

2027 Ringette Nova Scotia Canada Games Ringette Program Athlete Selection Framework: Phase 1

Special Circumstances

Purpose

To ensure athletes who are unable to attend one or both Phase 1 camps due to legitimate and documented circumstances are given a fair, transparent, and equitable opportunity to be evaluated for advancement to Phase 2.

This policy reflects LTAD 3.0's equity of access principles and acknowledges that athlete development pathways are not always linear.

Eligible Categories

a. Remote Athletes – Known

- Athletes who are NS-eligible but currently living or studying outside of the province (e.g., university).
- Must be known to staff through prior high-performance programming, club play, or scouting.

b. Remote Athletes – New

- Athletes who will become NS-eligible by 2026 (e.g., moving to Nova Scotia for school).
- Must provide credible evidence of high-performance experience in their current environment.

c. Injury or Illness

- Athletes unable to participate due to medically documented injury or illness.
- Must provide medical documentation including a return-to-play timeline.
- Medical clearance required before any return to on-ice participation.

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d. Multi-Sport Commitments

- Athletes competing in another high-performance sport program where training/competition conflicts with Phase 1.
- Must demonstrate capacity to meet physical and skill benchmarks outside of Phase 1 camp attendance.

e. Other Exceptional Circumstances

- Significant personal or family reasons (e.g., bereavement, emergency, cultural obligation).
- Reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the coaching group.

Process

1. Advance Notification

- Athletes (or parents/guardians) must notify program staff of their circumstance before the affected camp whenever possible.
- Requests submitted after camp will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances.

2. Evidence Submission

Athletes must provide one or more of the following to support their consideration:

- Video of recent competitive game play (full shifts, not highlight reels).
- Coach references from current or recent high-performance coaches.
- Performance data (fitness testing, skating metrics, validated training logs).
- Medical documentation (where applicable).

3. Observation Opportunity

- When possible, staff may arrange an opportunity to observe the athlete in an alternative setting (e.g., club practice, university game, training session with Phase 1 athletes).



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Decision-Making

- Special circumstance cases are reviewed during the same selection meeting as camp-attending athletes.
- Athlete portfolios are built from available evidence and compared against Phase 1 standards.
- No athlete will be advanced without sufficient observed or documented performance data.

Communication

- Athletes will be informed in writing whether their request is approved, pending more information, or declined.
- Feedback will be provided in all cases to guide development and next steps.

Safeguards Against Bias

- Special circumstance cases are reviewed by the full coaching group, not an individual coach.
- Where a staff member has prior coaching familiarity with the athlete, that influence is balanced with evaluator and data-driven inputs.
- Decisions are recorded for transparency and future reference.