



National Sport School



Palliser
Regional Schools

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nationalsportschool.ca

Markin MacPhail Centre at WinSport

[110 - 151 Canada Olympic Road SW Calgary, Alberta](#)

● The National ● Sport School

The National Sport School (NSS) at WinSport is designed for families of high-performance developmental and competitive athletes who wish to excel in both academics and athletics. We understand and accommodate the unique needs of student-athletes. Students learn and thrive outside the traditional school setting to achieve a high school diploma, pursue sport and plan for future post-secondary aspirations. The NSS is for families who want to ease the pressure inherent with traditional school offerings that cannot support or accommodate student-athlete needs including academics, training, and competitions.

The National Sport School provides a supportive environment to enable developing high-performance athletes to mature as self-directed, life-long learners while pursuing excellence in sport.

For 30 years, the National Sport School has brought together a community of like-minded student-athletes, families and educators. In 2021, the National Sport School joined The Palliser School Division (Palliser).

Palliser is committed to supporting the values of the broader society: empathy, integrity, respect, trust, and responsibility. Palliser is a unique public school division serving approximately 9,000 students, ECS through Grade 12. We operate 52 schools. We believe diversity is one of our greatest strengths and Palliser is deeply committed to providing learning environments that are diverse, safe, caring, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of our students.

At WinSport, our mission is to provide opportunities for Canadians to discover, develop and excel at sport through world-class training, facilities and exceptional experiences.



Before I leave (for skiing), I'll connect with my teachers and find out what I need to bring with me and what I need to do while I'm away. I'm in communication with them when I'm gone and I'll send them an email if I'm struggling with something, and they'll get back to me that same day. It's super helpful.

Quincy Barr
National Sport School Student





● Student ● Eligibility

Student-athletes in grades 8-12 will find the flexibility and learning environment to optimize their academic success. They are involved in sport that is usually recognized at the Provincial or National level and therefore spend a lot of time dedicated to their athletic pursuits. They may also be affiliated with one of our partner organizations such as the National Sport Academy, Calgary International Hockey Academy, Elite School Soccer, UPlay Basketball, SDR Academy, etc. We recognize the unique challenges of school programming designed around training and competition and the need to both accommodate sport commitments and provide learning opportunities through digital technology, access to teachers and individual attention.

Our son is passionate about his sport and he's also passionate about academics and so we needed a school that was going to honour both of those passions and support both of those passions

Krista Thompson
Parent of National Sport School graduate

● Our Learning ● Environment

The National Sport School provides an accessible, supportive, and flexible learning environment. Small class sizes, tutorials, athlete development, leadership training, flexible program and exam options, as well as unparalleled access to onsite sports services, world-class training facilities, and various funding opportunities are what sets us apart. Students can be both successful athletes and graduate from high school with an exceptional education.

Our hybrid learning environment combines classroom instruction with online technology, allowing students to continue studies when traveling for training or competition.



Our Location

No other school in Canada is nestled on a campus quite like ours at WinSport. We offer and maintain high-performance facilities where the world's best come to train and compete. The location at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park offers a unique duality: premier training facilities collaborating with an onsite esteemed school. Another advantage is that our academic institution is part of a public education system. All of this opportunity remains exceptionally accessible for families with varying financial means.

WinSport's indoor and outdoor training facilities offer world class training venues in skating and hockey, ski, snowboard and sliding sports. These facilities provide varied training opportunities our student-athletes need to achieve their potential. Professional services through the Performance Training Centre, Benson Concussion Institute and Canadian Sport Institute, expert coaches, nutritionists, a yoga instructor, concession and other benefits are services our students have access to. Through the Performance Training Centre, the athlete's Yearly Training Plan (YTP) is supported through on-site access to training. The Group 23 medical clinic onsite allows our student athletes to recover in a supportive sport environment and deal with the physical and mental challenges often associated with injury and recovery.

WinSport's purpose is to inspire and activate human potential through the spirit of sport.



Because of the National Sport School, I was recruited for multiple universities, receiving both academic and athletic scholarships to McGill University.

Dr. Rayven Snodgrass
National Sport School graduate 2014.





The National Sport School has seen a high level of both academic achievements and athletic success amongst current students and alumni.

Graduation Rates

2021-2024

100%

These rates are well above the provincial average. Our academic performance is key and with Palliser School Division, we expect to improve this even more.

70+

clubs and organizations represented.



14 graduates from 2023-24 achieved scholarships from schools in the United States.

Athletes represent over

30+

diverse sports.

~15%

of Canada's Winter Olympic team are NSS Alumni.

25 Alumni

competed at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games.

Application Process

The National Sport School has student-athletes in nearly 30 plus different disciplines in both summer and winter sports. Our school works closely with national and provincial sport organizations in the selection of our student-athletes. We recognize approvals and endorsements from these organizations as part of our overall application process. We work with these organizations to ensure that their overall objectives for their athletes are included in their personalized annual training plans.

If your student-athlete is a fit for National Sport School, please complete your application. The early application intake deadline is December 20th, 2024. The regular application intake deadline is March 1, 2025.

Regular applications may also be considered pending the number of remaining placements available after this spring application, interview, assessment and enrollment process has been completed.



Although student athletes that attend NSS come from different backgrounds, have different schedules, and compete and train with different teams, the NSS creates an environment of belonging and likeness. In the hectic world of competitive sport, it provides a community. The National Sport School undoubtedly embodies the culture of excellence that encourages its students, staff and parents to uphold.

Alexandra Pretorius
Canadian Ski Jumping team member
2014 Sochi Olympics





When I began at the NSS in the tenth grade, everything changed. I had room to breathe and a team of supporters who helped to fuel my goals in all aspects of my life. My training went to the next level because I was able to make it my first priority without the guilt and my academics skyrocketed because I was able to build my schedule around my sport commitments. I could have it all and this freedom allowed me to prosper.

Kyle Shewfelt

Canadian National Gymnastics team member and 2004 Olympic Gold medalist.

● How to Apply

1. Complete the application package, including the \$210 non-refundable application fee.
2. Individual Evaluation: The prospective student athlete will interview with sport and academic representatives from the National Sport School and WinSport.
3. Upon receipt of written notification of provisional acceptance, complete the National Sport School enrollment package. This step also includes payment of the National Sport School Alternative Program fee of \$5,500.





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