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Water Polo Canada NextGen Athlete Identification Project

The objective of this document is to describe a one-time initiative that Water Polo Canada (WPC) will be conducting to support the identification and development of its Next Generation (NextGen) Athletes. The project has started in the middle of February and will be completed close to the end of March or early April 2018. This project is one phase of the WPC's delivery of new tools that will support talent identification, team selection for future Age Group National Teams, and is part of our overall High Performance Development Strategy.

This document will use a number of different terms and acronyms that can be found both in this document and also on the WPC Website under the High Performance Development Section (<http://www.waterpolo.ca/hpdevstrategy.aspx>). For the purpose of this document and for the project it is critical to understand the definition of Next Generation (NextGen) Athletes in the context of the Canadian Sport System.

Definition Next Generation "NextGen" Athletes

A NextGen athlete is one who is 8 to 5 years out from winning a medal at the Olympic Games. In the context of this project, our target is for athletes who are projecting to make the 2024 Olympic Games Team. In the context of Water Polo, it is important to understand more clearly what this means and how it is applied.

	Women	Men
Youngest Medalist	17	18
Oldest Medalist	37	38
Average Medalist Age	25.28	27.61
Youngest Team Average	23.38	25.15
Oldest Team Average	28.46	29.15

Data used from the past 5 Olympic games (2000 to 2016)

Therefore the different age ranges are as follows:

Men: Core group aged 19-24 (can be as young as 14 years old)

Women: Core group aged 17-22 (can be as young as 12 years old)

Project Overview

Currently, WPC is lacking critical information on all of its NextGen Athletes including developing enhanced training, monitoring and long-term competition plans and including an assessment of their Daily Training Environment (DTE). Additionally, there is the need to increase the depth of the data we currently have on the athletes and other future athletes that may have been overlooked. Experience coaches who are involved and who currently know the athletes well within their region best complete this data gathering.

WPC has contracted one Project Lead Coach who will be based out of Montreal and whose role is to ensure alignment with the ongoing National Team Coaches and each Regional Coach.

Project Lead Coach: Daniel Bekhazi

Regional Coaches

Region	Coach
Vancouver/ Saanich	John Stockdale Nikola Maric
Fraser Valley	Marie Anderson
Calgary	Noah Miller
Edmonton	Raine Paul
Saskatchewan	Ethan D'Souza
Manitoba	Kelsey Johansen
GTA, Golden Horseshoe	Nishant Damani
Ottawa/ Gatineau	David Hart
Montreal	Francisco Zelaya

Note to all participants: this is an initiative that is supported and approved jointly by Own the Podium, Sport Canada and the Canadian Olympic Foundation that are a few of our great partners and supporters within the Canadian Sport System.

For additional information or questions please feel free to contact Water Polo Canada's High Performance Direction, Justin Oliveira (jliveira@waterpolo.ca).