



**Canada Snowboard High Performance Program
General Selection Policy**

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Appendices to this Policy:	Appendix A: Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet Example

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A. Introduction and Purpose

1. The purpose of this High Performance Program General Selection Policy (GSP) is to communicate the consistent, transparent, and fair processes Canada Snowboard applies when nominating athletes to represent Canada Snowboard across all disciplines and events. It aims to minimize discrepancies among various selection protocols, ensuring a unified and systematic approach to all High Performance Program (HPP) athlete selections.
2. This GSP aligns directly with the HPP's overarching objective of supporting athletes to achieve podium performances. It supports the identification, selection, and preparation of athletes who have demonstrated that they are capable of achieving podium success at major international competitions, including but not limited to: FIS World Cups (WC), Junior World Championships (JrWCH), World Championships (WCH), Youth Olympic (YOG), Paralympic (PLY) and Olympic Games (OLY).
3. Discipline- or event- specific protocols, referred to throughout this document as *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheets*, contain the technical details for each selection process, including: timelines and deadlines, eligibility requirements, team size/quotas, performance standards, and competitive benchmarks for team/discipline-specific and event-specific selections. These criteria clearly define the minimum eligibility and performance related standards athletes **must** achieve in order to be considered for each selection.

In the event of a disagreement between the criteria and/or standards set out in this GSP and the criteria and/or standards established in the relevant Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet, the criteria and/or standard established in the Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet will apply.

B. Selection Committee Roles and Responsibilities

1. Canada Snowboard HPP Selection Committees are responsible for applying the GSP and the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* when evaluating athlete eligibility and performance for the purpose of selection to teams and events. The Selection Committees ensure that decisions are made fairly, consistently, and in alignment with Canada Snowboard's High Performance objectives and published selection processes.
2. The composition of the relevant Selection Committee is detailed in each *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* and may vary by discipline and event type, but generally includes:
 - a. The relevant CS High Performance Director (Speed and/or Park and Pipe)
 - b. Discipline-specific CS National Team coach(es)
 - c. Other appointed CS HPP staff as required and identified by the Selection Committee

At their sole discretion, the Selection Committee may consult with additional stakeholders, including Canada Snowboard's Health & Athletic Performance (HAP) team, judges, private coaches or other technical experts, to inform the evaluation of

athletes as part of the selection process. Where input is sought from these stakeholders, these individual(s) act as advisors and are not voting participants in the Selection Committee.

An example of a situation where the Selection Committee may seek input from stakeholders is to ensure that the necessary and relevant information to support a selection process is obtained. This could include, but is not limited to, information relating to off-snow programming, injury management and return to snow plans, and/or when an athlete designates the use of a private coach as their primary coach on their Canada Snowboard Athlete Agreement.

3. Recommendations of the Selection Committee are submitted to the relevant High Performance Director for final ratification (approval). In cases where final quota allocations or relevant eligibility changes occur after the selection process has been finalized, the High Performance Director may reconvene the Selection Committee to reassess selections.
4. All Selection Committee members are required to declare any conflict of interest prior to the outset of deliberations.

Where a conflict is determined to exist, the member must recuse themselves from relevant portions of discussions and decision making, as outlined in the Canada Snowboard's Conflict of Interest Policy.

5. Athlete and technical staff (coaches, HAP team, and other relevant support staff) selections are made by the Selection Committee based on the process outlined in this GSP and the corresponding *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheets*. Final ratification of all athlete and technical staff selections rests with the High Performance Director(s), or their designate(s). Selection of staff will be prioritized to ensure that the selected individuals have appropriate access to venues as necessary to perform their duties and contribute to the overall success of the team.

As a general philosophy, all staff selections will be made on the principle of selecting the most capable specialist who can directly support athletes in achieving podium performances at the relevant opportunity. In most cases, due to the accreditation limitations placed upon Canada Snowboard at major events, personal coaches (if they differ from the selected staff) will not be selected nor receive any ancillary benefits (accreditation, venue access, accommodation, and other related benefits).

C. Selection Process Overview

1. **Decision Making Process** – The following is the sequence of events each Selection Committee decision will generally follow:
 - a. The HPP admin staff create a selection worksheet that documents and verifies that all athletes under consideration for selection meet the required eligibility criteria. All eligible athletes are then ranked using the published, discipline-specific, quantifiable performance benchmarks (e.g. Selection Priorities) outlined

in the relevant, published, *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*. The selection worksheet will rank athletes in priority order until:

- i. There are no athletes, or no further athletes, who meet the eligibility requirements and who have the requisite performance within a designated Selection Period to satisfy the process for selection, and/or
 - ii. The Canadian Quota or team capacity is reached.
- b. The Selection Committee discuss and document any potential exceptional circumstances.
 - i. Consideration is given to supplemental information from HAP, coaches, and other contributors, as required.
 - ii. The Selection Committee will include and rank any athletes who meet the health-related curtailment or exceptional circumstances requirements outlined in Sections G and H, below.
- c. The HPP admin staff document a summary of the Selection Committee decisions and rationale (known as the Selection Summary) to be filed, confidentially, for the sole purpose of audit or appeal. The Selection Summaries are confidential in nature and are not disclosed unless for the purpose of audit or appeal.
 - i. The relevant High Performance Director (Speed or Park and Pipe) ratifies (approves) the Selection Summary and other relevant documentation.
- d. (If applicable): The Selection Committee will review a list of eligible coaches that are in good standing and meet the Canada Snowboard Coaching Program (CSCP) Minimum Standards. A Lead Coach is selected and any additional supporting roles are identified and selected based on the stated support capacity, needs of the event, athlete support plans, and alignment with CSCP Minimum Standards.
 - i. In cases where coaching spots are limited outside of spots granted to the National Team coaching staff, prioritization for available positions will be determined based on number of athletes qualified by the coach, coaching experience, and coaching certification level.

2. **Team Selection Timelines** - These are the key steps and general timelines for publishing criteria and selecting athletes to Canada Snowboard's National Teams for each program year. The relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* will clearly outline all Selection Deadlines related to the team selection in question.
- a. **August:** Athlete eligibility and minimum performance criteria from the preceding years are reviewed by the discipline technical experts and updated as needed to reflect performance analysis trends, event demands, and desired performance objectives.
 - b. **October:** The eligibility and performance criteria are approved as the updated version of the *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* for each discipline, translated from ENG to FR, and published to the Canada Snowboard website.
 - i. Prior to publication, the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* is drafted by the HPP staff and shared with the Canada Snowboard Athlete Council and National Team coaches for review and feedback. External consultations (e.g. legal advice) are sought as required.
 - ii. The final version is ratified (approved) by the relevant High Performance Director (Speed and/or Park and Pipe) before publishing.
 - c. **April:** By the published deadlines and as outlined in the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*, athletes (or coaches) are required to submit skills

charts, application documents, or other assessments for consideration in the selection process.

- d. **May:** The Selection Committee follows the decision-making process outlined above in Section C. 1. All athletes impacted by a selection decision (selected or not selected) are notified, which initiates the appeal and acceptance window.
- e. **June:** Athletes are officially selected to the National Team and official announcements are communicated publicly by Canada Snowboard according to established communication plans.

Subject to continued compliance with applicable Canada Snowboard policies, all team selections are generally valid for the duration of the HPP annual plan for the relevant program year, which is typically one year, beginning on June 1 and ending on May 31 each year. Selected athletes must continue to satisfy all eligibility and performance requirements, along with any other policy, or procedure of CS as may be in place from time to time.

In some circumstances, individuals currently named to the National Team may be given individual benchmarks as an addendum to their athlete agreement. The benchmarks will be created by the National Team coaches and include performance enhancement opportunities for the athlete to progress their Olympic/Paralympic medal potential and their international competitive future. If the athlete meets all of the benchmarks over the course of the season, they will be named to the National Team for an additional year for meeting their benchmarks regardless of competition results. If an athlete is unsuccessful in meeting the benchmarks, they are still eligible for team selection based on the eligibility and selection criteria in the GSP and relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*.

2b. Event Selection Timelines - These are the key steps and general timelines for selecting athletes to participate in specific international events (e.g. WC, WCH, JrWCH, YOG, OLY, PLY). The relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* will clearly outline all Selection Deadlines related to the competitive opportunity in question.

- f. **At least 2 months before the event date:** Event-specific eligibility and performance criteria are finalized, approved, translated, and published on the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*.
- g. **At least 5 weeks before the event date or block:** Athletes, or their coach, are required to submit a fully complete Expression of Interest (EOI) (<https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/team/resources/fisreq/>) for each individual event or block of events, according to the deadlines detailed in the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*. EOI deadlines typically align with the timelines required by the FIS, IOC, IPC, and other organizing bodies. Participation Requests can only be sent through the Canada Snowboard website (at the link directly above) and EOIs received after the stated deadlines will not be considered.
 - i. Submission of an EOI via the Canada Snowboard website by the respective deadline **does not** automatically guarantee selection to a specific event or block of events. Interested athletes must meet all

conditions of eligibility, all performance related benchmarks for ranking, and be allocated a Canadian Quota spot for the given event.

- h. **At least 4 weeks before, or by the designated Selection Deadline, for the event date or block:** The Selection Committee follows the decision making process outlined above in Section C. 1.
 - i. **At least 3 weeks before, or following the approval date of the selections, for the event date or block:** Selected athletes, and their coaches if applicable, are notified of their selection status. Notifications will include athletes who expressed interest but were not selected. Athletes have up to seven (7) days from the notification date to formally accept their selection or appeal their non-selection. All appeals must be made in accordance with the Canada Snowboard Appeal Policy. Any decisions regarding discretionary selections, injury replacements, or other exceptional circumstances will be clearly documented and communicated to the impacted parties.
 - j. **At least 1 day before the event date:** Canada Snowboard will make a public team announcements of attending athletes.
3. **Performance Benchmarks:** The goal of defining performance benchmarks is to establish clear, consistent, and discipline-specific eligibility and performance criteria which is essential in Canada Snowboard's strategic objective of supporting athletes to achieve world-leading results. Performance benchmarks provide a transparent framework for evaluating athlete performance against developmental, national, and international standards. They serve as both a planning tool for coaches and athletes, and as an evaluative tool for the Selection Committee.

Team, event, gender, and discipline-specific performance benchmarks are reviewed and revised annually by HPP staff in collaboration with the discipline-specific coaching staff and Health and Athletic Performance (HAP) Team.

These benchmarks reflect:

- a. Trends in international performance levels,
- b. Canada Snowboard's and OTP's Data Analytics and athlete tracking.
- c. Practical insights from training, competition data, and gap analysis.

Benchmark details, including specific eligibility criteria, performance metrics, eligible competition standards, and priority ranking thresholds, are included in each *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* for both team and event selections.

4. **Competition Quota:** Canada Snowboard receives athlete quota allocations for international competitions (e.g. WC, JrWCH, WCH, YOG, PLY, OLY) through the FIS or other governing bodies (IOC/IPC). These quota allocations define the maximum number of athletes that Canada is eligible to enter in specific events or disciplines.

Quota allocations may differ by gender, discipline, and event type, and are subject to change based on international ranking lists, national federation status, and FIS quota calculation formulas. Canada Snowboard refers to these quotas as Canadian Quota. Information on FIS Snowboard Quota can be referenced on the FIS website:

5. Canada Snowboard Quota Allocation – Key Principles

- a. Strategic Utilization: At any event, Canada Snowboard may choose to select fewer athletes than the maximum Canadian Quota to ensure readiness, competitive standards, or safety. The grounds for any such decision must be discussed by the Selection Committee, clearly documented, and communicated to the impacted parties. Examples of situations where the Selection Committee would offer fewer competitive opportunities than the Canadian Quota established by FIS or other governing bodies for a competition may include, but are not limited to:
 - i. There are no athletes, or no further athletes, who meet the eligibility requirements and who have the requisite performance(s) within the designated Selection Period to satisfy the *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* process for selection, and/or;
 - ii. There are no athletes, or no further athletes, who can successfully and safely complete the designated level of course/track, as assessed by the Selection Committee in their sole discretion.
- b. Transparent Allocation: The method for allocating the Canadian Quota to eligible athletes is clearly described in each relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*, including ranking methods.
- c. Pre-Allocation of Personal Quotas: Athletes may earn a “Personal Quota” spot through past performances (e.g. NorAm Overall Tour Champion, World Cup Overall Winner, World Champion). Personal Quota spots are fixed for the season, cannot be transferred to another athlete, and are not subject to change through FIS Quota recalculations. However, athletes with earned Personal Quotas must still meet all relevant eligibility requirements and remain in good standing with Canada Snowboard.
- d. Host Nation Quotas: During a competition season in which Canada Snowboard hosts a domestic World Cup, as Host Nation, Canada receives additional World Cup Quota, for the specific domestic World Cup event. The Host Nation Quota only apply to this event and cannot be transferred to or used at any other World Cup competition.
- e. Quota and Selection Timing: Final Canadian Quota allocations from FIS or other governing bodies may occur close to the event date, based on updated FIS ranking lists or in-season recalculations. Canada Snowboard will communicate any changes to Canadian Quota availability promptly to impacted athletes and coaches to ensure that the most up-to-date information informs the selection process.
- f. In all such cases, decisions will be documented and the rationale communicated to the impacted parties as soon as is practical to support preparation and planning.

6. Maximum Team Size

- a. Canada Snowboard allocates its available resources to athletes who have demonstrated, or are assessed to have, the potential to achieve podium results at major international competitions. Consequently, there is a defined capacity limit to the number of athletes the HPP and discipline-specific team can support. This

limit is based on both financial and operational resources and will be defined in the applicable *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*.

D. Athlete Eligibility Requirements

1. To be considered for selection to **any** Canada Snowboard team or event, all athletes and coaches must meet the general eligibility criteria outlined in this section, as well as the discipline- or event-specific eligibility criteria detailed in the applicable *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*. These eligibility requirements (general and discipline- or event-specific) are the minimum standards, requirements, benchmarks and conditions athletes or coaches must meet or demonstrate in order to be considered eligible for selection. Once identified, all athletes who are determined to be 'eligible' will be ranked according to the discipline – or event – specific performance criteria as defined in the applicable *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* for possible selection.

The eligibility status of an individual will be reviewed at multiple stages throughout the selection process, including during the Expression of Interest (EOI) submission and by the Selection Committee at the time of ranking and selection.

2. Athlete Eligibility – General

To be eligible for any team or event selection, athletes must:

- a. Be a member in good standing with Canada Snowboard and their Provincial/Territorial Snowboard Association, as that term is understood in Section 1.1(f) of the Canada Snowboard Bylaws, applied *mutatis mutandis*;
- b. Hold a valid and active Canada-coded FIS license;
- c. Meet all FIS Minimum Eligibility Standards for the event level;
- d. Submit, or have a coach submit on their behalf, a complete EOI via the Canada Snowboard website (events) or as expressed in the *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* by the stated deadline;
 - Athletes who are part of the National Team / NextGen Team do not need to submit individual EOIs.
- e. Have valid Sport Accident Insurance Plan (SAIP) coverage at the level required for the competition or training activity;
- f. (Non-National Team Athletes) Must have a personal coach* who meets the CSCP Minimum Standards and the Coach Eligibility, outlined below, and who accepts responsibility for the athlete at the event in question. This must be confirmed prior to finalizing the athlete's registration, as it is a requirement of both the FIS and Canada Snowboard for their SAIP coverage and for their registration to be valid;
- g. Hold a valid Canadian passport that remains valid for at least six months beyond the planned date of travel or otherwise meet the host nation's specific entry requirements;
- h. Have signed and agreed to the Canada Snowboard Code of Conduct and Ethics and other applicable agreements and policies (e.g. Canadian Safe Sport Program (CSSP) Participant Consent Form);
- i. Comply with all relevant anti-doping and eligibility rules set by the FIS, IPC, IOC, the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, and Canada Snowboard, as applicable; and
- j. In the case of Para athletes, meet the classification and eligibility requirements as defined by FIS Para Snowboard and/or the IPC for the specific events with either a

‘Confirmed’ sport class status or a ‘Review’ sport class status with a review date that falls after the relevant opportunity (e.g. R-2027). These requirements are detailed in each *Para Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*.

NOTE: Additional eligibility requirements – such as minimum FIS Points, WSPL rankings, or demonstrated competition experience – may be specified in the *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheets*.

***National Team Coach(es) - Scope of Responsibility:** National Team coaches are responsible only for athletes **officially named** to the National Team, in alignment with Canada Snowboard’s strategic focus on podium performance at targeted international events. Coaching support and resources are dedicated exclusively to these designated athletes and National Team coaches do not assume responsibility for any athlete outside of this scope or those who are officially named to the National Team but who designate the use of a private coach as their primary coach.

E. Coach Eligibility Requirements

1. General (All) Coach Eligibility

To be eligible for any event registration, all coaches must:

- a. Where requested, agree to and sign the CSSP Participant Consent Form.
- b. Agree to abide by Canada Snowboard’s relevant policies (including the Code of Conduct and Ethics and other policies set out in the Canada Snowboard Safe Sport Policy Manual).
- c. Have submitted a complete EOI by the stated deadline.

2. Canadian Coach Eligibility

To be eligible for any event registration, **Canadian** coaches must:

- a. Be a member in good standing with Canada Snowboard and their Provincial/Territorial Snowboard Association, as that term is understood in Section 1.1(f) of the Canada Snowboard Bylaws, applied *mutatis mutandis*.
- b. Complete all required Safe Sport and CSSP Rules/Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport compliance training as required by Canada Snowboard.
- c. Hold an active and valid certification within the CSCP that meets the CSCP Minimum Standards for the event in question.
 - i. Coaches requesting exemptions to the CSCP Minimum Standards must provide appropriate documentation in writing to the relevant High Performance Director (Speed and/or Park and Pipe) by the posted EOI deadline.

3. International Coach Eligibility

Coaches registered outside of Canada may be approved by Canada Snowboard on a case-by-case basis. To be eligible for any event registration, **International** coaches must:

- a. Be a member in good standing their home federation.
- b. Submit proof of current membership and coaching certification from their home federation.

- i. Must hold an equivalent recognized international certification, appropriate for the level of event in question (see https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/Canada_Snowboard_CSCP_Scope_of_Practice_Policy_EN.pdf);
- c. Sign an acceptance of liability form for their Canadian Athletes.
- d. Where required, provide a current background check, in accordance with the Screening Policy.
 - i. All requests must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the 'Selection Deadline' listed for the relevant opportunity to the relevant High Performance Director

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F. Eligible Competitions

1. Canada Snowboard defines a **Selection Period** as the specific time-period from which an athlete's competitive results are considered valid for selection purposes. The Selection Period:
 - a. Ensures that only current and relevant performance data is used to assess athlete readiness.
 - b. May vary by events or discipline, with specific dates identified in the event-specific *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheets*.
 - c. May include notable or relevant events outside of the specified Selection Period when the event result is determined to be applicable to the current selection. For example, a JrWCH podium in the previous year may be included in current JrWCH selections even though it falls outside the Selection Period of results considered from the current season.

For detailed definitions of the Selection Period for each discipline, event or team, please refer to the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*.

2. Subject to Section F. 1. above, only results from recognized eligible competitions that fall within the defined Selection Period outlined in the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* will be considered for the purpose of ranking and selection.

Only results achieved during eligible individual competitions (not team events) will be considered for rankings and selections.

Competitive opportunities for the current season are determined based on the FIS competition calendar at the time of publication of the applicable *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*. The 'blocking' of these competitive opportunities (e.g. Block A or Block B) may be updated at any time to reflect any changes made to the FIS competition calendar following publication.

The list of eligible competitions may vary by discipline or event, and are typically grouped by the FIS/WSPL event level (detailed further in [Rules of the FIS Points](#)).

Specific eligible competitions will be outlined in the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*, which may include, and are not limited to:

Level 1	PLY, OLY, WCH, WC, and WSPL Elite Events
Level 2	JrWCH, Continental Cups, and WSPL Pro/Challenger Events
Level 3	(Speed) Youth Olympic Winter Games
Level 4	FIS National (Junior) Championships, FIS International (Junior) Competitions

G. Health Related Curtailment (Return to Competition)

1. Athletes seeking selection for an event following a health-related curtailment (injury/illness/pregnancy) must receive approval from Canada Snowboard's HAP Team. This approval confirms that appropriate return-to-sport and return-to-competition protocols have been followed and that the athlete is deemed **performance ready** for competition.

As part of this process, the HAP Team may engage directly with the athlete's personal support team to verify rehabilitation status, progress, and competition readiness.

For the purpose of ranking within a selection decision, any health-related curtailment exemptions must be assessed in alignment with established benchmarks and the athlete's demonstrated or potential performance capacity.

- a. For ranking purposes within a selection decision, the athlete's historical results prior to the health-related curtailment will be evaluated against other eligible athletes in accordance with the criteria and selection ranking process set out in the applicable *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*. Where the decision requires a single event-level result, the athlete's most recent five (5) results at that level will be considered. Where multiple results are required, the most recent eight (8) results at that level will be considered. Alternatively, the athlete's frozen points, as published by FIS (Speed) or WSPL (Park & Pipe), may be used for ranking purposes if those points were obtained outside of the Selection Period. In all cases, the athlete must continue to satisfy all FIS eligibility standards.
 - i. Health Related Curtailment decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and may be valid for multiple event selections until the athlete achieves an unfrozen ranking from returning to competition.
 - ii. Complex Injuries are defined as injuries involving prolonged rehabilitation, multiple injuries occurring simultaneously or sequentially, injuries requiring an extended time away from training or competition, or a prolonged and progressive return to full training or competition activities spanning more than one season. Complex injuries can impact team and/or event-specific selection and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Complex injuries will involve the same ranking process outlined directly above. In addition, athletes must be evaluated on snow by the National Team coach(es) and

HAP Team to be deemed **performance ready**, meaning the athlete has the ability to meet or exceed their previous performances upon an unrestricted return to competition completed in a safe and ethical manner.

H. Exceptional Circumstances

1. In exceptional circumstances, athletes who are unable to meet the general or event/team-specific eligibility requirements due to factors beyond their control may submit a formal request for an exemption. Exemptions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be granted for reasons which include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Competition Disruptions: Event or weather-related cancellations impacting ability to earn qualifying results.
 - b. Other Extraordinary Circumstances: Situations such as verified travel restrictions, major life events, or other valid reasons approved by the relevant High Performance Director.

Athletes must submit written exemption requests – including all relevant documentation – directly to the discipline specific High Performance Director by the applicable EOI deadline. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

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All exemption requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and must follow the process and meet the criteria outlined below:

2. Submission Requirements

To be considered, all exemption requests must include the following:

Component	Details
Cover Letter (Document or email)	Outlining the nature of the exemption request, the eligibility criteria not met, and a detailed explanation of the circumstances.
Supporting Documentation	Include relevant evidence, such as: • Medical documentation from a Canada Snowboard approved practitioner (for injury, illness, or pregnancy) • Proof of event or travel disruptions (e.g. competition cancellation notices, travel restrictions).

Training & Competition Update	• A summary of previous relevant performances and development trajectory. • Records of any alternative competitions, training activities, or simulations undertaken during the period in question.
Risk Mitigation Plan (if applicable)	• Describe steps being taken to address missed preparation or reduced competition exposure.

3. Evaluation Criteria

The following factors will be considered when evaluating exemption requests. Each exemption request will be reviewed by the relevant High Performance Director, and where necessary, additional technical experts or members of the Selection Committee. The High Performance Director may have regard to some, none, or all of the following considerations, in their absolute discretion:

- Nature of the exceptional circumstances claimed
- Medical clearance and prognosis (if applicable)
- The athlete's performance history
- Available quota (Capacity)
- Readiness and risk
- Alignment of the requested exemption with strategic objectives of Canada Snowboard

4. Decision and Communication

- All decisions on exemption requests will be documented and communicated in writing.
- Decisions to grant or refuse an exemption request may be appealed in accordance with the Appeal Policy. Meaning there was a clear breach of process or policy, not that the decision was unfavorable.
- If the exemption is granted, the athlete may still be required to satisfy certain conditions established by the High Performance Director before their selection is confirmed (e.g. performance benchmarks, medical follow-up, or other factors as deemed appropriate).

I. Ranking Priorities, Procedures & Tie-Breaking

- Athletes who meet the applicable eligibility requirements will be ranked based on the discipline-specific performance benchmarks and ranking priorities outlined in the corresponding *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*. These rankings are used to determine the order of selection and to allocate available Canadian Quota or places for the relevant team. Subject to the discretion of Canada Snowboard to decline to fill available Canadian Quota or team/event spots, the selection process will proceed according to the Ranking Priorities and procedures detailed in the relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* until all available Canadian Quota or spots are filled, no further eligible athletes remain, or the program capacity is reached.

2. **Ranking Procedure Descriptions:** Canada Snowboard will use the following terms within the ranking procedures and below are how the calculations are made within the selection processes:

- a. **Field Place Percentage:** A field placing result is not rounded to the nearest whole number. As a practical example, the dividing line between the top third (1/3) and the rest of the field in a final finish field depth of 58 competitors is at 19.33 (58/3), so all those who finished 19th place or better are in the top third and those who finished 20th or lower are not. DNFs and DSQs are counted when determining the field size as those competitors started in the event; however, DNS does not count toward the field size and will be removed from the field size calculation.

For example, the field placing percentage of an athlete who finishes 19th out of 50 total competitors would be calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Field Placing \%} &= (\text{finish place} \div \text{field size}) \times 100 \\ \text{Field Placing \%} &= (19^{\text{th}} \div 58) \times 100 \\ &= (0.327) \times 100 \\ &= 32.7 \%\end{aligned}$$

In this example the athlete who placed 19th would be considered within the top-third (1/3 or 33.33%) of the field. The athlete placing 20th (20/50 = 37%) would not be considered in the top third of the field.

- b. **Aggregate Total Ranking Example:** The aggregate (whole sum) of the athletes' results will be added together to generate a final number used for ranking purposes. As an example, Athlete A has four (4) eligible results (1x 1st, 2x 2nd, 1x 3rd) and Athlete B has four (4) eligible results (2x 2nd, 2x 3rd). Athlete A's aggregate total would equal eight (8) (1+2+2+3) and Athlete B's aggregate total would equal ten (10) (2+2+3+3). The athlete with the lower aggregate total sum, in this example Athlete A, would be ranked ahead (higher) than Athlete B.
- c. **Holistic Format (SBX only):** As indicated in the Criteria Ranking Process within the *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheets* from time to time, "advancing to the final round" means progressing from Qualifications (time trials) into final heat brackets of Top 16 Women (Quarterfinal, 1/4) or Top 32 Men (Eighth final, 1/8), or, in Holistic Format events without time trials, advancing through enough pre-heat brackets to reach the Quarterfinal (1/4) for Women or the Eighth final (1/8) for Men.
3. **Tie Breaker process:** If a tie between two or more eligible athletes in the ranking process occurs, the following tie-breaking methods will be applied sequentially until the tie is resolved. Tie-breaking is only applied after all relevant athlete results have been considered and a selection impasse remains*. These steps are designed to provide a fair and transparent mechanism for prioritizing athletes using objective, discipline-relevant methods.
- a. **Lowest Field Place Percentage:** The athlete with the lowest field placing percentage within the top third (1/3 or 33.33%) of the field at an eligible competition based on the ranking priority event level and selection period the tie exists in. For example if the tie happens in a priority that requires a Level 1 event result, the tie breaker will only look at level 1 results within the selection period for the priority.

- b. **FIS Points / WSPL Points:** If a tie still exists after the application of the tie-breaker described above, the athlete with the higher ranking on the most recent FIS Points List (Speed) or WSPL (Park and Pipe) that breaks the tie will receive priority.

*A Tie Breaker will only be utilized in scenarios where it would have a material change to the end selection. i.e. one athlete would be selected and the other would not. If both or none of the athletes would be selected then the tie breaker will not be calculated for the decision.

J. On-Site Decision Making Authority and Team-Event (BXT, PRT) Selections

1. In all cases where on-site decisions are required, whether related to athlete readiness to participate or team event selection, the following hierarchy of authority applies:
 - a. Lead National Team Coach (or designated Head Coach for the event), in consultation with other Canada Snowboard coaching staff present at the event. Where a disagreement between coaching staff arises, the decision of the Lead National Team Coach (or designated Head Coach for the event) will prevail.
 - b. The relevant High Performance Director (Speed or Park and Pipe) may participate in selection decisions where additional oversight is deemed necessary.

This hierarchy ensures decisions are made by individuals with immediate technical knowledge and athlete insight, supported by HPP leadership where necessary.

2. The National Team coaching staff retain the absolute authority to remove or withhold athletes from competition if there is a reasonable concern regarding:
 - a. Risk of injury, or re-injury.
 - b. Inability to safely complete the course, competitive format, or under current conditions.
 - c. Mental or physical state that may endanger the athlete or others.

Such decisions must be made in consultation with the HAP Team (if applicable), communicated to the athlete with rationale, communicated to the relevant High Performance Director, and be documented and retained.

3. **Team Event (BXT, PRT) Composition:** Final decisions for team-based formats (e.g., SBX (BXT) Mixed Gender Team Event, PGS (PRT) Mixed Gender Team Event) will be made on-site by the National Team coaching staff based on the most current athlete information available to them. Selection decisions may consider, at the National Team coaching staff's absolute discretion:
 - a. Final results from the most recent individual event;
 - b. Health and safety considerations;
 - c. Conditions of the course or weather;
 - d. Team composition requirements and technical demands of the specific course,
 - e. Strategic athlete characteristics (e.g., start speed, consistency, tactical decision making and fit),

- f. Performance readiness, which is defined as the ability of the athlete to achieve equal or superior performance(s) onsite at the scheduled event, as compared to the performance(s) the athlete achieved in qualifying. The final decision on performance readiness will be made by the Head Coach(es) using all available information at their disposal, including performance results and progress during the selection period, the suitability of the training and competition plan, fitness, and any other relevant performance related information,

It is understood that in making selections to create the best possible team(s), it is possible that the highest ranked individual athlete(s) from the Snowboardcross individual competition may not be ultimately selected into their preferred team pairing, or any team pairing.

Only athletes who have started in the individual events at the same competition and same venue may be selected for team events (unless otherwise noted in the specific *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet*).

All team event selections must be made in line with stated performance objectives, be communicated clearly to athletes prior to the event, and be documented and retained.

4. Notwithstanding the hierarchy of authority described at Section J. 1. above, if an athlete challenges an on-site or team event selection decision, the relevant High Performance Director (Speed or Park and Pipe) will review the decision and has the authority to confirm or vary the decision based on submissions from the athlete and the relevant coaches. Any further appeal of the final decision rendered by the High Performance Director must be made in accordance with the Canada Snowboard Appeal Policy but note that these decisions do not allow for a seven (7) day appeal window.

K. Appeal Process

1. Selection decisions made by Canada Snowboard may be appealed by a member in good standing who is directly affected by the decision within seven (7) days of initial and documented notification in accordance with the procedures set out in the Canada Snowboard Appeal Policy, which is available on the Canada Snowboard website at: https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/Canada_Snowboard_Appeal_Policy_EN.pdf.

Appeals may also be brought directly to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) with the consent of all parties.

2. Individuals wishing to appeal a decision of the Selection Committee 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>

L. Unforeseen Circumstances and Emergency Decision-Making:

1. This GSP and any relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* is intended to apply as drafted. In cases where unforeseen circumstances or circumstances outside of the control of Canada Snowboard occur, such as when competitions are canceled,

rescheduled, or are rendered unfair (e.g. due to weather or entry numbers), or where following the GSP and/or relevant *Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet* would otherwise not align with Canada Snowboard's stated performance objectives, the relevant High Performance Director(s) (Speed, and/or Park and Pipe), have the discretion to revise the selection process applicable to any team or event.

Such revisions will be:

- a. Justified by documented circumstances;
 - b. Communicated promptly to all impacted individuals; and
 - c. Executed by the Selection Committee under the revised policies.
2. In cases where an athlete is ill, injured, or otherwise unable to participate in the event after the selections have been finalized but before the event has commenced, the relevant High Performance Director, in consultation with the relevant National Team coach, may implement a substitution based on the rankings from the selection process (subject to event registration deadlines).

M. General Provisions

1. This GSP was originally drafted in English and then translated into French. Where there is a difference in interpretation, the English version shall prevail.
2. This document reflects the FIS/WSPL rules in effect at the time of publication. Where discrepancies arise due to subsequent changes to FIS/WSPL rules, the most current FIS/WSPL rules shall prevail. Any amendments to this GSP necessitated by changes to FIS/WSPL rules, regulations, and schedules will be communicated directly to the affected athletes as well as posted to the Canada Snowboard website as soon as is reasonably possible.
3. For clarification or questions on the content of this GSP, please contact the relevant or both High Performance Director(s):

Speed:	Kim Krahulec	kim.krahulec@canadasnowboard.ca
Park and Pipe:	Tyler Ashbee	tyler@canadasnowboard.ca

Example of Selection Eligibility and Criteria Sheet Template:

CANADA SNOWBOARD - SELECTION PROJECT SHEET - TEMPLATE	
Project Name	Event Name & Discipline(s)
Event Notice	link to invite
Event Location	Resort (Country)
CS Performance Objective	Podium Performance
Max Team Size (M W)	# Men # Women
Quota Allocations (M W)	# Men # Women
Selection Committee Composition	List Roles and Names of Selection Committee
Important Dates and Deadlines	
Eligibility Window	Results from mm/dd/yyyy to mm/dd/yyyy
Participation Request Deadline	mm/dd/yyyy
Selection Deadline	mm/dd/yyyy
Acceptance Deadline	mm/dd/yyyy
Appeal Deadline	mm/dd/yyyy
Competition Dates	Training - mm/dd/yyyy Event 1 - mm/dd/yyyy Event 2 - mm/dd/yyyy
Eligibility Criteria	
Eligible Competitions	List level or types of events that will be used to evaluate performance
Athlete Eligibility - General Criteria	All Athlete General Eligibility Criteria (LINK to GSP)
Athlete Eligibility - Specific Criteria 1	Min Number of Starts at Specific Level
Athlete Eligibility - Specific Criteria 2	Min Number of FIS/WSPL Points
Athlete Eligibility - Specific Criteria 3	Min World Ranking
Athlete Eligibility - Specific Criteria 4	Min % of Field Placing
Athlete Eligibility - Specific Criteria 5	SAIP Level Required
Athlete Eligibility - Specific Criteria 6	Age Restrictions (Min and Max birthdates)
Athlete Eligibility - Specific Criteria 7	FIS/WSPL Minimum Eligibility Standards
Coach Eligibility - General Criteria	All Coach General Eligibility Criteria (LINK to GSP)
Coach Eligibility - Specific Criteria 1	If applicable
Eligibility Exemptions (if applicable)	Refer to GSP
Performance Benchmarks, Ranking & Tie-Breaking	
Athlete Benchmark Priority 1	
Tie Breaking - Priority 1	
Athlete Benchmark Priority 2	If applicable
Tie Breaking - Priority 2	If applicable
Athlete Benchmark Priority 3	If applicable
Tie Breaking - Priority 3	If applicable
Athlete Benchmark Priority 4	If applicable
Tie Breaking - Priority 4	If applicable
Coach Benchmarking Priority 1	
Coach Benchmarking Priority 2	
Coach Tie Breaking	
Team Event Selection - General	Refer to GSP if applicable
Team Event Selection - Specific	If applicable
Special Considerations	
Special Considerations	Funding, Expenses, Estimated budget, Clothing, etc.
Disclaimer	CS right to choose fewer than available quota, and other
Revision History	
Effective date	mm/dd/yyyy
Archived date	mm/dd/yyyy
Date last reviewed	mm/dd/yyyy
Scheduled review date	mm/dd/yyyy
Replaces and/or amends	
Approved by and date	
Approval Date	mm/dd/yyyy
Appendix(-ces) to this Policy	HPP General Policy HPP General Selection Policy