



2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

September 5, 2025

A. Purpose

1. The Participant Eligibility requirements have been developed to recognize that the 2026 Arctic Winter Games is not only an athletic competition but also provides a unique opportunity for important cultural exchanges and social interactions between northern residents.
2. Given the nature of the Arctic Winter Games, the established requirements are intended to prioritize developmental athletes who may not be able to attend a Multisport Games or otherwise access organized sport outside of the community level, by establishing the criteria for individuals seeking to attend the 2026 Arctic Winter Games as part of Team NT.¹
3. The requirements set out below are designed to ensure equitable access to the 2026 Arctic Winter Games for all eligible participants within the Northwest Territories, based on the priority identified above.

B. Scope

4. All potential Team NT athletes and teams seeking to attend the 2026 Arctic Winter Games, including during the territorial selection process (trials) leading up to the 2026 Arctic Winter Games, are required to meet the participant eligibility requirements, in addition to any requirements established by their respective territorial sport organization (TSO).
5. Failure to meet the eligibility requirements at any point will result in the removal of the participant from Team NT.

C. Participant Eligibility Requirements

6. The following core requirements apply to all individuals seeking to participate in the 2026 Arctic Winter Games. Category specific requirements are in addition to the below core requirements.

¹ Team NT Participants are also required to meet the minimum requirements under the Arctic Winter Games Policy 1-Athlete and Cultural Performer Eligibility Policy from the Arctic Winter Games International Committee.

Core Requirements

7. *Citizenship*: be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada or a protected person of Canada.
8. *Residency*: Participation is strictly limited to residents of the Northwest Territories who physically reside in the Northwest Territories for a minimum of six (6) consecutive months prior to the opening day of the 2026 Arctic Winter Games, subject to any exceptions set out below.
 - a) The effective date for the residency requirement for the 2026 Arctic Winter Games is Monday, September 8, 2025.
9. The residency requirement is subject to the following exceptions:
 - a) Members and dependents of members of the Canadian Armed Forces or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) who have been posted to a location within the Northwest Territories for less than six (6) months, and who currently reside in the Northwest Territories.
 - b) Individuals attending a recognized secondary or post secondary institution, who are registered for and pursuing a full programme of study leading towards a degree or diploma ordinarily residing in the Northwest Territories but studying outside the territory within the six (6) consecutive months prior to the opening day of the 2026 Arctic Winter Games.
10. *Age*: Must be at least twelve (12) years of age as of December 31, 2025.
 - a) Maximum ages are specific to each event and must follow the Arctic Winter Games Technical Packages.
11. *Criminal Record Check*: All participants 18 years or older are required to complete a RCMP criminal records check or Enhanced Police Information Check (EPIC) by March 1, 2026. Results of checks completed six (6) months prior to the start of the 2026 Arctic Winter Games are considered valid. The Multisport Games Committee or designate reserves the right to review the results of these checks and deny any Participant on the basis of unsatisfactory results of these checks.
12. *Eligibility Restrictions*: All participants may not be under any form of suspension or subject to any eligibility restrictions by any territorial, provincial or national sport governing body or designate.

Athlete Requirements

13. Complete all Core Requirements, including the completion of a satisfactory RCMP criminal records check or EPIC as set out in section 11, if the Participant is 18 years or older.
14. Must be a developing athlete as per the Arctic Winter Games Policy.

15. Must compete in only one sport and be capable of meeting the individual sport requirements as per the Arctic Winter Games technical package.
16. Must be participants in good standing with their respective recognized TSO and have attended and completed all aspects of the territorial selection process as approved by the Multisport Games Committee.

Cultural Participant Requirements

17. Complete all Core Requirements, including the completion of a satisfactory RCMP criminal records check or EPIC as set out in section 11, if the Participant is 18 years or older.
18. Must meet the Cultural Program technical package requirements.

Coach/Cultural Manager/Chaperone Requirements

19. Complete all Core Requirements.
20. Criminal Record Check: All Coaches/Cultural Managers/Chaperones 18 years or older are required to submit a satisfactory Vulnerable Sector Check in addition to the RCMP criminal records check or EPIC required under section 10(b) by March 1, 2026. Results of checks completed six (6) months prior to the start of the 2026 Arctic Winter Games are considered valid. The Multisport Games Committee or designate reserves the right to review the results of these checks and deny any Participant on the basis of unsatisfactory results of these checks.
21. Must be a participant or registrant in good standing with their respective recognized TSO that they represent, if applicable.
22. Must be 25 years or older as of December 31, 2025.
23. Must have completed the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Make Ethical Decisions and Safe Sport Training Module by February 1, 2026.
24. Recommended:
 - a) Completed the Aboriginal Coaching Module by February 1, 2026.
 - b) Completed the NCCP Introduction Coach or Competition Development Trained Coach course for the sport in which they will coach, if applicable.

D. Exemption Process

25. Exemption requests to the above eligibility requirements must be submitted in writing by the participant (a "Request") to the Multisport Games Committee at least six (6) weeks before the start of the 2026 Arctic Winter Games.

- a) Exemption requests regarding eligibility requirements for athlete selection processes must be submitted in writing by the participant (a "Request") to the Multisport Games Committee at least six (6) weeks before the start of the 2026 Arctic Winter Games TSO or recognized sport governing body sport selection process.
 - b) All exemption requests should include a letter of support from the relevant TSO or recognized sport governing body, if applicable.
 - c) The Multisport Games Committee may, at their sole discretion, determine whether to accept a Request after the identified time limit if they determine that there are reasonable grounds for a delayed Request submission.
26. The Request must set out in writing the reasons and any supporting evidence supporting the application for an exemption to the eligibility requirements.
27. The Multisport Games Committee will review the Request.
28. The Multisport Games Committee may consult with a committee of subject-matter experts, as deemed necessary, to determine whether the Request will be granted. If additional information is required, the Multisport Games Committee will follow up.
29. The participant must co-operatively engage in the process by sharing information, including providing documents and answering questions from the Multisport Games Committee.
30. The Multisport Games Committee may grant or refuse the Request. Requests will only be granted when the Multisport Games Committee determines that there are exceptional circumstances warranting that the Request be granted.
31. The decision of Multisport Games Committee is final and is not subject to any right of appeal.