



## SELECTION PROTOCOL FIS FREESTYLE EVENTS

<b>Approval Authority:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	High Performance
<b>Approval Date:</b>	October 19, 2023
<b>Revision:</b>	Yearly (Pre-Season)
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	Aug 2024
<b>Related Policies:</b>	Canada Snowboard High Performance Program General Policies

**Canada Snowboard is revising the High Performance Program (HPP) General Policy as of the approval date of this Selection Protocol. Situations related to the revision of the HPP General Policy may arise that require this Selection Protocol to be modified. Any required modifications will be communicated as soon as possible and come into effect as of the publication date of the new HPP General Policy.**

### INTRODUCTION

1. Canada Snowboard, through its membership in the Canadian Snowsports Association, is granted by the FIS the right to enter eligible athletes in FIS sanctioned snowboard events.
2. This document sets out the process for identifying those athletes who will be invited by Canada Snowboard to participate in FIS sanctioned snowboard events in the Freestyle disciplines, i.e., Halfpipe, Big Air, and Slopestyle.
3. For information on the selection process for events not covered by this document (Olympics, FIS SR & JR World Championships), please refer to the relevant Selection Protocol section on the Canada Snowboard “*Document Centre*”:  
<http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs>.
4. Any exceptions to the procedures set out in this Selection Protocol must be based on the general policies of the Canada Snowboard High Performance Program (HPP). The HPP general policies can be found in the Document Centre on the Canada Snowboard website at: <http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/?category=General+Policy>
5. Final decisions with respect to athlete selection for Freestyle FIS events shall be ratified by the Chief Executive Officer on the basis of recommendations by the FIS Event Selection Committee, which shall consist of the Vice President of Sport, High Performance Director – Park & Pipe, and the SBS or HP National Team Coaches.

### TERMS

6. The following abbreviated terms are referenced in this Selection Protocol:
  - a) “CS” – Canada Snowboard
  - b) “BA” - Big Air
  - c) “FIS” - Fédération Internationale de Ski

- d) "HP" - Halfpipe
- e) "HPP" – High Performance Program
- f) "NSO" – National Sport Organization
- g) "SBS" - Slopestyle
- h) "WC" - World Cup
- i) "WSPL" – World Snowboarding Points List
- j) "WCH" – World Championships

## ELIGIBILITY

7. To be **eligible** to participate in a FIS snowboard event, an athlete **must**:
- a) Be a member in good standing with Canada Snowboard, as that term is understood in Section 1.1(f) of the Canada Snowboard Bylaws, applied *mutatis mutandis*.
  - b) Have a valid FIS license and meet the minimum FIS requirements for the event; For a FIS world Cup the minimum requirements are:
    - i. 120 FIS points or 230 WSPL points in Slopestyle
    - ii. 50 FIS points or 130 WSPL points in Halfpipe
    - iii. 100 FIS Points or 230 WSPL points in Big Air or Slopestyle whichever is higher for Big Air.
  - c) Athletes must communicate intentions to participate by registering for the specific event online at least 30 days in advance of the event at: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/team/resources/fisreq/>
    - i. *It is important to note that for Canada Snowboard to secure World Cup quota, we must submit names **60 days** out from the event. If a rider is **interested in any FIS World Cup** events they should inform us before then to maximize the chance of securing quota for the event and the interested rider. We will only submit names of interested parties at the time the FIS World Cup quota allocation will happen.*
  - d) Have purchased the appropriate class of CS/NSO Sport Accident Insurance Policy (SAIP) – Level 2 minimum for out of country coverage; Level 1 is mandatory for an international World Cup and all National & NextGen Team Members; and
  - e) For a FIS World Cup:
    - i. International World Cup: Be ranked within the top 20 Canadian Men or 10 Canadian Females on the WSPL
    - ii. Canadian World Cup: Be ranked within the top 30 Canadian Men and 15 Canadian Females on the WSPL.

## ALLOCATION OF COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES

8. The number of competitive opportunities available to Canada Snowboard athletes is established by FIS and is described as the Canadian quota for the specific FIS event in question. Canada Snowboard reserves the right to offer competitive opportunities to fewer athletes than the number designated as the Canadian Quota. Grounds for any such decision must be discussed in detail and clearly documented by the Selection Committee and communicated to the impacted athlete(s). Such examples may include, but are not limited to, the athlete's ability to meet the minimum standards and safely compete on the competition course.

FIS quotas can be referenced online at:

Basic, Additional and Personal Quotas: [https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/fis-prod/assets/Calculation\\_SB\\_HP\\_SS\\_BA\\_Quotas\\_2324.pdf](https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/fis-prod/assets/Calculation_SB_HP_SS_BA_Quotas_2324.pdf)

Description of Quota Allocation:

[https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/v1623244500/fis-prod/assets/Description\\_FSSBFK\\_Quotas.pdf](https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/v1623244500/fis-prod/assets/Description_FSSBFK_Quotas.pdf)

9. FIS will recalculate World Cup quotas based on the January FIS Points List with only an increase in quotas possible. Any personal quota spots will not change during the season. The FIS Points Lists are available for reference online at: <https://www.fis-ski.com/DB/snowboard/fis-points-lists.html>
10. The opportunity to participate in FIS freestyle competitions shall be offered to athletes in the order of their ranking as determined by the “Ranking Process” detailed in Sections #14-16 below.
11. Athletes who have earned individual World Cup spots through their status as defending FIS World Cup Champion, Junior World Champion or Continental Cup champion must still have their entry into World Cups ratified by Canada Snowboard.
12. Athlete selection for the following competitions will be determined no later than three (3) weeks before the event:
  - a) All FIS World Cups
  - b) FIS Senior World Championships
  - c) All FIS NorAms
  - d) All international FIS events where entry is limited

Athlete selection for the following competitions will be determined no later than four (4) weeks before the event:

- a) FIS Junior World Championships
13. To be eligible for selection to the FIS Sr and Jr WCH, athletes must meet the eligibility requirements within the specific WCH protocols located on the Canada Snowboard Document Centre: <http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs>. These documents also contain the process on how quota for the WCH events will be allocated across all disciplines for us to meet a maximum team, discipline or gender size.

It is important to note that there are separate quota allocations for the Senior and Junior FIS World Championship events which include all snowboard disciplines into the total team size, these can be referenced within the specific protocol on the CS Document Centre.

## **RANKING PROCESS**

14. Priority in the allocation of competitive opportunities is based on the following priorities in their respective disciplines as follows:
  - Priority 1: National Team members
  - Priority 2: NextGen Team Members
  - Priority 3: All other interested Canadian athletes
  - a) Athletes within the priorities will be ranked by gender according to their points (highest to lowest) on the World Snowboarding Points List (WSPL) in the

respective discipline (SBS, BA\*, HP) at the time of selection. The WSPL is based on FIS, and other professional events and can be found online at: <https://www.worldsnowboardfederation.org/wspl-ranking/>

**\*Note:** For Big Air, competitors will be ranked according to their highest points between SS or BA. Ties will be broken by BA points.

- i. Athletes may be ranked higher within the selection for the following key performance indicators which are tracked within the Canada Snowboard Athlete Gap Analysis and training log tools for each National and NextGen team athlete:
    1. A significant commitment (80%+) of training opportunities (on and off snow) as determined by their Individual Yearly Training Plan.
    2. Performance at On-Snow Sessions leading into a competition (using mock competitions results, the competition skills riders are doing, how well they are done and how often/reps)
  - ii. Athletes showing a progression of results from National Level Events (as determined by the WSPL) including but not limited to Nor-Am and Europa Cups from the 2023/24 season leading into each World Cup selection may be moved higher in the ranking determined by their most recent results obtained in comparison to other eligible athletes in the selection.
15. Exceptions for a riders rank and points within the selection can be made. However, the grounds for any such decisions must be discussed in detail and clearly documented by the Selection Committee in their meeting minutes and must be in accordance with the criteria above and general policies of the HPP.
16. Athlete participation in a World Cup, or Sr World Championships competition is conditional on the athlete meeting the Technical Minimum Standards applicable at the time of the selection (Appendix A).

## HEALTH RELATED CURTAILMENT OF ACTIVITIES

17. There may be occasions when an athlete who is otherwise selected to participate is, or becomes by reason of a health related curtailment of activities, unable to compete. In such circumstances, Canada Snowboard shall have the discretion to replace this athlete with another eligible athlete, provided that the athlete has been assessed by a Canada Snowboard approved physician and such assessment supports this decision.
18. Canada Snowboard may, at any time, require an athlete who is unable to participate in training or competition due to injury, to obtain a medical assessment from a CS designated sport physician. The purpose of the medical assessment is to confirm the degree of the athlete's injury and to determine the expected timeline for the athlete's recovery to a suitable training and competition state.

## COACHING

19. An athlete who is not coached by an official Canada Snowboard Coach may not participate

in a FIS Snowboard Event without first obtaining approval from the High Performance Director – Park and Pipe. The list of CS approved coaches can be found here: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/programs/technical/coaching/currentcoach/>

Coaches registered outside of Canada may be approved on a case-by-case basis where the coach will need to accept and sign a liability form and send a photo of their coaching membership/license for approval to Tyler Ashbee High Performance Director – Park and Pipe at: [tyler@canadasnowboard.ca](mailto:tyler@canadasnowboard.ca). Any concerns with respect to this requirement should be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

## APPEALS

20. Any appeal of any decision of the Selection Committee may be made by any CS member in good standing. Appeals must be conducted in accordance with the Canada Snowboard Appeals Protocol, which is available on the Canada Snowboard website at: <http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs>.

Members in good standing are also encouraged to consult the Canada Snowboard *Appeals Policy Process Map* which is available on the Canada Snowboard website at: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/AppealsPolicyProcessMap.pdf>

## GENERAL

21. Issues not otherwise covered by this Selection Protocol shall be resolved by Canada Snowboard's "*Dispute Resolution Policy*" which is available on the Canada Snowboard website (<http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs>).
22. This Selection Protocol is intended to apply as drafted and, specifically, where no athletes are prevented from competing because of an unforeseen injury or other unanticipated or unforeseen circumstances. Situations may arise where unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Canada Snowboard's control do not allow competition or nomination to take place in a fair manner or in the best interests of the priorities and general principles for selection as indicated in these criteria, or do not allow the procedure for nomination as described in this document to be applied.
23. In the event of such unforeseen circumstances the Canada Snowboard High Performance Director – Park and Pipe will, where possible, consult with the VP Sport to determine if the circumstances justify competition or nomination should take place in an alternative manner. In such circumstances, the High Performance Director – Park and Pipe shall communicate the alternative selection or nomination process to all impacted individuals as soon as possible.
24. This Selection Protocol is based on FIS rules and regulations as presently known and understood and on the latest information available to Canada Snowboard. Any changes in the selection criteria and procedures necessitated by a change in the FIS rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected parties as soon as reasonably possible. Should such a circumstance occur, Canada Snowboard will review and amend this Selection Protocol to comply with new regulations or conditions. Amendments to this document will be communicated directly to the affected athletes as soon as is reasonably possible as well as posted to the Canada Snowboard website.

**APPENDIX A**  
**TECHNICAL MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR WORLD CUPS, WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, & OLYMPICS**

**HALFPIPE**

Maneuvers and airs will NOT count if they are:

- below the lip
- 90+ degrees skidded finish
- NOT grabbed

All Performance Benchmarks are evaluated in an entire run.

**International Halfpipe World Cup:**

**Men**

Straight air at 10feet

2 way 720 at 7 feet

1 way 900 7 feet

Must spin both frontside and backside

Consistent, grabbed, all in same run, in a 22 foot pipe.

**Women**

Straight air at 7'

2 way 540 at 5feet

1 way 720 at 5feet

Consistent, grabbed, all in same run, in a 22 foot pipe.

**Canadian Halfpipe World Cup:**

**Men**

Straight airs at 6'

2 way 720's at 5 feet

2 way 540's at 5 feet

Consistent, grabbed, all in same run, in an 18 foot pipe.

**Women**

Straight airs at 3feet

2 way 540 at 2 feet

Consistent, grabbed, all in same run, in an 18 foot pipe.

**SLOPESTYLE**

Tricks must be completed over features 15m (50') in length from take-off to knuckle.

Tricks must be grabbed (with variations) and consistently landed.

**Men**

2 way 1080's

2 way 900's

Must be able to land a switch rail trick

**Women**

2 way 360

1 way 540

Boardslide/lipslide at 90° through entire rail feature