



Canadian Team Handball Federation

Fédération Canadienne de Handball Olympique

Welcome! This is the sixth edition of the CTHF update from your CTHF Board of Directors. We hope this will continue to improve communications and collaboration. If you have suggestions or comments, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Nadia, Teodora, and Kathryn

Search for Volunteers Continues

CTHF continues to have open volunteer positions. Do you know anyone interested?

- BOARD POSITIONS for Director of High Performance, Director of Sport Development and Beach Representative (non-voting).
- CHAIRS for Medical and Disciplinary Committees and one member each.

Please reach out to Carrie with ideas or suggestions
c.kuypers@handballcanada.ca.

Welcome to our new President



Last May, at the Canadian Open Nationals, the Board members and their members met for the first time in person since the pandemic. The meeting was very efficient and fruitful.

As it was election year for group A, a new president was elected. We want to give our best congratulations to Carrie Kuypers (Alberta) for taking on this huge and prestigious responsibility.

Kuypers' presidency promises to bring a fresh perspective and renewed energy to the Federation. Her appointment is a testament to CTHF's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and forward-thinking leadership.

The Federation also celebrates the re-election of Karin Kacvinsky as Treasurer and Kathryn Howden as the Marketing and Communication Director, ensuring continuity and stability in its leadership team.

Farwell to David Lee



David joined CTHF in 2016 as Director of Competition and Events, where he spent time evaluating, reorganizing, and creating initiatives to advance the experience of the Canadian National Championships, specifically towards utilizing officials and technical delegates more efficiently. David also negotiated to have an IHF

CCM lecturer to provide courses and to bring two editions of women's IHF Trophy to Canada.

David was then briefly elected to the post of VP in 2018, before assuming the role of President in 2020. Since then, David has navigated re-establishing missed relationships with governing bodies by:

- Assisting NACHC in creating their Constitution & By-laws
- Navigating the legal, medical, and governing aspects of safe return to sport protocol following the pandemic shutdowns
- Created the CTHF operations policies while supporting directors in pursuing of their own portfolios
- Working engagements with CCES and Sports Canada

Canadian Handball is forever indebted to the hard work and commitment David has dedicated towards the growth of this organization and the sport of handball across the country. Thank you for all your years of service, David! We wish all the best on your new adventures.

CTHF Office Update

Two new part-time positions have been added to the CTHF Office:

- National Team Manager - Christian Latulippe
- Executive Assistant (6 months contract) – Teodora Bosonea

Thank you to Christian and Teodora for accepting these positions! We look forward to working with you to bring a fresh wind to the office that will help build a strong future for Handball in Canada.

NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We are thrilled to welcome Kris Fernandes as our new Executive Officer. Kris comes in with a passion for National Sport Organizations and has been involved with Handball in Ontario and Canada for several years. It's his second tenure with Handball Canada and we are looking forward to seeing him help us build a solid structure for the organization.

We would like to thank Nadia Lefebvre for her contributions in the past year, for helping Handball Canada to restore internal structure, and for giving CTHF positive momentum. It is not a final 'aurevoir' as Nadia will still help us with the follow-up of the EDI Initiative, and our relationship with Sport Canada.

Introducing the UNITEAM Program

We are excited to announce that we have received our first grant from Sport Canada in more than two decades! This grant is awarded to create and promote an equity, diversity and inclusion policy within Handball Canada, which aims to develop policies, plans, concrete actions, and goals to close the gap on these social issues within the sport.

The EDI initiative, which has been named UNITEAM, was first introduced to the attendees of the 2024 Canadians Nationals in Montreal, Quebec. Special guest collaborator, Nathalie Brochu, head coach of the Senior Women's national team along with motivational guest speaker and former professional field hockey player, Dave Morissette, helped introduce the grant. The grant also enabled the organization to hire an office assistant who will work to support the UNITEAM

initiatives by creating an online training program to help educate and celebrate the values we proudly embody through this grant.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

We would like to thank Athlete Representatives Vassilia Gagnon (women's representative) and Alexandre Touzel (men's representative) for their presence and wise interventions at our board meetings over the past year.

Nationals



The Canadian National Open Handball Tournament, after a hiatus of several years, was held at the Celtique Club and hosted by the Quebec Handball Federation in Montreal from May 17 to 19, 2024.

In this tournament, 9 men's teams and 9 women's teams participated in the senior category. The participating men's teams were: Celtique 1, HCT 1, Laval, Lévis, Rosemont, Avengers, Champlain, HCT 2, and Celtique 2. The participating women's teams were: Celtique, Drummondville, Laval, New York, Champlain, Sherbrooke, Granby, HCT, and Rosemont.

Here's the medalist table:

MEN's ranking:

- 🥇 Celtique 1
- 🥈 Champlain
- 🥉 Lévis

WOMEN's ranking:

- 🥇 Drummondville
- 🥈 Granby
- 🥉 Champlain



Women's Category Awards:

MVP: Drummondville - Céline Labonté

ALL-STAR TEAM:

GB / GK: Granby - Camilla Pivin

AG / LW: Champlain - Anastasia Todosic

ArG / LB: Granby - Christina St-Onge

AC / CB: Drummondville - Céline Labonté

PV: Drummondville - Alexandra Pivin

ArD / RB: Granby - Claudia Languedoc

AD / RW: Granby - Nassima Benhacine



Men's Category Awards:

MVP: Champlain - Alexandre Touzel

ALL STAR TEAM:

GB / GK: HC Toronto 1 - Isaac Foshon

AG / LW: Lévis - Samuel Mainguy

ArG / LB: Champlain - Alexandre Touzel

AC / CB: Lévis - Étienne Mercier

PV: Celtique - Bastien Decocker

ArD / RB: Celtique - Dudley Gaspard

AD / RW: Champlain - Nicolas Chassé

This tournament featured 9 referee couples and 4 technical delegates. We would also like to thank Alexis Bertrand, Jean-Philippe Coin, and Michelle Lortie as the organizing committee that collaborated with CTHF.

A noteworthy aspect of this tournament was the evaluation of the host's facilities before the start of the competition and the presence of IHF and EHF referees, which significantly improved the quality of the games.

Additionally, two new refereeing talents were discovered: Teodora Bosonea and Keira Hopkinson from Alberta.

National Teams

We had a great start for 2024 with our National Team programs. A huge thanks to our volunteer National Team coaches for their commitment and passion and the huge amount of work that it takes to develop a national team. Highlights over the last 6 months include:

Senior Women



After a half-year break for the senior women's national team following the last 4-year cycle, the new cycle resumes with 45 athletes registered for the national camp in August. The goal is to select the best team to represent Canada at the 2025 World Qualifier.

We'd like to pay tribute to the athletes who retired at the end of the last cycle and who proudly represented Canada for over 12 years! Their commitment and perseverance have been exemplary and have been role models for the younger generations to come. A huge thank you to Myriam Laplante, Audrey Marcoux, Emily Routhier, Nassima Benhacine, Katya Chan, Marie-Pier Beaudry, Rosali Langlois and Samatha Koosau!

Senior Men

Under the new direction of Christian Latulippe, Remi Montesalvo and Josh Sickler, the Senior Men's National Team had a preparation camp in March in Gonfreville, France. 14 players participated in this camp, where they played 3 games, losing one to the N1 team of Gonfreville, and winning the against the N3 of Gonfreville and the N2 of Roissy-en-France. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the Gonfreville National Team organization for their support in helping train our Senior men, and we look forward to working with you in the near future!



Following the Gronfreville camp, the coaches selected 14 players to participate in the North American and Caribbean Handball Championship qualifier for the 2025 World Championship. At this event, we were competitive, holding teams like the USA and Greenland for 40 minutes and almost beating Mexico who finished in 3rd place. The team won their last match against Puerto Rico for the 5th place. Cuba won the tournament and qualify for the World Championship.

Finally in June, the Senior Men's Team organized a National Team Camp in Laprairie, Québec with the objective of evaluating new players. 25 players participated in this 9-day camp where the intensity and team spirit was very high. Team Canada is working hard to improve their ranking in upcoming international competitions.

The team plans to regroup for a training camp during the international week break in November in Greece. Then in 2025, the team will travel to France in January and in then to Guadeloupe in March.

U18 Women



The Canadian Juvenile Women's Handball Team are in the final stage of their preparations for the World Handball Championship in China! The tournament will be held from August 14 to 26, 2024.

The team will be in closed camp from July 26 to August 3 in Drummondville, Quebec; this period will be devoted to intensive training, weight training and team-building activities. The goal for this camp will be to fine-tune their strategies, improve their cohesion and achieve optimum physical conditioning for the competition.

On August 3, the team will fly to South Korea for a period of acclimatization and final preparation. They will also play friendly matches against local teams to test their performance and adapt to playing conditions in Asia. This stage will also be an opportunity to discover Korean culture and strengthen bonds between team members.

The team looks forward to competing with the best teams in the world and demonstrating the talent and determination of our young athletes.

The team has managed to raise \$140,000, which will be used to cover the costs of travel, accommodation and participation in the championship. However, they are still \$10,000 short of their goal and continue to seek donations from partners and supporters.

CTHF, along with all team members, and coaches would like to thank everyone who has supported the team so far, including families, friends, partners and supporters. Your encouragement and generosity are essential to our success, and we invite you to continue to follow our progress and support during the World Championship.

U18 Men

Selections for the U18 men's team (born 2006 to 2007) took place over spring of 2023, either during games at the Quebec juvenile circuit in Laval and Montreal, at the Team Quebec camp at École Dalbé-Viau, or at the Easter International Tournament in Levis. The first training camp was held in Drummondville over 3 days from September 2 to September 4, 2023, where 48 players were registered, 44 from Quebec and 4 from Alberta. The goal of the camp was to evaluate and identify players likely to continue training with Team Canada. Overall, 33 players were selected: 29 from Quebec, including 1 injured, and 4 from Alberta.

A total of 14 players will be selected for the upcoming IHF tournament in the autumn of 2024. The next training camps will take place in August 2024 in the Montreal and Drummondville regions.

Women's Beach Handball



This year has been one of exciting new growth for the Canadian Women's Beach National Handball team. With a new head coach at the helm, the team traveled to Puerto Rico in April to compete in the North American and Caribbean Handball Championship. Being that the program is in its primary development stages, the women's team saw tremendous improvement playing against much more seasoned teams (many of whom train professionally year-round); and were able to finish within the top 5 overall standings. Training continues with the team through the following scheduled events:

- Training camp in Alberta: June 28-29, 2024
- Tournament in Sylvan Lake, Alberta: July 27-28, 2024
- Tournament in Huntington Beach, California: August 23-25, 2024

Recruitment of players is ongoing (especially at the U16 level) as there are many international opportunities for these players. Interested players can contact Khalil El Haddaoui at k.elhaddaoui@handballcanada.ca.

Men's Beach Handball



The past 6 months have been busy with the final selections and fine tuning of the progress the men's team has accomplished over the past 2 years. January and February each had an indoor selection and training camp with over 30 participants from across the country at the Beach YYC, their winter training center. During these camps, national standards were established in various jumping, speed and agility tests, all measured on consistent sand conditions.

Preparations for the 2024 NACHC Continental Championship took the Canadian men to Brazil for 8 days. There our skills and knowledge grew exponentially through training sessions with top Brazilian coaches, games against several top clubs and a two game exhibition series with the Brazilian national team.

The 2024 NACHC Championships produced the best Canadian Men's results ever, moving from being unranked 3 years ago, to 6th place on the continent 2 years ago, and now officially breaking into the top 4 this year. Highlights include a shootout victory over 2nd ranked Mexico and a heartbreaking shootout loss to the hosts, Puerto Rico. USA and Puerto Rico went on to the World Championships on both the men's and women's side.

Those events marked the end of the 2022-2024 competition cycle. But preparations for the 2024-2026 cycle have already begun! At this time Beach Handball Canada are in a countrywide recruitment and development stage, hoping many clubs and provinces begin a U16 program (birthyear of

2008, 2009, & 2010) for grassroots development targeting continental championships this upcoming winter, the U17 World Championships in 2025, and the U18 Youth Olympics in 2026.

Lastly, the FISU's World University Championships are on the summer horizon for 18-25 years old athletes in university programs. The men's and women's teams are still looking for 6 athletes to join, train, and travel with them.

Please contact S.Fodor@HandballCanada.ca if you or someone you know is interested in playing, providing assistance with regional beach handball development or to get more information about the national beach handball programs available.

CTHF Bilingual Policy

The Canadian Team Handball Federation remains committed to our communications efforts to honor Canada's bilingual heritage by providing all publications in both English and French Canadian.

Follow us on social media!

Want up-to-date news about your federation and all things handball from across Canada? Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and twitter today!



If you would like to share any updates, stories or events with us please contact Saribel at s.delauriers@handballcanada.ca