

Canada Winter Games Athlete Eligibility

Team NT Hockey

To be eligible for Team NT, athletes must meet the Canada Games Council eligibility requirements.

Men's Division

For the 2027 Canada Winter Games:

- Athletes must be Under 16 as of December 31, 2026
- Eligible birth years: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Under the Canada Games Council Small Jurisdiction Strategy, Hockey NWT may select up to three (3) athletes born in 2010, provided they meet all eligibility requirements.

Women's Division

For the 2027 Canada Winter Games:

Athletes must be Under 18 as of December 31, 2026

Eligible birth years: 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015

Under the Canada Games Council Small Jurisdiction Strategy, Hockey NWT may select up to three (3) athletes born in 2008, provided they meet all eligibility requirements.

Athletes must also satisfy all residency, citizenship, transfer, and eligibility requirements outlined in the Canada Games Technical Package and Hockey Canada regulations.

Team NT Selection Timeline

July 31, 2026

Registration Deadline

All athletes wishing to be considered for Team NT must register by this date.

July 31, 2026

Exemption Request Deadline

Athletes unable to attend the Summer Development and Identification Camp must submit a written exemption request by this date.

August 10-12, 2026

Canada Winter Games Preparation Camp

Purpose:

- Summer conditioning
- Skill development
- On-ice preparation

Participation is optional.

August 13-16, 2026

Canada Winter Games Identification Camp

Purpose:

- Athlete identification
- Initial player evaluations
- Independent evaluator assessments
- Coach observations

This camp forms an important part of the Team NT selection process.

August 21, 2026

Priority Winter Selection Camp Invitations

Initial invitations to the Winter Selection Camp will be issued.

October 31, 2026

Final Winter Selection Camp Invitations

Following continued evaluation throughout the fall, approximately 20 to 30 athletes may be invited to participate in the Winter Selection Camp.

Winter 2026-2027

Winter Selection Camp

Invited athletes will participate in the final evaluation camp.

First Week of January 2027

Team NT Announcement

The final Team NT roster will be announced.

February / March 2027

Canada Winter Games

Team NT Camp Information

Preparation Camp

Dates: August 10-12, 2026

Location: Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Identification Camp

Dates: August 13-16, 2026

Location: Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Team NT Selection Pathway

The Team NT selection process is designed to evaluate athletes over time rather than through a single event.

Athletes may be evaluated through:

- Summer Development and Identification Camp
- Winter Selection Camp
- Independent evaluators
- Team NT coaches
- Previous Team NT evaluations
- League play
- Club or academy hockey
- Tournament play
- Approved video submissions
- Other approved evaluation opportunities

No athlete will be selected or excluded based solely on one evaluation, one camp, one game, or one source of information.

Team Size

Men's Team

- 20 athletes
- 2 goaltenders
- 18 skaters

Women's Team

- 20 athletes
- 2 goaltenders
- 18 skaters

Selection Advancement

Following the Summer Development and Identification Camp and continued evaluation throughout the fall, approximately 20 to 30 athletes, including goaltenders, may be invited to participate in the Winter Selection Camp.

Invitation decisions may consider:

- athlete performance
- positional requirements
- team composition
- injuries
- approved exemptions
- alternate evaluations

Athletes granted an approved exemption may be considered through alternate evaluation methods; however, approval of an exemption does not guarantee an invitation to the Winter Selection Camp.

Invitation to the Winter Selection Camp does not guarantee selection to Team NT.