



Media Release

Canadian Women Take Bronze and Many Personal Bests at 2022 World Ice Stock Championships

March 1, 2022

Ritten, Italy – Canada’s women’s ice stock team came home with a bronze medal at last week’s World Ice Stock Championships in Ritten, Italy. Canada was playing in Group B. The gold medal was won by Switzerland and the silver by Belarus. The Canadian women have medalled in the last four world championships.

Another great accomplishment was had by Canada’s women’s distance throwing team. In this event, where the goal is to slide the stock as far down the ice as possible, the women finished an incredible fourth place behind world powers Austria, Germany and Italy. On an individual note, Jennifer Mayrl was the only non-European to advance to the final 12 with a throw of 106 metres. Ultimately, she finished 11th in the world.

“In every championship over the last eight years, our Canadian women’s team has become more and more competitive. While we are still a niche sport, these results are an indication of the membership growth that has been occurring and the commitment we have to high performance” said Jennifer Mayrl, President of the Canadian Ice-Stock Federation. “We are incredibly proud of our athletes and coaches. They not only showed off their abilities against a strong field but they were incredible ambassadors for our country.”

Canada sent its largest team ever – 17 athletes and coaches – to compete in team and individual competitions. Of special significance is the team had its youngest ever athlete (16-year-old Sophia Antoine) and Tyler MacComish who has Downs Syndrome. Highlights of the results:

- Women’s Team – Bronze Medal B Group: Tammy Lambert, Jennifer Mayrl, Stefanie Mayrl, Rebecca Smith and Kata Zaric
- Women’s Distance Throwing – 4th in the team event: Sophia Antoine, Jennifer Mayrl, Stefanie Mayrl and Bianca Sinclair
- Individual Distance Throwing – Jennifer Mayrl qualified for the finals in the 30 athlete field and finished 11th overall with a throw of 111.77 metres. Stefanie Mayrl finished 13th.
- Men’s Distance Throwing – 7th in the team event: Jamie Babcock, Paul Blais, Chris Hammer and Tyler MacComish
- Men’s Target Shooting – Kevin Bryan set a personal best of 140 in the individual event. In the team event, Paul Blais was perfect on his first 8 shots and finished with 105 of a possible 120 points – second highest in the world.

During Congress meetings held last week, the International Federation of Icestocksport confirmed that Canada will host the 2023 America Cup. That competition is held in the summer months with competitors from across North and South America. Permission was received to hold a first-ever tournament for juniors. The Canadian Federation's Director of High Performance Sport, Karl Hammer Jr., is looking forward to his local club being the venue the event. "A major goal of our Federation is to deepen the field of international-level athletes that will compete for Canada. This includes junior players. Anyone who is interested in playing this sport at a competitive or recreational level is welcome to contact us through www.icestockcanada.com."

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About the Canadian Ice-Stock Federation

The Canadian Ice-Stock Federation is the governing body for the sport in Canada. In Canada there are two types of clubs. There are clubs that are a part of the Canadian Federation and hobby clubs. The Federation-recognized clubs take part in local, provincial and national tournaments. The members that are a part of these clubs have the opportunity to play for Canada in international competition.

The sport is described as a mix between bocce and curling and has been played for over 600 years. Players slide a stock along the ice and aim for a target in the house, 27 metres away. After eight turns the team with stocks closest to the target gets points. Repeat that five more times and you have played a game. Different types of plates allow the sport to be played in summer months on asphalt or concrete.

Stocksport is a highly inclusive sport that encourages camaraderie amongst people of all ages, genders, and many special needs. Because accuracy and placement are as important as speed and strength, entire families can participate and be active together – parents and grandparents do not just have to watch, they can play along.

At its most competitive, our clubs send their best men and women to the world championships every two years. In between those years, we participate in the America Cup. In 2021, the International Olympic Committee formally and fully recognized icestock sport for inclusion in future Olympic Games.

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