



## 2023 Canada Winter Games (CWG) Selection Policy

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## I. Definitions

The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

- “CWG” – Canada Winter Games
- “CWG Team Staff” – Team Saskatchewan Canada Winter Games head coach and assistant coaches as selected by Ringette Saskatchewan for the current cycle.
- “Local Association” – any Ringette association that is a member of Ringette Saskatchewan (Buffalo Plains Ringette Association, Prince Albert Ringette Association, Regina Ringette Association, Saskatoon Ringette Association).
- “Athlete Selection Committee” – non-team staff member evaluators at evaluation camps.

## II. Purpose

This policy is to be used to provide a process for athletes to be selected to Team Saskatchewan for the Canada Winter Games. This policy applies to all events related to Canada Winter Games.

### *Canada Winter Games (CWG)*

Technical and eligibility criteria, and the age categories for participation in the Canada Games, are determined by the Canada Games Council (CGC) in partnership with the national sport federations. The CGC does not impose performance selection criteria on the provinces/territories or on their sport governing bodies.

## III. Authority for Selection

The Athlete Selection Committee for Team Saskatchewan at the CWG is composed of the Team Staff for Team Saskatchewan and non-team staff members designated by Ringette Saskatchewan. The non-team staff members will have extensive coaching experience at the High Performance level.

Final decision making on team selection resides with the Team Staff. The Athlete Selection Committee’s role is to support the Team Staff through the evaluation process and review proposed selections from the Team Staff.

### *Conflict of Interest*

Look for a provision that dictates under what circumstances a decision maker would have to remove themselves from the selection process. If the decision maker is a committee or a group formed by several individuals, a retraction is simple. However, if it is a single decision maker, then another authority (another person or a committee) must be identified to replace them. If a selection committee is put in place especially for this selection process, look for information on how it will be formed or on what basis individuals will be named to that committee.

## IV. Pre-Selection Procedure

- Evaluation/tryout camp dates and times will be advertised on social media, our website and communication to local associations.
- Information with regards to evaluation/tryout camps shall be electronically communicated to all eligible players registered with Ringette Saskatchewan during the previous season.

## V. Selection Process

- Team staff will assess each player with specific structured criteria and rate accordingly. Players will be informed of the specific criteria at the first evaluation/tryout camp.
- Provincial team or NRL (Saskatchewan Heat, CRC, WCRC or CWG) team jerseys may not be worn by players during evaluation/tryout camps.
- Players must attend 80% of evaluation/tryout camps. Failure to meet this criteria can only be for exceptional circumstances, which must be reported to and approved by team staff.

### *Injury/Illness*

The Head Coach will have the authority to grant exceptions for athletes who wish to attend evaluations/tryouts but are injured and/or ill during or prior to an evaluation/tryout camp.

The Athlete Selection Committee will:

- Oversee the evaluation process.
- Must be able to commit to every evaluation/tryout camp date.
- Support the Team Staff in determining the athletes who will be offered a position in the program.
- Hold committee meetings at pre-determined set stages of the evaluation/tryout and selection process.
  - The Committee will meet ahead of any athletes being release from the selection process.
- Maintain a cumulative record of comments made regarding athletes.
- Athletes may be grouped into three designations to assist with the selection process:
  - The groupings will assist with the evaluation of specific skills, positions, and/or abilities, for example:
    - To be grouped in A, athletes must receive an overall score of 4.25 or higher
    - To be grouped in B, athletes must receive an overall score of 3.0 or higher
    - To be grouped in C, athletes must receive an overall score of less than 3.0
- The Athlete Selection Committee, or Head Coach, on behalf of the Team Staff, may remove athletes regardless of where they have ranked as per the terms listed under Considerations.

## VI. Canada Winter Games Team Composition/Formation

- Team Saskatchewan shall consist of up to a maximum roster of eighteen (18) athletes, including goaltenders.
- Athletes may only attend a selection camp if they are registered within their Local Association and are a member in Good Standing while also meeting the [Canada Winter Games Athlete Eligibility Criteria](#).
- Athletes will be evaluated and selected by Team Staff with input by the Athlete Selection Committee.
- After the final selection camp, if the Team Staff wishes to further evaluate an athlete, written permission must first be obtained from Ringette Saskatchewan.
- Team formation must meet the required Ringette Canada and Canada Winter Games deadlines as per the [Technical Package](#).

## VII. Criteria

Team Saskatchewan Team Staff and Athlete Selection Committee will be looking for the following general criteria to inform selection decisions:

### Technical

#### Skating

- Refinement stage of skills such as edge work, speed, and acceleration
- Proficient in forward skating, backward skating, and transitions
- Overall movement demonstrates coordination, agility, and finesse

#### Ring

- Consistently maintains ring possession under pressure with strong stick/ring handling
- High percentage of pass receptions (with and without pressure)
- Ability to put the ring on a teammate's stick and lead pass
- Hard and accurate forehand and backhand shot, can properly execute one-timers

#### Goalie

- Solid stance and general positioning, with speed and agility in the crease while maintaining proper stance/positioning
- Ability to butterfly while protecting five-hole and can quickly slide/get up in a controlled manner
- Controls rebounds and recovers quickly after shots
- Strong goalie ring with the ability to both toss and shoot passes to varied targets

### Tactical & Strategic

#### Offensive

- Consistently able to make high-percentage pass decisions in all zones, rarely panics under pressure or causes unforced turnovers
- Understanding of timing (e.g., getting open by varying speed and direction, creating or entering space at the right time)
- Scoring threat with and without the ring (e.g., isolating a defender/2 on 1's, setting picks, draw and dish) and effective decision-making based on triangle and goalie's positioning
- Utilizes deception (fakes, dekes) to create an advantage and capitalize on scoring opportunities
- Effectively communicates with teammates

#### Defensive

- Strong body positioning skills: gap control, channeling, pushing out, staying low, boxing out, staying net side
- Can find and stay with a check and anticipate passes to create turnovers; challenges at blue lines
- Can execute various forechecking strategies (player on player, 2 on, zone)
- Plays/checks aggressively but stays in control and doesn't get a disproportionate number of penalties
- Effectively communicates with teammates

#### Goalie

- Stays square to the shooter while tracking a pass or shot, tracks the ring, using peripheral vision to locate athletes and identify potential threats

- Controlled ring deflection to safe spots and teammates
- Awareness of when to skate to bench for extra attacker (delayed penalty, 4 on 3)
- High percentage of goalie ring completions; uses fakes and reads the play to make good pass decisions, while minimizing loss of possession/5-second counts
- Effectively communicates with teammates

## **Athleticism**

### Cardio

- Capacity to go all out for a standard shift length and recover between shifts
- Endurance to perform for an entire game as well as over the course of multiple games and days
- Ability to push through fatigue and stay in control

### Strength

- Ability to stay on feet and hang on to the ring when being pressured/checked
- Competes physically with and without the ring
- Muscular endurance to maintain defensive positioning and goalie stance

### Coordination

- Overall movement on the ice looks skillful and sharp
- Can successfully multi-task (e.g., skate with speed and agility while stick-handling through checkers)

## **Psychological**

### Confidence

- Plays with purpose and consistency regardless of the score, does not look hesitant; always wants to be in the play
- Communicates loudly
- Isn't afraid to try new things and learn from mistakes

### Resilience

- Quickly recovers from a bad play/goal, shift, or penalty
- Body language and demeanor remains neutral or positive when struggling personally or as a team
- Focuses on what they can control versus things they can't control

### Grit/Drive

- Pushes themselves out of their comfort zone in training, practice, and competition
- "Never quit" mentality, overall style of play shows they are a competitor, want the ring, and thrive in challenging situations

## **Character**

### Conduct

- Carries themselves in a way that conveys respect and a positive attitude and treats coaches, teammates, opponents, officials, parents, and fans with courtesy and respect
- Demonstrates good sportsmanship and is accountable to self and others for their conduct
- Responsible, prepared, and invested in all team activities

### Teammate

- “Team first” attitude: understands that the team comes before individual wants/needs; acknowledges and accepts role on the team and contributes to a positive team culture by being constructive, inclusive, and supportive through good times and bad
- Emotional intelligence: ability to understand, use, and manage one’s emotions in positive ways to relieve stress, communicate effectively, empathize with others, overcome challenges, and defuse conflict

### Lifestyle

- High commitment level and strong work ethic
- Dedication to fitness; trains year-round with their team and on their own – on and off the ice
- Engages in good sleep habits and a nutritious diet
- Avoids or minimizes the consumption of alcohol and other substances that hinder athletic performance
- Good self-awareness around balancing commitments and preventing burnout

## VIII. Post Selection Procedure

When possible, athletes should be notified of their selection results individually. Athletes not selected to the team must be advised by a member of the Team Staff and be informed in writing of the reasons for the non-selection. The athletes selected should be informed of their selection and areas or weakness and strengths discussed.

Team Selection and the decisions of the Athlete Selection Committee can be appealed under Ringette Saskatchewan’s Appeals Policy.

## IX. Considerations

Dismissal of an athlete can occur at any time if the athlete:

- Fails to remain a member in Good Standing with the program and/or Ringette Saskatchewan, or Local Association.
- Demonstrates behaviour or characteristics that do not align with Team Saskatchewan or Ringette Saskatchewan’s values.
  - Examples of poor character attributes include: lack of coachability, poor attitude, lack of demonstrated effort, demonstrates a lack of respect for oneself and others, is unable to accept feedback and constructive criticism.
- Fails to meet performance expectations.
- Fails to train towards, or meet the physical standards expected and outlined.
- Exhibits conduct that is detrimental to the image of Ringette Saskatchewan and the sport of ringette, violates Ringette Saskatchewan policies, violates the Ringette Saskatchewan Code of Conduct and Ethics, violates the Ringette Saskatchewan Social Media Use Policy.
- Is unable to perform due to injury, illness, or other medical reasons as determined by medical staff, in consultation with the Team Staff.

- The Team Staff and/or Athlete Selection Committee may apply to Ringette Saskatchewan to remove any athlete from any stage of the Athlete Selection Process. Reasons for removal can include:
  - Becoming no longer eligible for participation
  - Injury
  - Illness
  - Discipline or misconduct
- Reasons for removal will be communicated by written letter to the athlete from Ringette Saskatchewan.

## **X. Canada Winter Games Athlete Eligibility**

- All athletes must meet the eligibility regulations outlined in the Canada Games Council's [Eligibility Policy](#).
  - Citizenship – Athletes must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents. A permanent resident is defined as someone who has been granted permanent residency prior to the start of the Opening Ceremony
  - Residency – An athlete's permanent residence must be located, at least 180 days prior to the Opening Ceremony, within the recognized boundaries of the province/territory they wish to represent. An athlete can only have one permanent residence.
    - Athletes attending school on a full-time basis outside their province/territory of permanent residence during the year of the Canada Winter Games shall be permitted to compete either for their province/territory of permanent residence or the province/territory in which the athlete attends school.
- Age Classification
  - Under 20 years of age as of December 31, 2022.
    - Year of birth: 2003 to 2006
- All athletes must be fully registered with Ringette Saskatchewan and Ringette Canada by December 31, 2022.
- Excluded from the Canada Winter Games are:
  - Senior National Team Members – defined as: Athletes who are part of (on the roster of) a standing Senior National Team (i.e. recognized as a Senior National Team member regardless of event participation).
  - Athletes who have previously competed in the following events:
    - Senior World Championships
- No athlete can be rendered ineligible within 90 days of the opening of the Games due to National Team status or competing in an excluded event (i.e. if an athlete is granted National Team status for the first time, or competes in an excluded event after November 20, 2022 they will still be considered eligible to compete at the 2023 Canada Winter Games).
- Athletes who are in their first year of Senior National Team status may be deemed eligible on a case by case basis. Requests must be submitted to the respective Province/Territory Chef de Mission and approved by the Canada Games Council's Eligibility Committee.