



## **Cross Country NWT**

### **2027 Canada Winter Games**

### **Athlete Selection Policy**

This policy sets out the process used by Cross Country NWT to select athletes for Team NT at the 2027 Canada Winter Games (CWG).

The cross country ski races for the Canada Winter Games 2027 are to be held in Quebec City in February-March 2027, with cross country ski races held February 26-March 7.

A call-out to gauge athlete interest in trying out for and attending the Canada Winter Games may be made prior to the trials.

#### **CWG 2027 Selection Criteria**

1. A maximum of 12 athletes (6 males/ 6 females) can be selected.
2. Athletes seeking a position on the 2027 CWGs Team are expected to attend training camps and selection races as set out by Cross Country NWT.
3. Athletes wanting to be a member of the 2027 CWGs Team must meet the following eligibility requirements:
  - a. Be twenty (20) years of age and under as of December 31, **2027**. Year of birth: **born between 2012 and 2007**.
  - b. Hold a valid Nordiq Canada Racing License;
  - c. Be a member of Cross Country NWT, the Territorial Sport Organization. Membership to Cross Country NWT is obtained by being a member of a registered NWT Ski Club; and
  - d. Meet requirements as set out in the Canada Games Cross Country Ski Technical Package, Appendix 1 (included).

Excluded from Team NWT CWG 2027 cross country ski team are:

- a. Senior National Team athletes (Defined as: Athletes who have held an SR, SR1, SR2 or C1 card at any time; and/or athletes who are part of (on the roster of) a standing Senior National Team (i.e. recognized as a Senior National Team member regardless of event participation)
- b. Athletes who do not meet the date of birth requirements as determined in section 3.a of this document
- c. Athletes who have previously competed at the following events: Senior World Championships, Olympic Games or World Cups (domestic World Cups not included)

4. The Athlete Selection Committee consists of the Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, and Wax Tech. The Athlete Selection Committee names its chairperson from within the group and is responsible for managing the selection of athletes to the Canada Winter Games team, including communication with all athletes.

The Athlete Selection Committee must be free from actual and perceived conflict of interest and, where a conflict of interest may exist, committee members must identify the conflict and excuse themselves from selection decisions.

Parents of athletes, or other individuals deemed by Cross Country NWT's board to have special interest in the selection process, are not permitted to be members of the Athlete Selection Committee. Cross Country NWT may appoint another individual to the Athlete Selection Committee to replace any individual with a conflict of interest.

The selection of athletes may be based on:

- a. the results of two race competitions, where the skiers will race the same distances as at the Games:
    - i. one in the Northwest Territories (proposed NWT Ski Championships 2026)
    - ii. one provincial event (proposed for Westerns, Arctic Winter Games or Alberta Cup 2025/2026)
  - b. Skiers training full-time outside the NWT who are competitive at the national level may be pre-selected.
  - c. To be selected for Canada Winter Games, skiers must demonstrate a commitment to following the training program prescribed for them from the CWG Coaches or from their personal coach. Attending a fall dryland camp and early winter on snow camp may also be part of the training commitment.
5. Cross Country NWT expects athletes to be reasonably competitive, with demonstrated results from at least one race at the provincial, Western Canadian or National levels at a distance similar to CWG distances. Race results from the 2024/2025 or 2025/26 season may be considered at the coaches' discretion.
  6. Athletes must agree to adhere to and advance CCNWT's Safe Sport Policy Suite.

The coaching team and **Cross Country NWT have the discretion to:**

7. Disqualify Canada Winter Games applicants on the basis of unsportsmanlike behaviour at any time during the selection process and up to and including the Canada Winter Games,
8. Disqualify selected Canada Winter Games athletes, if they fail to maintain their fitness level following selection.

## APPEALS

9. Appeals of selection decisions will be heard and decided in accordance with the Cross Country NWT Appeal Policy.

*Reference:*

[Canada Games Council - Athlete Eligibility Policy](#)  
[CCNWT Safe Sport Policy Suite](#)

## Appendix I – Competitor Eligibility

Athletes must also meet the requirements outlined in the [Canada Games Council - Athlete Eligibility Policy](#).

Excerpt:

### 6.3. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

#### Citizenship

6.3.1. Athletes must meet at least one of the following requirements to be eligible for the Canada Games:

- are a Canadian citizen;
- are an Indigenous person (registered under the federal Indian Act);
- are a permanent resident;
- have status in Canada and are applying for permanent residency

and:

- have submitted an application to Immigration, Refugees and

Citizenship Canada (IRCC);

-AND-

- IRCC has confirmed they have reviewed the application and that you meet the eligibility requirements to apply;

-AND-

- the application has not yet been denied;
- are a convention refugee or other protected person (as defined by Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada);

- Newcomers processed using temporary measures to facilitate them fleeing for safety due to a crisis.

Membership

6.3.2. Athletes must be registered members in good standing of their sport's P/TSO under the terms of principles 6.3.3 and 6.3.4 below.

(NOTE: In exceptional circumstances, an athlete in a given sport within a province/territory with no recognized P/TSO for the sport may be named to the P/T Canada Games team based on established criteria developed by the P/T Government and agreed to by the CGC and NSO. The established criteria should include, but is not limited to the following:

- the athlete is an active member of an established club,
- is being coached by an NCCP certified coach (preferably with Competition-Development certification),
- is competing in regional, provincial/territorial and/or national level competitions,
- is adhering to a monitored yearly training plan. The criteria may also include other measures as developed by the respective P/T.

6.3.3. The P/TSO must be recognized and/or funded by the provincial/territorial government, subject to exceptional circumstances.

6.3.4. The P/TSO must be a member in good standing of the NSO.

(NOTE: In exceptional cases where there is a dispute between an NSO and its P/TSO in a given sport, the CGC will contact the respective P/T government to discuss the facts of the dispute. All parties will encourage the sport to resolve the matter through the NSO's internal mediation process. Should the dispute not be resolved satisfactorily through the NSO's internal process, the P/T governments will jointly determine the participation of the affected P/TSO in the Canada Games in collaboration with the CGC).

#### Level of Athlete

6.3.5. Provincial/territorial teams are made up of the best athletes from each jurisdiction that have not yet represented Canada internationally at a Senior World Championships or major multi-sport Games. Senior National Team athletes and/or athletes holding an SR, SR1 or SR2 Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program card are not eligible for the Canada Games in the sport for which they hold the card. Athletes who are in their first year of Senior National Team status may be deemed eligible on a case by case basis. Requests must be submitted by the respective P/T Team Chef de Mission and approved by the CGC's Sport & Games Committee.

No athlete will be rendered ineligible for the Canada Games within 90 days of the opening of the Games due to National Team status, carding status or competing in an excluded event.

6.3.6. Due to the smaller available pool of para athletes compared to able body athletes, NSOs may request to the CGC Sport & Games Committee a modification to principle 6.3.5 for para athletes only. Any modification must continue to restrict athletes who are beyond the T2C phase of LTD.

6.3.7. NSOs may seek approval from the CGC Sport & Games Committee to include additional eligibility restrictions beyond what is stipulated in section 6.3.5 of this policy.

6.3.8. All levels of athlete conditions (sections 6.3.5 - 6.3.10 of this policy) refer to the specific sport in question only (i.e. an athlete with AAP carding in swimming would still be eligible in diving even if AAP carding was an eligibility restriction for diving).

6.3.9. NSOs may set minimum performance standards for the Canada Games for safety reasons. Such measures must be submitted to the CGC Sport & Games Committee for approval prior to implementation.

6.3.10. For individual sports, NSOs in consultation with P/TSOs must establish performance guidelines for athlete selection. For team sports, NSOs in consultation with P/TSOs must establish guidelines for appropriate team preparation.

#### Residency

6.3.11. An athlete's primary residence must be located, for at least 180 days prior to the Opening Ceremony, within the recognized boundaries of the province/territory they wish to represent. An athlete can only have one primary residence. Should an athlete not meet this requirement, they may be ruled as eligible under sections 6.3.12 or 6.3.13 below.

6.3.12. An athlete may represent a province/territory that falls outside the recognized boundaries of their primary residence provided they can demonstrate a commitment to the province/territory they wish to represent by:

- Having been a member of a club or P/TSO in that province/territory for the entire previous or current competitive season;
- AND-
- Having represented that province/territory at a national or regional championship (if applicable);
- AND-
- Not having received direct development funding from their province/territory of primary residence within a year of the Opening Ceremony, unless the funding jurisdiction provides permission for the athlete to compete for another team;
- OR-
- Other similar circumstances may be considered.

6.3.13. Athletes who attend school on a full time basis outside of the province/territory of their primary residence for no less than one (1) full academic session (i.e a term, block, semester, etc) prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Games are eligible to participate for the Province/Territory in which they attend school.

#### Selection, Registration and Substitutions

6.3.14. The CGC does not have jurisdiction or authority regarding the selection of participants (including: coaches, managers, athletes, or technical support) for the Canada Games. Provincial/territorial teams and P/TSOs are responsible for determining the selection process of all participants within their province/territory.

6.3.15. An athlete is permitted to try out for any P/T they are eligible to compete for, but can only try out for one P/T per sport.  
(i.e. an athlete may try out for swimming for one P/T but cannot try out for

swimming for another P/T. An athlete may try out for one P/T in swimming, and may try out for another P/T in diving.)

6.3.16. Athletes may only compete for one P/T at a single Canada Games.