

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM PROGRAM
(NDT)

UNDERWATER HOCKEY

CANADIAN UNDERWATER GAMES ASSOCIATION



NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM PROGRAM

MISSION:

The NDT mission is to assist in developing high level underwater hockey players in Canada. It provides clinics and resources for players to increase their underwater hockey knowledge, skills and fitness in order to help them achieve their maximum potential. In parallel, it hopes to increase the level of elite underwater hockey in Canada by working along Clubs, Juniors, Elite and Masters team coaches to define goals and general vision of the program.

The NDT program is aligned with the vision of the national teams in terms of skills, fitness level, etc.... to prepare players adequately for their selection on the national teams, should they chose to try out.

Additionally the NDT program acts as a venue for the sharing of experience and expertise from retired national team players to the next generation of competitive UWH players. The NDT program also functions as a conduit for the flow of information and knowledge amongst the various teams and clubs around the country.

DEFINITIONS

Underwater hockey director: oversees and directs the NDT program in Canada. This position is voted by CUGA membership.

NDT Leaders: each NDT leader is assigned to specific task (or NDT position) (see program) by the UWH director.

National Team (NT) coaches: the NT coaches are selected according the NT selection policies in place. It is the NDT vision that they work alongside the UWH director and NDT leaders to generate a common vision for the preparation of NT players.

Club liaison/coaches: These are key people who link NDT players (within their club) to the NDT leaders and NT Coaches. They are chosen by NDT leaders and NT coaches, and might have specific assignments such as officialising test results, giving feedback to club players (under the lead of NDT leaders and NT coaches), etc. They typically are an experienced player in which NDT leaders

and NT coaches will entrust leadership over specific players for day to day training of NDT members.

NDT members: NDT members are players which are members of NDT. Each year, players must renew membership. It is currently free to join NDT. NDT members are expected in return to bring the expertise gained at clinics and tournaments back to their club, to help raise the level of underwater hockey in general in Canada.

What does the NDT program do???

The definition of what NDT does is not limited the following, as we wish for it to evolve with the needs of NDT members, NT coaches and the UWH director, and be a flexible and efficient structure. As the program's main focus is to develop players to increase the level uwh in Canada, it will adjust in time to ensure continued alignment with the various national teams' needs. It is therefore critical that the NDT leaders and UWH director work hand in hand in defining a program for each category every year.

Briefly, the NDT program:

- Provides clear leadership (through the UWH director) for the development of UWH in Canada
- Organises clinics at various tournaments and clearly informs NDT members of these clinics
- Offers the option of playing on "NDT teams" at various tournaments, depending on demand, where NDT members can play together to increase cohesiveness in NDT and NT play in Canada
- Communicates to NDT members to increase general knowledge on :
 - o Underwater hockey tactics and strategy (in collaboration with national team coaches)
 - o Underwater hockey skills and drills
 - o Training for underwater hockey and sport- specific fitness

SPECIFIC TASKS currently associated with NDT (NDT Positions):

- **Western & Eastern clinic coordinator**
- **Baseline and hockey-specific Fitness Coordinator**
- **NDT Recruitment & Identification Scout**
- **Western & Eastern Club & Elite Liaison manager**

- **Western & Eastern clinic coordinator:** The NDT leader in charge of this task creates an overall calendar of events and then schedule camps/clinics with priority of scheduling being given to national team camps and clinics to avoid conflict with NT camps and clinics.
- **Baseline and UWH hockey-specific Fitness Coordinator:** Some information on training for UWH will be distributed to NDT members. One NDT leader may be in charge of this specifically and will be chosen by the UWH director. It will be someone with experience and who understands UWH and how to train it to play it at the elite level. From there a program will be offered to NDT members, but they will be encouraged to personalize it and use personal trainers and kinesiologists to adjust to their specific needs.
- **NDT Recruitment & Talent Identification Scout:** This is something for which anyone involved in NDT is in charge. Players, club liaisons, managers, elite coaches, selectors, all should always focus on talent ID and recruitment.
- **Western & Eastern Club & Elite Liaison manager:** The NDT leader in charge of club liaisons will keep a list of official NDT liaisons. It will also help in assisting these liaisons in insuring there is a structure in place in each club for players to develop, example: board and strategy sessions, beginners programs, youth programs, warmups, preparation for tournaments, etc.

FEES associated with joining NDT:

- There is no current NDT membership fee. However, players may be asked to buy bathing suits or caps to identify them as NDT players.
- At tournaments, there may be “coaching fees” associated with playing on NDT teams where coaching is provided to offset some of the cost encountered by coaches.
- At NDT events or clinic, “clinic fees” will be charged. They will vary from one event to the other, but be used to cover fees associated with the clinic, i.e. pool fees, seminar speakers, food (if provided), or any other fee associated with the organisation of the clinic.