

Team Manitoba Athlete Selection Policy

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

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

Eligibility for Selection

- The athlete must be a registered member in good standing with Cheer Manitoba.
- The athlete must be a permanent resident of Manitoba to be selected to Team Manitoba.
- The athlete must be medically fit to compete in both training and competitions.
- The athlete must be eligible to travel Nationally and/or internationally.

Residency Exceptions:

Exception to the permanent residency requirement, will be considered on a case specific basis by the Cheer Manitoba Board of Directors and/or Executive Director provided that the athlete can substantiate in writing that:

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

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

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

Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

1. Physical Assessment and Individual Skill Assessment
 - Ability to meet accepted standards in the following physical indicators based on the level of the team competition
2. Tactical Assessment
 - Ability to utilize information provided by the coaching staff and relate it to individual or team performance.

- Ability to effectively communicate with teammates and coaches during training and competitions.
3. Behavioral Assessment
 - Demonstrates qualities conducive to individual improvement such as: Self-motivated, strong work ethic, responsible and focused.
 - Demonstrates qualities conducive to team success such as: Strong leadership, positive attitude, effective communication and coachability.
 4. Potential to Develop
 - In the opinion of the coaches responsible for selection, the athlete possesses some of the characteristics necessary for future performance at the Provincial or National level.
 5. Number of Positions Available
 - The number of positions available in a Team Manitoba program is dependent on the roster size allowed under the regulations of the competition(s) attended as well as the determined depth of the athlete pool. Cheer Manitoba along with the High-Performance Committee and Team Manitoba Coaches also will decide if alternative athletes will be assigned to the various teams.

Age Groups

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

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

- Ability to meet the program's standards through the assessment process
- Minimum/Maximum age dictated by Cheer Canada
- Minimum/Maximum age dictated by other entities) where Team Manitoba will compete.

Selection Process

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

Step 1: Athlete Identification

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

The Team Manitoba Athlete Identification forms will be reviewed by:

- Team Manitoba Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches of the respective age group.

Step 2: Selection Camp Invitation

Following the review of the Athlete Identification forms, athletes will be invited to attend the Team Manitoba selection camp at the date and location set by Cheer Manitoba. It is the intention of Cheer Manitoba to provide as many athletes as possible with the opportunity to compete for a position with a Team Manitoba program.

Step 3: Final Selection

At the conclusion of the selection camp, athlete selection will be made by the head and assistant coaches. Athlete selections will be reviewed to ensure that:

- There were no club/team biases in the selection made by the coaches
- All selections were based on the Team Manitoba Selection Criteria
- The selections are aligned with the primary focus of the respective Team Manitoba program. The High-Performance Committee and the Cheer Manitoba Board of Directors will be informed of the final selections prior to the athletes being notified. Every effort will be made to make the selection process as efficient as possible and inform athletes in a timely manner following the conclusion of the selection camp

Injury During Selection Process

In the case where an athlete participating in the selection process gets injured before the athlete selection is announced, the following procedure will be implemented:

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

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

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

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

- The athlete is deemed apt to complete the selection process
 - i. The athlete will follow the normal selection process

- The athlete is deemed unable to complete the selection process but is likely to be healthy for Team Manitoba training
 - i. The respective coaches and provincial high-performance coach will consider past evaluations of the athlete, any information that was gathered on the athlete before the injury happened and past involvement in Team Manitoba programs to make a decision to extend an invitation. If no past evaluations are available, the athlete may still be considered for Team Manitoba training programs but due to travel and roster requirements may not be included in teams travelling to competitions.
- The athlete is deemed unable to complete the selection process and won't be healthy for Team Manitoba training
 - i. The athlete will be removed from the selection process
 - ii. The program coaches along with the provincial high-performance coach will involve the athlete and/or their parents/guardians in their decision to consider the status of the athlete in the selection process based on the injury assessment. The final decision will be made with the long-term health of the athlete as the main consideration.

Review and Approval

1. This policy will be reviewed every two years.
2. This Policy was approved by the Organization's Board of Directors July 20, 2022.