



**Bowls
Canada
Boulingrin**

2023 World Bowls

Championships

Media Kit



**WORLD BOWLS
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Gold Coast, Queensland 2023

Overview

The 2023 World Championships are set to take place on the Gold Coast of Australia from August 29th to September 10th. 44 countries will be participating with Canada fielding a full squad of five men and five women.

Team Canada is looking to make an impact at the 2023 World Championships on the Gold Coast of Australia. With a mix of experienced veterans and youthful energy this could be the perfect formula for team Canada to cross the finish line with the gold.

Long time National Squad veterans Kelly McKerihen and Ryan Bester are trying to add to their legacies by competing in their respective singles and pairs divisions. This will be McKerihen's 3rd world championship aiming for her first medal, while Bester is searching for his first gold in almost two decades. He won the Men's Pairs gold in 2004 with partner Keith Rooney. He also has a bronze (2008) and silver (2016) in singles as well as a bronze in pairs from 2012 on his very lengthy resume.

The recent injection of youthful talent may be what sets Canada apart from the rest of the pack. There are three recent Canadian Youth Champions on the squad who are searching to extend their winning ways onto the international stage. Jordan Kos won the 2023 U25 Canadian Championship in the singles division, on top of winning the 2022 Canadian Women's singles championship. She got her first taste of international action last year at the 2022 Commonwealth games and is dialed in for more.

Emma Boyd was the 2019 U25 Youth Singles Champion and has been competing at a high level in Australia for the past year. Baylee van Steijn won a bronze the 2022 Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship as well winning a silver medal at the 2023 U25 Canadian Youth Championship coming second only to her teammate Jordan Kos. Owen Kirby is a two-time U25 Canadian Youth Champion in 2018 & 2022. He has played several times at World Youth Championships and the North American Challenge, but this is his first time at a World Bowls World Championship.

This may be the perfect storm for Canada to rise to the top at the international level.

Team Canada Lineup

Women's Singles:	Kelly McKerihen (Toronto, ON)
Women's Pairs:	Kelly McKerihen, Jordan Kos (Regina, SK)
Women's Triples:	Emma Boyd (Delta, BC), Baylee van Steijn (Gore's Landing, ON), Joanna Cooper (Calgary, AB)
Women's Fours:	Jordan Kos, Emma Boyd, Baylee van Steijn, Joanna Cooper
Men's Singles:	Ryan Bester (Hanover, ON)
Men's Pairs:	Ryan Bester, John Bezear (Kitchener, ON)
Men's Triples:	Cameron Lefresne (Enfield, NS), Rob Law (Winnipeg, MB), Owen Kirby (Kitchener, ON)
Men's Fours:	Cameron Lefresne, John Bezear, Rob Law, Owen Kirby

Dates

August 29th – September 10th

Venues

Five of Australia's premier bowls clubs will play host to the 2023 World Bowls Championships.

Collectively, they provide the event with 13 bowls greens to accommodate the staging of the largest World Championships event yet

- Broadbeach Bowls Club, Broadbeach QLD
- Club Helensvale, Helensvale QLD
- Club Musgrave, Southport QLD
- Mudgeeraba Bowls Club, Mudgeeraba QLD
- Paradise Point Bowls Club, Paradise Point QLD

Number of events

Canada will compete in eight able bodied events — Singles, pairs, triples, and fours for men and women.

About Lawn Bowls

Bowls is a strategic, challenging and fun sport that can be enjoyed by anyone. It is played on a large smooth grass surface called a “green”. Lawn bowls are large, hard resin balls with a bias to them, so that they travel along an elliptical path, rather than going straight. The object of the game is to roll your bowls closer to the target than your opponents. The target is a small white ball called a “jack”. The jack is rolled the length of the green to start each end. Players from each team taking turns rolling their bowls down the green toward the jack until all the bowls have been played.

For more information

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About Bowls Canada

Bowls Canada Boulingrin (BCB) is the governing body responsible for lawn bowls in Canada. The BCB mission is to advance the sport of bowls in Canada. For more details on Bowls Canada Boulingrin and the sport of lawn bowls, visit www.bowlscanada.com.

About 2023 World Bowls Championship:

The 2023 World Bowls Championships will take place on the Gold Coast, Queensland from August 29 – September 10. The event will be held at the Broadbeach Bowls Club, Musgrave Hill Bowls Club, Club Helensvale, Mudgeeraba Bowls Club and Paradise Point Bowls Club. The World Bowls Championships are held every two years, and feature men's and women's singles, pairs, triples, and fours.

Meet the Women's Team

Athlete Name: Kelly McKerihen



Athlete Information: Bowls has always been a part of Kelly's life for as long as she can remember. Being a part of a bowling family will do that. Her father Steve won numerous provincial and Canadian titles, her sister Lisa and brother Adam have also played in Canadian Championships.

Kelly now resides in Melbourne, Australia and is engaged to New Zealand bowler Ali Forsyth. Kelly has played at in 3 Commonwealth Games; this will be her 3rd World championship representing Canada.

Event: Singles & Pairs

DOB: 5/5/1986

Hometown: Toronto, ON

Residence: Melbourne, Australia

Club: Clayton BC(Australia), Port Credit LBC

Profession: Manager at the Resting Toucher Bowls Shop in Melbourne

Career Highlights: 2021 Australian Championships (Mixed Pairs-Gold, Triples-Bronze), 2019 Australian Championships (Fours-Silver), 2019 Multinations

(Singles-Silver), 2018 Commonwealth Games (Semi-Finalist Pairs & Singles), 2017 Multinations (Fours-Bronze), 2016 World Championships (Singles-Bronze), 2012 World Championships (Singles-Bronze), 2007 Atlantic Championships (Fours-Bronze, Triples-Bronze), 9-Time Canadian Champion

Local Media:

TV: CBC Toronto, City News Toronto, Global Toronto,

Newspaper: Toronto – Globe and Mail, Toronto Sun, The Local TO

Radio: City News 680, 640 Toronto Global News, I Heart Radio Newstalk 1010 Toronto

Fun Facts:

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Playing alongside my dad at an international event, at the World Championships in Christchurch 2016.

Who is your favourite athlete?

Roger Federer. He has achieved everything in his sport, played at such a high level for a long time and I love the way he goes about playing, his professionalism & demeanor on court.

If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?

Curling

What is your favourite movie?

Sound of music

Who is your favourite music artist?

P!nk

What three words would your teammates use to describe you?

Competitive, focused, kind

Athlete Name: Jordan Kos



Athlete Information: Coming off representing Canada at the 2022 Commonwealth games last summer at 23 years of age Jordan Kos is looking to make her mark at the World Championship. Jordan won the 2022 Canadian Outdoor Singles Championships and most recently beat Baylee van Steijn at the 2023 Canadian Youth Championships to win the Women's Under 25 event. Hopefully she can carry the momentum from these wins into the World Championship and bring a medal home to Canada.

Event: Pairs & Fours

DOB: 6/25/2000

Hometown/Residence: Regina, Saskatchewan

Club: Regina Lawn Bowling Club

Profession: Student/ Marketing Assistant

Social Media: Instagram – jordan_kos_2000, Facebook – Jordan Kos

Career Highlights: 2023 Canadian Youth Champion, 2022 Canadian National Women's Single Champion, 2022 Commonwealth Games Team

Local Media:

Newspaper: [Regina Leader-Post](#)

TV: CTV Regina, CBC Saskatchewan, Global Regina

Radio: CJME News Talk 980, 620 CKRM

Fun Facts:**What is your favourite bowls memory?**

Being drafted at the age of 13 by the infamous, Jean Roney, to play pairs with her nationally which was the start of my competitive bowls career. Also, at the age of 15, being asked to represent Canada at the North America Challenge. This was the first time I represented Canada internationally. Oh, and being selected to the Comm Games Team. Oh, and also, being selected to the World Bowls Team.

Who is your favourite athlete?

Bobby Orr. His dedication to practice and perfection and his kind demeanor coupled with the fact that he never let his fame go to his head. He's a real GOAT.

If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?

Gymnastics. Unfortunately, I don't have the flexibility or the body for it.

What is your favourite movie?

Wedding Crashers. I can recite every line from the movie with my favorite being "Schlomo? I thought you were renouncing all your possessions and moving to Nepal?!"

Who is your favourite music artist?

Devin Cooper for obvious reasons.

What are three things you can't live without?

Bowls. Money. Bowls. (not necessarily in that order)

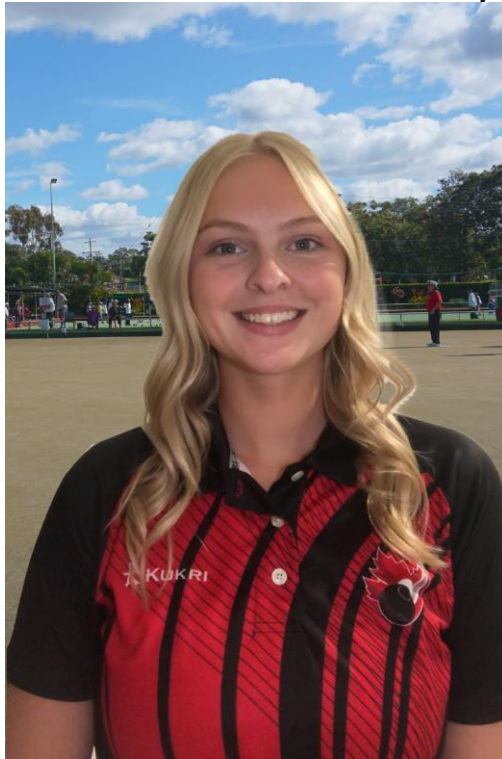
Any other fun facts you'd like to share about yourself?

I've never said "No" to a good slice of pizza. I studied Latin for four years - Carpe Diem or whatever. I can eat anything I want and look like this - it's a curse. Henry, Jill, Eric, Sean - they call me Aunti or Heidi Klum - I've heard it both ways.

What three words would your teammates use to describe you?

She's shy, quiet and sensitive - and can wear every color. Oops. I guess that's 3 words, and a sentence fragment.

Athlete Name: Emma Boyd



Athlete Information: Originally from BC, Emma relocated to Australia for the past year to bowl year-round down under. In 2018 Emma won the Junior Canadian Youth Championship and in 2019 the U25 Canadian Youth Championship. She's looking to continue her bowls development journey by competing on the National Squad for the first time in her career at the 2023 World Championships.

Event: Triples/Fours

DOB: 7/29/2000

Hometown: Tsawwassen, B.C

Residence: Gold Coast QLD

Club: Club Tweed

Profession: Assistant Bowls Coordinator at Club Tweed

Social Media: Instagram - @emmaabbold

Career Highlights: World U25 Triples, QLD State Triples Runners Up and U25 Canadian National Singles Champion

Local Media:

TV: CBC Vancouver

Newspaper: Vancouver Sun, Delta Optimist

Radio: Delta 604 NOW

Fun Facts:

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Winning the National U25 singles in front of my friends and family

Who is your favourite athlete?

Serena Williams - her power, grit and determination is inspiring

If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?

Basketball

What is your favourite movie?

The Notebook

Who is your favourite music artist?

John Mayer

What are three things you can't live without?

Internet, my dog, and the beach

Any other fun facts you'd like to share about yourself?

I can crack an egg in each hand

What three words would your teammates use to describe you?

Funny, motivated, determined

Athlete Name: Baylee van Steijn



Athlete Information: The youngest member of the World Bowls squad Baylee van Steijn is looking to show the world what she's got on the international stage. She is currently a member of BCB's Development Committee. In the 2022 she competed at the Canadian Mixed Pairs Championships and won the bronze. She also recently won silver at the 2023 U25 Canadian Youth Championships, losing to National Squad teammate Jordan Kos in the gold medal game.

Event: Triples/Fours

DOB: 2/26/2001

Hometown: Gores Landing, ON

Club: Cobourg Lawn Bowling Club/ Port Perry Lawn Bowling Club

Profession: Will be starting a welding job when I return home from Australia

Social Media: Facebook - Baylee van Steijn

Career Highlights: 2022 Canadian Mixed Pairs Championship Bronze medal, 2023 Canadian Youth Championship U25 silver medal

Local Media:

TV:

Radio: Cave FM 106.4 Gores Radio Station

Newspaper: Today's Northumberland, Cobourg Media

Fun Facts:

Who is your favourite athlete?

Christine Sinclair and Hayley Wickenheiser because they are both strong female role models in sports.

If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?

Hockey

What is your favourite movie?

Anything Adam Sandler

Who is your favourite music artist?

Johnny Cash

What are three things you can't live without?

Pickles, Pillows/ fuzzy blankets, friends and family

Any other fun facts you'd like to share about yourself?

I tried and love kool-aid pickles

What three words would your teammates use to describe you?

Dedicated, passionate and encouraging

Athlete Name: Joanna Cooper



Athlete Information: Frequently found in New Zealand and Australia, as well as Calgary, Joanna has played at a high level in multiple countries. She is a geophysicist.

Event: Triples & Fours

DOB:

Hometown: Calgary, AB

Club: Stanley Park LBC (Calgary), Rotary Park LBC (Calgary), Calgary Lawn Bowling Club, Northeast Valley Bowling Club (Dunedin, NZ)

Profession: Geophysicist

Career Highlights: 2018 Commonwealth Games – 4th in Triples and Fours, 2018 North American Challenge, Multi-Nations Event – 2017, World Bowls – 2012 & 2016, Commonwealth Games – 2014, Asia-Pacific Championships (bronze medal) – 2011

Local Media:

Tv: CTV Calgary, CBC Calgary, City News Calgary, Global Calgary

Newspaper: Calgary Herald, Calgary Sun

Radio: City News Calgary, CBC Calgary

Fun Facts:

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Winning the 2014 Southern Alberta Novice Pairs Championship with my Dad.

Who is your favourite athlete?

Roger Federer

How were you introduced to the sport of bowls?

My skip convinced our curling team to join a fun Lawn Bowling league

What motivates you to succeed?

The opportunity to push my limits and find out how good I can become.

Meet the Men's Team

Athlete Name: John Bezear



Athlete Information: Originally from Australia and now from Kitchener. Over the years John has played with teammate Ryan Bester several times at international events, they look to have another successful tournament at the world championships.

Event: Pairs & Fours

DOB: 8/28/1979

Hometown: Kitchener, ON

Club: Heritage Lawn Bowling Club

Profession: Small Business Owner

Career Highlights: Multi Nations Gold Medal 2019, 2023 OBA Singles Champion, 2023 Bill Boetker Pairs Champion

Local Media:

TV: CTV News Kitchener, Global Kitchener

Radio: City News Kitchener 570

Newspaper: Kitchener City News Everywhere, CTV News Kitchener, Global Kitchener

Fun Facts:

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Walking into the athlete's village for the first time in Birmingham 2022. Overwhelming sense of pride to represent Canada at that level.

Who is your favourite athlete?

Arnold Palmer - Fun fact, my dad caddied for him in 1967 at the Dunlop International in Australia. My Dad shared many amazing stories about Arnold and how kind he was. He was the people's champion and transformed the sport of golf for himself and everyone around him

If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?

Golf

Who is your favourite music artist?

To many to list. Can vibe to artists from just about any genre.

What are three things you can't live without?

Family, Friends, Food.

What three words would your teammates use to describe you?

Helpful, Fun, Crazy

Athlete Name: Ryan Bester



Athlete Information: Part of a bowling family with brothers Mike and Chris, and father Bob having won Canadian Championships together. Originally from Hanover, Ontario, Bester has a street named after him in his hometown. Bester has played at numerous World Championships and Commonwealth Games over the past decade. He has played in 6 Commonwealth Games. This will be his 5th World Bowls Championship. He won the Men's Pairs World championship in 2004 with Keith Roney (Regina). He was a bronze medalist in Singles in 2008, Bronze in Pairs in 2012 and silver medalist in Singles in 2016.

Event: Singles & Pairs

DOB: July 12, 1984

Hometown: Hanover, ON

Club: Hanover Lawn Bowling Club & Broadbeach, AUS

Profession: Bowls Coordinator

Social Media: Facebook – Ryan Bester

Career Highlights: Australian Open Singles Champion – 2018, Australian Open Player of the Tournament – 2018, Commonwealth Games Singles Medalist – 2018

(silver medal), World Singles Silver Medalist – 2012, 2016 , Commonwealth Games Medalist – 2006 (bronze medal) & 2014 , Atlantic Rim Singles Champion – 2007 , Asia Pacific Singles Champion – 2005, World Pairs Champion – 2004

Local Media:

Radio: Bluewater Radio 91.3

Newspaper: Hanover Post

Fun Facts:

If you could only eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be?

Pizza

What is one thing you can't live without (besides bowls of course)?

Music

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Winning the Canadian Fours with my two brothers and Father

If you could speak another language, what would it be?

Italian

Athlete Name: Cameron Lefresne



Athlete Information: Cameron was introduced to the sport of bowls at the age of 6 by his grandmother. He is currently the president of Lawn Bowls Nova Scotia. Cam's grandmother (Lena Cameron) is co-chair of the 2023 Canadian Mixed Pairs Championships. Cam has played in numerous international events since 2016 and is looking forward to fighting for a medal in Australia.

Event: Triples & Fours

DOB: 6/30/1994

Hometown: Enfield, NS

Residence: Bridgewater, NS

Club: Wanderers Lawn Bowling Club

Profession: Survey Technician

Social Media: Facebook - @Cameron Lefresne, Twitter/X- @CameronLefresne

Career Highlights: Commonwealth games 2018; 2022, 2017 U25 Canadian Youth Champion

Local Media:

TV: City News Halifax

Radio: City News Halifax 95.7

Newspaper: The laker news

Fun Facts:

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Playing in two commonwealth games

If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it

be? Soccer

What is your favourite movie?

Men in Black

Who is your favourite music artist?

Toby Keith

What are three things you can't live without?

Pizza, Coca-cola, Bowls

What three words would your teammates use to describe you?

Quiet, Easy-going, Calm

Athlete Name: Rob Law



Athlete Information: Rob was introduced to bowls by his grandmother when she brought him down to her local club on “buddy day” in Manitoba. He started playing at the age of 9, and at age 12 he started competing at the highest level.

Initially from Winnipeg, Rob has played in Halifax as well as Calgary while travelling to school to become a lawyer. He was called to the Alberta Bar in June 2023. Rob has served on the Board for AthletesCAN, an organization dedicated to national team athletes from all sports in Canada.

Event: Triples & Fours

DOB: 10/16/97

Hometown: Winnipeg, MB

Residence: Calgary, AB

Club: Norwood LBC/ Calgary LBC

Profession: Lawyer

Social Media: Instagram - @bobby.law

Career Highlights: 2019 double Bronze at the Asia Pacific Championships (fours & pairs); 2017, 2018 Bronze and Silver at the Canadian U25 Singles Championships

Local Media:

Tv: City News Winnipeg, CTV News Winnipeg, Global Winnipeg

Radio: CBC Radio One Manitoba

Newspaper: City News Winnipeg, CTV News Winnipeg, Global Winnipeg

Fun Facts:

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Competing at my first major championship as part of Team Manitoba with my grandma

Who is your favourite athlete?

Danny Ric, he brings passion, positivity and good vibes.

If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be? Skeleton

Who is your favourite music artist?

Matt Maeson and Vance Joy

What are three things you can't live without?

Mountains, the gym, and lawn bowls

What three words would your teammates use to describe you?

Live, Laugh, Love

Athlete Name: Owen Kirby



Athlete Information: Owen won the Canadian Youth Championships, Men's Under 25 division in both 2018 and 2022. Has played several times at World Youth Championships and the North American Challenge, but this is his first time at a World Bowls World Championship.

Event: Triples & Fours

DOB: 5/5/1999

Hometown: Kitchener, ON

Club: Heritage Greens Lawn Bowling Club

Profession: Information Systems/Technology Technician

Career Highlights: Two-time Canadian U25 Youth Champion 2018 & 2022

Local Media:

TV: CTV News Kitchener, Global Kitchener

Radio: City News Kitchener 570

Newspaper: Kitchener City News Everywhere, CTV News Kitchener, Global Kitchener

Fun Facts:

What is your favourite bowls memory?

Bowling with my father and Josh Cameron in Paris, ON. My first tournament.

Who is your favourite athlete?

Heung-min Son, Tottenham Hotspur & South Korean player/captain.
Humble, professional, talented and disciplined.

If you could play any other sport professionally, what would it be?

Soccer

What is your favourite movie?

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

Who is your favourite music artist?

Kendrick Lamar

What are three things you can't live without?

Family, Friends, and Fried Chicken

Any other fun facts you'd like to share about yourself?

I play chess and a lot of video games. I can also recite a few movies in their entirety. Which ones? Wouldn't you like to know.

What three words would your teammates use to describe you?

Determined, Quiet and Focused