Canadian Athletes with Dwarfism are Striving for Gold and Level Competition at the World Dwarf Games

At the end of July (in less than three weeks at the time of printing), athletes from across Canada will begin their quest for gold in the largest international sports competition exclusively for people with dwarfism—The World Dwarf Games.

In identical fashion to The Olympics, The World Dwarf Games (WDG) was held every four years in an elected host city beginning in 1993 when Chicago, Illinois hosted the inaugural event featuring ten countries and 165 athletes. Now, coming off hosting the largest games to date, on their own soil in Guelph, Ontario (with 17 countries and 450 athletes participating) in 2017 and after a long pandemic-induced delay, Canada's athletes are ready to give it their all in their chosen sport when they compete later this summer in Cologne, Germany from July 28 to August 5.

Still, while a chance for a podium finish and possibly a gold medal certainly entices them, many who've registered for the competition and booked their flight to Cologne do so because the first (and for some, only) chance to test their skills against fellow competitors of similar heights means everything.

So, we invite you to get acquainted with Team Canada by skimming the profiles included here and if you'd like to chronicle the story of any one of these athletes for your outlet please contact one or both of our Chef de Missions, who will be on the ground with them in Germany and can pass on their contact information, below:



BRIT THEIS

Co-Chef de Mission DAAC Board Member LPO Sports Coordinator 416-909-0923 brit.theis@dwarfathletics.ca

ZOE MEIL

Co-Chef de Mission DAAC Vice President 613-402-4911 zoe.meil@dwarfathletics.ca



SANAPHES

From Ages 7 to 62

THE COMPETITION

29 Countries534 Athletes2 to 74 Years



OVER 1000 ATTENDEES

World Dwarf A G LANCE

10 SPORT EVENTS

Archery · Badminton · Basketball · Boccia · Powerlifting · Soccer · Swimming · Track & Field · Table Tennis · Volleyball

FUTURES 6 and under JUNIORAges 7 to 15 OPENAges 16 + (or by choice) MASTERS 35+



This is the third World Dwarf Games to have a formal Team Canada

Novice to Elite Athletes

CHEF DE MISSIONS

Zoe Meil · zoe.meil@dwarfathletics.ca Brit Theis · brit.theis@dwarfathletics.ca

DWARF ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF CANADA (DAAC)

dwarfathletics.ca contact@dwarfathletics.ca

INSTAGRAM FACEBOOK TIKTOK

@dwarfathleticscan

@DwarfAthleticsCan

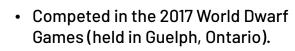
@DwarfAthleticsCan



HAHIR ALI LATIF



OPEN TABLE TENNIS



- Has won 1 medal—a bronze— in Floor Hockey.
- "I play a India percussion instrument called Tabla professionally as a classical musician."







OPEN BADMINTON
OPEN BOCCIA
OPEN SOCCER
OPEN TRACK & FIELD
OPEN VOLLEYBALL



27 Years Old Markham, Ontario

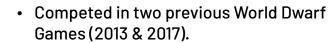
- Competed in two previous World Dwarf Games (2013 & 2017).
- · Has won a bronze in Badminton.
- Francesca is one of the three founders of "Little Kindness", that allows her to speak at schools about inclusion, while educating children on dwarfism, disability and differences.
- "I am the biggest Taylor Swift fan you will ever meet!"



BHAGRIA VIVEK



OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL OPEN BOCCIA OPEN BADMINTON



- Has won 3 medals—2 bronze and 1 silver—in Basketball, Floor Hockey and Volleyball. As well as 4 gold medals in soccer, football and hockey on a national level.
- "I was the only athlete in Manitoba to be invited to meet the Pope."







JUNIOR B ARCHERY JUNIOR B BASKETBALL JUNIOR C TRACK & FIELD JUNIOR B VOLLEYBALL

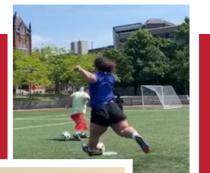


15 Years Old Whitehorse, Yukon

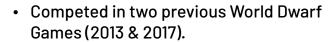
- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games (held in Guelph, Ontario).
- Has won 2 medals— a gold and a bronze in Floor Hockey and Frisbee Toss.
- She is very excited to see some old friends and meet some new ones.



EN CLO



OPEN BADMINTON OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN TABLE TENNIS OPEN VOLLEYBALL



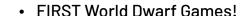
- Has won 24 medals—11 in 2013 and 13 in 2017—including 12 gold, 8 silver and 3 bronze.
- Colleen is an elite athlete who has competed at the Para PanAm Games in 2019 in swimming, and will be returning this year for badminton.
- "Between swimming and badminton, I have travelled to 9 countries."







JUNIOR B BADMINTON
JUNIOR B BASKETBALL
JUNIOR B SOCCER
JUNIOR B TABLE TENNIS
JUNIOR B VOLLEYBALL



- Has won 2 gold medals in bowling! His bowling team qualified two years in a row for the provincials.
- "I have won many medals in my life and look forward to adding to the collection in Germany."







OPEN BADMINTON OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL

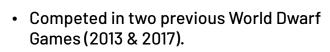
- Competed in two previous World Dwarf Games (2013 & 2017).
- Has won 3 medals—2 in Floor Hockey and 1 in Volleyball
- "I love playing soccer all year round."







OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL



- Has won 4 medals—in Basketball, Floor Hockey and Volleyball.
- "I get more enjoyment out of being around other people with dwarfism, rather than winning any medals."







JUNIOR B BASKETBALL JUNIOR B SOCCER JUNIOR B TRACK & FIELD



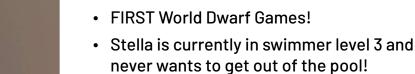
- Because Declan turns 12 later this year, he is actually competing one age category up.
- "I play hockey in the fall/winter, and baseball in the spring with my average height peers and love anything to do with sports!" While his favourite sports aren't offered at the World Dwarf Games, he is happy and excited to participate. He loves competing and being part of a team.







JUNIOR A SOCCER JUNIOR A SWIMMING JUNIOR A TRACK & FIELD



- Stella is attending the games with her mom, Erica, and her sister, Summer, who are also both athletes on Team Canada.
- Loves to run and play soccer with friends and sister Summer.





SUMMER





- Summer is currently in swimmer level 5 and about to begin competitive swimming locally.
- Summer is attending the games with her mom, Erica, and her sister, Stella, who are also both athletes on Team Canada.
- Summer can't wait to play in Germany with new friends!

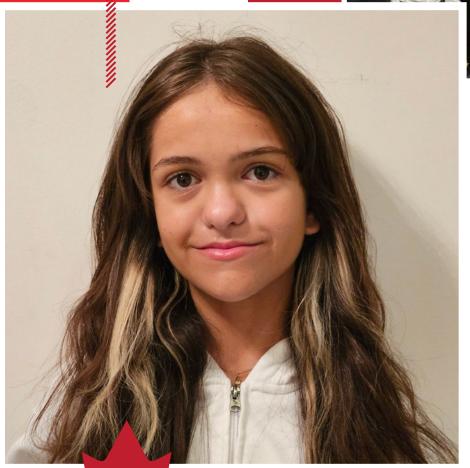


Bedford, Nova Scotia





JUNIOR B BADMINTON
JUNIOR B BASKETBALL
JUNIOR B BOCCIA
JUNIOR B SOCCER
JUNIOR C TRACK & FIELD
JUNIOR B VOLLEYBALL



13 Years Old Toronto, Ontario

- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games (held in Guelph, Ontario).
- Has won 2 medals—1 silver and 1 bronze— in sprint and volleyball.
- Outside of sport, Sarah loves to write.



ANDROMEDA HANG



JUNIOR A BADMINTON
JUNIOR A BASKETBALL
JUNIOR A BOOCIA
JUNIOR A TABLE TENNIS
JUNIOR A TRACK & FIELD

- · FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- · Goes by Andie most of the time.
- Andie also plays violin, does dance and is learning to code!
- Andie can't wait to bring home some medals for Canada!





CIEL HAYHO





- Zeke recently moved from Alberta to Ontario to be closer to family.
- Zeke prioritizes health, and loves to keep in shape through sport.





POGAN HUNT

OPEN ARCHERY
OPEN BADMINTON
OPEN BASKETBALL
OPEN TABLE TENNIS
OPEN TRACK & FIELD
OPEN VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games (held in Guelph, Ontario).
- Has won 4 medals—2 gold and 2 silver in Floor Hockey, Soccer, Badminton and Volleyball.
- Logan is an athlete through and through, both playing and watching sports his entire life, especially hockey.
- "It's an exciting time for me when the WDG comes around because I get to compete with other dwarfs around the world and have a good time with my teammates and friends."

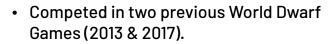




20 Years Old Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

HAILEIGH JOINER

OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL



- Has won 8 medals—5 silver and 3 gold— in Track & Field sports, as well as Volleyball.
- Will be competing on the all women's "Team North America" in Soccer, alongside our American neighbours.
- In addition to traditional sports, Haileigh loves to horseback ride.





SANA JOLLY





11 Years Old Milton, Ontario

- FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- Has won medals in baseball outside of dwarf sports.
- "I love animals and I have 2 dogs. "My" dog is 100 lbs and will only listen to me..."





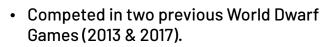
OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in two previous World Dwarf Games (2013 & 2017).
- Has won medals in Volleyball and Floor Hockey.
- Has competed in soccer internationally, in South American tournaments.
- "I've been living in South America for over a year now."









- Has won a number of medals in the World Dwarf Games.
- Aaron is a two time regional Chess Champion.

23 Years Old Toronto, Ontario





OPEN BADMINTON
OPEN BASKETBALL
OPEN SOCCER
OPEN TABLE TENNIS
OPEN VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in two previous World Dwarf Games (2013 & 2017).
- Has won 12 of medals—5 in 2013 and 7 in 2017—in Badminton, Basketball, Floor Hockey, Kurling, Soccer, Swimming, Table Tennis and Volleyball.
- Justin is a competitive badminton player, competing at the international level.
- "In the past year visited Japan, Colombia, Peru, Spain and Brazil for Badminton Tournaments."







OPEN BOCCIA



20 Years Old Markham, Ontario

- FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- Isabella is a counsellor at Camp LPO, which is a week long camp experience for exclusively children with dwarfism and their families.
- She is one of the three founders of "Little Kindness", that allows her to speak at schools about inclusion, while educating children on dwarfism, disability and differences.





JUNIOR B BADMINTON
JUNIOR B BASKETBALL
JUNIOR B BOCCIA
JUNIOR B POWER LIFTING
JUNIOR B SOCCER
JUNIOR C TRACK & FIELD
JUNIOR B TABLE TENNIS
JUNIOR B VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games (held in Guelph, Ontario).
- Has won 2 medals—a gold and a silver in Floor Hockey and Shot Put.
- Outside of dwarf athletics, Thomas plays U15 hockey with average heigh teammates.
- Thomas loves the outdoors, he particularly enjoys fishing, downhill skiing, snowboarding and mountain biking.









OPEN BADMINTON
OPEN BASKETBALL
OPEN BOCCIA
OPEN SOCCER
OPEN TABLE TENNIS
OPEN TRACK & FIELD
OPEN VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in two previous World Dwarf Games (2013 & 2017).
- Has won a number of medals—in 2013 and in 2017—in Swimming, Volleyball, Basketball, Floor Hockey, Table Tennis, Track and Field, Badminton, and Soccer.
- "I have recently played in about five Para Badminton Tournaments in the span of seven months. These tournaments were in Japan, Ottawa, Colombia, Spain, and Brazil."







OPEN ARCHERY OPEN BOCCIA OPEN SWIMMING



- · Avery is a competitive swimmer.
- Although it's not a World Dwarf Game sport, she also is an avid Curler.
- "I just finished Grade 10 at J.H. Bruns Collegiate in Winnipeg. I like listening to music, travelling with my family, and hanging out with my friends. I can't wait to compete at The World Dwarf Games."





16 Years Old Winnipeg, Manitoba



JUNIOR B BADMINTON
JUNIOR B BASKETBALL
JUNIOR B BOCCIA
JUNIOR B SOCCER
JUNIOR C SWIMMING
JUNIOR C TRACK & FIELD
JUNIOR B TABLE TENNIS
JUNIOR B VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games (held in Guelph, Ontario).
- Has won 3 medals—a gold and 2 bronze in Floor Hockey and Track & Field.
- Gabe has been playing soccer since he was 3 years old and is really hoping to bring home gold for Team Canada.
- During the 2017 games one of his teammates/friends didn't win any medals during the games. Gabe took it upon himself to give her one of his bronze medals because "she didn't have and I had two".





INLIAN MCKAY



JUNIOR B BADMINTON
OPEN BASKETBALL
OPEN SOCCER
JUNIOR B TABLE TENNIS
JUNIOR C TRACK & FIELD
OPEN VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games (held in Guelph, Ontario).
- Because Julian turns 16 later this year, he is actually competing one age category up in some sports.
- Has won 2 medals—a gold and a bronze in Floor Hockey and Volleyball.
- "I play hockey on the U18 local league for the Hespeler Shamrocks. I am also the team manager for my highschool football team."





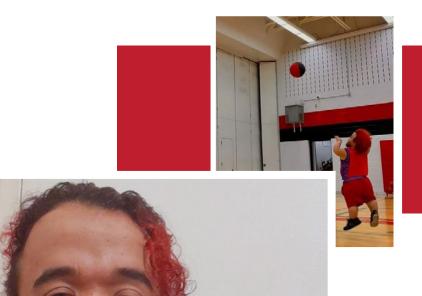
OPEN BADMINTON



- Competed in two previous World Dwarf Games (2013 & 2017).
- Has won 3 medals—1 bronze and 2 gold in Volleyball and Archery.
- Vice-President of the Dwarf Athletic Association of Canada (DAAC)
- "I've been participating in dwarf sports since I was a child. I was at the first sports event in Ontario in 2009 at 11 years old!"





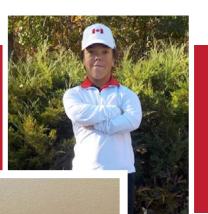


OPEN ARCHERY
OPEN BADMINTON
OPEN BASKETBALL
OPEN SOCCER
OPEN TRACK & FIELD
OPEN VOLLEYBALL

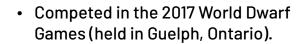
- FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- "I love to write rap songs"







OPEN BADMINTON
OPEN BASKETBALL
OPEN BOCCIA
OPEN SOCCER
OPEN TABLE TENNIS
OPEN VOLLEYBALL



- Has won 8 medals—in Boccia, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Badminton, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Basketball.
- Carter is an avid golfer, "Anytime during the summer you can find me on a Golf Course."





NICHOLAS OUINN

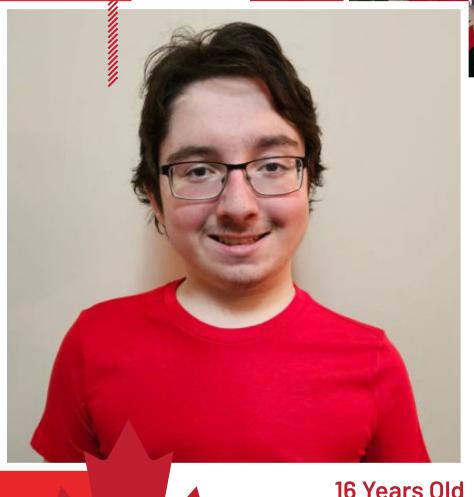


OPEN BADMINTON OPEN BOCCIA OPEN TABLE TENNIS OPEN VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games (held in Guelph, Ontario).
- Has won 6 medals—5 gold and 1 bronze in Badnminton Singles, Floor Hockey, Boccia, Table Tennis and Swimming.
- Nicholas enjoys gaming, playing Badminton and Table Tennis and spending time with familyand friends, he is looking forward to the 2023 games in Cologne.

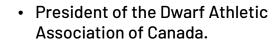








MASTERS BOCCIA



- Competed in the 2013 World Dwarf Games.
- · Won Silver in 10m Air Pistol
- Allan has a strong conviction for accessibility and disability rights, plus the belief in an equitable world for all. He supports many advocacy causes in this space.
- Allan is also known for his work in live theatre with numerous appearances in film and television productions.
- Allan is the oldest athlete on Team Canada.





62 Years Old Toronto, Ontario



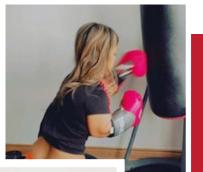


JUNIOR A BADMINTON
JUNIOR A BASKETBALL
JUNIOR A BOCCIA
JUNIOR A TRACK & FIELD
JUNIOR A SOCCER
JUNIOR A SWIMMING
JUNIOR A VOLLEYBALL

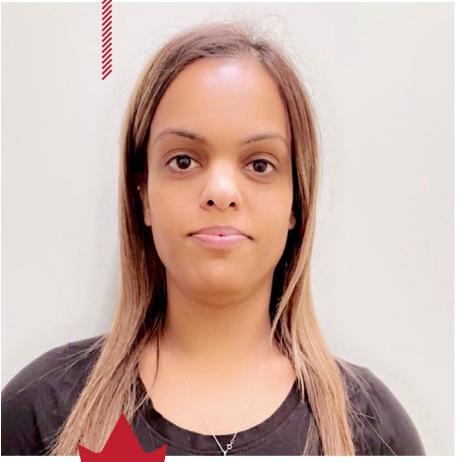
- FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- It may be his first time competing, but at the 2017 World Dwarf Games in Guelph, one and a half year old Jeremy was there cheering on his future teammates!
- "I can't wait to participate in my first WDG!
 I love all sports, but my absolute favourites are soccer and basketball. I can't wait to represent Team Canada in Germany!"







OPEN BASKETBALL
OPEN SOCCER
OPEN POWER LIFTING
OPEN BOCCIA
OPEN BADMINTON



30 Years Old Winnipeg, Manitoba

- · FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- Will be competing on the all women's "Team North America" in Soccer, alongside our American neighbours.
- "This year I launched my very own fitness page A.P.I.T.U.D.E."





OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in two previous World Dwarf Games (2013 & 2017).
- Has won 6 medals—3 bronze, 2 silver and a gold— in Floor Hockey, Boccia, Track & Field and Volleyball.
- "I've been competing in dwarf sports since I was a child, however, this will be my first Dwarf Athletic competition outside of North America, as well as my first time visiting Europe."





TIAN TABONE



JUNIOR B BADMINTON
JUNIOR B BASKETBALL
JUNIOR B BOCCIA
JUNIOR B SOCCER
JUNIOR B SWIMMING
JUNIOR B TRACK & FIELD
JUNIOR B TABLE TENNIS
JUNIOR B VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games (held in Guelph, Ontario). He was one of the youngest competitors at 7 years old.
- · Has won 1 gold medal in Floor Hockey.
- Outside of dwarf athletics, he plays baseball, hockey and he snowboards.
- "The WDG gives me an opportunity to play against others on an even playing field!"





TINA TAE

OPEN BOCCIA OPEN VOLLEYBALL



18 Years Old Richmond Hill, Ontario

- · FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- Isabella is a counsellor at Camp LPO, which is a week long camp experience for exclusively children with dwarfism and their families.

HINGLEY

OPEN BOCCIA



Bedford, Nova Scotia

- · FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- Was active in the Dwarf Athletic Association of America as a child (before DAAC existed).
- Is attending the games with her two daughters, Stella and Summer, who are also competing.
- "I am excited to get back into it in Germany! Go Canada!"



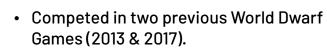


- 2023 Co-Chef De Mission
- Competed in the 2017 World Dwarf Games.
- Won Bronze in the 1500m.
- Brit founded has been running the dwarf sports program in Ontario since its inaugaral year in 2009.
- "I am bringing my three year old son along who also has dwarfism. I'm looking forward to introducing him to this world. There's so much ahead for him, and while he may not remember the games, it'll be the kick-off to his (hopefully) long future in dwarf sports."





OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL



- Has won 3 medals—1 gold and 2 silver— in Floor Hockey, Boccia, and Volleyball.
- Outside of sports, Nathan is an accountant.





OPEN BOCCIA OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL



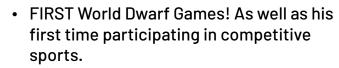
20 Years Old Exeter, Ontario

- FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- "I am Thomas the 3rd who is the son of Thomas the 3rd who is the Son of Thomas the 3rd"





OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN TABLE TENNIS



- His brother, Brandon, will also be competing in Germany.
- "I am a Winnipeg Jets fan living in Edmonton. Hockey is my favourite sport to play and watch."

19 Years Old Edmonton, Alberta





OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN TABLE TENNIS



19 Years Old Edmonton, Alberta

- FIRST World Dwarf Games! As well as first time participating in competitive sports.
- His brother, Jared, will also be competing in Germany.
- "My favourite Basketball Player is D'angelo Russell and my favourite Basketball Team is the Toronto Raptors."







OPEN BASKETBALL OPEN SOCCER OPEN VOLLEYBALL

- Competed in two previous World Dwarf Games (2013 & 2017).
- Ethan is a professional golfer.

, 19 Years Old Mississauga, Ontario





OPEN BADMINTON
JUNIOR B SOCCER
JUNIOR B VOLLEYBALL
JUNIOR B ARCHERY
JUNIOR C TRACK & FIELD
JUNIOR C SWIMMING
JUNIOR B TABLE TENNIS



- Has won 2 gold medals, in Floor Hockey and Swimming.
- Will be competing in the Open category which is an age group up—in Badminton because of her skill level in the sport.
- "I am also representing Newfoundland and Labrador at the North American Indigenous Games playing Doubles Badminton in Halifax this July."



15 Years Old Rigolet, Nunatsiavut Newfoundland & Labrador



SYDNEY YEUNG



JUNIOR A BADMINTON
JUNIOR A BASKETBALL
JUNIOR A BOCCIA
JUNIOR A TRACK & FIELD
JUNIOR A SOCCER
JUNIOR A SWIMMING
JUNIOR A VOLLEYBALL

- FIRST World Dwarf Games!
- She is a competitive alpine skiier.
- Sydney is a Canadian, from Toronto, that is currently living in Seattle, Washington (USA), and can't wait to represent her native land in Germany!

8 Years Old Seattle, Washington (living abroad)



ALI LATIF, SHAHIR | #25 • Toronto, ON AZZARELLO, FRANCESCA | #31 • Markham, ON BHAGRIA, VIVEK | #11 • Winnipeg, MB CAVE, SARAH | #5 • Whitehorse, YT **CLOËTTA, COLLEEN** | #30 • Baie d'Urfé, QC **DENIS, MAXIME** | #26 • Ottawa, ON DER, JARED | #43 • Saskatoon, SK FERGUSON, JOHN | #2 • Erin, ON FORCIER, DECLAN | #24 • Duncan, BC FORREST, STELLA | #32 • Bedford, NS FORREST, SUMMER | #34 • Bedford, NS GHODS, SARAH | #40 • Toronto, ON HANG, ANDIE | #14 • Toronto, ON HAYHOE, EZEKIEL | #45 • St. Thomas, ON **HUNTER, LOGAN** | #21 • Sault Ste. Marie, ON JOINER, HAILEIGH | #7 • Burk's Falls, ON JOLLY, SANA | #4 • Milton, ON KASSAM, JAMEEL | #9 • Toronto, ON KEITH, AARON | #35 • Toronto, ON **KENDRICK, JUSTIN** | #67 • Oakville, ON LAMANNA, ISABELLA | #33 • Markham, ON LEVAC, THOMAS | #10 • Embrun, ON LIGHTFOOT, WYATT | #00 • Assiniboia, SK

LINDGREN, AVERY | #12 • Winnipeg, MB MORIARTY-BRAND, MICHAEL | #23 • Mississauga, ON MCHUGAN, GABRIEL | #20 • Shelburne, ON MCKAY, JULIAN | #37 • Cambridge, ON MEIL, ZOE | #44 • Ottawa, ON MORRISON, CARTER | #8 • Carlyle, SK **QUINN, NICHOLAS** | #75 • Paradise, NL **REDFORD, ALLAN** | #42 • Toronto, ON SCOTT, JEREMY | #3 • Guelph, ON SHARMA, LEYTIKA | #1 • Winnipeg, MB SLOAN, BLAKE | #29 • Hamilton, ON STAPLES, LIAM | #19 • Georgetown, ON TABONE, CHRISTIAN | #6 • Bradford, ON TAEED, TINA | #54 • Richmond Hill, ON TINGLEY, ERICA | #13 • Bedford, NS THEIS, BRITTANY • Waterloo, ON TO, NATHAN | #22 • Peterborough, ON TURNER, GRANT | #0 • Exeter, ON **VANDERLINDEN, BRANDON** | #69 • Edmonton, AB **VANDERLINDEN, JARED** | #55 • Edmonton, AB WARCOP, ETHAN | #98 • Mississauga, ON WOLFREY, BROOKLYN | #91 • Rigolet, Nunatsiavut, NL YEUNG, SYDNEY | #15 • Seattle, WA, USA (Born in Toronto, ON)



"The World Dwarf Games is of incredible value and importance to the athletes from across Canada, and around the world. This unique opportunity to participate and compete on a level playing field in sport amongst individuals around the world of similar stature is one that does not come around often. Our Canadian Team has been working hard and is looking forward to eight days of intense competition!"