



Selection Criteria Document - Canada Winter Games 2027

1. General Background

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the policies, procedures, and criteria used to select athletes to represent the Province in provincial high-performance hockey programs and competitions, including national multi-sport events.

This document ensures that the selection process is:

- Fair and transparent
- Based on objective and subjective evaluation criteria
- Consistent with the technical requirements of the event
- Aligned with the long-term athlete development mode

1.2 Program Goals

The provincial High Performance Program aims to:

- Identify and develop elite athletes within the provincial pathway
- Provide high-performance training environments.
- Support athlete progression to higher levels of hockey.
- Select and prepare the most competitive team possible to represent the province at national events.
- Achieve strong competitive results while representing the province with integrity and professionalism.

1.3 Definitions

PSO (Provincial Sport Organization)

The governing body responsible for the administration and oversight of amateur hockey within the province.

Selection Committee

A group responsible for evaluating athletes and recommending final team selections.

Technical Package

The official event document outlining eligibility requirements including age classification, roster limits, residency requirements, and competition rules.

Athlete in Good Standing

An athlete registered with the PSO who complies with all membership, discipline, and eligibility requirements.



2. Overall Management Strategy

2.1 Role of the Provincial Sport Organization

The PSO is responsible for:

- Approving the Team Selection Criteria and Team Plan
- Ensuring the selection process is fair, transparent, and communicated
- Selecting coaching and support staff through a fair process
- Monitoring program delivery
- Approving budgets and operational plans
- Ensuring compliance with eligibility rules and policies

2.2 Role of the Head Coach

The Head Coach is responsible for:

- Implementing the athlete identification and evaluation process
- Leading athlete development throughout the selection process
- Recommending final team selections
- Managing team preparation, training camps, and competition planning
- Evaluating athletes using the approved selection criteria

2.3 Role of the Director of Operations

The Director of Operations is responsible for:

- Administrative coordination of team activities
- Travel logistics and scheduling
- Communication with athletes, families, and the PSO
- Supporting the coaching staff in operational matters

3. Selection Process

3.1 Eligibility

Athletes must meet all eligibility requirements outlined in the applicable event technical package, including:

- Age eligibility
- Residency requirements
- Compliance with [CWG Athlete eligibility](#)
- Be member in good standing with the PSO
- Meet all discipline and code of conduct requirements

3.2 Athlete Identification

Athletes may be identified through:

- Provincial leagues and championships



- Provincial development camps
- High performance scouting programs
- Coach and scout recommendations

The identification process may occur over multiple seasons leading into the competition year.

3.3 Invitation to Participate

Athletes may be invited to the selection process through:

- High performance scouting programs
- Performance in sanctioned leagues
- Participation in high-performance development camps
- Invitations will be communicated through official PSO channels.

3.4 Commitment to the Selection Process

Athletes must demonstrate commitment to the program through participation in:

- Orientation camps
- Development camps
- Testing sessions

Athletes must also maintain:

- Appropriate training standards
- Physical fitness levels
- Professional conduct on and off the ice

Exemptions may be granted for legitimate reasons including:

- Injury
- Illness
- Academic obligations
- Participation in higher level national programs

3.5 Performance Standards

Athletes must demonstrate performance levels consistent with national competitive standards.

Performance may be evaluated through:

- Game play
- Skill testing
- Physical testing
- Competitive consistency



Athletes who do not meet minimum performance expectations may not be considered for final selection.

3.6 Late Entry or Re-Entry

Athletes may be considered for entry into the selection process after it has begun in exceptional circumstances such as:

- Relocation to the province
- Recovery from injury
- Consistent and sustained increase in performance standards

Approval for late entry will be determined by the Selection Committee and PSO.

3.7 Key Dates

The selection timeline may include:

- January 1, 2026 – Player scouting begins (Video and in-person viewings)
- April 2026 – Orientation Camp invitations sent to players
- May 1-3, 2026 – Canada Winter Games Orientation Camp
- July 10-14, 2026 – Summer Development Camp (Women)
- July 15-19, 2026 – Summer Development Camp (Men)
- August 2026 – Rivalry Series (Women)
- October 8-11, 2026 – QMJHL Cup (Men)
- December 27-30, 2026 – CWG Team Camps
- February 24 & 25, 2027 – CWG Re-group Camp (Men)
- February 26, 2027 – Travel Day (Men)
- February 27-March 6, 2027 – Men's Tournament
- March 4 & 5, 2027 – CWG Re-group Camp (Women)
- March 6, 2027 – Travel Day (Women)
- March 7-14, 2027 – Women's Tournament

Specific dates will be communicated annually by the PSO.

3.8 Authority for Selection

Final selection authority rests with:

The Head Coach, in consultation with the Selection Committee, and subject to approval by the PSO High Performance Director.

3.9 Policy Amendments

The PSO reserves the right to amend these criteria should circumstances require adjustments, including:

- Cancellation of events



- Changes to competition formats
- Athlete availability
- Health or safety considerations

Any amendments will be communicated to athletes as soon as possible.

4. Selection Criteria

4.1 Evaluation Process

Athletes will be evaluated using a combination of:

- Objective performance measures
- Observational assessments
- Competitive game play evaluations

Evaluations may occur throughout the entire selection process.

4.2 Selection Committee

The Selection Committee may include:

- Head Coach
- Assistant Coaches
- Goalie Coaches
- Independent evaluators
- PSO High Performance Director

Committee members must declare any potential conflicts of interest.

4.3 Athlete Assessment Areas

Athletes may be evaluated in the following areas:

Technical Skills:

- Forward Skating
- Backward Skating
- Puck Control
- Shooting/Scoring

Tactical Skills:

- Deception / Creating Space
- Puck Control / Protection
- Next play mentality

Game Play:

- High Compete
- Dynamic & Creative
- Puck Pursuit



- Good Sticks
- Net Presence
- Manage the Puck
- Shooting Mentality

4.4 Performance Measurement

Athlete performance may be assessed through:

- Game evaluations
- Skill testing
- Physical fitness testing
- Tactical understanding
- Consistency of performance

4.5 Exceptions

The selection process will consider the following circumstances:

- Injuries or Illness
- Exceptional Circumstances
- Ties
 - Where athletes are equally ranked, additional evaluation criteria or coach discretion may be applied.
- Alternates
 - Alternate players may be named in case of injury or withdrawal of selected athletes

5. Final Team Selection

5.1 Final Roster

The final roster will comply with roster limits specified in the event technical package.

Selections will be based on:

- Athlete evaluation results
- Team composition requirements
- Positional balance
- Competitive readiness

5.2 Team Announcement

The PSO will formally announce the team through:

- Direct communication with athletes
- Official PSO communications
- Media release



Athletes not selected will be notified respectfully and encouraged to continue in development pathways.

6. Post Selection

Selected athletes must continue to meet program expectations including:

- Attendance at team training camps
- Participation in competitions and exhibition games
- Maintaining fitness and conditioning
- Compliance with team policies and codes of conduct

6.1 Athlete Replacement

Athletes may be replaced in cases including:

- Injury
 - Athletes unable to compete may be replaced by designated alternates.
- Conduct
 - Athletes who violate team or PSO codes of conduct may be subject to removal.
- Performance
 - Athletes failing to maintain required performance levels may be subject to review.

7. Appeals

Athletes may appeal selection decisions in accordance with the PSO's **Appeal Policy and Procedures**.

Appeals must:

- Be submitted within the specified timeline
- Identify procedural or policy-based grounds
- Follow the formal PSO dispute resolution process

Decisions of the appeal process are final and binding.