

WHITEHORSE 2026



TECHNICAL PACKAGE for YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM



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Dedication

This Technical Package is dedicated to the memory of Ian Legaree. Ian served as the Technical Director of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee for more than 25 years. During that time he brought order, organization and consistency to the process of developing the Sport Technical Packages that guide the conduct of competitions at the Arctic Winter Games. Through his many hours of work and extensive technical knowledge of multiple sports, the clarity, quality, and functionality of the Sport Technical Packages improved continuously, always with the objective of improving the competition experience of all participants, while ensuring safe and fair competition. His dedication to this task has enhanced the Arctic Winter Games experience for thousands of participants, which is his lasting contribution to the Games.

1. Introduction

Technical Packages are critical guiding documents that assist Host Societies as they coordinate all sport competition (including competition formats, rules and procedures) and Mission Teams as they coordinate their teams' participation (including athlete eligibility, categories and team composition). Every Games' Host Society and Participating Unit's Mission Team, Coaches and Managers have an obligation to read and understand every aspect of the Technical Package. Should a need for clarification arise, questions should be directed through the Participating Unit's Chef de Mission for review and response by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) Technical Director and Technical Coordinator.

2. Eligibility

Please refer to Appendix F for detailed eligibility rules

3. Registering for the Games

- 3.1. All participants (athletes, coaches and chaperones) must be registered in the Arctic Winter Games electronic registration system (GEMS.pro), including registering for specific events, no later than 14 days prior to the Opening Ceremony.
- 3.2. Chefs de Mission are responsible for ensuring compliance with 3.1 by all members of their jurisdiction's delegation.
- 3.3. Changes to team rosters in the final 14 days prior to the start of the Arctic Winter Games must be made through the Host Society.

4. Governing Philosophy of the Program

- 4.1. The objective of the Youth Ambassador Program is to unite bright and talented young leaders from Youth Ambassador Programs and offer organized volunteer experiences across various roles.

5. Cultural Exchange

- 5.1. The Arctic Winter Games allow participants to volunteer in diverse settings within a Games environment, collaborating with other volunteers and interacting with sport and cultural participants from throughout the circumpolar north.



6. Participants and Ages

- 6.1. Each contingent may enter a Youth Ambassador Program group
 - 6.1.1. Maximum group size is 15 participants plus leaders/support staff.
 - 6.1.2. Minimum group size is 5 participants plus leaders/support staff.
- 6.2. Participants must be born in the years 2003 through 2009.
- 6.3. Each contingent may establish their own age limits for Youth Ambassador Program participants, as long as that age range falls within the ages specified in 6.2 above
- 6.4. Each contingent must bring a manager who has overall responsibility for that contingent's Youth Ambassador Program participants
- 6.5. Each contingent may bring two additional support staff
 - 6.5.1. If participants are not all of the same gender, the manager and support staff must not be all of the same gender.
- 6.6. Each jurisdiction must ensure that managers and support staff are screened and trained in accordance with their jurisdiction's coaching standards (i.e. SafeSport or equivalent, Rule of Two, etc.).
- 6.7. Host Societies and Contingents will implement the Rule of Two; any one-on-one interaction between an adult and a participant, both on and off of the field of play, must take place within earshot and view of a second adult, with the exception of medical emergencies. One of the adults must also be of the same gender as the athlete. Should there be a circumstance where a second screened and NCCP trained or certified coach is not available, a screened volunteer, parent, or adult can be recruited. The AWGIC recognizes that the Games environment and participant to coach/chaperone ratio presents challenges to the successful implementation of the Rule of Two, however in principle the Rule should be incorporated into all phases of planning.

7. Host Society Responsibilities

- 7.1. The Arctic Winter Games Host Society (Host Society) will, as part of its overall volunteer program, partner with Participating Units' established Youth Ambassadors Programs that serve the Games objectives and support the development of youth volunteers.
- 7.2. The Youth Ambassador Program is guided by the principle that structured volunteer experience and participation in major events can develop significant life and job skills and build the confidence necessary for youth to deal with complex challenges.

8. Schedule

- 8.1. The Arctic Winter Games International Committee will host Youth Ambassador Program participants for a complimentary breakfast celebration highlighting their accomplishments.
- 8.2. Volunteer work schedules for Youth Ambassador Program participants must allow those individuals to participate in the social and cultural exchange that is one of the objectives of the Arctic Winter Games, as well as opportunities to view sport competitions and cultural performances.
- 8.3. Youth Ambassador Program participants should strive to have volunteer work schedules of not less than four hours nor more than six hours per day.
 - 8.3.1. The volunteer work hour commitment should be reduced on the day when the Arctic Winter Games International Committee hosts the recognition



breakfast for participants and when contingent Youth Ambassadors are participating in team building activities.

9. Participant Profile

Youth Ambassador Program participants should meet the criteria listed below

- 9.1. Attend training prior to attending Arctic Winter Games in these areas:
 - 9.1.1. volunteer and leadership skill development
 - 9.1.2. public speaking
 - 9.1.3. public relations,
 - 9.1.4. project management,
 - 9.1.5. event organizing
 - 9.1.6. other self-confidence-building activities.
- 9.2. Work cooperatively in a team environment.
- 9.3. Be prepared to enjoy the experience of being at the Games which may include: dorm life, curfews, cafeteria meals, conforming to schedules and other experiences.
- 9.4. Be registered members of their contingent and comply with all other Contingent and Arctic Winter Games International Committee policies.
- 9.5. Each contingent is responsible for establishing their own selection criteria and processes within the guidelines outlined in this document.

10. Program Guidelines

- 10.1. Each contingent participating in the Youth Ambassador Program shall
 - 10.1.1. A Program Manager who is the contact point for the Host Society
 - 10.1.2. Provide a projection of the number of Youth Ambassadors attending the Arctic Winter Games one year out.
 - 10.1.3. Conduct appropriate selection and screening for participants
 - 10.1.4. Create a Youth Ambassador Program Code of Conduct which participants must adhere to
 - 10.1.5. Provide all necessary information and documentation to ensure the smooth operation of the volunteer registration process.
 - 10.1.6. The manager also serves as a program chaperone and will support the team, the contingent, and the Host Society in achieving mutual goals.
 - 10.1.7. Cover all financial costs associated with Youth Ambassador Program participation at the Arctic Winter Games.
- 10.2. Youth Ambassador Program Participants shall
 - 10.2.1. Adhere to the same Code of Conduct that applies to as all other participants from that contingent
 - 10.2.2. Adhere to the Host Society's Volunteer Code of Conduct.

11. Activities

- 11.1. The primary activity for participants in the Youth Ambassador Program is a volunteer experience serving the Arctic Winter Games Host Societies.

**12. Medals**

- 12.1. Participants in the Youth Ambassador Program will not compete for medals or prizes during the Arctic Winter Games or receive any financial compensation for their involvement in the event.
- 12.2. The International Committee and/or the Host Society may provide Youth Ambassador Program participants with medallions or other gifts of appreciation. The design of the gifts requires approval from the AWGIC.

13. Host Society Staff/Leadership

- 13.1. Each Host Society will collaborate with the established Youth Ambassador Programs of the participating contingents as part of its comprehensive volunteer program in alignment with the objectives of the Arctic Winter Games to support youth development volunteers.
- 13.2. The Host Society shall provide participating Youth Ambassador Programs
 - 13.2.1. An Invitation to Mission Meetings for Youth Ambassador Program managers
 - 13.2.2. Provide a volunteer coordinator to support the Youth Ambassador Programs managers and team leaders.
 - 13.2.3. Provide each contingent participating in the Youth Ambassador Program with their Volunteer Code of Conduct
 - 13.2.4. Plan and deliver a virtual training program for the Youth Ambassador Program managers, staff and participants.
 - 13.2.5. Meet with Youth Ambassador Program managers and staff to share important information and updates
 - 13.2.6. Assist with registering Youth Ambassador Program participants on GemsPro using the 'YAP' delegation for accreditation
 - 13.2.7. Help coordinate the volunteer shift schedule with a commitment of minimum hours for each participant
 - 13.2.8. Provide guidance on roles and responsibilities of the Host Society, Arctic Winter Games International Committee, participating Youth Ambassador Program groups, and supply training documents for volunteer positions.
 - 13.2.9. If applicable, assist with hotel booking discounts, rental vehicle discounts, and/or recommendations.
 - 13.2.10. Offer a space to showcase Youth Ambassador Program participants to the host community through an Information Booth in a heavily trafficked area.

14. Other

Any issues not covered in this Technical Package will be resolved by the Host Society and the Arctic Winter Games International Committee



Appendix F

Eligibility and Age Requirements

Appendix F – Eligibility and Age Requirements

Preamble:

The Arctic Winter Games combine athletic competition, cultural exchange and social interaction among northern contingents. Arctic Winter Games athletic competitions feature sports that enjoy worldwide popularity and sports unique to the north. The AWG Cultural Program offers opportunities for northern artists to perform on a larger stage to diverse audiences. The Arctic Winter Games International Committee is responsible for providing direction and guidance to contingents to ensure meaningful competition and a diverse cultural program in the Arctic Winter Games Program.

Purpose: This policy provides direction and guidance to the participating contingents when selecting athletes and cultural participants for their teams.

To be eligible to compete in the Arctic Winter Games, an athlete shall:

301. To be eligible to participate in the Arctic Winter Games, all Contingent Athletes and Cultural performers shall:
 - 301.1. be a resident of Yukon, Northwest Territories, Alberta North (north of 55 degrees), Greenland, Alaska, Nunavut or any other participating Contingent/Guest Contingent approved by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC). Current approved Guest Contingents are Nunavik (Quebec, Canada), Yamal-Nenets (Russia)*, Sapmi (Finland/Norway/Sweden);
 - 301.2. have been a continuous resident of the participating Contingent for six (6) months prior to the opening day of the Games;
 - 301.3. comply with all other Arctic Winter Games rules and regulations as outlined in the Arctic Winter Games Staging Manual, Arctic Winter Games Technical Packages or other publications issued by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee;
 - 301.4. comply with all rules and regulations of their Contingent.
 - 301.5.
302. Residence
 - 302.1. 'Resident' means a person who makes their permanent home in a jurisdiction and includes someone who may be temporarily absent from the jurisdiction but who maintains a close connection with the jurisdiction and has the intention of returning to the jurisdiction after a temporary absence. An individual leaving a jurisdiction with no intention of returning continues to be considered a resident of that jurisdiction up to 90 days after leaving and may participate if the first day of the Games falls within that 90-day period.



- 302.2. An individual who is a resident of a jurisdiction not eligible to compete at the Games; but who lives in a participating jurisdiction as a student, or who is there on a temporary work visa, or who is otherwise temporarily living in a participating jurisdiction; is not considered a resident of the participating jurisdiction and is therefore ineligible to compete in the Arctic Winter Games.
303. **Jurisdictional Residency Standards**
Individual Contingents may impose additional requirements for eligibility for their team provided they do not contravene the intent of the AWG International Committee policies.
304. **Minimum Age Requirement**
All participants must have reached the age of 12 as of the December 31 immediately preceding the Arctic Winter Games in which they will participate.
- 304.1. If a contingent desires to bring a participant who is below the minimum age, the Chef de Mission must submit a request via the online form to the AWGIC Technical Director not less than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Games
- 304.2. The AWGIC Secretariat will provide the URL for the online minimum age waiver form to all Chefs de Mission
- 304.3. Upon submission, the form will be electronically transmitted to the AWGIC Technical Director for review.
- 304.4. Within 48 hours of submission of the online form, the AWGIC Technical Director will respond to the Chef de Mission with a decision.
305. **Aging Up**
The Aging-Up provision is not applicable to the Cultural Program participants or the Youth Ambassador Program participants
306. **Athlete Eligibility**
The Athlete Eligibility provision is not applicable to the Cultural Program participants or the Youth Ambassador Program participants
307. **Cultural Delegate Eligibility**
To be eligible to participate in the Arctic Winter Games, a Contingent Cultural performer shall comply with the eligibility requirements included in the current Cultural Technical Package.
308. **Youth Ambassador Program Eligibility**
To be eligible to participate in the Arctic Winter Games, a Youth Ambassador Program participant shall comply with the eligibility requirements included in the current Youth Ambassador Program Technical Package.

Yamal Suspension

* The Arctic Winter Games International Committee has suspended Yamal, Russia, with immediate effect, following the attacks unfolding in Ukraine in a March 1, 2022 decision.