



2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

Player Selection Policy



**ARCTIC
WINTER
GAMES**
WHITEHORSE 2026

Sport: Hockey
Policy: 2026 AWG Team Selection Policy Approved: October 2, 2025

Tryout Dates: October 10-12, 2025 & November 14-16, 2025
****Players must attend one weekend to be eligible for Team Yukon Selection****

SECTION 1 – PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to explain the process that will be used by Hockey Yukon (HY) to select teams to represent Yukon at the 2026 Arctic Winter Games (AWG).

SECTION 2 – OBJECTIVE

The objective of this selection policy is to ensure team selections are completed in a credible, efficient and cost-effective manner. HY will strive to create the best team to represent Yukon at any games.

SECTION 3 – PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS

Philosophy: Hockey Yukon will enhance the performance of athletes and coaches in high level sporting events. Specifically, to identify and train individuals capable of competing at the Provincial and National Level.

Goals:

- To expose players and team personnel to on ice tactics and introduce basic concepts used by High Performance Hockey.
- To expose players and team personnel to a high-performance sporting event.
- To expose players and team personnel to competitive events that will simulate a performance environment similar to the National Competition.
- To develop leaders that are better prepared to offer their expertise to identified players within the constraints of the program.
- To foster an ongoing commitment to athletic development by supporting the principles of the Long-Term Player Development Model.

SECTION 4 – ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Coaches

Individuals who want to be considered for Team Yukon as a coach must agree and be committed to the Philosophy and Goals of HY. They must also meet the following criteria:

- Head Coach must have Development 1 Coaching qualifications
- Assistant Coach must have Coach 2 Coaching qualifications
- All coaches must have updated qualifications in:
 - Concussion Awareness Training Tool (CATT)
 - Respect Group – Coach Activity Leader Training
 - Updated Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sectors Check
- All coaches agree to complete mandatory training as outlined by Yukon Sport and Recreation Branch for coaching a Team Yukon team.

4.2 Players

All individuals who want to be considered for Team Yukon as a player must meet the following criteria:

- Born in the correct year for the identified games as follows:
 - U15 - Males born in 2011 to 2012 – total of 17 players
 - U18 - Males born in 2008 to 2010 – total of 17 players
 - U19 - Females born in 2007 to 2012 (2013 Players Invite Only) – total of 17 players
- Must be a member of good standing with Hockey Canada.
- Must not participate in leagues outside of Hockey Canada.
- 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.
- Prepared to participate in team practices and other team activities when able and arranged.
- Yukon Residency Requirements, proof of residence will be requested and can consist of, but not limited to:
 - Principal residence must be in Yukon. Must also be a continuous resident of Yukon for six (6) consecutive months prior to the opening day of the Games. The effective date is September 5, 2025.
 - Students attending an institution outside of the Yukon must also comply with all eligibility requirements prior to the start of the school year and must maintain their principal residence in Yukon.
 - Utility bill ie) ATCO Electric or NorthwesTel, Municipal utility bill or property taxes, Income tax Notice of Assessment for the most recent year, Signed residential tenancy agreement, Vehicle Registration, School Registration.

SECTION 5 – TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

HY has the overall responsibility of administering the selection processes and establishing the territorial teams. HY reserves the right to place players on the team who are viewed as making Team Yukon the best team to represent the territory.

The selection process will be guided by the following 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 AWG should be required to share the costs and realize the benefits of the Program in an equitable manner.
- **PARTICIPATION.** Each resident player must participate fully 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 Sport and Recreation Yukon Government Branch in consultation with the coaching staff and Hockey Yukon

board.

Each participant will be evaluated according to the ranking system used by Hockey Canada team selections. HY will provide the Selection Committee with evaluation forms.

Evaluation process for the 2026 games

Tryouts

Each participant will be evaluated on the following:

Goalies	Players
Rebound Control	Individual Puck Skills
Skating/Crease Movement	Skating
Game Sense – Positional Play (Hockey Sense)	Hockey Sense
Stops the Puck	Plays with Speed
Battle Mentality/Compete Level	Compete Level
Athleticism	Offensive Team Play

*HY and the Selection Committee reserve the right to factor in a player's ability to safely play at the competition level expected at the AWG in their selection decisions.

Skill Sessions

This will attempt to include; up to (4) on-ice evaluators and (4) off-ice evaluators.

Saturday/Sunday – Game Play Sessions (Game play format will depend on numbers)

This will attempt to include; at least one (1) bench coach per team and (4) off ice evaluators

The Selection Committee composed of the evaluators, coaches and members of the HY Board as fairness monitors will determine the final rosters for each team.

AWG Males and Females – 17 players + alternates

Trial Exemptions:

Absences from the tryouts will be managed by the Sport and Recreation Branch - Yukon Government and Hockey Yukon board. Relevant excerpt below.

The AWG Trials Exemption Request Form can be found in the AWG Trial Hosting Guidelines:

Athlete attendance at trials is mandatory. Exemptions may be granted for the following reasons: injury; significant illness that can be documented with a physician's note; Yukon school program commitments; and special family circumstances (i.e., death in family, same sport competition/opportunity).

Exceptions to this rule will be permitted only upon review and approval by the Sport and Recreation Branch. In order for an exemption to be considered, the attached request form must be submitted to the Chef de Mission either in person at 4061 - 4th Ave. or by email to trevor.twardochleb@yukon.ca forty eight (48) hours prior to the start of the specific trial.

All YSGB will be given the flexibility to add up to three athletes who are outside the territory training and competing in the same sport without having them come back to Yukon to attend trials in person. The names of the potential candidates with rationale is to be provided prior to the trials.

Supplemental Evaluation for Exempted Players

In circumstances where a player is granted an exemption from attending the scheduled tryouts, Hockey Yukon reserves the right to request supplemental evaluation materials. This may include, but is not limited to, recent game video footage and/or a reference from a qualified coach who is familiar with the player's abilities and character. These materials will be used to support a fair and comprehensive assessment of the player's suitability for selection.

Unforeseen Circumstances

If unforeseen circumstances arise which do not allow for this selection process to be implemented as outlined in this document, HY 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 6 – AUTHORITY FOR SELECTION

The Selection Committee will consist of on- and off-ice evaluators, coaches and HY Games Committee. The Selection Committee is responsible for monitoring the Tryouts 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 only from selection decisions where there is a conflict.

Using the criteria outlined in Section 5, the Selection Committee, on or before November 27, 2025 shall provide to HY a list designating the 17 players selected to the team and alternates. The final selection of the 17 athletes who are to be named to the team shall be approved by HY Board.

SECTION 7 – DISMISSAL FROM A TEAM

Initial Evaluation:

All registered athletes will participate in at least one of the tryout sessions. These sessions will serve as the initial evaluation period for coaches and the selection committee.

Committee Discretion on Player Advancement:

The Selection Committee reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to release (cut) players following the initial tryout sessions if it is determined that the athlete does not meet the minimum performance, skill, or commitment standards required to compete at the Arctic Winter Games level.

Subsequent Rounds of Evaluation:

Based on registration numbers, the level of competition, and the results of the first round, the Selection Committee may implement additional cuts after early sessions in order to streamline the roster and ensure efficient evaluation of athletes progressing through the tryout process.

Transparency & Communication:

All decisions regarding cuts after the initial sessions will be communicated directly to the athletes and their families in a timely and respectful manner, outlining next steps in the selection process.

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

- Fails to remain a member in good standing with Hockey Yukon, BC Hockey or Hockey Canada;
- Fails to meet team coaching staff performance expectations;

- Fails to train towards, or meet the physical standards expected by Hockey Yukon and/or the 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.

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 8 – APPEALS

There is no appeal for players not selected to any AWG team with the exception of those provided through the BC Hockey Bylaws Appeal Process. The BC Hockey Appeal process will be followed. HY does not have a Chief Executive Officer and HY Treasurer will receive the appeal. The Appeal Committee will consist of HY Board Members and/or any other member as appointed by the HY Treasurer.

SECTION 9 – INJURED AND REPLACEMENT ATHLETES

The Selection Committee may remove any athlete from any stage of the team selection process. Reasons for removal can include: becoming no longer eligible for participation (under Section 4), injury, illness, or misconduct. Reasons for removal will be communicated by written letter to the athlete from Hockey Yukon.

Athletes who are selected and later elect to withdraw from the team prior to the AWG must communicate to their Coach and Hockey Yukon immediately.

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

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 AWG so that they are prepared if called upon and have maintained all other applicable eligibility criteria.

Approved by the Hockey Yukon Board on October 2, 2025

Maddie Nicholson
Executive Director - Hockey Yukon