



HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM SELECTION PROTOCOL PARA-SNOWBOARD NATIONAL TEAM & NEXTGEN PROGRAM 2021-22

Approval Authority:	Executive Director
Responsible Department:	High Performance
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Related Policies:	HPP – General Policy

Canada Snowboard is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact domestic nomination of athletes to the 2021-22 Para-Snowboard National Team and NextGen Programs. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of the coronavirus, Canada Snowboard will respect this published Selection Protocol as written.

However, situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this Selection Protocol to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the Selection Protocol. In such circumstances, any modifications will come into effect as of the date of publication and will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow this Selection Protocol to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this Selection Protocol, in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Canada Snowboard will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

INTRODUCTION

1. The High Performance Program (HPP) consists of those athletes formally named by Canada Snowboard (CS) and who are then eligible to receive support directly from CS. Athletes named to the HPP are recognized as members of CS's National Team in the disciplines of Alpine, Halfpipe, Slopestyle & Big Air, Snowboardcross or Para-Snowboard; or are team members of a NextGen Program within a given discipline.



2. This "High Performance Program Selection Protocol" sets out the process of:
 - a) Identifying those athletes who are eligible for selection to the 2021/22 HPP in the Para-Snowboard discipline; and
 - b) Determining which athletes shall be offered positions on the 2021/22 Para-Snowboard National Snowboard Team and NextGen Program.
3. This HPP Selection Protocol and other CS Selection Protocols are published on the 'Document Centre' of the CS web site at: www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs.
4. Athletes eligible for selection to the HPP are identified, ranked, and may be offered National Team and NextGen Program positions in accordance with the specific procedures set out in the 'Selection Process' which can be referenced in Sections 18 through 20 of this document.

2020-2021 COVID Precision

Canada Snowboard realizes that the 2020-2021 season will be a challenge due to the uncertainty and various restrictions caused by COVID-19. The information provided in this document will form the framework for decision making, however, the Selection Committee will have the flexibility to adjust criteria in the event that it is not possible to follow the published processes based on any circumstances related to COVID-19 that are beyond the control of CS.

Should there be an inadequate number of competitive opportunities, the Selection Committee will use best efforts to create specific opportunities for selection purposes where possible.

In the event that modifications to this Selection Protocol are needed, affected parties will be notified as early as possible and any modifications to this Selection Protocol will be published on the CS website.

OBJECTIVES

5. The purpose of this document is to set out the process and criteria that will be used by Canada Snowboard to select athletes to the 2021-22 Para-Snowboard National Team and NextGen program, with the ultimate goal of fielding the most competitive and capable team in a safe and ethical manner to achieve our Performance Objectives of winning World Championship and Paralympic Winter Games Medals.

This is the guiding principle Canada Snowboard took into consideration when developing this selection protocol and will be the principles used by Canada Snowboard when selecting athletes to the 2021-22 Para-Snowboard National Team and NextGen



Program.

TERMS

6. The following abbreviated terms are used in this Protocol:
- a) WPSB: World Para Snowboard
 - b) HPP: High Performance Program
 - c) WC: World Cup
 - d) WCH: World Championships
 - e) PWG: Paralympic Winter Games
 - f) EC: Europa Cup
 - g) SHC: South American Cup
 - h) NAC: NorAm Cup
 - i) SBX: Snowboardcross
 - j) BSL: Banked Slalom

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The Selection Committee will be comprised of the Para-Snowboard National Team staff, the HPP Director (Sport and High Performance) and the HPP Manager(s).
- HPP Strength and Conditioning Trainer(s)
 - HPP Integrated Support Team (IST)

Examples of situations where the Selection Committee would seek input from members outside of the committee include, but are not limited to: off-snow programming, injury management and return to snow plans, and when an athlete designates the use of a private coach as their primary coach to ensure the committee has the necessary and relevant information to support the 'Selection Process' outlined in Sections 18 through 20 below.

8. The Selection Committee shall meet on or before May 31, 2021 to identify and recommend athletes for selection to the HPP for the 2021-22 season.
9. The Selection Committee's recommendations to the Executive Director shall be made on the basis of athletes' performances during the August 2020 – April 2021 season.
10. All HPP athlete selections are effective for a one-year period defined as May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022, inclusive.



11. The maximum number of available positions in the HPP shall be identified at the outset of the 'Selection Process on or before May 31, 2021. This number will be based on the program constraints of the HPP, which are primarily financial.
12. Athlete rankings based on the selection process will ordinarily determine the order of selection for available HPP positions. However, the Selection Committee has the right to recommend athletes for selection in an order other than that indicated by the rankings. The grounds for any such recommendations must be discussed in detail by the Selection Committee, clearly documented, and must be in accordance with the document "*General Policies High Performance Program*" located in the 'Document Centre' of the CS website here: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/HPP-GeneralPolicies.pdf>
 - a) If necessary, some individuals currently named to the Para-Snowboard National Team will be given benchmarks with their athlete agreement which act, in part, as a condition of selection for the following program year. The benchmarks will be created by the National Team coach which will be thought to be performance enhancements for the individual to progress their competitive future to become a Paralympic medal potential. If the individual meets all of the benchmarks and engages in at least 85% of the National Team program over the course of the season they will be named to the 2021/22 National Team regardless of competition results. If an athlete is unsuccessful in meeting the benchmarks and program engagement requirements they will still be eligible for team selection based on the eligibility and selection criteria in Sections 13 through 20 below.

IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

National Team

13. To be eligible for selection to the **National Team** an athlete must:
 - a) Be 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 competed in a minimum of two (2) World Cup level or higher events at two (2) different locations in the program year just ended;
 - c) Have completed international classification by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) with a confirmed sport classification or a sport classification with a fixed review date; and
 - d) Have submitted their '**Skills Based Assessment**' to kim.krahulec@canadasnowboard.ca by April 20, 2021.



- i. Currently named 2020/21 National Team and NextGen athlete applications will be completed by their respective National Team coach.
- ii. Should a named member elect to use a private coach as their primary coach, this individual is then responsible for submitting the application on the athlete's behalf.

NextGen Program

14. To be eligible for to the **NextGen Team** an athlete must:
 - a) Be 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 competed in a minimum of two (2) Continental Cup level or higher events in the program year just ended;
 - c) Have completed international classification by the IPC with a confirmed sport classification or a sport classification with a fixed review date; and
 - d) Have submitted their 'NextGen Application Package' to kim.krahulec@canadasnowboard.ca by April 31, 2021 which shall include:
 - i. Skills Based Assessment;
 - ii. Supporting video footage; and
 - iii. Application letter describing why they snowboard, what their yearly plan (on-snow and off-snow) is and what their snowboarding goals are.
15. An athlete who does not meet the eligibility criteria set out above may be considered for selection if they meet the conditions of the 'Exceptional Circumstances' provisions set out below in Section 21 through 22 or the discretionary grounds within the '*High Performance Program General Policies*' document, which can be referenced here: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/HPP-GeneralPolicies.pdf>

QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

16. Only eligible results achieved from individual SBX and BSL competition(s) will be considered in the 'Selection Process' detailed in Sections 18 through 20 below.

Team Event results will **not** be considered in the recommendation of athletes for available positions within the Para HPP.

17. For the purpose of selection, the following competitions will be considered:
 - a) WPSB World Championships (WCH)
 - b) WPSB World Cups (WC)
 - c) WPSB Continental Cups:
 - i. North American Cups (NAC)
 - ii. Europa Cups (EC)



SELECTION PROCESS

18. All athletes who satisfy the eligibility requirements indicated in Sections 13 through 14, as applicable, will be contacted by email from the HPP Manager around April 15, 2021 and will be asked to submit their completed application including their 'Skill Based Assessment', video footage and document(s) the athlete incorporates into their yearly plan.

NOTE: CS will use the email address available in the Membership system (SnowReg) associated with the athlete's CS Membership in order to contact the athlete.

OVERALL ATHLETE RANKINGS

19. The athletes will be ranked based on the categories below (sections A. to C.): the athlete 'Gap Score' will be a total out of 100 and the athletes with the highest gap score will be the highest ranked on the selection worksheet. CS reserves the right to not select any athletes to the National or NextGen teams if the Selection Committee determines that no athletes are currently performing at the necessary level to be selected to either team.

Athletes eligible for National Team will be ranked separately, by gender, from athletes eligible for the NextGen Team.

The eligibility requirements outlined in Sections 13-14 above are meant to include a long list of athletes for the purpose of comparison between Canadian Athletes. Once the overall athlete rankings are complete, the Selection Committee will use the 'Gap Scores' to discuss the athletes in the order of their ranking for team positions.

As a general rule of thumb, to be named to the NextGen Team the athlete should be competitive against a Junior World Championship Level field or other comparable Continental Cup level events, and to be named to the National Team an athlete should be competitive against an international field at World Cup and Senior World Championship level events. Being competitive against a field would mean that the athlete is able to achieve consistent top-half of the field final results.

Determination of what constitutes a significant gap may fluctuate depending on final results achieved and where the majority of riders for a given team fall within the criteria met and overall rankings. For example: a veteran athlete vs a rookie will show a much larger gap than comparing two veterans to the team. When determining what constitutes a significant gap, CS will provide reasoned explanations and data to support any decisions to not select athletes because it has been considered that a significant gap exists.



As such, athletes who meet eligibility for a specific team for the purpose of the overall athlete ranking process but display a significant gap relative to the majority of the riders within the ranking might not be ultimately selected to the team. As an example, if three athletes who are eligible for the same team have 100, 97, and 96 points respectively, and the next ranked eligible athlete has 85 points, a gap may be said to exist which indicates an athlete’s potential ability or inability to compete at the same level as other ranked athletes on the same team.

Positions on team will be offered based on the highest ranked athletes until a significant gap is presented on the worksheet, a gap in the athlete’s skills or results compared to a Junior World Championships or comparable Continental Cup (NextGen) or WC Level (National Team) field is shown, there are no longer eligible athletes, or by reaching the maximum amount of athletes CS can support. All determined gaps will be recorded within the meeting minutes during the overall selection process.

Each category will be given a value, for the categories listed below, to make up the total “Gap Score” for their ranking in the team selection worksheet.

Categories:	National Team	NextGen Program
A. Event Criteria	50	50
B. Skills Based Assessment	30	30
C. Performance Characteristics	20	20
Totals	100	100

A. Event Criteria (50% of Total Score)

Athletes will be ranked based on their top three (3) eligible events on the following criteria as of April 10, 2021 and will be given a score value based on the following charts:

National Team Event Value	
Criteria	Value
Top Two (2) Final World Cup Results for Snowboardcross	Max. 20
Top Two (2) Final World Cup Results for Banked Slalom	Max. 20
Be ranked within the top half (1/2) of sport classification field on the latest WPSB Ranking List as of the selection deadline	10

**All results must be achieved within the top half of the field*

The maximum point value awarded for a single eligible result is ten (10).



Should an athlete finish with a first (1st) place result, as long as the athlete has three or more competitors within their sport classification category, they shall automatically be awarded the maximum point value of ten (10) regardless of their field depth.

The equation used in determining the value for the Top Two (2) World Cup events in Snowboardcross and Banked Slalom will be as follows:

Step 1: Field Depth - Final placement = X

Step 2: X/Field Depth = Y

Step 3: Y x 10 (max. point value) = point value awarded

Event Criteria Example: National Team

Athlete 'A' is National Team Eligible and finishes 4th out of a field of 17 competitors within their sport classification in a Banked Slalom World Cup. Using the equation to determine their point value for the single result, as outlined above, would be:

Step 1: 17 - 4 = 13

Step 2: 13 / 17 = 0.76

Step 3: 0.76 x 10 = 7.6

Final point value awarded for Athlete 'A' for this result would be 7.6 out of an available 10 points.

NextGen Event Value	
Criteria	Value
Top World Cup Final Result for Snowboardcross	Up to 10
Top World Cup Final Result for Banked Slalom	Up to 10
Top Two (2) NorAm Results	Up to 20
Be ranked within the top two-thirds (2/3) of sport classification field on the latest WPSB Ranking List as of the selection deadline	10

**All results must be achieved within the top half of the field*

The maximum point value awarded for a single eligible result is ten (10).

Should an athlete finish with a first (1st) place result, as long as the athlete has three or more competitors within their sport classification category, they shall automatically be awarded the maximum point value of ten (10) regardless of their field depth.

The equation used in determining the value for the Top Two (2) World Cup events in



Snowboardcross and Banked Slalom will be as follows:

Step 1: Field Depth - Final placement = X

Step 2: X/Field Depth = Y

Step 3: Y x 10 (max. point value) = point value awarded

Event Criteria Example: NextGen Team

Athlete 'B' is NextGen Program Eligible and finishes 7th out of a field of 14 competitors within their sport classification in a Snowboardcross NorAm. Using the equation to determine their point value for the single result, as outlined above, would be:

Step 1: 14 - 7 = 7

Step 2: 7 / 14 = 0.5

Step 3: 0.5 x 10 = 5

Final point value awarded for Athlete 'B' for this result would be 5 out of an available 10 points.

B. Skill Based Assessment (30% of Total Score)

The athlete event placement and rankings do not always correspond with the actual skill level of the athlete.

A point score of skill will be made based on:

- Comparing the leading Canadian athletes;
- Submitted 'Skill Based Assessment' (Appendix 'A');
- Submitted documentation (i.e. video footage); and
- The expertise of the Selection Committee.

Discretion will be used for the athletes within the spread of the next skill level assessment. For example, the most skilled athlete that falls into the 'Top 5' men category would be given a point score of 15 instead of 12.

All eligible athletes will be ranked one after another by the Selection Committee based on their skill level that is determined and supported by the points listed below. Depending on the number of eligible athletes for NT and NG selections, the point score will max out at a total value of thirty (30).

Athletes eligible for National Team, by gender, will be ranked separately from athletes eligible for the NextGen Team based on the following chart:

Skill Based Assessment	
Skill Level	Point Score
Top Canadian Athlete	30



Discretion	27
Top 2	24
Discretion	21
Top 3	18
Discretion	15
Top 5	12
Discretion	9
Top 8	6
Top 10	3

C. Performance Characteristics (20% of Total Score)

Performance Characteristics are to be included in the submission for selection to the team; these should be made with a coach (On-snow or Strength and Conditioning) to show the athlete is taking the necessary steps to becoming a high-performance athlete. Discretion will be used for athletes clearly showing initiative with their performance characteristics they have established.

- a. Follows a documented, structured Yearly Training Plan;
- b. Incorporates and follows a documented, structured off-snow training plan (strength and conditioning, dryland and recovery/regeneration);
- c. Identifies Performance Gaps and follows structured plan to address gaps;
- d. Has appropriate equipment, travels with spare parts and diligently performs upkeep (waxing, maintenance of prothesis etc.) that positively impacts performance; and
- e. Optimizes opportunities and limits distractions during structured training and competitions (i.e. – effective use of time, features/courses, coaches, video review, recovery and self-care on and off snow).

Performance Characteristics	
Characteristic	Point Score
5 Characteristics	20
Discretion	16
3 Characteristics	12
2 Characteristics	8
1 Characteristic	4
0 Characteristics	0

20. Athletes will be discussed and selected for National Team and NextGen Program positions by the order of their final ranking on the selection sheets.



EXCEPTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

21. CS may, at any time, may require an athlete who appears, by reason of a health-related curtailment of activities, to be unable to participate in training or competition activities to obtain a medical assessment conducted by a CS recognized doctor or other health support practitioner. The medical assessment is for the purpose of confirming the degree of the athlete's ability to compete and to determine the expected timeline for the athlete's recovery.
22. It may occur that an athlete may, by reason of a health-related curtailment of activities or extraordinary circumstances, be unable to participate in a minimum of three national or international level events in the program year just ended. In such circumstances the athlete's eligibility for selection shall be reviewed on the basis of his or her projected medical rehabilitation as well as such other information (results, video, coaches' assessments, etc.) as available to the Para High Performance staff.

ALLOCATION OF COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES

23. Selection to the National Snowboard Team & NextGen Program does not automatically provide an athlete with entry into a World Cup, World Championship or Paralympic Winter Games competitions, or automatically provide Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) carding or other funding support.
24. The selection of athletes for participation in the World Championships and Paralympic Winter Games is done according to separate Selection Protocols, which are available on the Para discipline page of the 'Document Centre' on the Canada Snowboard website at: <http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/?discipline=Para>

DECISION_MAKING AUTHORITY AND APPEAL PROCESS

25. Final decisions on the selections of athletes shall be made by the Executive Director of Canada Snowboard, on the basis of recommendations by the Selection Committee.
26. In the event that an unforeseeable issue or exceptional circumstance arises that is not otherwise addressed by this Selection Protocol and this issue or circumstance will have a material impact on the selection process as outlined herein, the Executive Director of CS, in consultation with the Sport and High Performance Director, shall determine how the issue or circumstance shall be addressed, taking into account the best interests of the HPP program from a performance perspective. Should any action be taken pursuant to this provision, CS will communicate directly with any individual impacted by such action, and provide reasons for any action taken.



27. Any decision of the professional staff relating to the operation and conduct of the HPP may be appealed by any individual directly affected by a CS decision, as long as they are in good standing with CS and their Provincial/Territorial Snowboard Association; and provided there are sufficient grounds for an appeal according to the CS *'Appeals Policy'*, available on the 'Document Centre' of the Canada Snowboard website at www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/.

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

GENERAL

28. This Selection Protocol was originally drafted in English and then translated into French. Where there is a difference in interpretation between the French and English versions of this document, which may be due to translation, then the English version shall be used to understand the intent of the drafting of the French version.
29. 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.
30. In the event of such unforeseen circumstances the Canada Snowboard High Performance Director will, where possible, consult with the Executive Director to determine if the circumstances justify competition or nomination should take place in an alternative manner. In such circumstances, the High Performance Director shall communicate the alternative selection or nomination process to all impacted individuals as soon as possible.
31. This Selection Protocol is based on IPC/WPSB 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 IPC/WPSB 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
Skill Based Assessment

A 'Skill Based Assessment' that has been completed for the 2020-21 season by an athlete's coach must be submitted by April 31, 2021 to High Performance Manager, Kim Krahulec: kim.krahulec@canadasnowboard.ca

The Skill Based Assessment chart can be downloaded from the 'Document Centre' here: <http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/> but will be distributed with the invitation to apply at the end of the season for all eligible athletes.

Example of the Skills Based Assessment chart:

Skill Development: 1 = First exposure to skill, initial attempts 2 = Skill complete but rough form, inconsistent execution 3 = More polished form in controlled conditions 4 = Polished form under stress, still refining 5 = Perfect form in any conditions, varied, personalized	Athlete Name:		
	Date of Birth:		
	Height:		
	Mass:		
	Stance: Reg. / Goofy:		
	Dominant Leg (Left / Right):		
	Provincial Association:		
	Date of Assessment:		
	Assessor:		
	Events attended and results: (this and last season):		
Provide a brief overview of the athletes program:	Stage of LTAD:		
	Coach:		
	Club:		
	Days on snow / week:		
	Dryland:		
	Dryland Details:		
	Recovery Training:		
	Terrain Use:		
	Key Performance Factors / IMPORTANCE	Level of development	Notes:
	Snowboard Skills	1 2 3 4 5	
Stance and Balance			
Manage instability - remain balanced in varying conditions			
Strong adaptable position (In and out of neutral) over varied terrain/features (Wu, Rollers etc)			
Hip and knee flexion and extension - not breaking at waist			
Edging:			
Turn using both legs			
Maintain CoM inside turn			
Balance over working edge			
Carve turns			
Pressure:			
Generate lift (Pop, Coast, Retract or Ollie/Nollie)			
Absorption on edge and/or flat based			
Adjust turn shape using flexion & extension			
Build board pressure and deflect it in direction of travel			
Pop / Resistance through takeoff			
Stabilization in air			
Control and absorb landing forces			
Discipline Specific Skills (SBX)			
Read & Understand the Race Line			
Ride the Race Line			
Speed Control in Course			
Starts (Gate Pull)			
Riding in close proximity to other riders			
Course Features (Stage appropriate, Smart Style)			
Start Features & Combos (Wu-Tang, Stairs, Wedges, etc...)			
Rollers and Variations			
Berms and Variations			
Jump and Jump Variations			
Tactical Skills			
Line for Heats (Plan A & B)			
Drafting			
Passing (Where & How)			
Blocking/Closing lanes			
Teamwork on the track			
On the fly decision making			
Perform in adverse conditions			