



## Canada Winter Games 2027 – Saskatchewan Alpine Ski Team

### Selection Criteria and Training Policy

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#### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the selection and training process for Saskatchewan Alpine and ParaAlpine athletes seeking selection to the 2027 Canada Winter Games (CWG) in Québec City, Québec (February 26 – March 15, 2027).

The Canada Winter Games represent a national, high pressure competition environment. Saskatchewan Alpine's objective is to select athletes who demonstrate the technical ability, physical preparedness, mental resilience, and professionalism required to compete successfully and represent Saskatchewan with distinction.

This policy operates in full alignment with the 2027 Canada Winter Games – Alpine Ski & ParaAlpine Technical Package and Saskatchewan Alpine policies. In the event of any conflict, the CWG Technical Package shall prevail.

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#### 2. Events

##### Able-bodied Alpine

- Slalom (SL)
- Giant Slalom (GS)
- SuperG (SG)
- Ski Cross (SX)

##### Para- Alpine

- Slalom (SL)
- Giant Slalom (GS)

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#### 3. Athlete Quotas

- Alpine: 7 men, 7 women
- ParaAlpine: 2 men, 2 women

Saskatchewan Alpine reserves the right not to fill all quota positions if athletes do not meet minimum performance or readiness standards.



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## 4. Eligibility

All athletes must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in the 2027 Canada Winter Games Alpine Ski & ParaAlpine Technical Package and the Canada Games Council Athlete Eligibility Policy.

### 4.1 Age Categories

#### Able-bodied Alpine (Saskatchewan)

- U16 athletes born 2011–2012
- Up to two (2) non-FIS U18 athletes per gender, born 2009–2010, may be selected where they are deemed to strengthen Saskatchewan's competitive performance

#### Para-Alpine

- Athletes aged 12–30 years, born 1996–2014 inclusive
- Age exemptions may be considered by Alpine Canada and the Canada Games Council on an athlete by athlete basis, in accordance with the Technical Package

### 4.2 Additional Eligibility Requirements

- All athletes must hold a valid Alpine Canada Alpin (ACA) competitor card for the 2026–2027 season
- Athletes who have ever held a FIS card are not eligible
- Athletes who have competed at the Olympic Games, Senior World Championships, World Cups, Paralympic Games, or FISU Games are not eligible
- Athletes may not be rendered ineligible within 90 days of the Opening Ceremony due to National Team or carding status, provided eligibility was met prior to November 29, 2026

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## 5. Application Requirements

To enter the selection process, athletes must:

1. Meet all CWG eligibility requirements
2. Submit a completed Saskatchewan Alpine CWG application form
3. Submit a letter of recommendation from their Club Head Coach

Application deadline: March 1, 2026



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## 6. Selection Pathway & Mandatory Activities

Attendance at all mandatory activities is required unless a written exemption is approved in advance.

### Step 1 – 2025/2026 Season

- Mandatory (by club coach recommendation): CWG Talent Identification Camp – March 2026 – Timber Ridge, SK
- Mandatory (by invitation): CWG Talent Identification Ski Camp & Spring Fitness Testing – April 2026, location TBD
  - Invitations based on coach recommendations, application completeness, and previous performance

### Step 2 – Summer 2026

- Athletes are expected to maintain structured dryland training appropriate to the demands of alpine skiing

### Step 3 – 2026/2027 Pre-Season

- Mandatory (by invitation): CWG Pre-Season Ski Training Camp & Fall Fitness Testing – November 2026, location TBD

### Step 4 – January 2027 Selection Races

- Mandatory: Participation in designated January 2027 selection races (e.g., Alberta U16 Provincial Championships or an approved alternate event)
- Final team rankings will be based on the best available selection races
- If a designated event is cancelled or altered, Saskatchewan Alpine will designate an alternate selection opportunity

### Step 5 – Post-Selection Training

- Mandatory: Speed Training Camp – late January 2027, Kimberley, BC
- (Not applicable to Para-Alpine athletes)

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## 7. Selection Committee

Selections will be overseen by a Selection Committee consisting of:

- Saskatchewan Alpine Head Coach (Chair)
- CWG Team Manager (non-voting)
- One neutral coach not affiliated with the athlete's home club
- Saskatchewan Alpine Board representative (oversight only)



The Saskatchewan Alpine Head Coach retains final selection authority, informed by committee input and documented performance data.

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## **8. Selection Criteria & Weighting**

Athletes will be evaluated using the following weighted criteria:

### **8.1 Skiing Skill & Competitive Performance – 60%**

- Race results and rankings
- Time differentials relative to the field
- Consistency across multiple runs
- Technical execution observed through video and on-snow evaluation

### **8.2 Fitness – 20%**

- Fitness testing results
- Demonstrated improvement over the offseason
- Ability to meet the physical demands of alpine competition

### **8.3 Coachability & Professionalism – 20%**

- Attendance and punctuality
- Attitude, effort, and commitment
- Responsiveness to coaching direction
- Conduct consistent with team standards

### **8.4 Coach Discretion (Limited Use)**

- Coach discretion may be applied only as a tiebreaker or where approved extenuating circumstances exist

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## **9. Extenuating Circumstances**

### **9.1 Conflicting Events and Exceptional Situations beyond Athlete's Control**

Significant family matters (such as bereavement or urgent caregiving responsibilities), unforeseen travel disruptions, academic or examination conflicts that cannot be reasonably rescheduled, recognized multi-sport commitments at the provincial or national level, and other exceptional situations beyond the athlete's control may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Approved absences due to verified extenuating circumstances will not, in isolation, negatively impact an athlete's consideration within the selection process. However, athletes remain responsible for demonstrating performance, fitness, and readiness consistent with CWG selection standards.



Multiple or repeated absences may be considered cumulatively when assessing readiness, commitment, and overall suitability for selection.

Athletes must submit a written request, supported by appropriate documentation confirming the conflicting obligation or circumstance, in advance of the affected activity whenever possible.

Any approved exemption must:

- not compromise athlete eligibility under the CWG Technical Package,
- allow for equivalent performance evaluation relative to other candidates, and
- not compromise team readiness, safety, or competitive standards.

Saskatchewan Alpine reserves the right to deny or revoke accommodation if the athlete is unable to demonstrate performance, fitness, or readiness consistent with CWG selection requirements.

## 9.2 Out of Province or New to Province Athletes

Athletes training outside Saskatchewan or relocating to Saskatchewan during the selection period may apply to enter the selection process provided they:

- Meet CWG eligibility requirements for Saskatchewan
- Are members in good standing with a Saskatchewan Alpine club for the 2026 and 2027 seasons
- Demonstrate recent competitive experience in speed events and Ski Cross (SX not required for ParaAlpine athletes)

A written request outlining training history and current performance level must be submitted by March 1, 2026.

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## 10. Injury, Illness & Appeals

### 10.1 Appeals Process

Athletes unable to attend mandatory selection activities due to injury or illness may submit a written appeal.

Appeals must:

- Be submitted no later than seven (7) days prior to the affected activity
- Include documentation from a licensed physician
- Include evidence demonstrating likely qualification based on prior performance

Decisions will be issued within seven (7) days of submission.



## 10.2 Considered Circumstances

- Acute sport related injuries
- Acute non-sport trauma injuries
- Illness preventing competition

Overuse injuries may be considered only when supported by medical documentation and evidence of prior performance.

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## 11. Performance Readiness & Athlete Replacement

If a selected athlete demonstrates a significant decline in performance, fitness, or readiness prior to the Games, Saskatchewan Alpine may require the athlete to demonstrate readiness to compete.

If minimum readiness standards are not met, the athlete may be replaced by the next ranked alternate, subject to Saskatchewan Alpine Board approval.

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## 12. Final Selection

Final selections will be based on documented performance, adherence to this policy, and demonstrated readiness to compete at the Canada Winter Games.

Saskatchewan Alpine reserves the right to fill fewer spots than quota allows if considered athletes do not meet minimum performance or readiness standards.

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Approved by Saskatchewan Alpine. This policy is effective upon publication.