



**SPORT:** Hockey

**EVENT:** Arctic Winter Games

**POLICY:** Team Selection Policy

## **SECTION 1 – PURPOSE**

The purpose of this document is to set out the process that will be used by Hockey Northwest Territories (Hockey NWT) to select teams to represent the Northwest Territories at the Arctic Winter Games.

Hockey NWT's goals are for the selection process to provide a development opportunity for as many players as possible and to complete the selections in a credible, efficient, and cost-effective manner. Hockey NWT desires to select the players that will comprise the best team.

## **SECTION 2 – OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this selection policy is to outline the process of selecting athletes for the creation of three teams that will participate in the Arctic Winter Games. There is one team in each of the following categories:

- U15 Male (17 athletes)
- U18 Male (17 athletes)
- U19 Female (17 athletes)

## **SECTION 3 – ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for selection, the team's athletes must be:

- Able to provide evidence that a Vulnerable Sector Check is in progress if the player will turn 18 years of age on or before December 31, 2023.
- U15 Male - Born in 2009 to 2011 inclusive
- U18 Male – Born in 2006 to 2008 inclusive
- U19 Female – Born in 2005 to 2012 inclusive
- Members in good standing with Hockey NWT and with Hockey Canada

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- Able to provide a written waiver or temporary release (if necessary) from the athlete's current team.
- Prepared to sign required Code of Conduct agreements.

AWG Residency Requirements (as per the 2024 AWG Team NT Handbook)

### SECTION 4 – TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Hockey NWT has the overall responsibility of administering the selection processes and establishing the territorial teams. The selection process will be guided by the following Hockey HWT High Performance Program operating principles:

- **MERIT.** Players should be selected on merit which reflects a combination of technical skills, attitude, and leadership skills, while recognizing that the best team may not always include the 17 most skilled players. Therefore, a player's drive, determination, work ethic and attitude are given a lot of consideration in the evaluation process.
- **ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES.** The selection process is intended to provide enhanced opportunities for selected players and team personnel to develop their personal and team skills with due regard for their educational, family, personal, and professional commitments
- **EQUITY.** All players and personnel who are selected to participate in the Arctic Winter Games should be required to share the costs and realize the benefits of the Program in an equitable manner. Participants will not be expected to pay additional personal costs due to their relative distance from the geographic focus of the program event(s).
- **PARTICIPATION.** Each player must participate in the selection process to be eligible for selection to the team. Incidents of sickness, injury or extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis as determined by the HNWT HP Committee in consultation with Team NT's Chef de Mission.

Territorial Trials:

At the Territorial Trials, each participant will be evaluated according to the **2022 HNWT Player Evaluation Handbook** which is based on Hockey NWT's High Performance Program system. Athletes are then ranked relative to other athletes.

At the end of the selection camp up 17 athletes will be selected to the represent Team NT at the Arctic Winter Games. Up to 5 alternates may be named to the team. See section 8 for more information on how alternate athletes may be used.

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### Timelines:

The Territorial Trials will take place between December 13 – 17, 2023.

### Unforeseen Circumstances:

If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process to be implemented as outlined in this document, Hockey NWT reserves the right to identify an alternate process or alternate timelines. Should this occur, all candidates for selection will be notified of these changes in a timely manner.

## **SECTION 5 – AUTHORITY FOR SELECTION**

The Selection Committee is composed of 4 or 5 people as approved by Hockey NWT including the coaches of the Arctic Winter Games teams in each category. The Selection Committee is responsible for monitoring the Trials and liaising with the selected athletes.

The Selection Committee must be free from actual and perceived conflict of interest as is practical and reasonable. Where conflict of interest may exist, Committee members must identify the conflict and excuse themselves from selection decisions where there is a conflict.

Parents of athletes, or other individuals deemed by Hockey NWT to have special interest in the selection process, are not permitted to be members of the Selection Committee. During the selection camp, coaches that are parents of athletes trying out may not participate in any team selection discussions with any other coaches or other Selection Committee members while the athlete in question is still being considered for a position on the team.

Using the criteria outlined in Section 4, the Selection Committee of each team shall by the conclusion of the August selection camp develop a list designating the 17 players selected to the team and up to 5 alternates. In each instance where consensus cannot be reached the head coach shall make the final decision.

## **SECTION 6 – DISMISSAL FROM A TEAM**

An athlete may be dismissed from a team if the athlete:

- Is over the age of 18 and is unable to provide a clean Vulnerable Sector Check.
- Fails to remain a member in good standing with Hockey NWT or Hockey Canada
- Fails to meet AWG team coaching staff performance expectations

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- Fails to train towards, or meet the physical standards expected by Hockey NWT and/or the AWG team coaching staff
- Violations of Code of Conduct agreements
- Exhibits conduct that is detrimental to the image of hockey
- Is unable to perform due to injury, illness or other medical reasons as determined by appropriate medical staff.
- Is unable to obtain permission from their primary team.

When necessary and appropriate, an athlete may be replaced by an alternate athlete (provided the alternate athlete is still eligible) from among the alternate athletes. Replacement athletes are selected at the discretion of the team's head coach.

### **SECTION 7 – APPEALS**

Team selection appeals are handled in accordance with the process as set out in the **2022 Hockey NWT Player Evaluation Handbook**.

### **SECTION 8 – INJURED and REPLACEMENT ATHLETES**

The coaches and/or the Selection Committee may apply to the Hockey NWT High Performance Committee to remove any athlete from any stage of the team selection process. Reasons for removal can include: becoming no longer eligible for participation (under Section 3), injury, illness, or misconduct. Reasons for removal will be communicated by written letter to the athlete from Hockey NWT.

Alternate athletes may be selected to the team by the coaches if one or more of the originally selected athletes are dismissed prior to the Arctic Winter Games.

If the alternates have not kept up their physical fitness or are unavailable or uninterested, the coaches may approach other athletes who attended the selection camp to be named as alternates. Alternate athletes may be included in any training or competitions taking place prior to the Arctic Winter Games so that they are prepared if called upon and have maintains all other applicable eligibility criteria.

### **APPENDIX A – 2022 Hockey NWT Player Evaluation Handbook**