

Provincial Coach Report 2026

This past season was a positive and productive one for our high-performance athletes in Manitoba. We were fortunate to host several major events in Winnipeg, including the Junior Elite Series, as well as the Junior, Senior, and Para National Championships. Hosting these events in our province provided our high-performance athletes with valuable opportunities to compete against some of the top players from across Canada while representing Manitoba on home soil.

As we continue to encourage our high-performance athletes to compete at both national and international events, I would like to congratulate Kiren Deraj on being selected to the Thomas & Uber Cup team. This is a significant accomplishment and a great example of the level our Manitoba athletes can achieve through commitment and hard work.

The Manitoba Winter Games were also a success this season. Although we were missing teams from two regions, the athletes who participated represented their regions well and enjoyed a competitive and positive tournament experience. Events such as the Manitoba Winter Games continue to play an important role in introducing young athletes to higher levels of competition and helping develop badminton throughout the province.

We also continued our efforts to support badminton development across Manitoba by providing clinics to clubs and regions that requested additional coaching and development opportunities. These clinics allow us to connect with athletes and coaches outside of Winnipeg and help strengthen badminton programs throughout the province.

Para badminton continues to be an important area of development. Clinics were regularly held at the Winter Club throughout the past season, providing opportunities for athletes to participate, train, and develop their skills. With my new position as Head National Para Coach, I look forward to using my experience and opportunities at the national level to help further grow the presence of para badminton in Manitoba.

Manitoba was also well represented at the Canadian Masters Championships in Kelowna, British Columbia, with approximately 13 Manitoba athletes participating. Congratulations to Rick Frost, Shawn Chawla, and Elliott Beals, who were crowned national champions. Their success was a great accomplishment and another example of Manitoba's strong representation on the national stage.

Looking ahead, we have selected our final core team for the 2027 Canada Winter Games in Quebec City. Over the coming months, these athletes will compete in both in-province and out-of-province tournaments, attend training camps, document their progress, and continue working toward earning a position on the final team. The final tryout will take place in December, and we look forward to seeing the athletes continue to develop as they work toward representing Manitoba at the Canada Winter Games.

As we continue working to raise the level of badminton throughout Manitoba, I would like to sincerely thank all of our coaches, parents, volunteers, and athletes for their continued

commitment and support. The progress we have made would not be possible without the time, dedication, and effort of everyone involved in our badminton community.

I look forward to continuing this momentum and building on our successes in the season ahead.