



## Overview

**Climb Nova Scotia**, the official Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) representing climbing in Nova Scotia, will be assembling a high performance team for the 2027 Canada Winter Games in Quebec City (Quebec). This will be the first time that climbing will be included in these games.

This document will provide clear details on the qualification pathway for these games.

An initial selection process will be conducted, from which a Training Squad will be assembled. The goal of this team is to deepen the competitive field in Nova Scotia and provide a high performance development opportunity to a wider, dedicated team. All members of the Training Squad will participate in the preparation process, including all practices and training camps. Finally, from the Training Squad, 2 male and 2 female athletes will be selected to attend the 2027 Canada Games. Alternates will also be named, in case final team members are unable to participate at the time of the Canada Games.

**Dates:** February 27th-March 6th OR March 7th-March 14th 2027 (week TBD)

**Website:** [Canada Games Official Website](#)

## Team Structure

- “The Training Squad”: 2-4 men, 2-4 women
- Final selected team for the Canada Games: 2 men, 2 women
- 1 Head Coach, 1 Apprentice Coach, 1 Team Manager
  - **Head Coach:** Dominique Hurst
  - **Team Manager:** Ian Downie
  - **Apprentice Coach:** Kenzie Morrison

## Eligibility Requirements

- Years of birth: 2007-2012
- Must have a valid CEC and CNS athlete license
- Athletes must reside in Nova Scotia throughout the selection and training process (May 2026 - February 2027)
- Must demonstrate interest in learning to lead climb
  - Prior experience is a plus
  - Opportunities will be provided to develop the athlete’s lead climbing skills and experience

# Selection Process

A holistic approach will be taken in selecting the Training Squad and final Canada Games Team. Equal weight will be placed on the following items:

## Competition Results

- In their application, athletes will select what they feel represents their best 4 showings in the past 2 years (boulder or lead) at any of the following levels of competition:
  - **Local:** must be a sanctioned CNS event as part of the Youth 2025 or 2026 circuit. Note these events may have been hosted in either New Brunswick or Nova Scotia as part of the youth competitive circuit.
    - Results from competitions sanctioned by other PSOs will also be considered (ex: Ontario Climbing Federation, Alberta Climbing Association, Sport Climb BC, etc).
  - **Regionals:** 2025 or 2026 Youth Eastern or Western Regionals, as hosted by CEC.
  - **Nationals:** 2025 or 2026 Canadian Youth Nationals, as hosted by CEC.

## Commitment and Participation

- Athletes interested in trying out for the Training Squad must attend the tryout session.
- It is expected that athletes attend all training camps and practices leading up to the games. Failure to do so will impact the final selection process.
- Athletes are expected to show up for practices and try outs on time.
- Exceptions will be made only for extenuating circumstances.

## Coachability

- Athletes must be open to coach feedback and working in a collaborative manner.
- Persistence and a willingness to try challenging tasks are important.
- Athletes will contribute to a healthy, supportive team environment and should be ready to work with a diverse team.
- Athletes should conduct themselves according to principles of fair play.

## Climbing Performance during the Tryout Session

- A tryout session in May 2026 (date to be announced) will supplement the selection process for the Training Squad.
- This session will involve a mix of competition style boulders and off wall testing metrics

Additional criteria for the final Canada Games Team selection:

## Athletic Development and Potential

- Athlete performance and development of Training Squad members throughout the months leading up to the games will be monitored.
- This includes climbing performance during training camps and training sessions.

## Appeals

The final decision regarding selection of the Training Squad and Canada Games Team will be made by the Head Coach and Team Manager. An appeal of the Training Squad selection may be made by an athlete no later than **June 8th, 2026**. Appeals for the Canada Games Team will be due **December 7th, 2027**. Appeals must follow the following process:

1. Appeals are to be provided in writing and presented to Climb Nova Scotia's PSO Committee.
  - a. Appeals must clearly define which of the above criteria is being addressed and clear reasoning must be provided. Appeals may also be considered on the basis of bias or flawed selection criteria.
  - b. A minimum of 3 Committee members will decide on the result of the appeal. The deciding members must not have any personal ties to the athlete in question.
  - c. Submissions may be sent to: [psoclimbnovascotia.com](mailto:psoclimbnovascotia.com)
2. The PSO will provide a written reply with the decision.
3. If a conclusion is not reached by the PSO Committee, or the athlete contests the decision, the issue will be escalated to the Executive Board of Climb Nova Scotia.

## Timeline

1. Initial Application Process Opens
  - a. May 23rd, 2026 - Athlete application due
2. Try Out Event
  - a. May 31st, 2026\* - All eligible applicants attend this one day event
  - b. June 1st, 2026\* - The selected Training Squad will be announced
3. Summer Training
  - a. August 10th-14th OR August 17th-20th\*
    - i. 4 day training camp for the Training Squad
  - b. 2-3 other in person check ins in June/July/August - date TBD
  - c. Athletes to complete independent individualized training programs
  - d. Additional virtual check ins may be scheduled
4. Fall Training
  - a. September-December 2026
  - b. Training Squad training continues with bi-weekly in person check ins and training
5. Canada Games Team Selected
  - a. Early December 2026
6. Final Preparation
  - a. January-February 2026
7. Canada Games
  - a. February 27th-March 14th 2027

\*Tentative dates, to be confirmed.

## Financial Commitment

Training Squad athletes will be responsible for the fees associated with the training and coaching provided leading up to the games.

Training Squad Estimated fee: \$550-\$700

- What that includes
  - Individualized coaching and training programs for June 2026-February 2027
  - 4 day summer training camp and supplementary sessions throughout the year
  - Routesetting for comp simulations
  - Honorariums for 3 coaches (over 500 hrs of volunteer work, including administrative work and preparation)
  - Team Nova Scotia jersey
  - 1 team outing
  - Lead climbing instruction

Fundraising opportunities will be discussed once the Training Squad has been selected.

Outside of scheduled Training Squad practice, athletes are responsible for maintaining their own climbing gym membership at their chosen facility so that they can complete their individual training plan.

Athletes selected to participate in the Canada Games in Quebec City will have the cost of travel to the games, hotel, food and Canada Games uniform paid for by the Government of Nova Scotia.

Additional options for funding: <https://kidsportcanada.ca/nova-scotia/provincial-fund/>

## Contact Info

For questions regarding the qualification pathways or any other questions regarding the Canada Games, please reach out to Dominique Hurst, Head Coach, at [dhurst@sevenbaysbouldering.com](mailto:dhurst@sevenbaysbouldering.com)

This program is overseen by Climb Nova Scotia's PSO committee. For general inquiries or if you have any additional questions/concerns, contact Climb Nova Scotia at [climbnovascotia@gmail.com](mailto:climbnovascotia@gmail.com) OR [psoclimbnovascotia.com](mailto:psoclimbnovascotia.com)