

John Atkinson



Canada

John is the National High-Performance Director and National Coach for Swimming Canada having commenced in the role at the beginning of March 2013. He was tasked with delivering international success at the Olympic Games and overseeing the whole Technical program that includes the Olympic pool and open water swimming, the High-Performance centres, Paralympic Swimming and the Development team program's.

In 2018 the Canadian team have performed well at the Pan Pacific Championships, Tokyo, Japan winning 9 medals and earlier in the year at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Swimming Canada returned with 20 medals compared to 11 in 2014, and an increase from 10 to 15 medals in the Olympic Program.

The 2017 FINA World Championship's saw Canada win 4 medals and continuing to develop depth with the team placing in 17 finals, the best since 1978. The women's team was 4th on the points score and Canada 8th overall. Also in 2017 the Canadian Junior team finished second on Gold Medal's with 7 and the best ever total medals of 15 at the FINA World Junior Championships. The team won 5 Gold out of 8 available in relays. More relay Gold than any nation at the Championships.

The Swimming Canada Female Swimmers were voted the Canadian Press **Team of the Year for 2016**, following their strong performances at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. This is a very prestigious award and all teams both Olympic sport and professional sports teams (i.e. baseball, basketball, soccer etc) are considered for this.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Press_Team_of_the_Year_Award

In Rio at the 2016 Olympic Games the Canadian Swimming team won 6 medals (1 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 Bronze medals) the best performance by the Canadian Swimming team since the 1984 and 1976 Games. The team more than doubled the number of finals from 2012 and also had a 200% increase in medals won. Swimming Canada places equal 5th in the swimming total medals table. The Canadian Swimming Team at the 2016 Olympic Games were recognised by many as the most improved Swimming nation since the 2012 Olympic Games.

Prior to Canada

John worked for British Swimming from 2000 to 2013 in 3 key leadership roles within the organisation; National Youth Coach Olympic Swimming, Director of World Class Programmes Olympic Swimming and National Performance Director for Paralympic Swimming.

John also worked in Australia from 1994 to 2000. During that time he was involved in the Australian Swimming Youth programme and was involved in numerous national programs. He was an Australian team coach to the 1997 Oceania championships, National event camps, National Youth camps and National Tip Top camps. In 1998 John was the head coach for the Australian National Tip Top camp for Australian Swimming.

Published author

In 2003 John along with Bill Sweetenham were co authors of the book publication 'Championship Swim Training' published by Human Kinetics, which is available through www.HumanKinetics.com and has sold in excess of 20000 copies worldwide.