



U SPORTS

Sport Department Part 1



06/13/2023



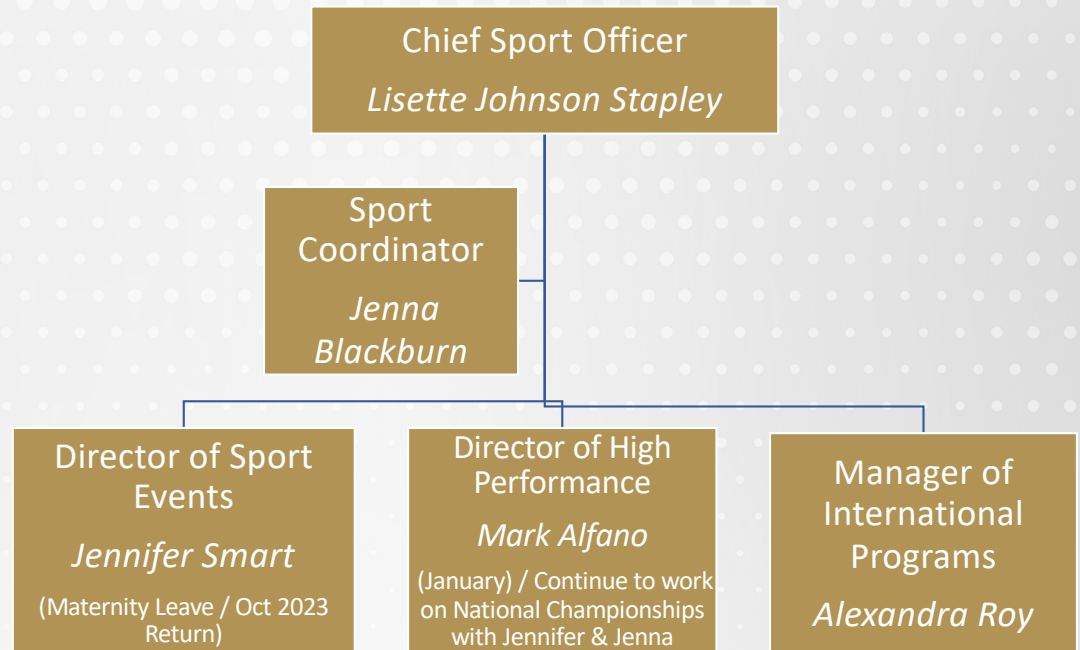
AGENDA.

1. General Sport Department Update
2. Sport Model & Timelines
3. National Championship Business Plan & Timelines
4. National Championship 2023-2024 Highlights
5. National Championship Bid Process Timelines
6. Sport Technical Sub Committee Updates
7. Program Development





Sport Staff Structure.





General Updates & Focus.

National Championships.

- Business Plan
- Improved Program for 2025-2026 (Branding, Evaluations, Host Reporting, Financial and Hosting Models)
- More sophisticated Bid Processes with timelines
- Final approval for last Berth spots and Formats for a 4 year cycle (starting in 25-26)

Sport Model.

- Development, Execution & Evaluation

Coaching.

- Female Apprentice Coach Program
- Creating Coaches Program

Sport Decision Making Governance.

- Sport Committee
- Sport Technical Sub Committees (STSCs)
- Policies
- U SPORTS Governance Decision Making Process

Partnerships.

- Hockey Canada
- Pro Sport – CEBL, CPL, CPWSL
- NSOs – Officials Development, Sport Technical & FISU

International.

- Exploring Future Hosting Opportunities





Sport Model.

OPERATIONALIZATION OF TENNIS.

a. Sport Declaration - Member Fee, Timing & Portal Fee

- ▶ Member Sport Fee: \$500 for women's tennis team and \$500 for men's tennis team (*in accordance with other comparable U SPORTS sport fees*)
- ▶ Declaration process will remain open longer than our existing sports. All universities who wish to participate in the sport of tennis must submit declaration and abide by all corresponding requirements by at least 2 weeks prior to the start of their regional qualifying event for the U SPORTS Tennis Championship. The regional qualifying event in each instance is defined with Tennis Canada and the applicable region (as referenced below in section d on participation).
 - Atlantic Provinces – March 2024 (last qualifier)
 - Quebec Region – April 2024
 - Ontario – October 2023
 - Western Canada – March 2024

- ▶ Portal Fee for all Student-Athletes registered with U SPORTS - \$50 (one-time charge) (*in accordance with other U SPORTS sports*). As you know, this cost covers access to U SPORTS Central Eligibility Registration

NOTES:

- No charge for Coaches Excellence Fees
- No charge for Member Branding Fee
- ▶ Eligibility Certificates – Once having declared, universities are required to complete an eligibility form for each participating student-athlete in the sport of Tennis (As per current practice with all other U SPORTS Sports). The due date for this form is to be confirmed.





b. Eligibility & Compliance Requirements (approval by the U SPORTS Eligibility Committee)

- ▶ Full Compliance with Eligibility Policy 40
- ▶ Student-Athletes will be allowed to participate in National Championships for a maximum of 5 academic years
- ▶ U SPORTS will be discussing other eligibility items related to Tennis with the Eligibility Committee at the 2023 U SPORTS Conference & AGM (including but not limited to course load timelines, graduated students, eligibility certificate timelines and thresholds)

i. Championship Policies

- ▶ All Eligibility Policies apply
- ▶ AFA Policies do NOT apply

ii. Participation

- ▶ Conference sanctioning is not required for teams to be able to qualify for the U SPORTS Tennis Invitational championship
- ▶ The U SPORTS Tennis Invitational championship will continue to use these existing qualification processes as agreed to by the region and Tennis Canada.
- ▶ A minimum of 2 geographic regions must be represented
- ▶ A Minimum of 8 members must declare through U SPORTS Central of Declaration of Participation

c. Playing Regulations

- ▶ Tennis Canada's Playing Regulations will be posted on the U SPORTS Website – as per previous University Championships

d. Hosting Model

- ▶ There will not be any bid process for Tennis as the current university championship will continue as Tennis Canada is operating.

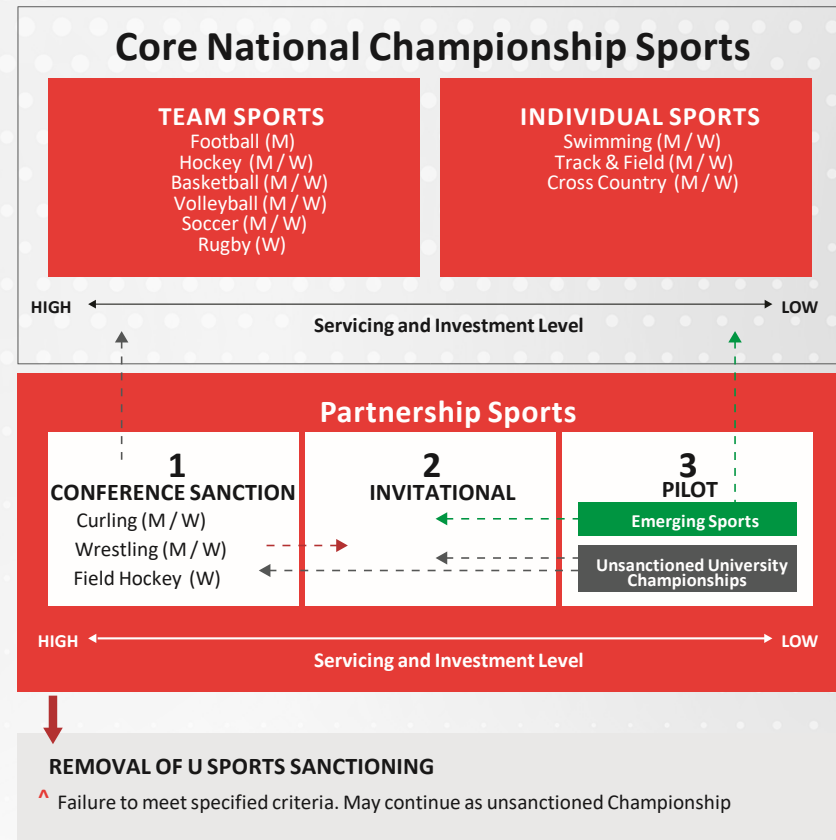
e. Awards & Recognition

- ▶ Champions will receive an Invitational Champion Banner
- ▶ Athletes will be eligible for Academic All Canadians
- ▶ Individual awards for the sport of tennis will be determined based on Tennis Canada's award selection process
- ▶ There will not be any U SPORTS Top 10s or Players of the Week Programming





Framework.





SPORT MODEL. TIMELINES

Date	Action
2019-2023	Program Development & Collaboration
November 2022	Board Approval of Inclusion of Tennis
December 2022	Memo to Membership re. approval of Tennis
May 1	Declaration through U SPORTS portal
Next Steps	
Week June 5	Distribute Additional Information to members re. the operationalization of the Sport Model Program for Tennis
Week of June 12	Presentation to Membership
Week of June 12	Additional Eligibility work
August 2023	Sign MOU & Agreement with Tennis Canada
2023-2024	Develop Templates & Evaluation Processes
2023-2024	Determine new cycle for application process
Regional Qualifiers	- 2 weeks declaration period from each regional qualifier
2025-2026	<i>Call for next applications for Sport model Program *TBD</i>
2026-2027	<i>Application / Review Process * TBD (announce members spring 2027)</i>
2027-2028	<i>New Sports being added/reategorization of sports *TBC (Declaration spring 2007)</i>



National Championship Business Plan.

- Goals & Objective
- SWOT analysis
- Market Research / Economic Impact
- Ticketing Strategy
- Merchandise Strategy
- Recognition Programming
- Hosting Model – rotation / best bid
- Financial Model
- Bid Processes
- Sport Technical –Formats, Dates of Championships, Rotation
- Sport Technical – Berth Structures, Formats, Seeding





Decision-Making – Business Plan.

DATE	ACTION
2019 U SPORTS Conference & AGM	Breakout Session with Membership on National Championship Principles
2020-2022	Discussion & Feedback with STSCs & Sport Committee; Assessment of Principles against Berth Structures – result: where does Participation sit; how define earned berths mean; what sports can be the same and why have to be different & adjustments due to COVID impact
July 5, 2021	Memo Membership Update/Principles approved
2021-2022 Season	Discussions with various Committees on assessment of Principles on current Berth structures for 2022-23/2023-24/2024-25
August 2022 & April 2023	Sport Technical Sub-Committee discussions and recommendations on the status quo of Berth structures for 2022-23/2023-24/2024-25
February & June 2023	Sport Committee review of Berth structures 2023-24 / 2024-25 in alignment with Business Plan
2023 U SPORTS Conference & AGM	Member session to provide additional information on Business Plan & Berth Structures, Hosting Model, Dates of Championships
NEXT STEPS	
Summer 2023	Berth Structure and format analysis
August & September 2023	Consultation with STSC's & Sport Committee, Recommendation to CSO & CEO
September 2023 – February 2024	Develop Business Plan – SWOT analysis, Hosting model, Financial model, Sport Technical overlay
September 2023	Recommendation to CSO and CEO
October 2023	Presentation to membership via zoom
January 2023	Communication to membership. Approved changes to be in effect in September of 2025.
2024 U SPORTS Conference & AGM	Presentation of first draft of the National Championship Business Plan





NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
2022-2023 HOSTS



National Championships.

CHAMPIONSHIP HOSTS – THANK YOU!

2022-2023

Cross Country	Dalhousie University / Saint Mary's University
Women's Rugby, Field Hockey, Swimming	University of Victoria
Women's Soccer	Universite Laval
Men's Soccer	Thompson Rivers University
Mitchell Bowl, Vanier Cup	Western University
Uteck Bowl, Men's Basketball	St. Francis Xavier University
Wrestling	University of Alberta
Track & Field	University of Saskatchewan
Women's Basketball	Cape Breton University
Women's Hockey	University of Montreal
Men's Hockey	University of Prince Edward Island
Women's Volleyball	University of British Columbia
Men's Volleyball	McMaster University
Curling	Laurentian University





National Championships.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022-2023.

- **Staged all 21 national championships for the first time since 2018 – 2019.**
- Men's Soccer Host Thompson Rivers University captured **their first U SPORTS Championship** in front of a sold-out stadium.
- **First joint** Cross Country Championship with Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University showcasing cross country **amid a tropical storm that impacted the course, broadcast, and the overall event.**
- **St-FX University & SEA saw record-breaking attendance of 40,092 over the three-day Men's Basketball event.** Carleton's 17th win came in front of 9000 fans.
- Mount Royal University claimed **their first women's hockey national championship** in an overtime victory over Concordia University.
- Brock University (men) captured their eighth-straight U SPORTS wrestling title, while the Alberta Pandas (women) captured their second national title in program history, ending the Badgers title run at nine. **It is the Pandas first national title since 2011.**
- Laurentian University hosted their **first National Curling Championship** with their women capturing bronze
- **First time U SPORTS received multiple bid proposals** to host a Vanier Cup
- **Ticket sell outs** at various games - Men's soccer (Thompson Rivers), Men's volleyball (McMaster), Women's basketball (CBU), Men's hockey (UPEI), Women's volleyball (UBC)





National Championships.

BID PROCESS HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ *Increase in professionalism of bids*
- ❖ *More emphasis on elevating fan experience & ticket sales*
- ❖ *Continued commitment to student-athlete experience*
- ❖ *On-going interest on bid selection committees by Event/Tourism Experts*

BIDS AWARDED IN 2022-2023

- Vanier Cup 2023 and 2024 awarded to Queen's University (OUA)
- 2023 Cross Country awarded to Western University (OUA)
- 2024 Cross Country awarded to UBCO (CW)
- 2024 Women's Rugby awarded to UPEI (AUS)
- 2024 Women's Soccer awarded to Dalhousie (AUS)
- 2024 Men's Soccer awarded to Ontario Tech (OUA)
- 2024 Swimming awarded to McGill University (RSEQ)
- 2024 Track and Field awarded to University of Manitoba (CW)
- 2025 Track and Field awarded to University of Windsor (OUA)
- 2024 Women's Basketball awarded to University of Alberta (CW)
- 2024 Men's Basketball awarded to Universite Laval (RSEQ)
- 2025 Men's and Women's Basketball awarded to UBC (CW)
- 2024 Women's Hockey awarded to University of Saskatchewan (CW)
- 2025 Women's Hockey awarded to University of Waterloo (OUA)
- 2024 Men's Hockey awarded to Toronto Metropolitan University (OUA)
- 2025 Men's Hockey awarded to University of Ottawa (OUA)
- *Still to be awarded 2024 and 2025 Wrestling, 2025 Swimming*





Bid Process. Bid Book Timelines.

DATE	ACTION
June 2023	➤ Align Timelines with the National Championships Business Plan & Sport Technical considerations
July 2023	➤ LOI For Vanier Cup & Distribution of Vanier Cup Bid Book
October 2023	➤ Vanier Cup Bid Books are due
November 2023	➤ Bid presentations for Vanier Cup *Announcement at 2023 Vanier Cup
Next Steps	
January 2024	➤ Email to membership – letter of intent and bid timelines for Fall & Winter National Championships 2025-2026; 2026-2027 *Subject to change
April 2024	➤ National Championship bid packages due (2025-2026 & 2026-2027) *subject to change ➤ Email to membership – letter of intent and bid timelines for Fall & Winter National Championships, 2027-2028 & 2028-2029 *Subject to change
May 2024	➤ Bid Presentations for National Championships (2025-2026 & 2026-2027) *subject to change
June 2024	➤ Host Announcements for 2025-2026 Hosts
August 2024	➤ 2027-2028 & 2028-2029 Bid Presentations due
September 2024	➤ Bid Presentations for National Championships (2027-2028 & 2028-2029) *subject to change
October 2024	➤ Host announcements for 2027-2028 & 2028-2029 Hosts





Sport Technical Sub Committees (STSCs).

Basketball; Football; Hockey; Rugby; Soccer; Swimming;
Wrestling; Volleyball; Coaches Associations in T&F and
Cross Country

Thank you to departing committee members!

Men's Hockey – Clarke SINGER
Women's Hockey – Matthew HOLMBERG
Women's Hockey – Danika SMITH
Men's Volleyball – Jean-Pierre CHANCY
Women's Rugby – Mitch FRANCOIS
Men's and Women's Soccer – Evelyne FLEURY
Football – Julie DIONNE
Football – Wally GABLER
Wrestling – Francis CLAYTON
Wrestling – Tom MCRAE
Wrestling – Doug COX





Key Changes in 2022-2023.

FOOTBALL

- Roster size stays frozen at 110
- Increase declaration of roster size to 52 with reduction to final 48 2 hrs before game time
- Request approval at 2023 Conference & AGM for more Flexibility in determining when 20 out of season practices take place (extend to end of May with exclusion of East/West Bowl dates)
- Increase # of All-Canadians from 27 to 29
- Request approval at 2023 Conference & AGM to allow recruits (accepted, committed and medically cleared) to participate in spring camps
- Review Football Bowl rotation (end in 2024)

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- Implemented new algorithm to determine Top 10 for seeding purposes (removal of exhibition play in metric)
- Increase in declaration from 14 to 16
- Request approval at 2023 Conference & AGM to Increase international roster spots from 2 to 3
- Reviewed request to change dates for Queen's Hosting in 2024

HOCKEY

- Change dates for Championships

SOCCER – no changes

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Coaches poll Top 10 as a starting point of seeding

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL – no changes

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

- Uniform changes
- Increase in declaration from 14 to 16

SWIMMING

- Hosting rotation (2024-RSEQ; 2025-OUA; 2026-AUS)
- Updated format & schedule of events
- Moving finals and heats forward by 30 minutes
- Consider only running A and B finals for 400m

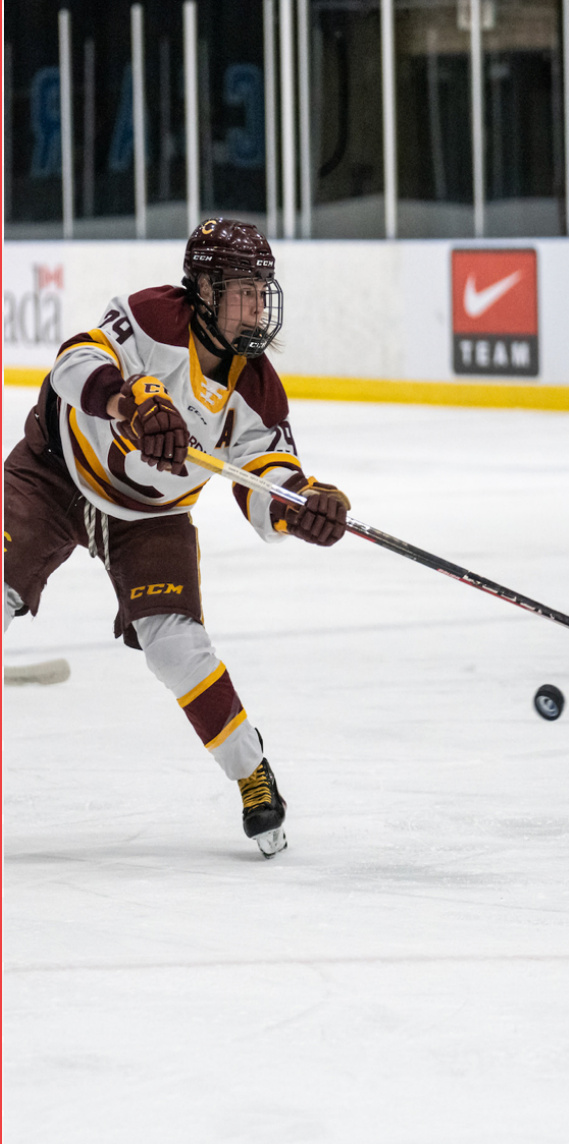
WRESTLING

- Increase # of women's weight classes from 9 to 10 to match men
- Change to women's weight classes as follows: 50, 53, 56, 59, 62, 65, 68, 72, 76, 83

RUGBY

- Request approval at 2023 Conference and AGM to increase bench compliment to 32 from 30





STSC Priorities in 2023-2024.

- STSC Composition to meet Terms of Reference
- Berth structures & formats
- Championship schedules & dates
- ELO's use in seeding and Top 10
- Video sharing platform (pre & during Championship)
- National Coaches meetings & professional development





Berth Structures, Format & Seeding Review.

4-YEAR CYCLE

DATE	ACTION
2023-2024	➤ Berth Structure & Format approval for 2025/26 – 2028/29 seasons
2025-2026 through to 2028-2029 season	➤ New Berth Structure & Format implementation (4 seasons)
2026-2027	➤ Review of, Berth Structures, Format & Seeding ➤ Next Bid Processes (4 seasons)
2029-2030 through to 2032-2033	➤ New Berth Structure Implementation





Program Development.

OFFICIATING. COACHING.

Officials

- Increased officials' fees for consistency across genders
- Working closely with NSO's on officials' selection for U SPORTS National Championships

Female Apprentice Coach Program

- 18 participants each year
- Participation from 40 U SPORTS institutions over 3 years
- In 2022:
 - Participants from 7 U SPORTS female sports and 1 U SPORTS male sport
 - Included Leadership Development program with sessions aimed at Apprentice Coaches, Mentor Coaches and Athletic Directors

Hockey Canada Creating Coaches Program

- Student-athletes take on an assistant coach role with a U13, U15 or U18 girls team and receive an honorarium for the season, monthly mentorship and professional development and all required training for two years
- 4 Creating Coaches student-athletes were contracted by Hockey Canada to lead all on-ice programming for the Community tournament during the Women's World Championships in April
- Hockey Canada provided matching funding to the Women's Hockey FACP participant in 2022





Program Development.

HIGH PERFORMANCE SERIES.

Men's Hockey All-Star Series – 2022-2023 (December)

- Two game series hosted in Moncton, NB vs Canada's National World Junior hopefuls
- Players selected exclusively from the AUS due to ongoing challenges with Hockey Canada in 2022
- Athlete representation from all 7 AUS teams

Men's Hockey All Star Series – 2023-2024

- Coaching and team Staff Application Process

Women's Hockey All Star Series – 2023-2024 (August)





International.

**SPORT PRESENTATION PART 2.
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMING.
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2023.**





THANK YOU

U SPORTS