coaches must be a woman. **For individual sports with more than one coach per team and with male competitors, one of the coaches must be male.** The application will be as follows:

Summer Games:

- Athletics
- Canoe-Kayak
- Diving
- Fencing
- Rowing
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Yachting
- Wrestling

- f. Since affirmative action is deemed necessary by the Sport Committee, there will be no exemption process for gender requirements unless the Sport Committee is satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist.



Canada Games Council

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE MANUAL

Certification

- a. Full National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Level 3 certification is required, or the equivalent in the new NCCP to at least NCCP Competition – Development (Certified) status for the 2013 Canada Games. Level 3 certification includes theory, technical and practical components, unless otherwise stated in the Technical Package.
- b. Exemptions from Level 3 certification or Competition-Development qualifications are possible in truly exceptional cases. Such exemptions must be requested by provincial/territorial Chefs de Mission.
- c. A National Sport Organization may request to the CGC's Sport Committee that coach certification exemptions not be permitted within their sport for the Canada Games. The CGC's Sport Committee will review these requests from the NSO, in cooperation with the Coaching Association of Canada, and may exempt certain sports from the coach certification exemption process.
- d. The conditions associated with granting an exemption will be monitored closely.
- e. An exemption will be considered only if a coach has obtained full NCCP Level 2 certification or has Competition – Development In-Training status and has completed four of the six Competition – Development Multisport modules plus the Making Ethical Decisions module. Exceptional cases may be reviewed by the Sport Committee.
- f. A coach is permitted only one exemption in his/her coaching career per sport.
- g. An exemption is granted on the premise that the coach plans to advance to full Canada Games coach certification within the 2 years following the completion of the Games.

Other

- a. Only provincial/territorial team coaches permitted by the Technical Packages and accredited by the Host Society may coach athletes - in training or competition - at the Games.

6. Events/Competition Format

- a. "Field of Play" rules are those of NSO, with absolute minimum of modifications for the Canada Games.
- b. Events and/or competition format should be similar to those of similar-age national championships or international events (eg. heats, semis and finals in track sprinting events; heats and finals in swimming).
- c. Seeding is based on most recent similar-age national championship results or other means to ensure opportunity for best athletes or teams to progress through successive rounds of competition.
- d. NSOs may consider a tiered format of competition only if the format will allow for an enhanced sport competition and/or enhanced athlete development.



Canada Games Council

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE MANUAL

- e. Any competition format at the Canada Games must provide the opportunity for every athlete or team to win a gold medal.

7. Tie-Breaking: Competition

- a. NSO rules apply.

8. Provincial/Territorial Ranking

- a. Every team that enters a sport will be ranked, regardless of finish.
- b. Separate men's and women's teams per sport will be ranked separately and will be awarded 10 flag points each (eg. men's cross country skiing; women's hockey).
- c. Combined men's and women's teams shall be ranked as two and be awarded 20 flag points (affects figure skating, badminton and tennis).
- d. Results of every competition must contribute to sport scoring.
- e. Sport scoring systems will be constructed to showcase excellence, while recognizing participation.

9. Tie-Breaking: Provincial/Territorial Ranking

- a. Ties will be broken.
- b. Where possible, ties should consider "on field" results between tied teams.
- c. If required, consider most event first places, then second places, etc.

10. Medals

- a. There must be separate team and individual competitions in order to award two sets of medals.
- b. There must be a distinct competition for medals to be awarded (i.e. no "combined" medals unless there are competitions specifically for "combined" medals). For bodyweight sports, there shall be one set of medals per weight class (judo, wrestling).
- c. An athlete finishing last cannot win a medal. For combative sports, an athlete must win a match or a bout to be awarded a medal. For all other sports, there must be at least four entries for a bronze to be awarded, three for a silver and two for a gold.
- d. The CGC will award medals to athletes only.



Canada Games Council

STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE MANUAL

11. Uniforms

- a. NSO "Field of Play" rules must be followed for style of competition uniforms. Specific differences or requirements of the Canada Games will be listed in the Technical Package (ex: numbering).
- b. Competition uniforms must be designed in provincial/territorial colours as per established in Section 11 of the CGC Stakeholder Reference Manual. If this is not possible, approval must be obtained from the CGC.
- c. Please see the CGC's Commercialization Policy for complete regulations concerning advertising on uniforms.
- d. Ceremonial team walk-out uniforms are required for Medal Ceremonies. NSOs desiring to have athletes wear competition uniforms for medal ceremonies must obtain approval from the CGC.

12. Equipment

- a. Sport equipment must follow the NSO rules & regulations, as outlined in the Technical Package.