

2027 Canada Winter Games Team Selection Policy

Definitions

The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:

- “*CWG*” – Canada Winter Games
- “*Coaching Staff*” – Canada Winter Games Team Saskatchewan 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, Regina Ringette Association, Saskatoon Ringette Association).
- “*Athlete Selection Committee*” – A committee composed of the Coaching Staff and independent evaluators
- “*Independent Evaluators*” – Individuals not related to the athletes eligible for the 2027 Canada Winter Games Team Saskatchewan who meet the criteria for the Athlete Selection Committee defined in this document and are approved by both Ringette Saskatchewan and Coaching Staff.

Purpose

This policy provides 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.

Authority for Selection

Final decision making on team selection resides with the Athlete Selection Committee. The role of the independent evaluators is to collaborate with the Coaching Staff throughout the evaluation process, review and support proposed athlete selections, and assist in mediating or mitigating any conflicts or concerns related to selection decisions.

Members of the Athlete Selection Committee with a conflict shall be recused from the evaluation, scoring, and selection of the affected athlete(s) to ensure a transparent and equitable selection process

Pre-Selection Procedure

- Athletes are encouraged to self-identify during the 2025–2026 season for scouting purposes. Information collected through the self-identification process will be used for scouting, to share athlete development opportunities, and to communicate other relevant program information.
- Self-ID info will be shared on social media and via email to eligible athletes.

- Completion of the self-ID form is not required to register for or be considered in the selection process.
- Registration for selection camps will be advertised on social media, our website and communication to local associations.
- Information regarding registration for selection camps shall be electronically communicated by the Coaching Staff to all eligible players registered with Ringette Saskatchewan during the 2025-2026 season.

Selection Process

- The Athlete Selection Committee will assess each player with specific structured criteria and rate accordingly. Players will be informed of the specific criteria at the first selection camp.
- Jerseys will be provided to all athletes who are registered for the selection camps and must be worn for all CWG events as assigned.
- Players must attend 100% of selection camps. Failure to meet this criteria can only be for exceptional circumstances, which must be reported to and approved by the Athlete Selection Committee.

Injury/Illness

The Athlete Selection Committee will have the authority to grant exceptions for athletes who wish to attend evaluations/tryouts and have shared that they are injured and/or ill during or prior to a selection camp.

Athlete Selection Committee

Criteria:

- Experience coaching at a minimum level of U16AA or playing at the NRL or National Team level.
- Familiar with Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) principles for the Learn to Win stage including individual tactics, team tactics, strategies, and positional play.

Members of the Athlete Selection Committee agree to:

- Fairness and Integrity - conduct evaluations impartially and without bias
- Confidentiality - keep all evaluation results, discussions, and selection decisions strictly confidential and dispose of them after selections have been made; during the selection process, only Coaching Staff will provide feedback to athletes and families.
- Professional Conduct - arrive prepared, collaborate respectfully with other evaluators, and follow all program protocols
- Compliance - use only the evaluation tools and scoring systems provided to the Athlete Selection Committee.
- Conflict of Interest - complete a conflict of interest declaration form in accordance with Ringette Sask's Conflict of Interest policy, found on the Ringette Sask website.

The Athlete Selection Committee will:

- Oversee the evaluation process.

- Attend all ice times for the duration of a full selection camp.
- Determine the athletes who will be offered a position in the program.
- Hold committee meetings at pre-determined stages of the selection process.
- Meet ahead of any athletes being released from the selection process.
- Maintain a cumulative record of comments made regarding athletes.
- Evaluate athletes using an Alpha-Numeric system with ratings in three areas relative to the tryout pool:
 - **Technical/Tactical/Positional Skill and Tactical Ability** - athlete's current technical and tactical skill, consistency, and ability to compete effectively (5 - high; 1 - low)
 - **Impact and Presence** - athlete's overall impact level, presence on the ice, and game sense (A - high; D - low)
 - **Physical Presence & Compete** - athlete's strength, fitness, and ability to compete physically in 1v1 and 50/50 situations (5 - high; 1 - low)
- The Athlete Selection Committee, or Head Coach, on behalf of the Coaching Staff, may remove athletes regardless of where they have ranked as per the terms listed under Considerations.

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 a Ringette Sask Local Association for the 2025-2026 season and are a member in Good Standing while also meeting the Canada Winter Games Athlete Eligibility Criteria.
- Athletes will be evaluated and selected by the Athlete Selection Committee
- Team formation must meet the required Ringette Canada and Canada Winter Games deadlines as per the Technical Package.

Post Selection Procedure

When possible, athletes should be notified of their selection results individually. Both selected and released athletes must be advised by a member of the Coaching Staff and be given written feedback on their areas of strength and areas of improvement based on the selection criteria.

Team Selection and the decisions of the Athlete Selection Committee can be appealed under Ringette Saskatchewan's Appeals Policy, found on the Ringette Sask website.

Considerations

Under the guidance of Ringette Sask, the Athlete Selection Committee can dismiss an athlete 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 as listed in the [2027 CWG Athlete Commitment Document](#)

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, 2026.
 - Year of birth: 2007 to 2010
- All athletes must be fully registered with Ringette Saskatchewan and Ringette Canada by December 31, 2026.
- 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, 2026 they will still be considered eligible to compete at the 2027 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.