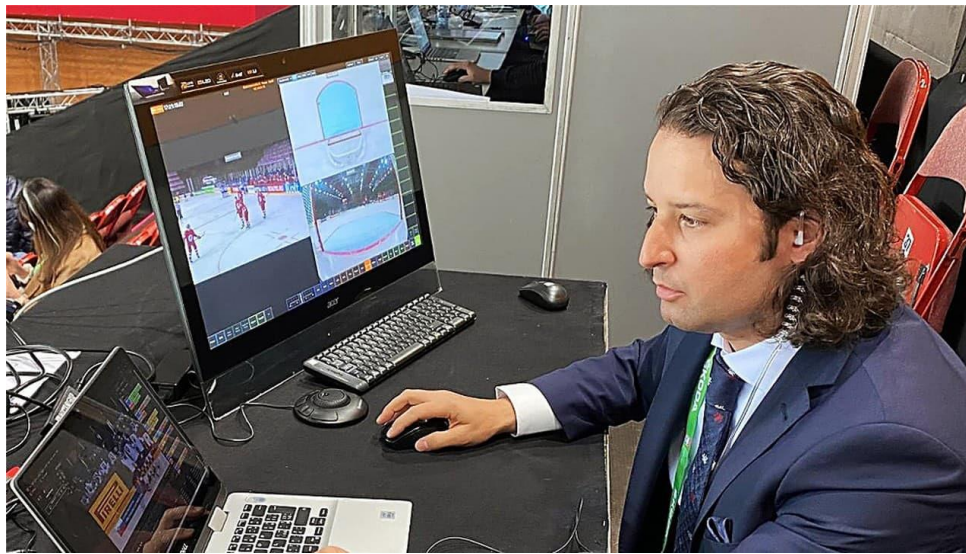


NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAMING



**SLOVENSKÝ
HOKEJ**





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HOCKEY SLOVAKIA - FACTS AND FIGURES

- IIHF member since 1993
- Country population of 5,5 million
- **8 geographical regions - 89 rinks** (indoor – 70 and outdoor - 19)
- **12 518 registered players** - (1 868 senior men, 9 610 boys and 868 girls)
- **1198 registered coaches**
- **Men's World Ranking - 9th**
 - WCH - 1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze medal
 - WOG - 1 bronze medal
- **U18 Men** (WCH 2024 – 4th, 2023 – 4th)
- **U20 Men** (WCH 2025 – 6th, 2024 – 6th)



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National Teams

Men's Program:

- **U16 and U17 National Team** – international tournaments and development events
- **U18 National Team** – IIHF U18 World Championship and international tournaments
- **U20 National Team** – IIHF World Junior Championship (WJC) and international tournaments
- **Senior National Team** – IIHF World Championship and Winter Olympics

Women's Program:

- **U16 National Team** – International tournaments and development events
- **U18 National Team** – IIHF U18 World Championship and international tournaments
- **Senior Women's National Team** – International tournaments and IIHF Women's World Championship

Sled Hockey (Para Hockey):

- **SVK National Sled Hockey Team** - competes in the Paralympics and World Para Ice Hockey Championships



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PLAYERS PATHWAY and DEVELOPMENT

SENIOR

IIHF WCH + WOG

2 Inter. tournaments

App. 10 Inter. games

IIHF U20 WJC

4 Inter. tournaments

Development camps

Hockey clubs

U20/19

IIHF U18 WCH

4 Inter. tournaments

"NTDP U18

Development camps

Hockey clubs

U18

4 Inter. tournaments

Develop. camps

Hockey clubs

U17

4 Inter. tournaments

Develop. camps

Hockey clubs

U16

Regional development camps

Hockey clubs

U15 regional

National team players development





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NATIONAL TEAMS

(season 2024-25)

Players pool	NT prospects
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U20 WJC
(2005)

app 400

est. 40

U18 National team
(2007)

app 500

est. 60

U17 National team (players born 2008)

app 650

est. 65

U16 National team (players born 2009)

app 750

est. 70

U15 Regional teams (players born 2010)

app 850

est. 120



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THE BEGINING - TALENT IDENTIFICATION



Challenges in Talent Identification:

- Late Bloomers – biological vs chronological age
- Context & Competition
- Subjectivity in Evaluation
- Injury & Development Risks

Talent Identification Process:

- Scouting & Observation
- Statistical & Performance Analysis
- Combines & Testing
- Interviews & Psychological Assessments
- Long-Term Tracking

Players born only 4 months apart



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U15 REGIONALS

(players monitoring)

Initial monitoring:

- **4 regions** – pool of 240 players + 32 goalies
- **AAA tournaments** (November, December a February)
- **Players evaluated in games** (best of the best in related age group)

Selection and player development:

- 4 days – 1 day/ 30 players + 4 goalies (**120 players overall**)
- **daily training camps/sessions** (November and March)

Personnel:

- **regional instructors**, strength and conditioning coach
- **club coaches** - education seminar
- **parents** – player development pathway + Q/A

Main focus of training camps:

- **Player individual development**
 - **on ice** – technical skills
 - **off ice** – importance + proper warm up etc.



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YOUTH NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAMS

– U16, U17, U18 and U20

Key areas of our focus

1. Talent Identification & Scouting/Monitoring

- Selecting the most promising young players for **future senior team consideration**
- Evaluating performance in club setting
- Providing opportunities for players from diverse backgrounds

2. Player Development

- Enhancing technical skills (passing, shooting, etc.)
- Tactical understanding (positioning, FC, etc.)
- Physical conditioning (speed, strength, agility etc.)
- Psychological growth (leadership, mental toughness, handling pressure etc.)

3. International Experience

- Competing in youth tournaments (IIHF breaks)
- Exposing players to different playing styles and high-pressure environments
- Instilling national team culture and values

4. Pathway to Senior National Team

- Aligning with the playing philosophy of the senior team
- Building relationships with professional clubs and academies
- Preparing players for U18 and U20 programs



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NATIONAL TEAM PLAYER DEVELOPMENT - CAMPS

In season training camps:

- **Only 2 days** – before each international tournament (4/5)
- **Few weeks** – before WCH

Key focus:

- Team Chemistry
- Team performance
- High-Intensity Practices
- Leadership & Team Culture

Off season training camps:

- **Few days** – summer time

On-Ice Training:

- Skill Development
- Position-Specific Drills
- Game Play & Scrimmages
- Slovak Team Systems

Off-Ice Training:

- Strength & Conditioning
- Video Analysis
- Mental Performance Training
- Nutrition & Recovery



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NATIONAL TEAM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (NTDP)

The **SLOVAK National Team Development Program (NTDP)** is a one-year program based in Piešťany, designed for elite U18 players.

How NTDP Works:

- Players are selected mostly at **age 17 and younger**
- **Quality games vs. SHL (mens)**, juniors + international
- The program emphasizes **skill development, off-ice training, and game strategy** with proper nutrition and recovery
- Many NTDP graduates play internationally (AHL etc.) and part of **Mens senior national team** (Nemec, Sykora etc.)





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GOALIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Selection and player development:

- regional camps 8 x 3 days/ 40 goalies
- goalie prospects age U14-U20
- focus on individual development:
 - on ice and off ice – skills, strength and conditioning etc.
 - education for players – nutrition, recovery, visualization, etc.
- mentorship program for coaches – 4 mentor coaches + app. 6 club goalie coaches
- guests – specialists, former players etc.
- online webinars for parents





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MENS NATIONAL TEAM

(from JUN to MEN)

Main goals over the season:

- To scout players and young prospects (clubs, leagues)
- To play at international stage
- To lead the “SLOVAK HOCKEY”
- To win games

International hockey:

- International games 3x IB
- Pre-world exhibition games
- World Championship
- Winter Olympic Games



COACHING & PLAYING PHILOSOPHY

- All teams – one playing philosophy
 - Aligning with the **playing philosophy of the senior team**
- U18 and U20 full time head coach
- U16 and U17 club/national team coaches
- Video analysis and analytics play a key role in evaluating and **improving player and team performance**
- The program includes **specialized training for goalies, strength and conditioning, nutrition, and mental performance**





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NATIONAL TEAM

Team culture:

- National pride
- Professionalism
- Role models
- Winning mentality

Sport performance:

- Offensive play mindset
- Co-operation/team first



NATIONAL TEAM PLAYER

"I was never supposed to make it past juniors. I was cut by every team. I just want to send a message to all those kids who've been cut — it's amazing what you can accomplish, by putting your mind to it and through hard work"

– Zdeno Chara



DEDICATED HARDWORK – CO-OPERATION – CREATIVITY – STAMINA

Character - Mental Toughness:

- **Motivated and passionate** to develop
- **Hardworking & persistent** to work towards long-term goals
- High on **self-awareness and self-esteem**
- To be able to take **ownership in the individual development** and the development of others (life management & leadership)

Game performance:

- Excellent **game sense** and creativity
- Excellent all-around **playing skills and skating abilities**

Sport performance:

- Excellent **conditioning** – **athlete first**
- Excellence in **recovery & nutrition** for optimal training effects



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ONE TEAM – ONE IDENTITY



1. We are **ONE TEAM**
2. We can **BEAT** anyone
3. Always try to be the **BEST TEAMATE**
4. Always try to be the **BEST PLAYER**
5. Every player must play in **BOTH ENDS** of the rink
6. We **SKATE/PLAY/ATTACK AND CHASE FAST**
7. Every player can **SCORE** and every player must **SHOOT**

*Thank you
for attention*

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