



Program Eligibility – Special Allowances

BC Artistic Swimming sets eligibility requirements for provincial programs to align with the various phases of artistic swimming's Long Term Athlete Development model. The purpose of this document is to inform BC Artistic Swimming's membership of the requirements to request consideration for an athlete to participate in a program where they would otherwise be ineligible due to age restrictions. (Note: Age and/or program eligibility in relation to national programs, including Canada Games, are subject to the criteria and/or exemption processes provided by the relevant governing bodies).

PROCESS

1. Club must submit a formal request (see requirements below), in writing, to BC Artistic Swimming (ed@bcartisticswimming.ca) **no less than 2 week prior to the start of the specific program.**
2. BC Artistic Swimming confirms receipt of the request within 48 hours.
3. The request is reviewed and considered by the Leadership Team (High Performance Director, Sport Development Director & Executive Director) who will render a decision.
4. The decision of the Leadership Team will be sent to the BC Artistic Swimming Board of Directors and the club submitting the request along with the rationale for the decision.
5. An appeal of the decision by the involved parties must meet the stipulations outlined in the BC Artistic Swimming Appeals Policy.

REQUEST REQUIREMENTS

1. Athlete information
 - a. Name
 - b. Date of Birth
 - c. Previous or current season competition results
 - d. Current stage in the Long Term Athlete Development model
 - e. Current yearly training plan (YTP)
2. Letter from club's Board of Directors supporting the request
3. Letter from the athlete's parents/guardians stating that they understand what is being requested and the potential impact on their child/ward.
4. A description of how the BC Artistic Swimming program aligns with the athlete's current stage in the LTAD model using [Canada Artistic Swimming's LTAD Framework 2.1](#).
5. Other relevant information that the club deems important in the request.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide suitable evidence that athletes have the physical and emotional development and skills to train in an age division for which they are not currently eligible. In rendering its decision, the Leadership Team may consider the following:

- Ranking in provincial and/or national competitions in their age-appropriate division, specifically a trend in dominating the first-place ranking demonstrating the need for a great challenge;
- Ranking in provincial and/or national competitions in an older age division, specifically a trend in consistently placing in the Top 6 of an older age division;
- Ranking in provincial and/or national trials and testing activities including Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) Skills Testing, and Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) and Talent Identification (TID) events;
- Demonstrated *High Performance Readiness*, including, but not limited to:
 - demonstrated physical, emotional and skills maturity, including their Peak Height Velocity (PHV)
 - demonstrated ability to thrive in a training and/or competition environment with older athletes
 - demonstrated ability to manage the pressure of a high performance environment
 - demonstrated ability to receive and apply constructive criticism
 - demonstrated ability to balance priorities, including school, sport/artistic swimming, and other extracurricular activities