Arctic Winter Games International Committee

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 Arctic Winter Games International Committee is responsible for selecting which sport events will be included in the Arctic Winter Games Program.

Purpose: This policy provides a framework to guide the Arctic Winter Games International Committee’s decisions regarding which sports will be included in the Arctic Winter Games program.

1) SPORT SELECTION PRINCIPLES:
The following principles apply to the selection of sports in the Arctic Winter Games:

a) Participation- Sports will be selected to support maximum participation among permanent partners within approved participation limits.

b) Sport Development- The Arctic Winter Games will enhance the ongoing development of sport within and among circumpolar jurisdictions.

c) Equality- The Arctic Winter Games program will support balanced participation among genders.

d) Sustainability- The Arctic Winter Games will include sports that are attractive to northern athletes. The selection of sports for the Arctic Winter Games will support ongoing sport development and delivery of the Arctic Winter Games program within member jurisdictions.
2) **SPORT SELECTION PROCESS GOALS:**

a) **Regional Diversity**- Sport selection will recognize and support the unique aspects of sports in the Arctic and provide northern athletes with the opportunity to compete in events appropriate to their age and developmental stage. The selection of sports for the Arctic Winter Games will also recognize the diversity of host jurisdictions and their capacity to host events appropriate for the participating athletes.

b) **Meaningful Participation/Competition**- Arctic Winter Games sport selection will support a positive participatory experience for Arctic Winter Games athletes. All participating teams will have a positive competitive sport experience at a level that ensures a reasonable chance at accomplishing their goals on the field of play.

c) **Athlete Development**- Sports selected for the Arctic Winter Games will support northern athletes in their pursuit of developmental and performance goals in their chosen sport.

3) **CATEGORIES OF SPORT PARTICIPATION:**

In order to be included in the AWG a sport must be represented by a minimum of four contingents. AWG Sports are classified into three categories;

a) **Heritage Sports**- sports that are unique to the Arctic Winter Games as a multi-sport program - (Arctic Sports and Dene Games)

b) **Main Stream Sports**- sports that have been included in the Arctic Winter Games program on more than one occasion, with participation from at least four permanent members in the most recent games.

c) **Regionally Relevant**- sports identified by a host jurisdiction that will enhance the delivery of the Arctic Winter Games program within their region.
THE SELECTION OF SPORTS
FOR THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

4) SPORT SELECTION PROCESS:
The AWGIC will announce which sports will be included in each edition of the Arctic Winter Games before the signing of the hosting contract. Confirmation of age groups and competition categories will begin immediately following each respective set of Games.
In making its decision on which sports will be included in a particular set of games the AWGIC will consider factors including the following:

a) Direction from political leaders

b) Consultation with permanent member jurisdictions

c) Input from Sport Technical Meetings that are held at each set of Games

d) Input from member jurisdictions, including Information on participation trends in participating jurisdictions

e) Impact on sport development in participating jurisdictions, and impact on the future of the Arctic Winter Games Program

f) Participation levels and trends in previous editions of the AWG

g) Participation limits with respect to the total size of the games, hosting capacity, and the games financial framework

h) Equitable access to AWG program among genders

i) The marketability of the events within a particular host region

j) Capacity of the Host jurisdiction with respect to facility and geographical limitations
THE SELECTION OF SPORTS FOR THE ARCTIC WINTER GAMES

CHANGES IN SPORT SELECTION:
Sports may be included in an edition of the AWG on the basis of Regional Relevance, with no expectation of future inclusion in the program. Sports considered Main Stream Sports within the AWG program may be removed from the program as part of the Sport Selection process or, in exceptional cases after the process is complete for reasons including:

- There is a reduction in the number of jurisdictions competing in the event in previous games. To be considered a viable AWG competition at least four jurisdictions must confirm their intent to field teams.
- A lack of meaningful competition for participating teams
- Facility or geographic limitations within a host jurisdiction
- Direction from political leaders

New sports may only be added to the AWG program where the decision will support maximum participation from member jurisdictions, within agreed upon participation limits.