



Media Guide

2022 National Championships

Sani Sport Brossard
7777 Bd Marie-Victorin
Brossard, Québec

May 24 - 28, 2022



About Racquetball

Racquetball is a sport played by two players (singles) or four players (doubles) on an enclosed court measuring 20 ft. wide, 20 ft. high, and 40 ft. deep. A strung racquet and eye protection are mandatory pieces of equipment.

Each rally begins with a serve. On rebound from the front wall, the other player must retrieve the ball and return it to the front wall. If the ball bounces twice on the floor before it is returned to the front wall, the result is a loss of rally.

Matches are scored using rally point scoring. A match is best of five games. The first four games are played to 15 points. If a fifth game is needed, a tiebreaker game is played to 11 points.



Photo credit: Racquetball Canada / Andre Forget

Origins of Racquetball

Joseph Sobek, of Greenwich, Connecticut, who was looking for indoor sport that was face-paced and easy to learn and play, invented racquetball. The rules of the game were based on those of squash and handball.

Racquetball became one of the fastest-growing sports from the late 1970's to the early 1990's with up to 14 million players in over 90 countries worldwide.

The International Racquetball Federation (IRF) was founded in 1979 with 13 charter members, one of which was Canada. The IRF currently has 79 member federations and over 6 million racquetball players worldwide. Racquetball is a full medal sport in five IOC-recognized international sport competitions including the Pan Am Games, Pan Am Championships, Central American Games, Central American Caribbean Games and the World Games.

The 2022 National Championships

There will be 75 players competing from 8 provinces at the 2022 National Championships. The championships are held annually and are the ultimate competition of the Canadian racquetball season. Canada's elite athletes compete in Men's and Women's Open Singles and Doubles events. Junior elite athletes compete in age divisions in both singles and doubles. The event is also a celebration of sport for all as it includes several other skill and age divisions for players who want to play in Canada's highest level tournament, competing at their own level.

This is the first time since May 2019 that Racquetball Canada has been able to host a full National Championships event so in many ways marks a return to sport. Smaller tournaments have been held over the past year to select national teams and to provide competition at a regional level.

The National Championships are one of three events used to name Racquetball Canada's National Elite and Development Teams. They are also taken into consideration for the athletes selected for international competition including the upcoming World Championships. The Junior National Team eligible to represent Canada at the Junior World Championships will be selected based on tournament results.

The format for Open Singles is pool play on the first 2 days of the competition which will seed participants into elimination brackets to determine National Champions. The doubles divisions are single elimination draws. When necessary (5 players / teams or less) a round robin format is used.

Racquetball Canada follows the official rules of the International Racquetball Federation (IRF). Recently the IRF adopted new rules which included the change to rally point scoring. This is the first national championships to use rally scoring. This is also the first championships that combines both adult and junior age players.



Photo Credit:
Racquetball Canada / Andre Forget

2022 National Championship Events

Tournament play will begin on May 24 at 9:00 am and will continue through to the afternoon of May 28. Matches will be live streamed on the [Racquetball Canada Facebook Page](#).

The Host Facility is Sani Sport Brossard. The Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet will also be held on May 28 at Sani Sport.

Racquetball Canada will also be holding their Annual Business Meeting, an officiating clinic and social events in conjunction with the National Championships.

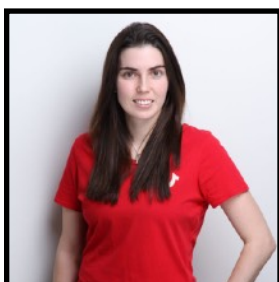
The tournament is open to the public. There is no admission charge.

Media representatives are also welcome to attend all events. If possible, please contact Jan Hanson, Racquetball Canada's media contact in advance at 306-502-4422 or communications@racquetballcanada.



Canada's Top Athletes

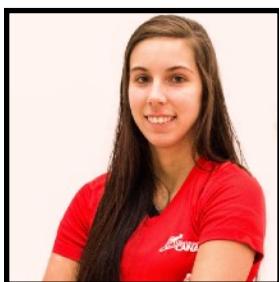
Canada's top ranked high performance athletes will be competing at the 2022 National Championships including several athletes who have represented Canada at the international level and are members of Canada's National Teams.



Frédérique Lambert has competed for Canada at sixteen international events as an elite athlete beginning at the 2008 Pan Am Championships where she won a bronze medal in the doubles event. She has represented Canada at three Pan Am Games and was integral to the bronze medal won by Canada in the Women's Team Event at the 2015 Pan Am Games. She has also been on the podium five times at the World Championships and seven times at the Pan Am Championships. Although Lambert has won several medals in international competition, she has also had great success on the Ladies Pro Racquetball Tour (LPRT). She was consistently ranked in the top 8 in singles for several years and in the 2017/2018 season, she was ranked second. At the national level, Lambert has been on the podium in open competition since 2007. She has won sixteen open women's medals at the National Championships, winning the Women's Open Singles title three times and the Women's Open Doubles title on two occasions. Lambert was also successful as a junior athlete, winning two

gold medals in singles, one in 2007 as a fourteen year old and the other in 2011 when she competed in her last junior world championships event as an 18 year old.

Juliette Parent has accomplished a lot as a young athlete. She has represented Canada at two international elite tournaments, first at the 2021 World Championships and again at the 2022 Pan Am Championships. She has also medaled at the elite national level twice in Women's Open Doubles, winning bronze in 2018 and silver in 2021. Parent has represented Canada at six Junior World Championships, winning a silver medal in 16 and Under Girl's Doubles in 2018. She has been on the podium twelve times at the Junior National level, with seven of her podium results being a gold medal win.



Michèle Morissette competed in her first international event as an elite athlete at the 2014 IRF World Championships where she played singles. Since then she has competed for Canada internationally on another eight occasions including the 2015 Pan Am Games where she was a member of the Women's Team that won a bronze medal. She recently qualified to represent Canada at the 2022 World Games. Morissette has won two Canadian Women's Open Doubles Championship titles with Christine Richardson. In total, she has been on the podium at the Canadian Championships eleven times winning 2 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze medals. Morissette also represented Canada at seven junior world championships and has been on the podium five times at the junior world level. Morissette also represented Canada at the 2012 Pan American Championships in the U16 singles event where she won bronze. She has also held the title junior national singles and doubles champion in several age categories over the span of her junior career.



Danielle Drury represented Canada for the first time at the international level as an elite athlete at the 2014 Pan American Sport Festival. She has competed for Canada at two more international events, winning a bronze medal in Women's Doubles at the 2019 Pan Am Championships with partner Jennifer Saunders. In 2019 Drury had her first singles podium finish at the elite national level, winning bronze in Women's Open Singles at the National Championships. She holds two Canadian Women's Open Doubles Championship titles with partner Jennifer Saunders. In total, Drury has medaled six times at the National Championships. She was a member of the team representing Canada at the Junior World Championships on six occasions. She won three medals for Canada at the junior world level in doubles, winning bronze in 2014 and 2013 and silver in 2011. Drury has recently returned to competition after stepping away to complete her education.

Marjolaine Parent is an athlete with a lot of determination. In particular she has had success in doubles competition, recently winning silver in Women's Open Doubles at the 2021 National Championships. She has represented Canada at three Junior World Championship events and has been on the podium two times. Both of her medals were won in girl's doubles with partner Alexis Iwaasa, first in 2016 in the 14 & Under age division and then in 2018 in the 18 & Under age division.



Alexis Iwaasa represented Canada at her first elite international tournament in 2018 at the Pan Am Championships. She has also competed for Canada at both the 2021 World Championships and 2022 Pan Am Championships. She has been on the podium at the elite level in Canada, winning bronze in women's open singles two times and three times in the women's open doubles event. Iwaasa started competing at the junior national level at nine years of age, finishing on the podium every year as a junior athlete. She won her first junior national championship titles in 2012, when she won both the Girl's 12 & U and 14 & U divisions. In total, Iwaasa won 8 junior girl's singles titles and 2 doubles titles. She was successful at the Junior World Championships, winning four bronze medals, one in singles and three in doubles.

Sam Murray made his international debut as an elite national team member at the 2014 World Championships. Since then he has represented Canada internationally twelve times. Murray medaled for his first time at the 2016 World Championships, winning bronze in men's singles. He followed up with a bronze in doubles at the 2018 World Championships and again at the 2019 Pan Am Championships. Most recently Murray won gold at the 2022 Pan Am Championships in Men's Doubles with partner Coby Iwaasa. In total, Murray has won five medals at the international level, including 1 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze. Murray rose quickly in rankings at the national elite level and on the International Pro-Tour (IRT). In 2018, Murray advanced to his first pro-tour final after just playing on the tour on a regular basis for two years. In January 2021, Murray won his first Grand Slam event and is currently ranked 5th in singles and 6th in doubles on the tour. Murray has been on the podium sixteen times at the elite national level and holds five Canadian Men's Open Doubles titles and three Open Singles titles. In 2019 he won both the Men's Open Singles title and an historic Men's Open Doubles title with his brother Tommy Murray. It is the first time in the history of the sport in Canada that two brothers have won a title together. The two repeated their gold medal win in 2021.



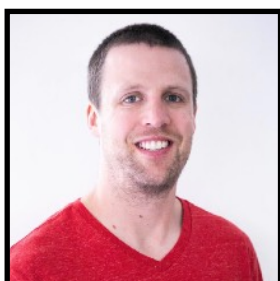
Coby Iwaasa made his elite international debut at the 2014 Pan Am Championships and has competed for Canada at the elite national level at eight events. After representing Canada at the 2015 Pan Am Games, and contributing to a bronze medal in the Men's Team Event, Iwaasa moved to Japan and stepped away from the sport for two seasons. He returned to competition in the fall of 2017, quickly earning a place again on Canada's national team and winning a silver medal in men's doubles at the 2019 Pan American Championships. Most recently, Iwaasa won gold in men's doubles at the 2022 Pan Am Championships with partner Sam Murray. As a fifteen year old, Iwaasa had his first podium success in Open events at the National Championships, winning the Canadian Men's Open Doubles Championship title in 2013 and also winning a bronze medal in Men's Open Singles. Since then he has been on the podium at every Canadian Championships he has competed in and holds three Men's Open Doubles Championship titles and one Men's Open

Singles Championship title. Iwaasa was the first male racquetball player in Canada to win both the Open and 18 & U singles and doubles in the same year. Iwaasa won eight medals in his five Junior World Championship appearances, highlighted by the 16 & U world singles title in 2012.



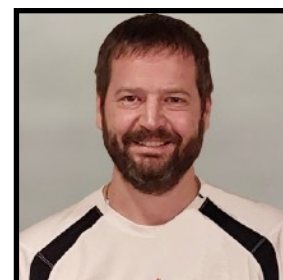
Trevor Webb first represented Canada at the elite international level at the 2018 Pan Am Championships. He returned to international competition again at the 2022 Pan Am Championships. At the elite national level, Webb won a Men's Open Doubles Canadian Championship title with partner Mike Green in 2017 while he was still a junior athlete. He won a bronze medal in the same event at the 2019 championships with partner Coby Iwaasa. In elite singles competition, Webb finished in 4th at the 2019 and 2021 National Championships, which his best result to date. As a junior athlete, Webb represented Canada at five Junior World Championships. In 2017, at his last Junior World Championships, he won a silver medal in 18 & U doubles with partner Simon Comeau and a bronze medal in 18 & U singles. Webb also won a bronze in 2015 in the 16 & U singles event. As a junior, Webb won nine national championship titles in singles in various age groups, beginning when he was 8 years old. He also had several podium finishes in doubles.

Kurtis Cullen has a true love for the sport of racquetball. Cullen began playing as a junior in Brandon and had success at the national and international level. He represented Canada at the 2011 Junior World Championships where he won bronze in 18 & Under doubles with partner Sam Murray. Cullen stepped back from high performance competition while he pursued training and a career as an Emergency Medical Technician and Firefighter. Cullen has returned to high performance competition on a regular basis and has climbed the ranks nationally as an elite athlete.



Lee Connell has been a member of the national elite and development teams since 2012. Connell competed for Canada at the 2009 Pan Am Championships advancing to the quarterfinals with partner Mike Green. Connell has consistently finished in the top five in Men's Open Doubles at the Canadian Championships and top eight in Men's Open Singles. In 2021 Connell had a personal best at the National Championships, winning bronze in both Men's Open Doubles and Singles.

Francis Guillemette is a veteran athlete who represented Canada at the 2001 Pan Am Championships where he won a bronze medal in Men's Doubles with partner Vincent Gagnon. Guillemette has been on the podium at the national level several times, where he has been most successful as a doubles player. He returns to the National Elite Team as a result of his success in both singles and doubles at the 2021 National Open Championships. Guillemette was a member of the team that represented Canada at the 2021 Pan Am Championships.



Links:

- Draws and results: <https://bit.ly/3LuvdX0>
- Live streaming: www.facebook.com/racquetballcanada
- News & results summaries: www.racquetballcanada.ca

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