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## **2027 Canada Winter Games - Selection Criteria - Hockey NL**

### **1. Objective**

The objective of this Selection Criteria document is to clearly outline the standards, evaluation process, and expectations used to identify and select athletes to represent Team NL at the 2027 Canada Winter Games.

Hockey NL is responsible for selecting and preparing athletes to represent Newfoundland and Labrador as Team NL. Selection decisions will prioritize competitive readiness, team composition, long-term athlete development, and the overall success of Team NL at the Canada Winter Games.

### **2. Program Structure**

Both Men's and Women's programs will operate through two structured camp phases, followed by continued preparation leading into the Games with pre-games events and regroupings.

#### **Phase 1**

**Dates:** May 1–3

**Location:** Paradise Arena

#### **Components:**

- On-ice testing
- On-ice sessions
- Off-ice sessions
- Coaches Expectations Meetings

#### **Phase 2**

**Dates:** June 25–28

**Location:** Paradise Arena

**Components:**

- Fitness testing
- Player interviews
- Team structure implementation
- Identity and culture development
- Team-builders
- Goal setting
- On-ice and off-ice sessions

**Post-Phase 2**

Following Phase 2, selected athletes will participate in:

- Ongoing video sessions
- Team meetings
- Continued preparation
- Monitoring and evaluation leading into the Games

**3. Evaluation & Selection Process**

**Men's Program**

**Phase 1:**

- 51 Players will be invited.
  - 27 Forwards
  - 18 Defence
  - 6 Goaltenders
- Alternate invites will be issued at the discretion of the coaching staff.

**Phase 2:**

- 34 Players will be invited.

- 18 Forwards
- 12 Defence
- 4 Goaltenders
- Alternate invites will be issued at the discretion of the coaching staff.

## **Women's Program**

### **Phase 1:**

- Open registration for eligible athletes (2009–2010 birth years).
- Identified players born 2011–2015 may be invited as potential candidates at the discretion of the coaching staff.

### **Phase 2:**

- 34 Players will be invited.
  - 18 Forwards
  - 12 Defence
  - 4 Goaltenders
- Alternate invites will be issued at the discretion of the coaching staff.

## **Pre-Canada Games Event**

Up to 25 players may be selected to participate in a pre-Canada Games competition event. Final roster decisions for this event will be made at the discretion of the coaching staff.

- Male Pre-Canada Games Event – October 8-11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Dieppe, NB)
- Women Pre-Canada Games Event - TBA

## **4. Athlete Evaluation Criteria**

All athletes will be evaluated using a comprehensive, multi-factor assessment model. Evaluation data will be compiled and stored to ensure transparency and consistency.

All evaluations, notes, testing data, and assessments will be:

- Documented in TeamGenius software
- Reviewed by coaching and selection staff
- Used collectively to support objective decision-making

Selections are based on a pooled evaluation model rather than a single-session or single-evaluator assessment.

Players participating in each phase will be evaluated on the following:

### **On-Ice Performance**

- **Forwards/Defence**
  - Skating ability (speed, agility, edge control)
  - Puck skills (passing, shooting, puck protection)
  - Hockey IQ (decision-making, positioning, awareness)
  - Competitiveness and overall impact
- **Goaltenders**
  - Skating/movement (crease mobility, edge control, post integration, recoveries, lateral speed)
  - Technical skills (save selection & execution, rebound control, post play, tracking, puck handling)
  - Goalie IQ (play reading, anticipation, situational awareness, scanning)
  - Competitiveness and overall impact

### **Physical & Fitness Assessment**

- Overall athleticism
- Strength and conditioning benchmarks
- On-Ice & Off-Ice testing results
- Growth and long-term development potential

### **Off-Ice Standards**

- Demonstrates coachability, maturity, and a positive attitude
- Shows consistent work ethic and accountability
- Respects team values, teammates, and staff
- Fully participates in meetings, video sessions, and team activities
- Adheres to program expectations and behavioral standards

## **5. Invitation Criteria**

Player invitations may be extended based on:

- High Performance Program (HPP) history
- Video analysis and current league performance
- Identification through discussion and review with zone executives
- The player must be in good standing with Hockey NL
- For athletes invited to or participating in Phase 1, the Hockey NL High Performance Program (HPP) Special Consideration Form may be utilized, where appropriate.
- The Men's Under-16 camp operates as an invite-only process, now in its second year, and aligns with the Under-17 identification and development pathway utilized by Hockey Canada.

## **6. Eligibility & Camp Participation Guidelines**

### **Male Camp Structure**

- Players born 2011–2015 who are invited will remain with the identified group for the entirety of the camp.
- Athletes will remain within this group unless:
  - They are not selected to advance to the next phase; or
  - They are not selected for the final roster.

### **Female Camp Structure**

- Phase 1 registration is open to players born 2009–2010.
- Players born 2011–2015 identified as potential candidates may receive direct invitations.
- Advancement to Phase 2 is based on evaluation results.

## **8. Appeal Process**

Athletes and families may access the formal appeal process through the policies established by Hockey Newfoundland and Labrador and Sport NL's Independent Third Party.

Appeal documentation:

- Appeal Procedures – <https://hockeynl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Appeal-Procedures-Hockey-NL.pdf>
- Appeal Policy – <https://hockeynl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Appeal-Policy-Decisions-Rendered-by-Sport-NL-Independent-Third-Party.pdf>

## **9. Final Notes**

Selection to any phase of the 2027 Canada Winter Games Program does not guarantee advancement to subsequent phases or final team selection. The process is competitive and based on ongoing evaluation.

The program's objective is to:

- Identify athletes with high-performance potential to be represent Team NL Hockey.
- Develop a cohesive team identity an prepare selected athletes to compete at the highest national level.

All decisions will prioritize long-term athlete development, team composition needs, and the overall success of Hockey NL at the 2027 Canada Winter Games.