

2026 Alberta Winter Games - Overview

The 2026 Alberta Winter Games (AWG) will take place February 13-16, 2026 in Lakeland County (Bonnyville, Cold Lake, and Glendon). Ringette will send 8 teams of 15 skaters and 2 goalies each, coming to 136 athletes.

To read more about the AWG in general, please visit: <https://albertawintergames.ca/sport-information/>

Here is a summary of the processes and timelines involved with the AWG:

1. Coaches: Coaching applications opened in May 2025 and will close August 17, 2025. 32 coaches will be selected from across the province and mixed by zone to form 8 coaching staffs of 4.
 - a. Coaches can apply for one of three roles: head coach, assistant coach, or coach in training.
 - b. If a coach has a child/relative who is successful in advancing to the draft phase, then they will be assigned to the same team as that child/relative.
2. Athletes:
 - a. **Eligibility: born in 2010 and 2011, playing A, B, or C. Athletes playing overage or underage are eligible if they are born in 2010 or 2011.**
 - b. Registration for tryouts: tryout registration will open sometime in late August and close mid-September. **Athletes who are trying out for AA should wait until they are released before registering.** The deadline will be firm due to planning around ice slots required from associations and leagues.
3. Tryouts:
 - a. Each athlete will be assigned to 3 evaluation skates; 1 skills session and 2 intersquad games.

*In zones 1, 7, and 8, we may use a combination of intersquad games and league games to have access to different evaluators.
 - b. These will take place between mid-October to mid-November.
 - c. All efforts will be made to avoid league and tournament conflicts for athletes, though it is impossible to account for everything.
 - d. Missing a skate will not remove the athlete from consideration.
4. Team formation: following the conclusion of tryouts, the top 15 skaters and 2 goalies from each zone will be moved to the team draft phase. If a zone has fewer than that, then all remaining athletes across all zones will be ranked and the top athletes used to fill the missing spaces. Once all 120 skaters and 16 goalies are advanced to the draft phase, teams will be formed.
 - a. Teams will be formed with balance in mind relating to abilities and preferred position.
 - b. Coaches will be assigned to a team.
5. Team training:
 - a. Teams are encouraged to have a few virtual meetings to get to know each other and make a few plans.
 - b. Teams will participate in a 2-day training camp in early January where all 136 athletes will be in a central location (in 2024 it was Leduc). Teams will get practices, games, and some off-ice development. Ideally over the holidays so athletes aren't missing school.

6. AWG themselves!

- a. February 13-16 in Glendon, AB (home of the giant perogy).
- b. Teams are guaranteed 4 games.
- c. Athletes have transportation from their home community to the Games, plus accommodations, bussing to and from the rink, meals, etc. while at the Games.
- d. 2 round robin games on Saturday, 1 on Sunday morning. Teams in 1st and 2nd in their pools will advance to medal games on Monday. They can use the afternoon to go and watch other sports in other venues. Teams in 3rd and 4th in their pools will play consolation games on Sunday afternoon. They will have Monday morning free to check out other sports in other venues before heading home.
- e. Athletes are expected to arrive on the bus from their area and go home the same way. They are not permitted to arrive on their own or take their own transportation home afterwards except in pre-approved or emergency situations.

7. Fees and expenses

- a. There will be a \$50 tryout fee per athlete to cover ice costs and evaluators.
- b. Athletes who are drafted to a team will have added fees that will cover the AWG registration (\$80 in 2024), team training, and uniforms. We aim to keep that fee as low as possible but expect it to be around \$250-300 per athlete (including the \$80).
- c. The team fee will include the following costs for athletes at the training camp in January: all on and off-ice activities, snacks, 1 night accommodation.
- d. Transportation from home, accommodations, and meals are provided to the ATHLETES AND TEAM STAFF for the duration of the AWG. Athletes will get on a bus on the Friday morning, leaving from the nearest pickup point to their homes and returned there on Monday evening.
- e. Additional expenses related to travel, accommodations, and meals for families to travel to the team training camp are extra.
- f. Additional expenses related to travel, accommodations, and meals for extended family/friends to attend the AWG is up to the family.

Each association and/or zone has a representative. Please contact your association to find out who that is and ask them any questions you may have.