

**CANADA BASKETBALL
U14 CLUB NATIONALS
TECHNICAL MANUAL v.1**



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The Canada Basketball Club National Championships Technical Manual establishes the policies, procedures, standards, and operational requirements governing the delivery and participation in the Canada Basketball Club National Championships ("Club Nationals"). It serves as the primary reference document for all participating teams, coaches, athletes, officials, Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations (PTSOs), and Host Organizing Committees.

The purpose of this manual is to ensure the consistent administration of Club Nationals while promoting fairness, transparency, competitive integrity, athlete safety, and a positive participant experience. It provides the framework under which the event is conducted and supports the shared commitment of Canada Basketball and its partners to delivering a nationally aligned championship that reflects the highest standards of sport governance and athlete development.

1.2 Scope

This Technical Manual applies to all individuals and organizations involved in Club Nationals, including participating clubs, athletes, coaches, team personnel, officials, referee coaches, volunteers, Host Organizing Committees, Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations, and Canada Basketball staff.

The manual outlines the operational requirements, competition regulations, eligibility standards, event procedures, participant responsibilities, and administrative processes necessary for the successful delivery of the championship. All participants are expected to familiarize themselves with and comply with the provisions contained within this manual as a condition of participation.

1.3 Objectives of Club Nationals

The Canada Basketball Club National Championships are designed to advance the development of basketball across Canada by providing a nationally aligned competition platform that supports athletes, coaches, officials, clubs, and PTSOs. The objectives of Club Nationals are to:

- **Provide a Premier Development Competition:** Deliver a high-quality national championship that aligns with the Canada Basketball Long Term Basketball Development Model (LTBD), providing Canada's top developing athletes with meaningful, stage-appropriate competition against the country's best clubs.
- **Strengthen the National Basketball System:** Support and enhance Provincial/Territorial competition structures while fostering greater alignment between clubs, PTSOs, and Canada Basketball to create a more connected and sustainable basketball ecosystem across the country.
- **Identify and Develop High-Performance Talent:** Create opportunities for the identification, evaluation, and development of athletes, coaches, and officials with the potential to progress within Provincial/Territorial and National Team high-performance pathways.
- **Support Coach and Official Development:** Provide meaningful national championship experiences that contribute to the ongoing education, mentorship, evaluation, and advancement of coaches and officials within Canada's performance development pathway.
- **Educate and Engage Basketball Stakeholders:** Promote best practices in long-term athlete development by providing educational opportunities for athletes, coaches, parents, and club leaders.

on topics including athlete development, competition planning, safe sport, and post-secondary pathway considerations.

- **Promote Safe, Inclusive, and Ethical Sport:** Foster an environment that reflects the principles of Safe Sport, fairness, integrity, respect, and inclusion, ensuring all participants can compete in a positive, welcoming, and athlete-centred environment.
- **Celebrate Excellence and Community:** Showcase the highest standard of club basketball in Canada while celebrating the dedication of athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, and member organizations who contribute to the growth and success of the sport nationwide.

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2.0 QUALIFICATION PATHWAY

2.1 Team Allocation by Province/Territories

Canada Basketball allocates Club Nationals team berths to each Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO) to ensure national representation while recognizing the size and participation levels of each basketball jurisdiction.

PTSO Team Allocation

- Each PTSO will be allocated a predetermined number of team berths for each Club Nationals division.
- Team allocations are determined annually by Canada Basketball using the PTSO's Registered Participant numbers from the preceding membership year, along with any additional allocation principles established by Canada Basketball.
- Canada Basketball reserves the right to review and adjust provincial allocations annually to reflect changes in national participation, competition structure, or tournament capacity.

Team Nomination

Each PTSO is responsible for nominating eligible teams to fill its allocated berths based on each PTSO's qualification process (See section 2.2).

- All nominated teams must satisfy the eligibility requirements outlined in this Technical Manual.
- If a nominated team declines its invitation or withdraws prior to the registration deadline, the PTSO may nominate another eligible team from within its jurisdiction.
- Following the provincial nomination deadline established by Canada Basketball, any unfilled berths may, at the sole discretion of Canada Basketball, be reallocated to another jurisdiction, including the Host PTSO, in order to maximize tournament participation.

2.2 Provincial Qualification Pathways

Canada Basketball recognizes that competition structures vary across the country. Accordingly, each PTSO has the authority to establish the qualification process used to determine the teams representing its jurisdiction at Club Nationals.

All qualification processes must be fair, transparent, and communicated in advance to member clubs while maintaining the integrity of the national championship.

A PTSO may utilize one of the following qualification pathways:

Provincial Championship

Teams qualify based on their final placing at the designated Provincial Championship for the applicable age category, as determined by the PTSO.

Provincial Qualification Tournament

A PTSO may conduct a separate qualification tournament specifically to determine its Club Nationals representatives, independent of its Provincial Championship structure.

Alternative Selection Process

A PTSO may implement an alternative qualification model, including but not limited to league standings, provincial rankings, application-based selection, or another approved competitive process.

Where an alternative qualification process is used, the PTSO must ensure that:

- the qualification process and eligibility criteria are clearly documented;
- the selection methodology is objective, transparent, and consistently applied;
- all member clubs have reasonable access to the qualification information; and
- the qualification process is published no fewer than eight (8) months prior to the start of Club Nationals.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to request details of a PTSO's qualification process to ensure it aligns with the principles of fairness, transparency, competitive integrity, and the objectives of Club Nationals.

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3.0 TEAM REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Membership & Eligibility Requirements

Team Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Canada Basketball Club National Championships, each team must satisfy all membership, registration, and eligibility requirements established by Canada Basketball and its respective Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO).

All participating teams must:

- Be a club recognized and sanctioned by its PTSO.
- Be registered and in good standing with both their PTSO and Canada Basketball.
- Have qualified through the applicable PTSO qualification process.
- Maintain an active club account within Canada Basketball's Membership Management System (RAMP).
- Ensure all athletes and team personnel have individual active registrations within RAMP.
- Ensure all athletes and team personnel have acknowledged and agreed to the Canada Basketball Code of Conduct & Ethics and all applicable national policies.
- Ensure all athletes and team personnel have completed the required Event Release & Liability Waiver.

3.2 Team Registration

Teams that receive a Club Nationals berth must complete the official team registration process by the deadlines established by Canada Basketball. Registration is not considered complete until all required documentation has been received, verified, and approved, and all applicable fees have been paid.

Registration Requirements & Timeline

Requirement	Deadline
Acceptance of Berth Teams must formally accept their allocated Club Nationals berth by the deadline established by Canada Basketball. Failure to confirm participation by the deadline may result in the berth being reallocated to another eligible team.	TBD
Registration Form Teams must complete the official Club Nationals Registration Form, including all required team information, staff contacts, and administrative details.	TBD
Registration Fee A non-refundable registration fee, as set by Canada Basketball, must be paid in full at the time of registration. Teams will not be considered fully registered until payment has been received and confirmed.	TBD
Official Roster Teams must submit their Official Roster through the Canada Basketball Membership Management System (RAMP), listing all eligible athletes and team personnel. All individuals must meet the applicable eligibility, membership, and certification requirements.	TBD

Hotel Booking Teams must complete their accommodation reservations through the official Club Nationals Stay-to-Play booking system by the established deadline, unless an exemption has been approved by Canada Basketball.	TBD
Roster Lock All roster changes must be finalized prior to the roster lock deadline. Following this date, no additions or changes will be permitted except through an approved Roster Exemption Request submitted in accordance with Canada Basketball policies.	TBD
Technical Meeting At least one designated team representative (typically the Head Coach or Team Manager) must attend the mandatory Club Nationals Technical Meeting to confirm team participation, verify roster information, and receive final event updates and competition instructions.	TBD

3.3 Team Personnel

Each participating team is responsible for appointing qualified Team Personnel who will oversee the administration, coaching, supervision, and welfare of the athletes throughout the Club National Championships.

All Team Personnel must be fully compliant with all requirements as listed in section 5, in order to be eligible to participate.

The following is a list of the team personnel roles that are recognized at Nationals and who maybe listed on the official roster:

Position	Maximum
Head Coach - The person who is primarily responsible for coaching the team. This person must meet all eligibility requirements as set out in the Coach Eligibility Requirements section. Each team must have one head coach listed on their official roster.	1
Assistant Coach - The person(s) responsible for assisting in the coaching of the team. The assistant coach may only act in the role of the Head Coach in extenuating circumstances and with prior approval of CB.	2
Team Manager - The person responsible for pre-event and on-site administrative duties for the team who acts as a liaison between the team and other parties (including CB, hotels, etc.)	1
Team Trainer - The person responsible for assisting the team with any medical issues.	1

Gender Requirements

- Each team must have a minimum of one member of the coaching staff (excluding managers and trainers) who is of the same gender as the athletes on the team. The roles of each coach must be clearly defined.
- If the head coach (of a female team) is a male, the assistant coach and manager must be a female. Where a female coach is required to satisfy the gender representation requirement, that individual must serve in an active coaching capacity throughout the event.

3.4 Team Contact

Each team must list a team contact during the registration process. The Team Contact is responsible for:

- receiving official communications
- ensuring deadlines are met
- distributing information to team personnel
- coordinating registration requirements
- serving as the primary liaison with Canada Basketball

The Team Contact will not be listed on the Official Roster, nor will they be provided with an accreditation unless they have a dual role as a member of the team personnel, and they are listed on the official roster.

3.5 Official Team Roster

As part of the team registration process, each participating team is required to submit a complete and accurate Official Roster through Canada Basketball's Membership Management System (RAMP). This Official Team roster serves as the official list of athletes and team personnel eligible to participate in the Club National Championships.

It is the responsibility of each club to ensure that all information submitted is accurate and that every individual listed on the roster meets the eligibility requirements outlined in this Technical Manual.

3.5.1 Roster Composition

The Official Team Roster must comply with the following requirements:

Athletes

- Each team must register a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of fifteen (15) athletes.
- All athletes must have been members of the team that qualified for the Club National Championships through the applicable PTSO qualification process.
- Every athlete must meet all eligibility requirements relating to age, residency, membership, and registration.
- Each athlete may only appear on one Official Team Roster for the Club National Championships.

Team Personnel:

- Teams may register up to a maximum of five (5) team personnel, whose roles are defined in Section 3.3 (e.g., head coach, assistant coach, team manager, team trainer).
- All coaches must meet the applicable Canada Basketball coaching certification requirements IN Section 5.2 and all team personnel must satisfy the Safe Sport requirements outlined in Section 5.1.
- Unlike athletes, Team Personnel are not required to have been part of the team's qualifying roster.

3.5.2 Roster Submission

Teams must submit their Official Team Roster through RAMP by the roster submission deadline established by Canada Basketball.

The roster must include all required athlete and team personnel information, including:

- Full legal name
- Date of birth (athletes)
- Jersey number
- Assigned team role (where applicable)

- Membership registration status
- Required certifications and approvals for Team Personnel

Only individuals included on the Official Team Roster and approved by Canada Basketball will be eligible to participate in the championship.

3.5.3 Roster Verification

Canada Basketball will review all submitted rosters to verify compliance with the eligibility, membership, and registration requirements contained within this Technical Manual.

Teams may be required to provide additional documentation to confirm the eligibility of any athlete or Team Personnel.

Final roster verification will occur during the mandatory Club Nationals Technical Meeting.

3.5.4 Roster Lock

The Official Team Roster becomes final as of the published roster lock deadline.

Following the roster lock:

- No athletes or Team Personnel may be added or removed from the Official Team Roster.
- No changes will be permitted during the Coaches Technical Meeting or after a team has arrived onsite.
- Any roster modification after the roster lock date will only be considered through an approved Roster Exemption Request in accordance with Section 3.6.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to refuse participation to any athlete or Team Personnel who does not satisfy the eligibility requirements or whose registration has not been approved prior to the roster lock.

3.5.5 Bench Eligibility

Only athletes and Team Personnel listed on the Official Team Roster and issued official event accreditation by Canada Basketball are permitted to occupy the team bench or access restricted competition areas during the championship.

Individuals who are not listed on the Official Team Roster, including parents, club administrators, media personnel, or other spectators, are not permitted on the team bench or within designated competition areas unless expressly authorized by Canada Basketball.

3.6 Roster Changes & Exemption Requests

To preserve competitive integrity and ensure fairness for all participating teams, the Official Team Roster becomes final upon the published roster lock date. After this date, no changes to the roster will be permitted unless a formal Roster Exemption Request is submitted and approved by Canada Basketball.

Roster exemptions are intended to address exceptional circumstances only and are not intended to accommodate competitive or administrative convenience. Approval of any exemption request is at the sole discretion of Canada Basketball and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3.6.1 Eligible Grounds for an Exemption

Roster exemption requests may be considered for circumstances including, but not limited to:

Athletes

- Serious injury or illness that prevents participation.
- Family emergency or other unforeseen personal circumstance.
- Administrative or technical errors identified after the roster lock date that do not compromise competitive integrity.

Team Personnel

- Illness or injury.
- Family emergency.
- Employment obligations or unforeseen circumstances beyond the individual's control.
- Other exceptional circumstances deemed appropriate by Canada Basketball.

Roster exemptions will not be approved for:

- Competitive advantage.
- Athlete availability due to scheduling conflicts.
- Late discovery of eligibility requirements.
- Player transfers following qualification.
- Administrative oversight that could reasonably have been prevented.

3.6.2 Replacement Eligibility

Where a roster exemption is approved, the replacement individual must satisfy all eligibility requirements contained within this Technical Manual.

Athlete Replacements

Replacement athletes must:

- Meet all age, residency, membership, and registration requirements.
- Be registered and in good standing with their PTSO and Canada Basketball.
- Not be listed on another Official Team Roster for the Club National Championships.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to determine whether a proposed replacement maintains the competitive integrity of the championship.

Team Personnel Replacements

Replacement Team Personnel must:

- Meet all applicable Safe Sport requirements.
- Meet all coaching certification requirements, where applicable.
- Be registered and in good standing with their PTSO and Canada Basketball.

3.6.3 Submission Process

All Roster Exemption Requests must be submitted through the official Canada Basketball Roster Exemption Request Form.

Each request must include:

- A detailed explanation of the circumstances requiring the change.
- The name and role of the individual being removed.
- The name and role of the proposed replacement.
- Any supporting documentation, where applicable (e.g., medical documentation, proof of emergency, or other relevant information).

Canada Basketball may consult with the applicable Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization as part of its review process.

Incomplete applications or requests lacking sufficient supporting information may be denied.

3.6.4 Review and Approval

All exemption requests will be reviewed by Canada Basketball.

When assessing a request, Canada Basketball may consider:

- The nature of the circumstances.
- Supporting documentation.
- Athlete eligibility.
- Potential impact on competitive integrity.
- Fairness to all participating teams.

Canada Basketball's decision is final.

3.6.5 Administrative Fee

An administrative fee will apply to all approved roster exemption requests.

Change	Fee
Team Personnel Replacement	\$50
Athlete Replacement	\$100

The applicable fee must be paid before the roster change is approved and reflected in the Official Team Roster.

Administrative fees are non-refundable, regardless of the team's subsequent participation in the championship.

3.6.6 Submission Deadline

Roster Exemption Requests must be received no later than **fourteen (14) days** prior to the first day of competition.

Requests submitted after this deadline will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances and may not be reviewed prior to the start of the championship.

3.6.7 Final Roster Changes

No roster changes will be permitted:

- following the approved exemption deadline;
- during the Coaches Technical Meeting;
- after the team's first scheduled game; or
- while the championship is in progress.

Approved roster changes will be reflected in the Official Team Roster maintained by Canada Basketball and communicated to the appropriate event personnel.

3.7 Registration Fee

To confirm participation in the Club National Championships, each participating team is required to pay the registration fee established by Canada Basketball. Payment of the registration fee is a mandatory component of the team registration process and must be received in full before a team will be considered officially registered.

Registration fees contribute to the delivery of the championship, including venue operations, officials, event staffing, competition administration, participant services, and other event-related expenses.

Registration Fee

- Registration fees are assessed on a per-team basis.
- The registration fee for each championship will be communicated in the official Club Nationals Registration Package and published on the Canada Basketball website.
- Registration fees are non-refundable except as outlined in the Withdrawal Policy (Section 3.8).
- All fees are quoted in Canadian dollars and are not subject to applicable taxes.

Payment Methods

Canada Basketball accepts the following methods of payment:

- Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- Electronic Money Transfer (EMT)
- Certified Cheque (payable to Canada Basketball)

Payment instructions, including banking information and remittance procedures, will be provided during the registration process.

For payments submitted by certified cheque, it is the responsibility of the team to ensure payment is received by Canada Basketball before the published registration deadline.

Payment Deadline

Registration fees must be received in full by the payment deadline established by Canada Basketball.

A team will not be considered fully registered until:

- all registration requirements have been completed;
- all required documentation has been received and approved; and
- the registration fee has been paid in full.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to cancel a team's registration or reallocate its berth if payment is not received by the established deadline.

Once payment has been received and processed, Canada Basketball will issue confirmation to the designated Team Contact.

Teams are encouraged to retain proof of payment until confirmation has been received.

3.8 Withdrawal Policy

Teams that are no longer able to participate in the Club National Championships must notify Canada Basketball as soon as possible by submitting the official Team Withdrawal Form available on the Club Nationals website.

Prompt notification of a withdrawal allows Canada Basketball to manage the competition schedule, notify the applicable Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO), and, where possible, allocate the vacant berth to another eligible team.

A team will not be considered officially withdrawn until written confirmation has been received from Canada Basketball.

3.8.1 Withdrawal Process

Teams wishing to withdraw must:

- Submit the official Team Withdrawal Form.
- Provide the reason for withdrawal.
- Identify the individual authorized to withdraw the team on behalf of the club.
- Continue to meet all financial obligations until the withdrawal has been confirmed by Canada Basketball.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to request additional information regarding the withdrawal where necessary.

3.8.2 Refund Policy

Registration fee refunds will be administered according to the following schedule:

Withdrawal Date	Refund
Prior to the Registration Deadline	Registration fee less a \$350 administrative fee and any applicable registration system fees
After the Registration Deadline, where the team is replaced by another eligible team	Registration fee less a \$350 administrative fee and any applicable registration system fees*
After the Registration Deadline, where the team is not replaced	No refund
Within fourteen (14) days of the start of the championship	No refund

*Canada Basketball reserves the right to determine whether a replacement team can reasonably be secured within the required timelines.

3.8.3 Replacement of Withdrawn Teams

Where a team withdraws, Canada Basketball will determine whether the vacant berth will be filled.

Replacement teams may be identified:

- by the applicable PTSO, in accordance with its qualification process; or
- through any replacement process established by Canada Basketball.

Canada Basketball is under no obligation to replace a withdrawn team if doing so would compromise event operations, scheduling, or competitive integrity.

3.8.4 Financial Responsibility

Withdrawal from the Club National Championships does not relieve a team of any outstanding financial obligations owed to Canada Basketball.

Any unpaid registration fees, approved roster exemption fees, or other outstanding charges remain payable in accordance with Canada Basketball policies.

3.8.5 Failure to Participate

A team that confirms participation but subsequently fails to attend the Club National Championships without formally withdrawing may be subject to additional sanctions, including:

- forfeiture of the team's registration fee;
- loss of the team's allocated berth;
- ineligibility for future Canada Basketball championships or events; and/or
- other disciplinary or administrative measures deemed appropriate by Canada Basketball.

3.8.6 Force Majeure

Canada Basketball recognizes that exceptional circumstances beyond the reasonable control of a team may affect its ability to participate.

In such circumstances, including but not limited to natural disasters, public health emergencies, government travel restrictions, or other unforeseen events, Canada Basketball reserves the right to review the financial implications of a withdrawal on a case-by-case basis.

Any refund or adjustment granted under these circumstances shall be at the sole discretion of Canada Basketball.

3.9 Stay to Play Policy

The Canada Basketball Club National Championships operate under a mandatory **Stay-to-Play Policy**. As a condition of participation, all teams requiring overnight accommodations must book their lodging through the championship's official housing provider.

The Stay-to-Play Policy enables Canada Basketball to secure preferred hotel rates, coordinate accommodations for participating teams, support host community partnerships, and ensure a consistent championship experience for all participants.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in a team being declared ineligible to participate in the Club National Championships.

3.9.1 Policy Objectives

The Stay-to-Play Policy has been established to:

- provide participating teams with access to negotiated group hotel rates;
- simplify the hotel booking process through a centralized reservation system;
- support host communities and event partners;
- assist with event planning and logistics by managing team accommodations in a coordinated manner; and
- contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of the Club National Championships.

3.9.2 Hotel Booking Requirements

Teams requiring overnight accommodations must:

- reserve all hotel rooms through the official housing provider designated by Canada Basketball;
- complete all reservations using the official booking portal;
- meet any minimum room requirements established by Canada Basketball;
- complete reservations by the published hotel booking deadline; and
- comply with all accommodation policies established by the official housing provider.

Teams are not permitted to book accommodations directly with host hotels or through third-party booking websites unless expressly authorized by Canada Basketball.

Detailed hotel information, booking instructions, and reservation deadlines will be provided as part of the Club Nationals Registration Package.

3.9.3 Minimum Accommodation Requirement

To support the operational requirements of the championship, teams utilizing overnight accommodations must reserve the minimum number of hotel rooms established by Canada Basketball.

The minimum room requirement will be communicated in the Registration Package and may vary based on team size, event location, or accommodation availability.

3.9.4 Booking Deadlines

All hotel reservations must be completed by the deadline established by Canada Basketball.

Teams are encouraged to complete their reservations as early as possible to maximize hotel selection and room availability.

Canada Basketball cannot guarantee room availability after the published booking deadline.

3.9.5 Exemption Requests

Canada Basketball recognizes that certain teams may not require overnight accommodations.

Teams may request an exemption from the Stay-to-Play Policy if they:

- are located within the designated local commuting area;
- can reasonably travel to and from the competition venue each day; or
- have other exceptional circumstances approved by Canada Basketball.

All exemption requests must be submitted in writing prior to the hotel booking deadline.

Approval of an exemption is at the sole discretion of Canada Basketball.

3.9.6 Compliance

Canada Basketball reserves the right to verify hotel reservations and monitor compliance with the Stay-to-Play Policy.

Teams found to have intentionally circumvented the policy, including booking accommodations outside the official housing program without an approved exemption, may be subject to one or more of the following:

- cancellation of their hotel reservation within the official room block;
- financial penalties or administrative fees;
- loss of eligibility to participate in the Club National Championships; and/or
- other sanctions deemed appropriate by Canada Basketball.

3.9.7 Special Accommodation Requests

Requests relating to accessibility needs, medical accommodations, large family groups, or other special circumstances should be directed to the official housing provider.

Canada Basketball and its housing partner will make reasonable efforts to accommodate such requests, subject to hotel availability.

4.0 Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in Canada Basketball Club Nationals, all athletes must satisfy the age, registration, residency, and roster eligibility requirements outlined below. It is the responsibility of each participating team to ensure that all athletes meet these requirements prior to the roster submission deadline.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to verify the eligibility of any athlete at any time before or during the championship and may require supporting documentation to confirm eligibility. Any athlete or team found to be in violation of these requirements may be subject to sanctions, including removal of an athlete from the roster, forfeiture of games, or disqualification from the championship.

4.1 Age Eligibility

4.1.1 Age Category

For the 2027 Canada Basketball Club Nationals, the following age category will be contested:

Division	Eligibility	Birth Year
U14	Athletes who are 14 years of age or younger as of December 31, 2027	Born in 2013 or later

Canada Basketball may request proof of age for any athlete participating in the championship. Acceptable documentation includes:

- Birth Certificate
- Valid Passport
- Other government-issued identification approved by Canada Basketball

Teams must be prepared to produce documentation immediately upon request.

4.1.2 Age Exemption Requests

Canada Basketball recognizes that, in limited circumstances, an athlete's long-term development may be better supported through participation with athletes in the same academic cohort rather than strictly by birth year.

Accordingly, under exceptional circumstances only, Canada Basketball may consider an age exemption for an athlete born no more than four (4) months prior to January 1 of the eligible birth year.

Age exemptions are not automatic and will only be considered where participation aligns with Long-Term Development (LTD) principles rather than competitive advantage.

The following process applies:

- The request must be submitted by the Head Coach or Team Manager.
- The request must first be reviewed by the applicable PTSO.
- Written acknowledgement from the PTSO must accompany the submission to Canada Basketball.
- Canada Basketball will make the final determination on all exemption requests.
- A non-refundable \$50 administration fee applies to each request.

Submission of an exemption request does not guarantee approval.

4.2 Membership and Registration Eligibility

To be eligible for Club Nationals, each athlete must:

- Be a member in good standing with both Canada Basketball and their Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO).
- Be registered within the Canada Basketball Membership Management System (RAMP).
- Have acknowledged and agreed to the Canada Basketball Code of Conduct & Ethics and all applicable Canada Basketball policies.
- Complete and submit the required Event Release and Liability Waiver through RAMP.
- Be registered with only one (1) Club Nationals team.
- Not be registered with, or represent, another province or territory without the written approval of Canada Basketball and all affected PTSOs.

An athlete who is not in good standing with their current PTSO is not eligible to register or compete with another province or territory.

4.3 Team Eligibility

Club Nationals is intended to showcase teams that have qualified together through their provincial qualification pathway. To preserve competitive integrity, athletes must demonstrate meaningful participation with their qualifying team.

To be eligible, an athlete must:

- Have been a registered player with the qualified team during the current club season; and
- Meet one (1) of the following requirements:
 - Have appeared on the team's official roster during the applicable PTSO qualification event; or
 - Have participated in a minimum of three (3) sanctioned games with the qualified team during the current club season.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to request documentation verifying participation.

4.4 Residency Requirements

Athletes must have established residency within the province or territory represented by their qualifying team for a minimum of four (4) consecutive months immediately preceding the applicable PTSO qualification event.

For the purposes of Club Nationals:

- Athletes must be registered with the PTSO corresponding to their province or territory of residence.
- Athletes may not register simultaneously with more than one PTSO.
- Athletes wishing to register outside their province or territory of residence must obtain written approval from:
 - Canada Basketball;
 - The athlete's home PTSO; and
 - The receiving PTSO.

Failure to satisfy residency requirements may result in athlete ineligibility.

4.5 Eligibility Appeals

Any appeal relating to athlete eligibility must be submitted in writing to Canada Basketball prior to the roster lock deadline. Decisions of Canada Basketball regarding athlete eligibility are final and not subject to further appeal unless otherwise provided under Canada Basketball's Appeal Policy.

5.0 Coach & Team Personnel Eligibility

Canada Basketball's Coach & Team Personnel Eligibility Requirements establish the minimum standards for all coaches and other Team Personnel participating in Club Nationals. These requirements are intended to ensure that every athlete is provided with a safe, inclusive, developmentally appropriate, and professionally led sport environment.

Responsibility for ensuring that all coaching staff meet the eligibility requirements rests with the qualified club. Canada Basketball reserves the right to verify compliance at any time before or during the Championship.

Guiding Principles

Canada Basketball believes that every athlete has the right to be coached by qualified, screened, and appropriately trained individuals.

All coaches are expected to:

- Provide an environment that is physically, emotionally, mentally, and socially safe.
- Model ethical behaviour and uphold the principles of Safe Sport.
- Deliver learning environment consistent with Canada Basketball's Long-Term Development (LTD) framework.
- Apply age-appropriate teaching methodologies and technical standards.
- Maintain current certifications and professional development as required.

5.1 Mandatory Eligibility Requirements for all Team Personnel

Team personnel includes any individual registered with a team who occupies a position of trust or authority over athletes, including but not limited to:

- Head Coaches
- Assistant Coaches
- Team Managers
- Integrated Support Team (IST) personnel
- Trainers, therapists, and other bench personnel

All Team Personnel must satisfy the following screening requirements before participating at Club Nationals.

Requirement	Cost	Requirement
Enhanced Police Information Check (EPIC)	Cost Varies	Must have been completed within the previous three (3) years and remain valid through the final day of the Championship.

Screening Disclosure Form	Free	Must be completed annually.
CAC Safe Sport Training (or recognized equivalent)	Free	Equivalent training recognized by Sport Canada (e.g. Respect in Sport Activity Leader) will be accepted.

Sanction

Any Team Personnel who has not completed all mandatory screening requirements by the published deadline will be ineligible to participate in any capacity during Club Nationals. No exemptions will be granted for screening requirements.

5.2 Mandatory Technical Requirements for Coaches

All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches listed on the Official Team Roster must satisfy the following technical requirements.

Requirement	Cost	Description
NCCP Train to Train - Trained Status* or NCCP Train to Compete - Trained Status	Cost Varies	Ensures coaches have the technical competencies and athlete development knowledge appropriate for Club Nationals.
Making Head Way in Sport eLearning	Free	Provides current education on concussion recognition, prevention, and return-to-play protocols.
Make Ethical Decisions (MED) Online Evaluation	\$85 (or applicable workshop fee)	Coaches may complete the NCCP MED workshop before writing the online evaluation or proceed directly to the evaluation.

Head Coach Certification Progression

To encourage ongoing coach development, Head Coaches are expected to progress through the NCCP certification pathway as follows:

Participation History	Minimum Requirement
First Club Nationals	NCCP Train to Train – Trained
Second Club Nationals (and beyond)	NCCP Train to Train – Certified

Canada Basketball reserves the right to verify previous participation records.

5.3 Maintaining Coach Eligibility

Achieving NCCP Trained or Certified status alone does not guarantee ongoing eligibility.

Coaches are responsible for maintaining active NCCP certification by meeting the Professional Development (PD) requirements established by the Coaching Association of Canada.

Coaches whose certification has lapsed due to insufficient PD points will not be considered eligible until their certification has been reinstated.

Professional Development points may be earned through a variety of approved learning opportunities, including:

- Canada Basketball coaching conferences and workshops
- Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization coach education events
- NCCP workshops
- Coaching Association of Canada eLearning modules
- Coach mentorship activities
- Active coaching
- Other approved NCCP professional development opportunities

5.4 Recommended Professional Development

Although not mandatory, Canada Basketball strongly encourages all coaches to complete additional Safe Sport and inclusion training, including:

- Rule of Two eLearning
- Anti-Racism in Coaching eLearning
- Gender Equity and Inclusion education
- Mental Health in Sport resources
- Indigenous Cultural Awareness training

These learning opportunities strengthen coaching practice and support the creation of safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all participants.

5.5 Coach Requirement Exemption Process

Coaches who do not satisfy the mandatory technical requirements by the published deadline may apply for a technical exemption.

Following the technical eligibility review, Canada Basketball will notify affected coaches and provide instructions for submitting an exemption request.

Exemptions granted by Provincial/Territorial Sport Organizations do not automatically apply to Club Nationals.

Submission of an exemption request does not guarantee approval.

Each application will be reviewed individually based on the circumstances presented and the coach's demonstrated commitment to completing the outstanding requirements.

5.6 Sanctions

Failure to satisfy the mandatory technical requirements may result in one or more of the following sanctions:

- Ineligibility to participate until requirements are met.
- Approval of a temporary exemption subject to conditions established by Canada Basketball.
- A \$250 CAD administrative fine for Head Coaches granted an exemption. The fine must be paid before the team's first game.
- Head Coaches who receive an exemption and administrative fine in one Club Nationals will not be eligible to receive a second exemption in the following year if the outstanding requirements remain incomplete.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to deny participation to any coach who fails to comply with the Coach Eligibility Requirements.

6.0 COMPETITION REGULATIONS & RULES

This section establishes the competition regulations governing all Canada Basketball Club National Championships. Unless otherwise specified, the Official FIBA Basketball Rules and Official Basketball Interpretations shall apply. Where this Technical Manual prescribes a regulation that differs from the FIBA Rules, the provisions of this Manual shall prevail for the purposes of the Championship.

6.1 Rules of Play

6.1.1 Governing Rules

The Canada Basketball Club National Championships shall be governed by the most current editions of the following:

- FIBA Official Basketball Rules ([link](#));
- FIBA Official Basketball Interpretations;
- Canada Basketball Policies and Procedures;
- This Club National Championships Technical Manual; and
- Any competition directives, bulletins, or interpretations issued by Canada Basketball prior to or during the Championship.

Where a conflict exists between the FIBA Official Basketball Rules and this Technical Manual, the provisions contained within this Manual shall prevail for the purposes of the Club National Championships.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to interpret, amend, or clarify these regulations when necessary to ensure the safe, fair, and orderly operation of the Championship.

6.1.2 Championship Rule Modifications

The following regulations apply specifically to the Canada Basketball Club National Championships and supplement the Official FIBA Basketball Rules.

Team Rosters

- Only athletes listed on the team's Official Championship Roster by the published roster lock deadline are eligible to participate in the Championship.
- No player additions or substitutions shall be permitted following roster lock except where specifically authorized by Canada Basketball outlined in Section 3.6 – Roster Changes & Exemption Requests.
- All players must meet the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in Section 4 of this Manual.

Minimum Team Requirements

To commence a game, each team must have:

- One (1) eligible Head Coach present and able to fulfill coaching duties; and
- A minimum of eight (8) eligible players available and capable of participating.

Failure to satisfy these minimum requirements may result in a game forfeiture, as determined by Canada Basketball.

Uniform Requirements

All teams shall provide two complete sets of uniforms consisting of contrasting light and dark colours. Unless otherwise directed:

- The designated home team shall wear its light-coloured uniform.
- The designated visiting team shall wear its dark-coloured uniform.
- Uniforms must comply with the current FIBA Equipment and Uniform Regulations, including:
 - Player numbers from 0, 00, and 1–99;
 - No duplicate numbers on the same team;
 - Matching undergarments in accordance with FIBA regulations.

Teams are responsible for having replacement jerseys available in the event of blood contamination, damage, or loss during competition.

Home Team Designation

During preliminary round (pool) play, the first team listed in the official competition schedule shall be designated the home team.

For playoff games, the higher-seeded team, based on the Championship ranking procedures, shall be designated the home team.

The home team shall:

- Wear the light-coloured uniform;
- Occupy the team bench to the left of the scorer's table when facing the court; and
- Warm up at the basket to the right of the scorer's table prior to the start of the game.

Game Administration

Unless otherwise approved by Canada Basketball:

- Minimum pre-game warm-up shall be ten (10) minutes.
- Half-time shall be seven (7) minutes. Canada Basketball reserves the right to reduce halftime to five (5) minutes when required for scheduling or operational reasons.
- All other game intervals shall be conducted in accordance with the Official FIBA Basketball Rules.

Official Game Ball

The official basketball designated by Canada Basketball shall be used for all Championship games and official practices.

- Boys: Molten B7G4500 (Size 7)
- Girls: Molten B6G4500 (Size 6)

Long-Term Development Philosophy

While competitive excellence is recognized, teams are expected to support athlete development by promoting positive learning experiences, sportsmanship, and meaningful playing opportunities consistent with Long-Term Development principles.

Additional Competition Directives

Canada Basketball may issue additional competition directives, interpretations, or operational procedures before or during the Championship. Such directives shall form part of these Competition Regulations and shall be binding on all participating teams.

6.1.3 Game Forfeiture

A game may be declared a forfeit by Canada Basketball where a team:

- Fails to appear for a scheduled game;
- Is unable to field the minimum number of eligible players required to begin or continue a game;
- Refuses to commence or resume play when directed by the officials;
- Uses an ineligible player or team official; or
- Otherwise refuses to comply with these Competition Regulations.

Unless otherwise determined by Canada Basketball, a forfeited game shall be recorded in accordance with the Official FIBA Basketball Rules.

Additional disciplinary action may be imposed where circumstances warrant.

6.1.4 Competition Protests

Only matters relating to the application or interpretation of the Official Playing Rules may be protested.

Judgement decisions made by game officials are final and are not subject to protest.

To submit a protest:

- The Head Coach must notify the Crew Chief immediately following the incident and before signing the scoresheet.
- A written protest must be submitted to the Competition Jury within thirty (30) minutes following the conclusion of the game.
- The protest must clearly identify the rule believed to have been incorrectly applied and include all supporting information.
- Canada Basketball may require payment of a protest fee, which shall be refunded only if the protest is upheld.

The Competition Jury shall review all relevant information, including the official scoresheet, game officials' reports, and any additional evidence deemed appropriate.

The decision of the Competition Jury shall be final.

6.1.5 Competition Jury

Canada Basketball shall appoint a Competition Jury to oversee matters relating to competition administration during the Championship.

The Competition Jury shall have authority to:

- Interpret and apply these Competition Regulations;
- Hear and determine competition protests;
- Resolve issues relating to player or team eligibility during competition;
- Determine game forfeitures when required;
- Interpret Championship procedures where clarification is required; and
- Address any competition matters not specifically provided for within this Technical Manual.

The Competition Jury may consist of representatives from Canada Basketball, the Technical Delegate, the Host Organizing Committee, and other individuals appointed by Canada Basketball.

All decisions of the Competition Jury are final and binding.

6.2 Competition Conduct

The Canada Basketball Club National Championships are intended to provide a safe, inclusive, respectful, and positive environment where athletes can compete at their highest level while demonstrating the values of sportsmanship, integrity, and respect.

All participants share responsibility for maintaining an environment that reflects the values of Canada Basketball and promotes positive experiences for athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators, and event staff.

Participation in the Club National Championships is a privilege. All accredited participants and spectators are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that protects the integrity of the Championship and upholds the reputation of their club, Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO), and Canada Basketball.

6.2.1 Application

These Competition Conduct requirements apply to all Championship participants, including but not limited to:

- Athletes;
- Coaches and Team Personnel;
- Officials and Referee Coaches;
- Team Managers and Integrated Support Team (IST) personnel;
- Volunteers;
- Host Organizing Committee personnel;
- Spectators;
- Parents and Guardians; and
- Any individual attending or participating in Championship activities.

These expectations apply throughout the duration of the Championship, including:

- Competition venues;
- Practice facilities;
- Team hotels and accommodations;
- Official meetings;
- Transportation provided by the Host;
- Championship ceremonies and social functions; and
- Any other Championship-related activity under the jurisdiction of Canada Basketball.

6.2.2 Standards of Conduct

All participants are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect toward opponents, teammates, officials, volunteers, spectators, and event staff.
- Compete with honesty, integrity, and fairness.
- Accept the decisions of game officials in a respectful manner.
- Promote good sportsmanship at all times.
- Refrain from behaviour that is abusive, threatening, intimidating, discriminatory, or otherwise detrimental to the Championship environment.
- Follow all directions issued by Canada Basketball, the Host Organizing Committee, venue personnel, and event officials.
- Comply with all applicable Canada Basketball policies and Championship regulations.

Participants are expected to serve as positive role models for youth athletes throughout the Championship.

6.2.3 Canada Basketball Policies

All Championship participants are subject to the policies and procedures of Canada Basketball, including but not limited to:

- Code of Conduct and Ethics;
- Discipline and Complaints Policy;
- Safe Sport Policy;
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy;
- Anti-Doping Policy;
- Concussion Policy;
- Social Media Policy;
- Privacy Policy;
- Conflict of Interest Policy;
- Risk Management Policy; and
- Appeals Policy.

By participating in the Championship, all participants agree to abide by these policies and any additional Championship regulations issued by Canada Basketball.

6.2.4 Team Responsibility

Each participating club is responsible for the conduct of its athletes, coaches, team personnel, and spectators throughout the Championship.

Teams are expected to take reasonable measures to ensure that all individuals associated with their organization conduct themselves in accordance with these Competition Regulations.

Where the conduct of a participant or spectator negatively impacts the Championship, Canada Basketball reserves the right to impose sanctions against the individual, the team, or both.

6.2.5 Respect for Facilities and Property

Participants shall respect all competition venues, accommodations, transportation services, and Championship facilities.

Any damage caused by a participant, team, or spectator to event facilities, hotels, or other Championship property shall be the responsibility of the individual and/or club involved.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to require reimbursement for damages and may impose additional disciplinary measures where appropriate.

6.2.6 Media and Social Media Conduct

Participants are expected to use social media responsibly and in a manner consistent with the values of Canada Basketball.

No participant shall post, publish, or distribute content that:

- Harasses, intimidates, or discriminates against another individual;
- Brings the Championship or the sport of basketball into disrepute;
- Violates the privacy of participants;
- Contains abusive, offensive, or threatening language; or

- Contravenes any Canada Basketball policy.

Participants are encouraged to positively promote the Championship while respecting the privacy and dignity of all individuals.

6.2.7 Alcohol, Cannabis and Prohibited Substances

The possession, consumption, or impairment from alcohol, cannabis, or any illegal or prohibited substance is not permitted by athletes or accredited team personnel while participating in Championship activities.

All participants are expected to comply with applicable federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal legislation, as well as venue and accommodation policies.

Any violations may result in disciplinary action in accordance with Section 6.4 of this Manual.

6.2.8 Failure to Comply

Failure to comply with the Competition Conduct requirements contained in this Manual or any applicable Canada Basketball policy may result in disciplinary action.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal or written warnings;
- Removal from the competition venue;
- Suspension from one or more games;
- Loss of accreditation;
- Expulsion from the Championship;
- Financial responsibility for damages incurred; and
- Referral to Canada Basketball and/or the applicable Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization for further disciplinary action.

Disciplinary matters shall be managed in accordance with Section 6.4 of this Technical Manual and the applicable Canada Basketball policies.

6.3 Zero Tolerance Policy

Canada Basketball is committed to providing a safe, respectful, inclusive, and positive environment for all participants at the Club National Championships.

The Championship operates under a Zero Tolerance Policy toward behaviour that threatens the safety, wellbeing, dignity, or enjoyment of any participant or interferes with the orderly operation of the event.

Individuals who engage in inappropriate conduct may be subject to immediate removal from the venue, suspension from Championship activities, or additional disciplinary action, regardless of whether the conduct occurs during competition or at any Championship-related activity.

6.3.1 Prohibited Conduct

The following behaviours will not be tolerated and may result in immediate intervention or disciplinary action:

- Abusive, threatening, intimidating, or aggressive behaviour.
- Harassment, bullying, discrimination, or retaliation in any form.
- Physical violence or fighting.
- Intentional physical contact with an official, participant, volunteer, or event staff member.

- Verbal abuse, profanity, taunting, or personal attacks directed toward athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, spectators, or event personnel.
- Conduct that endangers the safety or wellbeing of others.
- Damage to Championship facilities or property.
- Failure to comply with the directions of game officials, Canada Basketball representatives, venue staff, security personnel, or the Host Organizing Committee.
- Behaviour that disrupts the conduct of games or the operation of the Championship.
- Any conduct that violates Canada Basketball policies, including the Code of Conduct and Ethics or Safe Sport policies.

This list is not exhaustive. Canada Basketball reserves the right to determine whether conduct is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of this policy.

6.3.2 Immediate Actions

Where inappropriate conduct occurs, Canada Basketball, the Competition Jury, venue security, or designated event personnel may take immediate action to protect participants and ensure the safe operation of the Championship.

Immediate actions may include:

- Verbal warning;
- Removal from the competition area;
- Removal from the venue;
- Suspension from the current game or Championship activity;
- Revocation of event accreditation;
- Temporary suspension pending further review; or
- Referral to the Competition Jury for additional disciplinary action.

Immediate action may be taken without prior warning where participant safety or the integrity of the Championship is at risk.

6.3.3 Team Responsibility

Participating clubs are responsible for the conduct of their athletes, coaches, team personnel, and spectators throughout the Championship.

Teams are expected to make every reasonable effort to prevent inappropriate behaviour by individuals associated with their organization.

Where repeated or significant misconduct occurs, Canada Basketball reserves the right to impose sanctions against the individual, the team, or both.

6.3.4 Relationship to Discipline and Safe Sport

The Zero Tolerance Policy complements, but does not replace, the Canada Basketball Code of Conduct and Ethics, Safe Sport policies, or Discipline and Complaints Policy.

Incidents involving misconduct may also be referred through the appropriate Canada Basketball disciplinary or Safe Sport processes.

Specific disciplinary sanctions applicable to athletes, team personnel, and spectators are outlined in Section 6.5 of this Technical Manual.

6.4 Discipline & Sanctions

Canada Basketball is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and professionally managed Championship environment. The purpose of this section is to establish the disciplinary framework applicable to misconduct occurring during the Canada Basketball Club National Championships.

Disciplinary action may be taken where the conduct of any participant compromises the safety of others, the integrity of the competition, or the orderly operation of the Championship.

The sanctions outlined in this section establish the minimum disciplinary responses for serious misconduct. Canada Basketball reserves the right to impose additional sanctions where warranted by the circumstances.

6.4.1 Authority

Canada Basketball has sole authority over all disciplinary matters arising during the Championship.

The Competition Jury, or another disciplinary body appointed by Canada Basketball, shall have the authority to:

- Review incidents occurring before, during, or after Championship activities;
- Receive and consider reports from game officials, technical delegates, event staff, security personnel, or other witnesses;
- Determine whether misconduct has occurred;
- Impose disciplinary sanctions in accordance with this Manual;
- Refer matters to Canada Basketball's formal Discipline and Complaints process or Safe Sport process where appropriate.

Decisions made by the Competition Jury relating to Championship discipline are final unless otherwise provided for under Canada Basketball policy.

6.4.2 Types of Sanctions

Depending on the severity and circumstances of the incident, disciplinary action may include one or more of the following:

- Verbal warning;
- Written warning;
- Removal from the competition area;
- Removal from the venue;
- Suspension from one or more games;
- Suspension from Championship activities;
- Revocation of event accreditation;
- Expulsion from the Championship;
- Game forfeiture;
- Financial responsibility for damages;
- Referral to the applicable Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO);
- Referral to Canada Basketball's Discipline and Complaints process;
- Referral through Canada Basketball's Safe Sport process; or
- Any other sanction deemed appropriate by Canada Basketball.

6.4.3 Aggravating Factors

When determining an appropriate sanction, Canada Basketball may consider factors including, but not limited to:

- The severity of the misconduct;
- Whether the behaviour was intentional or reckless;
- The safety of participants;
- Previous disciplinary history;
- Whether the individual accepted responsibility;
- The impact on the Championship and its participants;
- Whether the misconduct brought the sport into disrepute; and
- Any other relevant mitigating or aggravating circumstances.

6.4.4 Automatic Sanctions

The following incidents shall normally result in automatic disciplinary action, subject to review by the Competition Jury:

- Fighting or attempting to fight;
- Intentional physical contact with a game official;
- Threats of physical violence toward any participant;
- Gross misconduct toward officials, volunteers, or event personnel;
- Failure to leave the venue after being disqualified or removed;
- Use of an ineligible player or team official;
- Falsification of player registration or eligibility information; and
- Any conduct that presents an immediate risk to participant safety.

Additional sanctions beyond the automatic minimum may be imposed where circumstances warrant.

6.4.5 Club Responsibility

Participating clubs are responsible for the conduct of all individuals associated with their organization, including athletes, coaches, team personnel, parents, and spectators.

Where the actions of individuals associated with a club negatively affect the Championship, Canada Basketball may impose sanctions against both the individual and the club.

Club sanctions may include:

- Official warning;
- Financial penalties or restitution for damages;
- Suspension of team personnel;
- Game forfeiture;
- Removal of spectators;
- Expulsion of the team from the Championship; or
- Referral to the applicable Provincial/Territorial Sport Organization for further disciplinary action.

6.4.6 Reporting and Investigation

All incidents of serious misconduct shall be documented and reported to Canada Basketball as soon as reasonably possible.

The Competition Jury may consider:

- Official game reports;
- Reports submitted by referees or referee coaches;
- Reports from Canada Basketball staff or the Host Organizing Committee;
- Security or venue reports;
- Video evidence where available; and
- Statements from witnesses or involved individuals.

Canada Basketball may investigate any incident occurring during Championship activities regardless of whether an on-court penalty was assessed.

6.4.7 Athlete Discipline

The Athlete Discipline Chart establishes the minimum sanctions for misconduct committed by athletes during Championship activities.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to impose additional sanctions based on the nature and severity of the incident.

Description of Misconduct	Immediate & Minimum Sanctions	Additional Possible Sanctions
1. Player is disqualified or ejected from the game for baiting or taunting. Consistent with FIBA rules, any form of taunting intended to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others is prohibited.	Immediate ejection from the game	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament
2. Player is disqualified or ejected from the game for disrespectfully addressing game official(s), game management personnel, parents, or fans.	Immediate ejection from the game	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament
3. Player is disqualified or ejected from the game for any flagrant unsportsmanlike action.	Immediate ejection from the game	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament
4. Player is disqualified or ejected from the game for intentionally contacting an official.	Immediate ejection from the game	Ejection from the remainder of the tournament
5. Player is disqualified or ejected from the game for fighting. Fighting includes physical interaction between two or more opponents, including attempts to strike, punch, kick, or instigate a fight.	Immediate ejection from the game and tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
6. Player engages in a fight outside the definition of the game but within the jurisdiction of the game management committee. This includes a player who engages in a fight before or after the game but on the game site premises.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
7. Player participates as an ineligible player in a sanctioned game or tournament.	Interim suspension pending review	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament

8. Player falsified information, including but not limited to a signature, date of birth, or registration under a false name.	Interim suspension pending review	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament
9. Player acted in a manner deemed to be detrimental to the game and inconsistent with the principles of fair play.	Interim suspension pending review	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament

6.4.8 Team Personnel Discipline

The Team Official Discipline Chart establishes the minimum sanctions applicable to coaches, managers, trainers, and other accredited team personnel.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to increase sanctions where circumstances warrant.

Description of Misconduct	Immediate & Minimum Sanctions	Additional Possible Sanctions
10. Team Official is disqualified or ejected from the game for disrespectfully addressing, baiting, or taunting a member of either team, or for disrespectfully addressing an official or gesturing resentment toward an official. Any form of taunting intended to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others is prohibited.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the next game	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament
11. Team Official is disqualified from the game for any flagrant unsportsmanlike action.	Immediate ejection from the game	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament
12. Team Official is disqualified or ejected from the game for intentionally contacting an official.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
13. Team Official is disqualified or ejected from the game for fighting. Fighting includes physical interaction between two or more opponents, including attempts to strike, punch, kick, or instigate a fight.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
14. Team Official engages in a fight outside the definition of the game but within the jurisdiction of the game management committee. This includes a coach, assistant coach, manager, trainer, or other team personnel who engages in a fight before or after the game but on the game site premises.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
15. A Team Official who is disqualified or ejected from the game for any reason fails to leave the facility completely with no return.	Suspended from the next scheduled game	Possible Ejection from the remainder of the tournament

6.4.9 Spectator Discipline

All spectators are expected to contribute to a safe and respectful Championship environment.

Any spectator engaging in misconduct may be removed from the venue immediately and may be prohibited from attending any remaining Championship activities.

The Spectator Discipline Chart establishes the minimum sanctions applicable to spectator misconduct.

Description of Misconduct	Immediate & Mandatory Minimum	Additional Possible Sanctions
1. Spectator is disqualified or ejected from the game for disrespectfully addressing, baiting, or taunting a member of either team, or for disrespectfully addressing an official or gesturing resentment toward an official. Any form of taunting intended to embarrass, ridicule, or demean others is prohibited.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
2. Spectator is disqualified or ejected from the game for intentionally contacting an official.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
3. Spectator engages in a fight outside the definition of the game but within the jurisdiction of the game management committee. This includes a spectator who engages in a fight before or after the game but on the game site premises.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
4. Spectator who is disqualified or ejected from the game for any reason fails to leave the facility completely with no return.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season
5. Spectator acted in contravention of, or failed to act in accordance with, published rules, policies, or practices.	Immediate ejection from the game, ejection from the remainder of the tournament	PTSO contacted and actions reviewed for potential fines to club or further suspension to next season

6.4.10 Referral to Safe Sport

Certain incidents may also constitute breaches of Canada Basketball's Safe Sport policies or the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS).

Where appropriate, incidents may be referred through the applicable Safe Sport or Independent Third Party complaint process in addition to any Championship disciplinary action.

Championship sanctions do not replace or limit any subsequent disciplinary action that may be taken under Canada Basketball policies.

6.5 Safe Sport

Canada Basketball is committed to providing a sport environment that is safe, welcoming, inclusive, and free from all forms of maltreatment.

Every participant has the right to participate in basketball in an environment that promotes respect, dignity, fairness, and personal wellbeing.

The Canada Basketball Club National Championships are conducted in accordance with Canada Basketball's Safe Sport Framework and are founded on the principles of athlete welfare, respect, accountability, and integrity.

All participants share responsibility for creating and maintaining a safe and positive Championship environment.

6.5.1 Participant Responsibilities

All participants are expected to contribute to a safe and respectful environment by:

- Treating others with dignity and respect.
- Promoting inclusion and equitable participation.
- Refraining from bullying, harassment, discrimination, abuse, violence, retaliation, or neglect.
- Acting in accordance with the Canada Basketball Code of Conduct and Ethics.
- Immediately reporting concerns regarding participant safety or suspected maltreatment.
- Cooperating fully with any investigation or disciplinary process.

Participants are expected to place the safety and wellbeing of athletes above all other considerations.

6.5.2 Mandatory Safe Sport Requirements

All Team Personnel participating in the Championship must satisfy the mandatory eligibility requirements established by Canada Basketball.

These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Completion of approved Safe Sport training;
- A valid Enhanced Police Information Check (EPIC) or other approved criminal record screening;
- Completion of the Screening Disclosure Form; and
- Any additional screening requirements established by Canada Basketball.

Individuals who do not satisfy these requirements shall not be eligible to participate in the Championship in any official capacity.

Refer to Section 4 – Coach and Team Personnel Eligibility for complete eligibility requirements.

6.5.3 Reporting Concerns

Canada Basketball encourages the prompt reporting of any incident involving maltreatment, misconduct, or behaviour that may compromise the safety or wellbeing of a participant.

Reports may relate to, but are not limited to:

- Abuse or neglect;
- Harassment;
- Bullying;
- Discrimination;
- Sexual misconduct;
- Grooming;
- Hazing;
- Retaliation;
- Violence or threats of violence; or

- Any breach of Canada Basketball's Safe Sport policies.

Where there is an immediate risk to the safety of any individual, emergency services or venue security should be contacted immediately.

6.5.4 Independent Third Party (ITP)

Canada Basketball has appointed an Independent Third Party (ITP) to receive and manage complaints relating to breaches of the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS) and other applicable Safe Sport policies.

Individuals wishing to submit a Safe Sport complaint should do so through the designated Independent Third Party reporting process.

If you need to report a safe sport complaint, please file a report online:

<https://cces.ca/report-safe-sport>.

Submitting a report through the Championship disciplinary process does not prevent an individual from also submitting a Safe Sport complaint through the Independent Third Party.

6.5.5 Duty to Report

All Persons in Authority have an obligation to report actual or suspected incidents of maltreatment involving athletes or other participants.

Failure to report known or suspected maltreatment may itself constitute a breach of Canada Basketball policy and may result in disciplinary action.

6.5.6 Confidentiality and Protection Against Retaliation

Canada Basketball is committed to ensuring that concerns are handled fairly, respectfully, and as confidentially as circumstances permit.

No individual shall be subject to intimidation, retaliation, or reprisal for making a report in good faith or for participating in a Safe Sport investigation.

Acts of retaliation may result in separate disciplinary action.

6.5.7 Relationship to Championship Discipline

Incidents involving misconduct during the Championship may be addressed through more than one process.

Where appropriate, Canada Basketball may:

- Apply immediate Championship sanctions under Section 6.5;
- Refer the matter to the Independent Third Party for Safe Sport review;
- Initiate proceedings under the Canada Basketball Discipline and Complaints Policy; or
- Take any combination of the above where circumstances warrant.

Championship disciplinary decisions do not replace or limit any further action that may be taken under Canada Basketball policies or the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS).

6.6 ANTI-DOPING

Canada Basketball is committed to protecting the integrity of basketball by promoting fair competition and supporting a sport environment that is free from doping.

All participants (athletes, coaches and officials) are expected to compete in accordance with the principles of clean sport, honesty, fairness, and respect for the rules of competition.

Participation in the Canada Basketball Club National Championships constitutes agreement to comply with all applicable Anti-Doping rules and procedures and guidelines defined by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES). Participants are responsible for ensuring that no prohibited substance or prohibited method is used in violation of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP).

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7.0 COMPETITION FORMAT

7.1 Competition Philosophy

The Canada Basketball Club National Championships are designed to provide every participating team with a meaningful competitive experience while maintaining competitive integrity and an equitable pathway to final placings.

The competition format is developed to:

- provide a balanced and fair championship environment;
- ensure every team plays multiple meaningful games throughout the event;
- reward competitive performance while maintaining opportunities for all teams to compete through to the final day;
- maximize athlete development through high-quality competition.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to determine the competition format used for each Championship based on the number of participating teams, venue availability, scheduling requirements, and operational considerations. The approved competition format will be published prior to the event.

7.2 Competition Structure

Canada Basketball is currently considering two competition structure models for Club Nationals. Each model provides a distinct method for forming subsequent rounds and determining final placings across the field of participating teams.

Option 1 – Full Bracket Format

Under this model, all 32 participating teams are placed into a seeded championship bracket following the initial draw.

The competition progresses through successive championship and classification rounds, with each team's next opponent determined solely by the outcome of its previous game.

Key characteristics include:

- **Opening Round:** Teams are seeded from highest to lowest and paired accordingly (for example, Seed 1 vs. Seed 32, Seed 2 vs. Seed 31, etc).
- **Winners Bracket:** Winning teams continue through the Championship Bracket, with each new round made up of winners from the previous round.
- **Classification Rounds:** Teams that lose are placed into corresponding consolation or placement rounds, where they continue to play against other teams with similar results.
- **Final Placings:** This format creates both a championship pathway and a full placement structure, concluding with four championship games: Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4.
- **Games Played:** In this format, every team is guaranteed a minimum of four (4) games, while the eight teams competing in the championship pathway each play five (5) games.

Option 2 – Pool Play Followed by Regrouping and Playoffs

Under this model, teams first compete in preliminary round-robin pool play before advancing into placement-based playoff brackets.

Competition progresses in two stages:

Stage One – Pool Play

- Teams are divided into eight (8) pools of four (4).
- Each team plays every other team within its pool.
- Teams are ranked within their pool following completion of round-robin play.

Stage Two – Regrouping and Playoffs

Teams are regrouped according to their finishing position within their original pool:

- all 1st-place teams compete for Tier 1;
- all 2nd-place teams compete for Tier 2;
- all 3rd-place teams compete for Tier 3; and
- all 4th-place teams compete for Tier 4.

Each tier progresses through quarterfinals, semifinals, and medal/final placement games to determine final standings.

Under this format:

- every team continues to compete through the final day of the Championship;
- four championship finals (Tier 1 through Tier 4) are contested; and
- teams will play between four (4) and six (6) games depending on tournament progression.

7.3 Game Scheduling

Canada Basketball will establish the official game schedule following confirmation of the competition format and final team entries.

Daily Competition Schedule

Unless otherwise approved by Canada Basketball, games will be scheduled as follows:

Day	Competition Schedule
Friday	Three evening time slots beginning at 3:00 p.m.
Saturday	Six scheduled time slots between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Sunday	Six scheduled time slots between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Monday	Two final time slots beginning at 9:00 a.m. All games shall conclude by 12pm local time

Each scheduled game slot will be two (2) hours in duration.

Court Allocation

Games will be distributed across all available competition courts to maximize scheduling efficiency while maintaining competitive fairness.

Athlete Recovery

To support athlete welfare:

- teams will receive a minimum one-game break between scheduled games;
- teams competing in the final game of one day will not be scheduled in the opening game of the following morning whenever reasonably possible; and
- Canada Basketball will make reasonable efforts to balance recovery time throughout the Championship.

Game Operations

Unless otherwise communicated:

- teams will receive a minimum ten (10) minute warm-up period before each game;
- halftime will be seven (7) minutes in length; and
- game intervals may be adjusted where necessary to maintain the tournament schedule.

Schedule Changes

Canada Basketball reserves the right to modify the competition schedule due to weather, facility issues, delays, emergencies, or other unforeseen circumstances. All participating teams will be notified of schedule changes as soon as reasonably possible.

7.4 Seeding Procedures

The objective of the seeding process is to promote competitive balance while minimizing early-round matchups between teams from the same PTSO, where reasonably possible.

Initial Seeding

Each PTSO will submit a ranking of its qualified teams from strongest to weakest.

The highest-ranked team from each PTSO will be designated as that PTSO's #1 seed.

All #1 seeds will be randomly assigned among the designated top seed positions (1 through 11) in the competition draw.

Remaining teams will then be placed into the draw through a randomized process in accordance with the approved competition format.

Draw Administration

The official tournament draw will be conducted by Canada Basketball following receipt of all qualified team entries and PTSO rankings.

When constructing the draw, Canada Basketball will make reasonable efforts to:

- separate teams from the same PTSO during the initial stage of competition;
- maintain competitive balance throughout the competition structure; and
- preserve the integrity of the approved tournament format.

Canada Basketball reserves the right to make adjustments to the draw where necessary to address competitive, scheduling, or operational considerations.

7.5 Tiebreaking Procedures

Where two or more teams are tied in the standings following round-robin play, team classification shall be determined in accordance with the current **FIBA Official Basketball Rules**.

Where required, Canada Basketball may publish event-specific tie-breaking procedures prior to the Championship, provided they remain consistent with the FIBA Official Basketball Rules.

8.0 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

8.1 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Club Nationals dispute resolution process is to provide a clear, timely, and fair mechanism for addressing protests, appeals, and competition-related disputes that may arise during the Championship.

This process applies to matters directly related to the administration and delivery of the competition, including game protests, player eligibility, uniforms, schedules, draws, playing conditions, spectator-related matters, and other technical or operational issues that may affect the integrity of the Championship.

This section does not replace or supersede Canada Basketball's policies related to discipline, maltreatment, Safe Sport, harassment, abuse, discrimination, or other conduct matters that fall under Canada Basketball's applicable conduct, discipline, or independent reporting processes. Where a matter involves both a competition issue and a conduct or Safe Sport issue, the Tournament Committee may address the immediate competition-related impact, while the conduct-related matter may be referred to the appropriate process.

Tournament Committee

A Tournament Committee will be created to oversee any disputes, protests, questions, or competition-related issues that arise during Club Nationals. The Tournament Committee will be established prior to the start of the Championship and will be chaired by the Competition Director.

The Tournament Committee will normally be composed of:

- Competition Director;
- One CBOC Lead Referee Coach, or approved designate; and
- One representative of Canada Basketball, or assigned delegate.

A member of the Tournament Committee, or an approved designate, will be available at each competition venue during Championship play. Where necessary, the Tournament Committee may meet in person, by phone, or by electronic means in order to render a timely decision.

The Tournament Committee has final authority over competition-specific protests, disputes, and questions arising during Club Nationals. Its decisions are final and binding for the purposes of the Championship and are not subject to further appeal during the event.

A Tournament Committee member who has a real or perceived conflict of interest in relation to the matter being reviewed must declare the conflict and may be replaced by an approved designate.

Matters Within the Authority of the Tournament Committee

The Tournament Committee may be called upon to review and decide matters including, but not limited to:

- Game protests submitted in accordance with the process outlined in Section 8.4;
- Player or team eligibility concerns;
- Uniform compliance issues;
- Schedule, draw, or classification disputes;
- Playing surface, equipment, or venue-related concerns;
- Spectator conduct that has a direct impact on the competition environment;
- Administrative errors affecting the conduct of a game or the Championship;
- Other technical or operational matters affecting the fairness or integrity of the competition.

The Tournament Committee will not review matters based solely on the judgment of game officials, including but not limited to fouls, violations, out-of-bounds decisions, timing judgments, or other calls made in the normal course of officiating, except where a protest alleges that a rule, procedure, or administrative requirement was misapplied in a way that may have affected the result or integrity of the game.

8.2 Game Protest Procedure

Should a team believe that its interests have been adversely affected by a decision of an official, a misapplication of the rules, or by an event that occurred during a game, the team must follow the protest procedure below.

Step 1: Immediate Notice of Protest

Immediately at the conclusion of the game, the Head Coach or Team Manager must inform the commissioner, if present, or the Crew Chief that the team is protesting the result of the game.

The Head Coach or Team Manager must also ensure that the scoresheet is signed in the designated protest area, in accordance with the applicable FIBA protest procedure adopted for the Championship.

Failure to provide immediate notice at the conclusion of the game may result in the protest being dismissed.

Step 2: Written Confirmation and Deposit

To make the protest valid, an official team representative must provide written confirmation of the protest to a member of the Tournament Committee within twenty (20) minutes following the end of the game.

The written confirmation does not need to include a full explanation of the protest at this stage but must clearly indicate that the team is formally protesting the result or circumstances of the game.

A protest deposit of \$250 CAD must be submitted at the time of written confirmation. If the Tournament Committee rules in favour of the protesting team, the deposit will be refunded. If the protest is denied, the deposit will be retained by Canada Basketball.

Step 3: Full Written Protest Submission

The official team representative must submit the full written protest to the Tournament Committee within one (1) hour following the end of the game.

The full written protest must include:

- The game number, teams involved, date, time, and venue;
- The specific rule, procedure, or issue being protested;
- A clear summary of the facts and circumstances;
- The impact the issue had, or may have had, on the game or team;
- The remedy being requested; and
- Any supporting information or evidence the team wishes to have considered.

Protests submitted outside the required timelines may be dismissed unless the Tournament Committee determines that exceptional circumstances prevented timely submission.

8.3 Referee Report

The Crew Chief, commissioner, or other relevant game official must provide a report to the Tournament Committee within one (1) hour following the end of the game, or as soon as reasonably possible. The report should include the facts related to the incident or issue under protest, any rule or procedure applied, and any other relevant information requested by the Tournament Committee.

8.4 Review and Decision

The Tournament Committee will review the written protest, the referee or commissioner report, the official scoresheet, and any other relevant information it determines necessary.

The Tournament Committee may request additional information from team representatives, officials, venue staff, Canada Basketball staff, or other individuals with relevant knowledge of the matter.

The Tournament Committee will make every reasonable effort to render a decision as soon as possible, particularly where the outcome may affect advancement, classification, scheduling, or the next round of play.

The Tournament Committee may determine one or more of the following outcomes:

- Dismiss the protest;
- Uphold the protest;
- Confirm the original game result;
- Correct an administrative or procedural error;
- Adjust a schedule, draw, or classification placement;
- Order that a game, or a portion of a game, be replayed where permitted and practical;
- Declare a forfeit where eligibility or competition rules have been breached;
- Refer a conduct, discipline, or Safe Sport matter to the appropriate process; or
- Apply any other remedy deemed appropriate to protect the integrity of the Championship.

The decision of the Tournament Committee will be communicated in writing to the affected team or teams. The decision will be final and binding for the purposes of the Championship.

8.5 Use of Video, Film, or Other Evidence

Video, film, photographs, electronic records, digital media, or other visual evidence may be considered by the Tournament Committee where relevant to the matter under review.

However, video or other visual evidence may not be used to re-officiate judgment calls made during the game, unless specifically permitted under the applicable rules of play or event regulations.

Video or other evidence may be used after the game for the following purposes:

- Reviewing administrative or procedural matters;
- Determining responsibility in discipline-related matters;
- Assessing eligibility, uniform, or participation concerns;
- Supporting education, training, or referee development;
- Reviewing conduct that may require further action under Canada Basketball policies.

The Tournament Committee has discretion to determine what evidence is relevant, reliable, and admissible for the purposes of the review.

8.6 Non-Game Competition Disputes

Competition-related disputes that do not arise directly from the result of a game may be submitted to the Competition Director or a member of the Tournament Committee as soon as the issue becomes known.

These matters may include, but are not limited to, eligibility concerns, schedule disputes, uniform issues, venue conditions, spectator conduct, or draw/classification concerns.

The Tournament Committee may establish an expedited process for reviewing non-game disputes, including modified timelines where required to protect the fairness and orderly operation of the Championship.

Teams are expected to raise concerns in a timely manner. A team that fails to raise a known issue before participating in a game or subsequent round may lose the ability to seek a remedy, unless the Tournament Committee determines that exceptional circumstances apply.

8.7 Expectations of Teams

All protests and disputes must be submitted respectfully and in good faith.

Teams, coaches, athletes, parents, spectators, and other team personnel must not use the protest process to challenge routine officiating judgment, delay the competition, intimidate officials, or undermine the orderly operation of the Championship.

Any inappropriate conduct connected to a protest, including abusive language, harassment, intimidation, refusal to continue play, or failure to comply with a decision of the Tournament Committee, may be referred for discipline in accordance with Canada Basketball's applicable policies and Championship regulations.



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