



**SPORT:** Hockey  
**EVENT:** 2020 Arctic Winter Games  
**POLICY:** Player Selection Policy

Approved October 31, 2019

Director: 

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## 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 2020 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 2020 Arctic Winter Games. There is one team in each of the following categories:

- Bantam (17 athletes)
- Midget (17 athletes)
- Female (17 athletes)

## SECTION 3 – ELIGIBILITY

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

**NEW**

- Able to provide evidence that a Vulnerable Sector Check is in progress by November 8, 2019 if the player will turn 18 years of age on or before December 12, 2019.
- Born in 2005 to 2007 inclusive for the Bantam category (for clarity, second year Peewee players can tryout for Bantam), born in 2002 to 2004 inclusive for the Midget category, or born in 2001 to 2006 inclusive for the Female category (Jr Female).

- Members in good standing with Hockey NWT and with Hockey Canada.
- Able to provide written permission or temporary release (if necessary) from the athlete's current team to participate in the selection process.
- Prepared to sign required Code of Conduct agreements.

#### AWG Residency Requirements (as per the 2020 AWG Team NT Handbook)

- Each athlete/coach must be a resident of the Northwest Territories 6 months prior to the Games and continue to reside in the NWT until the completion of those Games.
- Each athlete/coach must register under a single Region (see Appendix #A to the 2020 AWG Team NT Handbook which is on the Sport North website and is not to be confused with the 2018 HNWT Player Evaluation Handbook), which may be either the Region in which they reside or the Region in which they attend school.
- Athletes attending school or university outside of the NWT will be eligible to participate in the AWG process if their permanent residence is within the NWT.
- Exchange students or those individuals on a temporary work visa or who are otherwise temporarily living in their respective Region are not considered residents and therefore ineligible to participate in the Arctic Winter Games process.
- Extenuating circumstances beyond everyone's control will be considered and dealt with on a case by case scenario.
- Proof of residency will be required by athletes/coaches and include:
  1. Copy of Health Care Card;
  2. Letter from school, employer, social services, church or other equivalent acceptable documentation.

## **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.** As per Sport North: Except individuals or teams that have been approved for direct-entry to the Arctic Winter Games by the Chef de Mission, all participants must participate in the Territorial Trials.

As per HNWT: 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 HNWT HP Committee in consultation with the coaching staff.

Each participant will be evaluated according to the **2018 HNWT Player Evaluation Handbook** which is based on Hockey NWT's High Performance Program system. Athletes are then ranked relative to other athletes competing for the same position. HNWT will provide the Selection Committee with evaluation forms.

Selection Camp:

At the selection camp, each participant will be evaluated according to the **2018 HNWT Player Evaluation Handbook** which is based on Hockey NWT's High Performance Program system. Athletes are then ranked relative to other athletes competing for the same position.

At the end of the selection camp athletes who have been selected to the team will be notified by the team's coaches. Athletes designated as alternates shall also be notified by coaches.

Timelines:

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. Where practical and effective, the Selection Committee should be representative of the regions with participating 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. As soon as the consideration of the player's position on, or off, the team can be agreed to and confirmed by the Selection Committee the parent may participate fully in the balance of the selection process. An effort to identify the player's position early in the camp is acceptable to the extent that it does not interfere with the overall efficiency of the selection process.

Using the criteria outlined in Section 4, the Selection Committee of each team shall by the conclusion of the 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:

**NEW**

- Will turn 18 on or before March 21, 2020 and is unable to provide a clean Vulnerable Sector Check by February 10, 2020.
- Fails to remain a member in good standing with Hockey NWT or Hockey Canada.
- Fails to meet AWG team coaching staff performance expectations.
- Fails to train towards or meet the physical standards expected by HNWT and 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 provide written permission or temporary release (if necessary) from the athlete's current team 14 days prior to the date of the team's first scheduled AWG game. Extenuating circumstances regarding the 14 days will be considered on a case-by-case basis as determined

by the HNWT HP Committee in consultation with the coaching staff. However, HC rules dictate that the permission must be achieved prior to participation.

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 designated by the Selection Committee. 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 **2018 Hockey NWT Player Evaluation Handbook**.

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

The coaches and/or the Selection Committee may apply to the Hockey NWT Board 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.

The Selection Committee shall designate alternate athletes for each team. 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 Canada 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 Canada Winter Games so that they are prepared if called upon and have maintains all other applicable eligibility criteria.

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Where inconsistencies exist, this document supersedes the HNWT HP Program Policy and the 2018 HNWT Player Evaluation Handbook.

## **APPENDIX A – 2018 Hockey NWT Player Evaluation Handbook**

The “**2018 Hockey NWT Player Evaluation Handbook**” is available on the Hockey NWT website.