

# WHITEHORSE 2026



## TECHNICAL PACKAGE for CULTURAL 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) , the Cultural Program, 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. Philosophy Governing Cultural Program**

- 4.1. The Arctic Winter Games brings the circumpolar world together to celebrate the north through athletic competition, cultural exchange and social interaction. The Games cultural and entertainment programs are an integral part of achieving these objectives.
- 4.2. The Arctic Winter Games Host Society will, as part of its overall cultural and entertainment program, establish a program for Participating Units' cultural delegates that serves the Games objectives and supports the development of youth cultural delegates.



- 4.3. The Games are an opportunity for participants to perform in a variety of settings in a Games environment in collaboration with participants from the circumpolar north with the objective to bring together bright and talented young performing artists from each participating contingent to share their talents, gifts and abilities with the community and other Games participants.

## **5. Cultural Exchange**

- 5.1. Cultural exchange – rehearsal, cultural exchange, learning, collaborative work, interaction with professional artists under the artistic direction, leadership of an artistic director dedicated to the program, and cultural exchange activities and performances that are open to all participants in all sports, increase the presence of cultural celebration beyond the cultural program.

## **6. Participants and Age Classes**

- 6.1. Minimum Cultural Representation:  
Each contingent is required to bring a cultural group comprised of not less than three cultural performers
- 6.2. Maximum Cultural Representation:  
Each contingent's cultural group may not exceed six cultural performers in number.
- 6.3. Participants must have been born between 2005 and 2013, inclusive.
- 6.4. All participants must have been born in 2013 or earlier in order to meet the minimum age requirement of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee.
- 6.5. Each contingent must bring a minimum staff of one adult cultural manager.
- 6.6. If a contingent's cultural performance group includes performers of more than one gender, that contingent may bring a second staff member (manager or chaperone) of the other gender.
- 6.7. Each jurisdiction must ensure that managers and chaperones undergo background checks and trained in accordance with their jurisdiction's coaching standards, including SafeSport training or the equivalent.

## **7. Cultural Program Activities**

In addition to rehearsals and workshops, cultural participants may participate in two major performance activities.

- 7.1. Gala concerts showcase each act as well as a fusion piece that will be created by the artists during the residency that will feature all the performers together.
- 7.2. Pop-up performances may be performed at competition venues and other locations throughout the host community to showcase cultural participants' acts and collaborative productions developed during the week;

## **8. Cultural Performance Schedule**

- 8.1. The schedule for pop-up performances, if applicable, will be developed jointly between the Host Society's Cultural Manager and leaders of all the contingents' cultural delegations.
- 8.2. Cultural Galas
  - 8.2.1. Normally there will be one or two evening performances of the Cultural Gala. These are normally scheduled at the end of the week when the performers have had adequate rehearsal time for both their own performance and a



fusion performance. The fusion performance is created by the artists during the residency and features all contingents working together.

- 8.2.2. If possible, the final dress rehearsal of the cultural gala should be made available for attendance by other games participants at no cost
- 8.3. For details on the Host Society's process for developing competition schedules and their responsibilities in developing the schedule, please refer to Appendix G.

## **9. Cultural Participant Profile**

Cultural participants should meet the criteria listed below

- 9.1. Performing artists who have developed an artistic voice and are able to withstand the rigors of performing, sharing their culture and are open to feedback and experimentation.
- 9.2. Developing artists not using their artistic ability as their prime means of financial support.
- 9.3. Are able to take part in the program of activities outlined by the Host Society including but not limited to daily performances of their own work (10-20 minutes in length suitable for public performance) and participate in other cultural and artistic collaborative developmental activities.
- 9.4. Work cooperatively in a team environment.
- 9.5. Are comfortable with their own repertoire and who also like to collaborate.
- 9.6. Music and dance, as well as some forms of theatre and storytelling will be considered.
- 9.7. Multidisciplinary teams that feature more than one performing arts discipline are encouraged.
- 9.8. Limited stage time and simple production values are to be expected, and the safety of all performers will be paramount.
- 9.9. Enthusiasm and dynamic energy are primary criteria for selection.
- 9.10. Teams are comprised of individuals who are committed to pursuing their further development as artists.
- 9.11. Prepared to enjoy the experience of being at the Games including: dorm life, curfews, cafeteria meals, conforming to schedules and other experiences.
- 9.12. Are registered members of their contingent and comply with all other Contingent and Arctic Winter Games policies.

## **10. General Cultural Program Guidelines**

- 10.1. The Host Society must plan and execute a cultural program that showcases contemporary and traditional art of the participating contingents, provide an appropriate balance of rehearsal, performance and education/exchange, provide for care and comfort of the artists, and establish and provide sufficient staging and technical support.
- 10.2. Participating Units will mount cultural contingents that meet the criteria set out in this technical package as well as the specific requirements set out by the host society, provide detailed information about the contingent, its technical requirements and digital files of performances to allow for ample planning of the cultural program.
- 10.3. The Cultural Team will abide by the code of conduct of the Participating Units, understand that they are part of a Games environment, and provide all necessary information and documentation to ensure the smooth operation of the cultural



program. The manager is also the chaperone of the Unit and will support the team, the Unit and the Host Society to meet their mutual goals

**11. Scoring**

- 11.1. The cultural performance has no competition or scoring component.
- 11.2. Contingent Cultural Delegates will not at any time compete for medals or prizes during the Arctic Winter Games nor shall they receive any financial remuneration for their participation in the Games

**12. Medals**

- 12.1. The Host Society may present Contingent Cultural Delegates with participation medallions or other 'thank you' gifts.
- 12.2. The medallion / gift design must be approved by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee.

**13. Host Society Support Staff and Infrastructure**

- 13.1. The Host Society is responsible for providing a suitable performance venue, and for hiring
- 13.2. The Host Society will provide a creative team to host the array of performers who will travel from across the north for the week.
- 13.3. The Host Society will hire an "Artistic Director" is responsible for bringing all the elements of the cultural program together.

**14. Other**

- 14.1. 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, cultural and youth ambassador program participants for their teams.

#### Sport Participation:

As the guardian and rights holder of the biennial premier circumpolar sport and cultural event for northern youth, the Arctic Winter Games International Committee (AWGIC) offers male and female sport competition for Arctic Winter Games participants.

The AWGIC board, membership, and stakeholders remain committed to ongoing collaboration and monitoring developments within the global sport community. While remaining true to its core values of respect and a participant-centred approach, the AWGIC will continue to act with integrity and be accountable for its decisions.

#### General Eligibility Rules – for all Participants

301. To be eligible to participate in the Arctic Winter Games, all Contingent Athletes, Cultural delegates and Youth Ambassador Program participants 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.



**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.

**305. Minimum Age Waiver**

- 305.1. Applications for exceptions to the minimum age rule must be submitted by the Chef de Mission to the Technical Director not less than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Games
- 305.2. Applications must be submitted on the form provided ([URL HERE](#))

**306. Aging Up**

- 306.1. If a participant wishes to compete in an older age group, the Chef de Mission submit an application to the Technical Director not less than 30 days prior to the Opening Ceremony of the Games
- 306.2. Applications must be submitted on the form provided ([URL HERE](#))

**Athlete Eligibility****307. To participate in the Arctic Winter Games as an athlete, each participant must meet the definition of a "Developing Athlete"**

- 307.1. A Developing Athlete is one who has not represented one's nation in international competition (outside of an Arctic Winter Games) in the sport they are competing in.
- 307.1.1. An athlete who has competed for one's club in international competition (not representing one's nation) is considered a developing athlete;
- 307.1.2. An athlete who is a member of one's national team, but has not represented one's nation in international competition is considered a developing athlete.

**Cultural Delegate Eligibility****308. 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.**



**Youth Ambassador Program Eligibility**

309. 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.



# Appendix G

## Schedule Development Process

### Appendix G – Schedule Development Process

#### 401. Master Sport Schedule

##### 401.1. First Draft

The Host Society shall distribute a first draft of the Master Sport Schedule - a detailed multi-sport schedule, including: competitions, practices/training, pre-Games Coach/Manager meetings and all technical meetings - to the AWGIC and each Participating Unit's Chef de Mission for review no later than 1 year (12 months) prior to the commencement of the Games (Opening Ceremony).

##### 401.2. Final Schedule

The Master Sport Schedule becomes "final" three (3) months prior to the commencement of the Games, unless otherwise approved by the AWGIC.

401.2.1. A final review and approval of the Master Sport Schedule must be conducted by the AWGIC Technical Director prior to being considered "final".

401.2.2. The Master Sport Schedule is developed by the Host Society in consultation with the Sport Vice President, Sport Chairs and the AWGIC as required.

401.2.3. The sport schedule is developed using the Sport Technical Packages and by reviewing the sport schedules from previous Games.

#### 402. Host Society is required to:

402.1. Create a process for stakeholders to provide input and request changes to the schedule;

402.2. Revise and update the Master Sport Schedule, redistributing updated versions as required on an ongoing basis between 12 months pre-Games and the end of the Games;

402.3. Refer to the AWGIC Staging Manual to view approved sport schedule templates.

#### 403. Host Society must do their best to:

403.1. Refrain from scheduling any competition or practice/training within three (3) hours of the beginning of the Opening Ceremony;

403.2. Respect the timing required for participant feeding, transportation and marshaling for opening and closing ceremonies;

403.3. Ensure that practice/training during the first day of the Games reflects the travel realities of Participating Units (e.g., Units with the least amount of travel should be scheduled to practice/train and/or compete first upon arrival in the Host jurisdiction, where Units with the most travel should practice/train and/or compete last).