



2026 Arctic Winter Games Snowboard Selection Process and Criteria

Officiated by Snowboard Yukon

Preamble/Overall Approach

"The Arctic Winter Games combine athletic competition, cultural exchange and social interaction among northern contingents." (from AWG Snowboarding Technical Package)

Snowboard Yukon's overall goal for the AWGs is to field the most competitive team we can, while promoting alignment between the stage of development of selected athletes, and the level of the competition.

This includes taking into consideration such things as:

- Athlete's seasonal and long-term plans and goals.
- Alignment between athlete's abilities and the competition venue.
- Assessment of suitability of each athlete according to Snowboard Yukon, especially the Head Coach.

Values and Considerations

Snowboard Yukon will...

- Make selection decisions that are athlete-driven and grounded in what is the best decision for each athlete.
- Select athletes who are highly likely to have a safe and positive overall experience (physically, mentally, socially) at AWG's inside/outside of the competitions.
- Select athletes who are likely to contribute positively to the SBY AWG team leading up to and at the Games.

- Select athletes who are ready/willing/able to participate in all aspects of the Games
- Select athletes who are likely to use the AWGs as an opportunity to gain experience that will benefit them at future competitions outside of the Yukon
- Seek to help grow the AWG snowboarding community by offering the experience to as many local snowboard athletes and coaches as possible, while remaining consistent with our overall approach and the values above (e.g: when two potential athletes are considered equally qualified based on trials results, SBY's overall approach and values, previous participation at AWGs will be taken into consideration with preference given to athletes with no former AWGs experience)
- Strive to field a full roster of athletes for AWGs while remaining consistent with our overall approach and values (see below for roster guidelines).

1.0 - Eligibility

All competitors must...

- have been born in 2013 or earlier and be at least twelve (12) years of age by December 31, 2025 in order to meet the minimum age requirement of the AWG International Committee.
- be a continuous resident of Yukon for six (6) consecutive months prior to the opening day of the Games. The effective date is September 8, 2025.

Note:

- *Students attending an institution outside of the Yukon must also comply with all eligibility requirements prior to the start of the school year, and must maintain their principal residence in Yukon.*
- *Up to three athletes who are outside the territory training/competing in snowboarding, can be named to the team without participating in the Trials. The names of the potential candidates with rationale is to be provided prior to the trials.*
- *Athletes must be considered "developing". A developing athlete is one who has not represented one's nation in international competition (outside of an Arctic Winter Games) in snowboarding. An athlete who is a member of one's national team, but has not represented one's nation in international competition is still considered a developing athlete.*
- *If an AWG participant violates any of the policies or guidelines set forth by Snowboard Yukon, Canada Snowboard or Sport Yukon, they are considered to be no longer a member in good standing and can be subject to removal from the AWG process.*

**For further details regarding Team Yukon eligibility requirements, refer to the 2026 Arctic Winter Games Eligibility Requirements*

https://yukon.ca/sites/default/files/2025-09/2026%20AWG%20-%20Team%20Yukon%20Eligibility%20Requirements_Final.pdf

2.0 - AWG Team Selection Process

All competitors must have been born in 2013 or earlier in order to meet the minimum age requirement of the AWG International Committee.

The AWG Snowboard Final Roster will be comprised of a maximum of eight (8) team members:

→ Males 13 years of age and under as of December 31, 2025

Year of birth: 2012-2013 (U14) - 2 *Athletes*

→ Females 13 years of age and under as of December 31, 2025

Year of birth: 2012-2013 (U14) - 2 *Athletes*

→ Males 15 years of age or under as of December 31, 2025

Year of birth: 2010-2011 (U16) - 2 *Athletes*

→ Females 15 years of age or under as of December 31, 2025

Year of birth: 2010-2011 (U16) - 2 *Athletes*

2.1 - Step 1 – AWG Snowboard Trials

Snowboard Trials – (December 14, 2025) at Mt. Sima in Whitehorse
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Athletes are ranked in the disciplines contested at the trials (speed, style), and also ranked overall based on their combined results.

Overall rankings are based on the sum of placements in each discipline, with the lowest score representing the highest placement. For example:

Athlete	Speed Rank	Style Rank	Total Score	Overall Rank
A	3	4	7	2
B	1	5	6	1
C	4	4	8	3

Overall rankings are presented in two ways:

1. All athletes competing at the trials (regardless of age category) are ranked based on their combined results within each gender.
2. Athletes are ranked based on their combined results based on their age category within each gender.

In addition to being evaluated on competition results, coaches will be observing the participants throughout the trials and completing an **Athlete Report** for each athlete. A copy of the report can be found in the Appendix.

Principles outlined in the Canada Snowboard Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model will guide the coaches in the completion of the AWG Athlete Report. Please visit www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/about/snowboarding/ltad/ for more information on Long Term Athlete Development.

Athletes must participate in ALL EVENTS (speed and style) at the AWG Trials.

Athlete attendance at trials is mandatory. Exemptions may be granted for the following reasons: injury; significant illness that can be documented with a physician's note; Yukon school program commitments; and special family circumstances (i.e., death in family, same sport competition/opportunity).

Exceptions to this rule will be permitted only upon review and approval by the Games Committee. In order for an exemption to be considered, the attached request form must be submitted to the Chef de Mission either in person at 4061 - 4th Avenue or by email to trevor.twardochleb@yukon.ca forty eight (48) hours prior to the start of the specific trial along with supporting documentation.

Snowboard Trials participants must have a current Canada Snowboard Membership. Memberships must be purchased online at: www.snowreg.com

2.2 - Step 2 – AWG Team Selection

A Selection Committee and Chair will be appointed by the Snowboard Yukon Board of Directors. The Chair is responsible for convening the selection meeting, facilitating the discussion, and reporting the decisions of the committee to the Technical Director. The AWG Coaches will be non-voting members of the Selection Committee.

Following the trials, Snowboard Yukon coaches and the Technical Director will review trials results and Athlete Reports and consider each athlete's suitability for the upcoming AWG's based on (when available): athlete's long-term and seasonal plan, current physical and mental development, venue, and level of competition. This information will be included in the Athlete Reports provided to the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee will review the trials results and Athlete Reports (including Suitability Assessment/Athlete Alignment checklist) and select the final team roster.

Team Announced – (within one week of trials completion)

Via email to participants.

Appeals Regarding Final Athlete Selection

An athlete may request to see their Athlete Report. Any athlete will be able to file an appeal with Snowboard Yukon within 24 hours of the announcement of the AWG team(s). This can be done in writing to the Technical Director of Snowboard Yukon, Mary Binsted at mary@snowboardyukon.com. A separate Appeals Committee will be formed to review the appeal and make a decision. Team Yukon will also be fully advised of any appeal. The results will be decided within 48 hours of receipt of submission.

2.3 - Step 3 – AWG Team Training

Once named to the AWG Team, riders will be required to participate in **all scheduled dryland and on-snow training sessions** up to the games. (See section 4.0 Training Commitments).

During training for the games, athletes will work with Snowboard Yukon coaches and dryland training specialists. Throughout this time, coaches will monitor each rider's snowboard skills, athletic ability, attitude, and performance in competition simulation scenarios and work with each athlete to improve their capabilities in these areas.

Riders named to the AWG Team will be required to sign a Letter of Commitment, (see Appendix) indicating they understand the level of commitment required to be a part of the AWG Team and represent Yukon at the 2026 AWG.

3.0 - Membership & Behaviour

Athletes and coaching staff (coaches, chaperones and managers) must be members in good standing with Snowboard Yukon until the completion of the games. A member in good standing with Snowboard Yukon requires individuals to be registered and paid for the season in which AWG falls, not have any disciplinary sanctions against them, or any other justified reason why membership would be denied or withdrawn.

All team members must show proper respect for coaching staff, other team members, and the community at all times. Team members are expected to follow the training plan set out by the coaches. Any team members not willing to cooperate, follow Snowboard Yukon's Travelling Athlete Agreement (link below), and follow the training plan set out by the coaches may be asked to leave the program at any time.

https://snowboardyukon.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/SY_Travelling-Athlete-Agreement.pdf

We will be abiding by the Canada Snowboard [Safe Sport Policy](#), the Canada Snowboard Anti-Doping Policy and the Snowboard Yukon Discipline Policy in addition to Sport Yukon Regulations. snowboardyukon.com/sy-documents

If athletes named to the AWG Snowboard Team fail to continue to meet their training commitments, are injured, or remove themselves from the Team, the Selection Committee may approach other athletes who participated in the AWG Trials to fill the vacant spot.

4.0 - Training Commitments

Once named to the team and through to the conclusion of the games, athletes will be expected to meet the following training commitments.

AWG Team Training Plan

1. **Strength & Conditioning + Mobility**
Wednesdays, 3:30 – 5:30 pm, Northern Strength Academy
Fee prorated based on start date.
2. **Trampoline**
Mondays or Tuesday, one hour long 7:15 or 8:15 pm start,
Yukon Freestyle Ski Trampoline Gym, 114 Titanium Way
Fee prorated based on start date.
3. **On-Snow Training at Mt. Sima**
Competitive Program Stream – specific program to be determined
by the Head Coach. Day and time pending program.
Fee \$420
4. **Outside Competition – Highly Suggested, but not required**
Provincial Slopestyle Competition, February 2026
Fee TBD by mid-January
5. **Additional training sessions may be scheduled if needed.**

See <https://snowboardyukon.com/competitive-programs/> for program details and registration info.

Failure to meet training commitments or extensive unexplained absences from training will result in the athlete being removed from the team.

Note: Snowboard Yukon respects athletes' individual situations and is wary of over-training. Team members are encouraged to customise training plans in conjunction with the coaches if the training plan and recommendation to travel poses personal barriers, geographical limitations, or is in conflict with the current athletic pursuits.

5.0 – Supporting Yukon Snowboarders

Snowboard Yukon values the positive benefits of participating in the sport of snowboarding and as such endeavours to provide aspiring team members with opportunities and tools to get the most out of the entire AWG experience – trials through to the games. As such, riders are encouraged to engage in the training programs offered at <https://snowboardyukon.com/competitive-programs/>.

5.1 - Pre-AWG Camp at Mt. Sima

In order to reduce barriers to participation in the AWG Selection Process, Snowboard Yukon is presenting a training camp prior to the trials. Any AWG eligible athlete may participate. Check snowboardyukon.com for details leading up to the camp.

When: December 6 & 7, 2025

Training Days: 2

Where: Mt. Sima

Cost: TBD

Required Skill Level: Participants should be comfortable riding the snowboardcross track with speed and safely navigating the freestyle features in Pokey Park at Mt. Sima.

5.2 - Training Funding Assistance

Info available at snowboardyukon.com/funding-assistance.

If you are a snowboarder living outside of the Whitehorse area, you are new to the process, or you simply have questions, we encourage you to contact the Head Coach, Esa Suominen (contact info next page) to discuss your unique situation and opportunities.

6.0 – Further Information & Contact

Esa Suominen, Head Coach, Snowboard Yukon

esa@snowboardyukon.com

(867) 335-6632

For questions regarding AWG Trials exemption and general Team Yukon eligibility:

Trevor Twardochleb, Chef de Mission

trevor.twardochleb@yukon.ca

(867) 667-5606

For questions regarding AWG Final Team appeals:

Mary Binsted, Technical Director, Snowboard Yukon

mary@snowboardyukon.com

(867) 334-2944

Snowboarders are also encouraged to sign up for the newsletter by clicking the button below the Upcoming Events box at snowboardyukon.com.



AWG Letter of Commitment

Between: _____(athlete)

-and-

Snowboard Yukon

Congratulations on your achievement of being named to the AWG Training Squad. In order to support your development in snowboarding and ensure a fair selection process you are being asked to meet the following standards and carry out the Training Plan indicated below. Failure to comply with these commitments, can result in expulsion from the AWG Training Squad and ineligibility to be named to the AWG Team final roster.

I AGREE TO:

- ☐ Abide by the *Canada~Snowboard Code of Conduct* and the *Anti-Doping Policy* (snowboardyukon.com/sy-documents)
- ☐ Attend all training sessions and competitions from start to finish.
- ☐ Be an excellent ambassador for our sport.
- ☐ Respect fellow team members and endeavour to act as a suitable role model for younger members of the squad.
- ☐ Respect the coaches and session leaders.
- ☐ No unexcused absences (must notify coach).
- ☐ Do my best to improve my performance by carrying out my Training Plan whether it be supervised or unsupervised.

AWG Team Training Plan

ON-SNOW	<i>Satisfactorily Achieved</i> Yes No
Training at Mt. Sima When: Saturday or Sunday, TBD January 3 - March 1, 2026 (weather permitting) Time: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Alternative Plan <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <i>How will you prove you are following the plan?</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING + MOBILITY	<i>Satisfactorily Achieved</i> Yes No
Weekly Coached Training with Northern Strength Academy in Whitehorse When: Wednesdays Time: 3:30 – 5:00 PM	Alternative Plan <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <i>How will you prove you are following the plan?</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

TRAMPOLINE	<i>Satisfactorily Achieved</i> Yes No
Weekly Coached Training At Yukon Freestyle Ski Gym in Whitehorse When: Mondays or Tuesdays Times: 7:15 – 8:15 PM or 8:15 – 9:15 PM	Alternative Plan <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <i>How will you prove you are following the plan?</i> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

I agree to the standards and process in this agreement.

My Name

Coach Representative

Parent

Date



2026 ARCTIC WINTER GAMES TRIALS EXEMPTION REQUEST FORM

SPORT:

DATE OF TRIAL: ATHLETE

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN

NAME:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

SIGNATURE: _____

LIST REASON FOR EXEMPTION:

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION required with application form:

- ☐ Letter of support from the YSGB if reason is a special family circumstance.
- ☐ Letter of support from your school if the reason is a Yukon school programming commitment.
- ☐ Physician's note if reason is due to injury or illness.

The application and supporting documentation must be submitted to Trevor Twardochleb, Chef de Mission (Government of Yukon - Sport and Recreation Branch) either by hand at 4061 - 4th Ave, Whitehorse or via email to trevor.twardochleb@yukon.ca. 48 hours prior to the start of the sport trial or the request will not be considered.



ATHLETE REPORT

Athlete Name:

Date:

Coach Name(s):

Group:

LTAD Level:

(Long Term Athlete Development)

SNOWBOARDING SKILLS	Introduced (1)	Learning (2)	Developing (3)	Consolidating (4)	Perfecting (5)	Notes
Position & Balance						
Balance (position)						
Pivoting (rotation)						
Carving (edging)						
Flat Base (edging)						
Carving (pressuring)						
Pumping & Ollieing (presurring)						
Timing & Coordination						
Freeride						
Switch						
PARK SKILLS						
General						
Balance & Coordination						
Edging vs. Flatbase						
Speed Control						
Transition (Hips, Quarterpipe, Halfpipe, bowls, etc.)						
Jumps						
Grabs						
180s						
360s						
720+						
Rails						
Ride-on Approach						
Boxes						
Gap-on Approach						
Rails & Tubes						
50/50 BS/FS						
Boardslide/Lipslide						
Rotated Dismount						
COMPETITIONS						
Confidence						
Focus						
Skills Summary						

Skills Summary

AWG Trials Rank

Athlete Name:

Gender	Year of Birth	Age Category (U14 or U16)

Overall Result based on Gender

Athlete Bib #	Speed Rank	Style Rank	Total Score	Overall Rank

Overall Result based on Gender & Age Category

Athlete Bib #	Speed Rank	Style Rank	Total Score	Overall Rank

AWGs / Athlete Alignment

To be completed by Head Coach / Technical Director

- ☐ This AWGs aligns with athlete's seasonal and long-term plans and goals.
- ☐ This AWGs competition venue is suitable for athlete's current abilities.
- ☐ The AWGs experience will positively benefit the athlete's participation at future competitions outside of the Yukon.
- ☐ Athlete is highly likely to have a safe and positive overall experience physically, mentally, and socially at AWG's inside / outside of the competitions.
- ☐ Athlete is ready / willing / able to compete in all aspects of the Games.
- ☐ Athlete is likely to contribute positively to the AWG team leading up to and at the Games.
- ☐ The athlete has previously been part of the snowboard team at (#)_____ AWG(s).

Selection Committee Notes