



**Athlete and Coach Pathways Committee**  
**January 2024**  
**MINUTES**

In attendance: Brian Newman (Chair), Dawna Sales (Vice-Chair), Ed Drakich, Jim Plakas, Keith Hansen, Monette Boudreau-Carroll

Regrets: Ian Halliday, Julien Boucher

1. VC Updates
  - a. Overall growth is approx. 25% with the largest increase in the number of boys participating. The growth of membership is creating challenges with facilities that all PTAs are managing.
  - b. Coach pathways are investigating and piloting opportunities to lead the education of coaches through mentorship and a modular approach to learning.
  - c. Canada Games
    - i.2025 – Exemption to have all coaches (Indoor and Beach) Advanced Development Certified provided by Canada Games Council
    - ii.2029 – Indoor M/W and Beach M/W applications have been approved for inclusion.
2. Discussion Items:
  - a. Feedback to National Championships Committee re: Elite division at Nationals
    - i. Questions for the committee:
      1. What is the difference between div 1?
      2. Would teams apply? How would teams be determined?
      3. Qualifying vs not getting into event – multi-faceted.
    - ii. Current Reality:
      1. The competition is well tiered.
      2. Elite in each PTA is very different.
    - iii. Conclusion:
      1. Focus on better environment to perform – Practice times, Courts, (i.e. appropriate flooring), 5 metre free zone.
      2. Could change the dynamics of how clubs operate, create a different set of issues – recruiting
  - b. Pilot project analysis
    - i. Rules: Aligning with international, CCAA, USport – recognizing that this may not apply to youth club
      1. 2 liberos
        - a. Encourage a PTA to test at 18U/17U/Canada Cup
        - b. Test at Canada Cup but only in top divisions.
        - c. Need to be cautioned to communicate to PTAs about not limiting development or specialization.
      - i. ACTION ITEM:
        1. Determine data to be collected.



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- a. How many teams used it.
        - b. Coach application/feedback.
        - c. Other?
      2. Provide option to PTAs for 2024 Canada Cup
      3. Connect with NextGen Coaches for feedback on implementation.
    2. Substitutions
      - a. Test 12 limited and Canada Cup
        - i. ACTION ITEM:
          1. Determine data to be collected.
            - a. Usage
            - b. # of substitutions used per set/match
            - c. Coach application/feedback.
            - d. Other?
          2. Provide option to PTAs for 2024 Canada Cup
    3. Net heights
      - a. To be piloted at the PTAs club level, if interested (16U Boys)
  - c. Age Eligibility
    - i. Post secondary participation within the extended age group
    - ii. Limit the number of athletes playing post secondary that are age eligible with the 16-month age window @ 18U
      1. Limited to 2 athletes maximum
      2. To be verified by the PTA
      3. Approved
        - a. ACTION ITEM:
          - i. Brian to draft letter to Luke
          - ii. Dawna to draft policy to share with PTAs for 2025.
  - d. Coaching Eligibility Requirements
    - i. Concepts:
      1. Continuing education, coaches to determine their own pathway.
      2. Development Coach as priority.
      3. Allowing coaches to come into the system in a more accessible way.
        - a. ACTION ITEM:
          - i. Dawna to draft policy for 2025
3. Committee engagement/influence
  - i. Develop working groups for development areas.
4. Potential Rule Changes
  - a. Post Paris
    - i. Hand setting – decreased double contact calls in both indoor and beach

Next Meeting: End of Apr

11 March 2024