



**HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM SELECTION PROTOCOL
SNOWBOARDCROSS NATIONAL TEAM & NEXTGEN PROGRAM
2023-2024**

Approval Authority:	Executive Director
Responsible Department:	High Performance
Approval Date:	November 30, 2022
Revision:	Yearly (Pre-Season)
Next Review Date:	August 2023
Related Policies:	HPP – General Policy

Canada Snowboard recognizes that, as of the approval date of this Selection Protocol, the coronavirus remains a global pandemic. Situations related to the coronavirus may arise that require this Selection Protocol to be modified. Any required modifications will be made promptly and will come into effect as of the date of publication and will be communicated as soon as possible.

Further, unforeseen circumstances may arise that do not allow this Selection Protocol to be applied as written. In such circumstances, decisions will be made and communicated in accordance with Sections 33-34 of this Selection Protocol.

INTRODUCTION

1. The High-Performance Program (HPP) consists of those athletes formally named to the HPP by Canada Snowboard (CS), 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 2023-24 HPP in the Snowboardcross discipline; and
 - b. Determining which athletes shall be offered positions on the 2023-24 Snowboardcross National Team and NextGen Program.
3. This HPP Selection Protocol for the Snowboardcross National Team and NextGen Program and other CS Selection Protocols are located on the 'Document Centre' of the CS website:
<http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/>
4. Athletes eligible for selection to the HPP are identified, ranked, and may be offered Snowboardcross National Team or NextGen Program positions according to the specific procedures set out in the 'Selection Process', which can be referenced in Sections 19 through 21 of this document.

OBJECTIVES

5. The purpose of this document is to set out the process and criteria that will be used by CS to select athletes to the 2023-24 Snowboardcross 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 Winter Olympic Games medals.



In stating this ultimate performance goal, Canada Snowboard describes the purpose of the Snowboardcross National Team and NextGen Program as:

Snowboardcross National Team

Purpose of Team: Support athletes that demonstrate the ability or potential, based on objective results, of achieving consistent results that allow them to finish within the Top 16 for Women or Top 32 for Men at individual World Cup and World Championship competitions as measured by the 2023 Snowboardcross Overall World Cup Standings and individual results achieved at the 2023 FIS World Championships.

Event Focus: FIS World Cup Tour (including WCH/OWG)

Snowboardcross NextGen Program

Purpose of Team: Identify and support athletes who have demonstrated that they are tracking towards achieving a podium performance at the international level (WC, WCH, OWG) who are currently 4 to 8 years away from that performance.

Event Focus: Gaining international event exposure while achieving success at Continental Cups and the FIS Junior World Championships.

The above is the guiding principle that CS has taken into consideration when developing this Selection Protocol and will be the principle used by CS when selecting athletes to the 2023-24 Snowboardcross National Team and NextGen Program.

TERMS

6. The following abbreviated terms are used in this Selection Protocol:
- a. FIS: Fédération Internationale de Ski
 - b. CS: Canada Snowboard
 - c. HPP: High Performance Program
 - d. SBX: Snowboardcross
 - e. NG: NextGen
 - f. NT: National Team
 - g. WCH: Senior World Championships
 - h. JWCH: Junior World Championships
 - i. OWG: Olympic Winter Games
 - j. WC: World Cups
 - k. EC: Europa Cups
 - l. NAC: North American Cup

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS



7. The Selection Committee will be comprised of the Snowboardcross National Team staff, the Sport and High-Performance Director, HPP Manager(s) and the HPP Coordinator.

If required, the Selection Committee will seek input from:

- HPP Health and Athletic Performance Team (HAP)
- Lead Canadian Coaches

Examples of situations where the Selection Committee may seek input from members outside of the Selection Committee to ensure it has the necessary and relevant information to support the 'Additional Requirements for Selection to the SBX HPP' rankings outlined in Section 21 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, as referenced in Section 5. o-w of the Canada Snowboard Athlete Agreement.

8. The Selection Committee will meet on or before May 31, 2023, which is otherwise known as the Selection Deadline, to identify and recommend the athletes for selection to the HPP for the 2023-24 program year. The Selection Committee's recommendations will be made to the Executive Director for final approval.
9. The Selection Committee's recommendations to the Executive Director shall be made on the basis of the athletes' performances during the August 2022 - April 2023 season.
10. All HPP athlete selections are generally valid for one-year, ending on May 31, 2024, subject to a selected athlete continuing to satisfy all eligibility and performance requirements, along with any other policy, procedure, or rule of CS as may be in place from time to time.
11. The maximum number of available positions in the HPP shall be identified by the Selection Committee at the outset of the 'Selection Process', as outlined in Section 8, above, on or before May 31, 2023.

This number will be based on program constraints of the HPP, which are primarily financial.

12. When determining an athlete's field placing, as referenced from time to time in this document, the result is not rounded to the nearest whole number because the priority is looking for an actual final finish position result. 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 so all those who finished 19th place or better are in the top third and those who finished 20th or poorer 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.
13. 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 by the Selection Committee, clearly documented, and must be in accordance with the document "General Policies High Performance Program" located in the 'Document Centre' on the CS website here: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/HPP-GeneralPolicies.pdf>

IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

National Team

14. To be eligible for selection to the Snowboardcross National Team, an athlete:
- a. Must be 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*; and
 - b. Must have competed in a minimum of four (4) Continental Cup level or higher events in the program year just ended; and
 - c. Must have a minimum of 125 FIS SBX points on the most recently published FIS Points List as of the selection deadline; and
 - d. Must be ranked within the Top 32 Men or Top 16 Women on the 2023 Snowboardcross World Cup Overall Standings, as of the selection deadline.

The results of athletes who are named to the Snowboardcross National Team are expected to progress toward being a Top Eight (8) performer internationally in their discipline in order to maintain National Team status on an ongoing basis. As such, athletes who have been named to the Snowboardcross National Team for a period of five (5) years or more at the conclusion of the 2022/23 program year¹ must satisfy additional eligibility criteria in order to maintain their status on the National Team thereafter.

In addition to satisfying the general Snowboardcross National Team eligibility criteria applicable to the 2023/24 program year, as outlined in Section 14.a-d, above, athletes who have been on the Snowboardcross National Team for a total of five years or more at the conclusion of the 2022/23 program year and who do not show progression² in their World Cup Overall Ranking from the just concluded season will have individual benchmarks created by the National Team Coaches, which the athlete will have to meet to remain eligible for selection to the National Team for a 6th (or more) program year. These benchmarks will act, in addition to the other applicable eligibility and selection criteria, as a condition of their selection for the 2023/24 program year and are put in place to ensure that the individual progresses towards Olympic medal potential.

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1. For greater clarity, in determining whether an athlete has been on the Snowboardcross National Team for five years or more, the years do not need to be consecutive. Total years on the Snowboardcross National Team must add up to a total of five years (or more) by the end of the 2022/23 program year. This total does not include the 2023/24 program year.
 2. Progression in an athlete's World Cup Ranking shall be determined by a comparative analysis of the athlete's historical World Cup ranking from the 2022 World Cup Overall Rankings to the 2023 World Cup Overall Rankings. An athlete will be considered to have demonstrated progression if their 2022 World Cup Overall Rankings have improved in their 2023 World Cup Overall Rankings and if these rankings are demonstrating a trend toward being ranked within the Top 8 in the 2023 World Cup Overall standings, as determined by the Selection Committee in their sole discretion.

If an athlete has been unable to participate in training or competitive activities during a program year(s) they were nominated to the National Team due to health-related reasons documented by a Canada Snowboard approved physician, this/these year(s) will not count towards the 5-year period referred to immediately above provided that all of the following conditions are met:

1. The athlete did not start in eight (8) or more events during the year(s) to which the health-related reason applied;
2. The athlete did not withdraw from the HPP during the year(s) to which the health-related reason applied and provided written confirmation of their intention to return to full participation in the HPP at the earliest possible date; and

3. The athlete undertook, in writing, to train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of Canada Snowboard or its designate at a level that minimized risk to the athlete's personal health and ensured an optimal return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date.

In the event that any health-related reason prevents their participation in training or competitive activities in the 2023-24 program year, athletes selected to the 2023-24 Snowboardcross National Team are expected to know and abide by these conditions in order to avoid having the year count towards their total period on the Snowboardcross National Team. Failure to do so may affect selection to future teams.

15. To be eligible for selection to the Snowboardcross NextGen Program an athlete:
 - a. Must be 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*; and
 - b. Must have competed in a minimum of four (4) Continental Cup level or higher events in the program year just ended; and
 - c. Must have a minimum of 75 FIS SBX points on the most recently published FIS Points List as of the selection deadline; and
 - d. Must have results that demonstrate that they are tracking towards achieving a podium performance at the international level (WC, WCH, or OWG) and are four (4) to eight (8) years away from that performance. The maximum age for a NextGen athlete is five (5) years past the FIS Junior age category for the upcoming program year.
 - i. As an exception to Section 15(d), an athlete may remain on the NextGen team past this age on a case-by-case basis provided that they show significant progression towards achieving the National Team criteria, which requires that they demonstrate satisfaction of all of the following requirements:
 1. The athlete meets all NextGen Program eligibility requirements outlined in section 15(a-d) above (save for the maximum age);
 2. The athlete has been a named member in good standing of the CS Snowboardcross NextGen Program for the past two (2) consecutive program years (2021/22 and 2022/23);
 3. The athlete's results within the past two (2) competition seasons demonstrate that they have been tracking towards being ranked within the Top 32 Men/16 Women in the 2023 Snowboardcross World Cup Overall Standings.
 - a. Progression towards being ranked within the Top 32 Men/Top 16 Women in the 2023 Snowboardcross World Cup Overall Standings shall be determined by a comparative analysis of the athlete's historical World Cup ranking from the 2021 and 2022 Snowboardcross World Cup Overall Standings, against their final ranking within the 2023 Snowboardcross World Cup Overall Standings. Progression needs to constitute an improvement in ranking each year and needs to trend towards being ranked within the Top 32 Men/Top 16 Women in the 2023 Snowboardcross World Cup Overall Standings, as determined by the Selection Committee in their sole discretion.
 4. The athlete has not previously been granted a NextGen age exemption (athletes are only eligible to receive a NextGen age exemption for a period of one program year). Athletes who have received a NextGen age exemption in a previous season are no longer eligible to receive an additional NextGen age exemption); and
 5. The athlete has provided their exemption submission to Canada



Snowboard, in writing, with their evidence and rationale as to why an age exemption should be granted and how they are demonstrating significant progression towards achieving the National Team criteria in the 2023/24 season.

- a. Athlete submissions must be submitted no later than May 1, 2023 to the High Performance Speed Program Manager, Kim Krahulec, by email at: kim.krahulec@canadasnowboard.ca

Athletes previously named to the Snowboardcross National Team for two (2) or more program years are no longer eligible for the NextGen Program or a NextGen age exemption unless they were at the FIS Junior age category during the program years that they were on the National Team.

NextGen Maximum Age Calculation (based on [ICR Rules 2014](#))

Season	2023/24
FIS Jr. Age Cutoff	December 31, 2004
NextGen Age Cutoff	December 31, 1999

- 16. An athlete who does not meet the eligibility criteria set out in Sections 14 or 15, above, may be considered for selection if they meet the conditions of the ‘Exceptional Circumstances’ provisions set out below in Section 26 through 27 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

- 17. Only eligible results achieved from individual competition(s) will be considered in the ‘Selection Process’ detailed in Sections 19 through 21 below.

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

- 18. For the purpose of selection, the following competitions will be considered:

Level 1: Senior World Championships (WCH), Olympic Winter Games (OWG), FIS World Cups (WC)

Level 2: Junior World Championships (JWCH), Europa Cups Overall Tour Standings, Europa Cup (EC) and NorAm Cup (NAC) Overall Tour Standings

SELECTION PROCESS

SNOWBOARDCROSS NATIONAL TEAM

- 19. Except as otherwise stated herein, the order in which eligible athletes are recommended for available Snowboardcross National Team positions will be based on the criteria outlined below. Nominations to the Snowboardcross National Team will be made starting at the highest priority level (Priority 1) unless there are no athletes, or until there are no further athletes, who have the requisite performance(s)



within the designated competition period, in which case the Selection Committee will move on to the next priority level (Priority 2), and so on.

The Selection Committee may also, where it deems necessary, conduct a performance analysis of each eligible athlete, or some of them, as outlined in Section 21 below, and rank the athletes to establish the order in which available positions within the Snowboardcross National Team will be offered.

In addition, the following criteria will be used to determine the different levels of financial support available to an athlete, as defined in Sections 22 through 25 below.

PRIORITY 1

National Team 'Tier A'

- One (1) Podium at Level 1 event; or
- Top 8 Ranking in the 2023 Snowboardcross Overall World Cup Standings.

PRIORITY 2

National Team 'Tier B'

- One (1) Top 8 final result at Level 1 event; or
- Top 12 Ranking in the 2023 Snowboardcross Overall World Cup Standings.

PRIORITY 3

National Team 'Base Level'

- Top 32 Men/Top 16 Women in the 2023 Snowboardcross Overall World Cup Standings.

SNOWBOARDCROSS NEXTGEN PROGRAM

- 20.** Athletes selected to the Snowboardcross NextGen Program will be provided with guidance to establish their best suited schedule respecting training camps and World Cup Competitions that they qualify for. During these times, athletes will work directly with the National Team coaches and under the direct supervision of the National Team program/system.

Athletes who satisfy the NextGen Program selection criteria are to challenge each other for available World Cup quota at qualifying events, unless they have a personal World Cup spot for the 2023/24 season from their 2022/23 NorAm Overall Tour results. NextGen athletes will continue to be coached and supported by their Provincial Club/Personal Coaches when not otherwise with the National Team.

Except as otherwise stated herein, the order in which eligible athletes are recommended for available Snowboardcross NextGen Program positions will be based on the criteria outlined below. Nominations to the Snowboardcross NextGen Program will be made starting at the highest priority level (Priority 1) unless there are no athletes, or until there are no further athletes, who have the requisite performance(s) within the designated competition period, in which case the Selection Committee will move on to the next priority level (Priority 2), and so on.

The Selection Committee may also, where it deems necessary, conduct a performance analysis of each eligible athlete, or some of them, as outlined in Section 21 below, and rank the athletes to establish the order in which available positions within the Snowboardcross NextGen Program will be offered.

PRIORITY 1

'Method A'

- One (1) Top 16 Women/ Top 24 Men final result at a Level 1 event (WC or WCH);
- One (1) Top 8 final result at the 2023 Junior World Championships (JWCH); or
- One (1) Podium at a Europa Cup event.



PRIORITY 2

'Method B'

- Qualification for the finals at a Level 1 event (WC or WCH);
- Two (2) x Top 8 Women/ Top 12 Men final results at Europa Cup events;
- Top 8 Women/ Top 16 Men in Europa Cup Overall Tour Standings; or
- Top 3 in NorAm Overall Tour standings.

NOTE: Qualification for the finals shall be defined as advancing from Qualifications (time trials) into final heat brackets of Top 16 Women (Quarterfinal: 1/4) / Top 32 Men (Eighth final: 1/8) when finals are in heats of four (4) or Top 24 Women (Quarterfinal: 1/4) / Top 48 Men (Eighth final: 1/8) with heats of six (6). In the event that time trials do not occur, and athletes are seeded directly into final heat brackets through pre-heat races, advancing to the final round shall be defined as advancing through two (2) rounds of brackets into the Quarterfinal (1/4) for Women and into the Eighth final (1/8) for Men.

NOTE: If there are six (6) or less individual NorAm competitions then only results from the Europa Cup will be considered for NextGen Team Selection. NorAm competitions are counted by individual start, regardless of location. For example: a 2-start NorAm at a single location would count as two individual competitions in this case.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTION TO THE SNOWBOARDCROSS HPP

21. Where the Selection Committee determines, in its sole discretion, that further consideration is required in addition to the 'Selection Process' outlined in Sections 19 – 20, the Selection Committee may conduct a performance analysis of each eligible athlete, or some of them, taking into consideration the following categories, in no particular order:

- The athlete's history of competitive performances;
- The athlete's progress toward achievement of documented individual performance goals;
- The athlete's performance curves compared to available Podium Pathway data;
- The athlete's technical skills, physical readiness, and potential for improvement;
 - This can include the athlete's ability to handle high speeds and large jumps safely and the athlete's potential for long term international competition success
- The number of World Cup Quota spots available;
- The athlete's progression of results from year to year;
- The conversion rate at which the athlete progresses from qualification into the final rounds (heats); or
- The athlete's commitment and adherence to an approved high-performance training program.

It is important to note that meeting the minimum results for the Snowboardcross National Team or NextGen Program in either 'Priority 1', 'Priority 2', or 'Priority 3', as described in Section 19 – 20 above, does not guarantee an automatic selection to the Snowboardcross HPP (National Team or NextGen Program). The Selection Committee may rank athletes in accordance with their respective performance analyses to establish the order in which available positions within the Snowboardcross HPP (National Team and NextGen Program) will be offered.

NATIONAL TEAM SUPPORT TIERS

22. Athlete support and funding levels for the 2023-24 season will be based on results from the 2022-23



season as outlined in Section 19 of the National Team selection criteria above.

Funding will be set at the following levels for the 2023-24 season:

National Team Tier	Eligible Funding Level
'A' Tier	Up to 100%
'B' Tier	Up to 50%
'Base' Tier	N/A

23. Seasonal funding will be prioritized and allocated by tier level achieved. Funding is intended to cover major travel expenses such as airfare, lodging, rental vehicles, training fees, lift tickets and other expenses at the discretion of the Head Coaches. Incidental travel expenses such as meals, local transport, itinerary changes for personal reasons and individual expenses outside of the seasonal team program are not covered. Budgets and travel program will be set annually by the Head Coaches. Athletes will be provided, upon request, with an estimate of expenses they will be responsible for after the annual budget and travel plan is finalized for the 2023-24 season.
24. All efforts will be made to adhere to the outlined budget, training program and funding tiers. However, all National Team athletes must recognize that changes and modifications to travel, training plans and funding are possible each season. In the event of major changes, the Head Coaches will make every effort to adhere to funding levels as outlined above; however, athletes may be invoiced for amounts that exceed available funding levels. Any such invoicing will be based on the funding tier of each athlete. All efforts will be made to communicate any changes and their effect on funding as soon as possible.
25. The Snowboardcross Coaching Staff, at their discretion, may also allocate funding to support athletes' equipment purchases for the 2023-24 season. Funding allocation will be determined by the athlete's tier level and available budget resources. Equipment funding requests must be submitted to the Head Coach no later than May 31, 2023.

EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

26. CS may, at any time, require an athlete who appears to be unable to participate in training or competition activities by reason of a health-related curtailment of activities to obtain a medical assessment conducted by a CS recognized doctor or other approved healthcare practitioner. The medical assessment is for the purpose of confirming the degree of the athlete's injury and ability to compete, and to determine the expected timeline for the athlete's recovery.
27. It may occur that an athlete is, by reason of a health-related curtailment of activities or other exceptional circumstances, unable to participate in the minimum number of 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 may be available to the National Team & NextGen Program Coach(s). Except as detailed in sections 30 and 31, the decision to grant or not grant as exception to any minimum requirement of this Selection Protocol due to exceptional circumstances resides with the Selection Committee, in their sole discretion.

ALLOCATION OF COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES

28. Selection to the Snowboardcross National Team or NextGen program does not automatically provide an athlete entry for World Cups, World Championships (Senior and Junior) and Olympic Winter Game



competitions, or automatically provide Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) carding or other funding support.

29. Athlete selection for World Cups, World Championships (Senior and Junior) and Olympic Winter Games is done according to separate Selection Protocols, which are available on the 'Document Center' of the Canada Snowboard website at: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/>

DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY AND APPEAL PROCESS

30. Final decisions on athlete selection shall be ratified by the Executive Director of CS, on the basis of recommendations by the Selection Committee.
31. 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, 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 in accordance with the Objectives detailed in Section 5. Should any action be taken pursuant to this provision, CS will notify the impacted parties as soon as reasonably possible.
32. Appeals of any decision made pursuant to this Selection Protocol may be made by any CS member in good standing who is directly affected by the decision. Appeals must be conducted in accordance with the Canada Snowboard Appeal Policy, which is available on the Canada Snowboard website at: https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/Canada_Snowboard_Appeals_Policy_EN.pdf

Individuals wishing to appeal a decision 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

31. 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, the English version shall be used to understand the drafter's intent.
32. This Selection Protocol is intended to apply as drafted and, specifically, where no athletes are prevented from competing in relevant events because of an unforeseen injury or other unanticipated or unforeseen circumstances. Unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond CS's control may arise which prevent the relevant competitions from taking place or from taking place in a fair manner, and/or where the procedure for nomination as described in this Selection Protocol would result in a nomination process which is unfair or not in the best interests of CS's Objectives and the general principles for selection, as indicated in this Selection Protocol.
33. In the event of such circumstances the CS Sport and High Performance Director will, where possible, consult with the Executive Director to determine if the circumstances justify competition or nomination should taking place in an alternative manner. In such circumstances, the Sport and High Performance Director shall communicate the alternative selection or nomination process to all impacted individuals as soon as possible.
34. This Selection Protocol is based on FIS rules and regulations as presently known and understood and on the latest information available to CS. Should CS become aware of any changes to the FIS rules and



regulations, CS will review and amend this Selection Protocol as necessary to comply with new rules and regulations. Amendments to this document will be communicated directly to the affected athletes as well as posted to the CS website as soon as possible.