



SELECTION PROTOCOL FIS FREESTYLE EVENTS

Approval Authority:	Executive Director
Responsible Department:	High Performance
Approval Date:	September 13, 2021
Revision:	Yearly (Pre-Season)
Next Review Date:	Aug 2021
Related Policies:	Canada Snowboard High Performance Program General Policies

INTRODUCTION

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

TERMS

6. The following abbreviated terms are referenced in this Selection Protocol:
- a) "CS" – Canada Snowboard
 - b) "BA" – Big Air
 - c) "FIS" – Fédération Internationale de Ski
 - d) "HP" – Halfpipe
 - e) "HPP" – High Performance Program
 - f) "NSO" – National Sport Organization
 - g) "SBS" – Slopestyle
 - h) "WC" – World Cup
 - i) "WSPL" – World Snowboarding Points List
 - j) "WCH" – World Championships

ELIGIBILITY

7. To be **eligible** to participate in a FIS snowboard event, an athlete **must**:
- a) Be a member in good standing with Canada Snowboard, as that term is understood in Section 1.1(f) of the Canada Snowboard Bylaws, applied *mutatis mutandis*.
 - b) Have a valid FIS license and meet the minimum FIS requirements for the event;
 - c) Have purchased the appropriate class of CS/NSO Sport Accident Insurance Policy (SAIP) – Level 2 minimum for out of country coverage; Level 1 is mandatory for National Team Members; and
 - d) For a FIS World Cup: Have a minimum of 10 FIS Points in HP, BA or SBS on the most recent FIS Points List.

ALLOCATION OF COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES

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

FIS quotas can be referenced online at:

Basic, Additional and Personal Quotas: https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/v1624600692/fis-prod/assets/Calculation_SB_HP_SS_BA_Quotas_2022.pdf

Description of Quota Allocation:

<https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/v1623244500/fis->

prod/assets/Description_FSSBFK_Quotas.pdf

There are separate quota allocations for the Sr & Jr FIS World Championship events which involve all snowboard disciplines into the total team size, these can be referenced within the specific protocol on the CS Document Centre.

9. FIS will recalculate World Cup quotas based on the January FIS Points List with only an increase in quotas possible. Any personal quota spots will not change during the season. The FIS Points Lists are available for reference online at: <https://www.fis-ski.com/DB/snowboard/fis-points-lists.html>
10. The opportunity to participate in FIS freestyle competitions shall be offered to athletes in the order of their ranking as determined by the "Ranking Process" detailed in Sections 14-19 below.
11. Athletes who have earned individual World Cup spots through their status as defending World Cup, Jr World Championships or Continental Cup champions must still have their entry into World Cups ratified by Canada Snowboard.
12. Athlete selection for the following competitions will be determined no later than three weeks before the event:
 - a) All FIS World Cups
 - b) FIS Sr World Championships
 - c) All FIS NorAms
 - d) All international FIS events where entry is limited

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

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

RANKING PROCESS

14. Priority in the allocation of competitive opportunities is given to members of the National and NextGen Team in their respective disciplines.
 - a) National and NextGen Team members will be ranked and selected based on their WSPL points, skill level and long term development

plan as determined by the National Team coaches.

15. For all remaining competitive opportunities, interested athletes must communicate their intentions to participate by registering for the specific event online at least 30 days in advance of the event at:
<https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/team/resources/fisreq/>
 - a) *It is important to note that for Canada Snowboard to secure World Cup quota, we must submit names 60 days out from the event. If a rider is interested in any world cups they should inform us before then so we can maximize the chance of securing quota for the event and the interested rider. We will only submit names of interested parties at the time the world cup quota allocation will happen.*
16. Eligible athletes will be ranked, by gender, according to the World Snowboarding Points List (WSPL) in the respective discipline (HP, SBS and BA) at the time of selection. The WSPL is based on FIS, and other professional events and can be found online at:
<http://worldsnowboardtour.com/points-lists/>

Note: For Big Air, competitors will be ranked according to their highest points between SS or BA. Ties will be broken by BA points.
17. Athlete participation in a World Cup is conditional on the athlete meeting the following Canadian Ranking list benchmarks applicable at the time of the selection:
 - a) Top 20 HP Men
 - b) Top 10 HP Women
 - c) Top 20 SBS Men
 - d) Top 10 SBS Women.
18. Exceptions can be made. However, the grounds for any such decisions must be discussed in detail and clearly documented by the Selection Committee in their meeting minutes and must be in accordance with the general policies of the HPP.
19. Athlete participation in a World Cup, or Sr World Championships competition is conditional on the athlete meeting the Technical Minimum Standards applicable at the time of the selection (Appendix A).

SPECIAL RANKING CONSIDERATIONS

20. Selection rankings notwithstanding, Canada Snowboard may at any time withhold competitive opportunities as per the *"HPP Protocol for Return to Competition Protocol"* (General Policy).

21. On the basis of the Special Ranking Considerations listed below, and notwithstanding the selection rankings, Canada Snowboard shall have the discretion to select athletes to participate in an order other than that indicated by the rankings, and to select fewer male or female athletes than the maximum quota provided by FIS. The grounds for any such decisions must be discussed in detail and clearly documented by the Selection Committee in their meeting minutes and must be in accordance with the General Policies of the HPP. The General Policies are posted on the Canada Snowboard website within the "Document Centre".

Special Ranking Considerations include, but are not limited to the following examples:

- The athlete's level of physical conditioning evaluated in terms of the "Strength & conditioning Minimum Standards" established for the HPP and available for review at:
<http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/Strength&ConditioningMinStandards.pdf>
- The athlete's level of technical skill will be evaluated in terms of the HPP Technical Skills Chart and Athlete Development Matrix. Benchmarks are determined by performance demands of each discipline according to the Gold Medal Profile.
- Anomalies in competitions arising from factors such as weather or abnormally small field sizes, or the gross inflation of the points value of the event, which are considered by the Selection Committee to be a factor in the attainment of or failure to attain results.
- Gaps in the points used to rank athletes, which may be taken to represent a significant gap in performance ability. A significant gap will be defined as a 5% change of the maximum allowance of points. For instance, if using the FIS Points system (1000 Point Maximum) three athletes have 100, 97, and 96 points respectively, and the next ranked athlete has 45 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 Canada Snowboard athletes in the same discipline.
- An athlete who is showing very strong results may be moved higher than their calculated ranking.
- An athlete who shows excellent physical characteristics (measured in testing) or technical capability may be moved higher than her or his calculated ranking.
- An athlete who has failed to capitalize on numerous competitive opportunities and is therefore not progressing towards the program goal may move lower than his or her calculated ranking.

HEALTH RELATED CURTAILMENT OF ACTIVITIES

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

COACHING

24. An athlete who is not coached by an official Canada Snowboard Coach may not participate in a FIS Snowboard Event. The list of CS approved coaches can be found here:

<https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/programs/technical/coaching/currentcoach/>

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

APPEALS

25. Any appeal of any decision of the Selection Committee may be made by any CS member in good standing. Appeals must be conducted in accordance with the Canada Snowboard Appeals Protocol, which is available on the Canada Snowboard website at:

<http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs>.

Members in good standing are also encouraged to consult the Canada Snowboard *Appeals Policy Process Map* which is available on the Canada Snowboard website at:

<https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/AppealsPolicyProcessMap.pdf>

GENERAL

26. Issues not otherwise covered by this Selection Protocol shall be resolved by Canada Snowboard's "*Dispute Resolution Policy*" which is available on the Canada Snowboard website (<http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs>).
27. 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.

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.

This Selection Protocol is based on FIS rules and regulations as presently known and understood and on the latest information available to Canada Snowboard. Any changes in the selection criteria and procedures necessitated by a change in the FIS rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected parties as soon as reasonably possible. Should such a circumstance occur, Canada Snowboard will review and amend this Selection Protocol to comply with new regulations or conditions. Amendments to this document will be communicated directly to the affected athletes as soon as is reasonably possible as well as posted to the Canada Snowboard website.

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

HALFPIPE

Maneuvers and airs will NOT count if they are:

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

All Performance Benchmarks are evaluated in an entire run. (i.e. skills are not evaluated independently)

International Halfpipe World Cup:

Men

Straight air at 10feet

2 way 720 at 7 feet

1 way 900 7 feet

Must spin both frontside and backside

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

Women

Straight air at 7'

2 way 540 at 5feet

1 way 720 at 5feet

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

Canadian Halfpipe World Cup:

Men

Straight airs at 6'

2 way 720's at 5 feet

2 way 540's at 5 feet

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

Women

Straight airs at 3feet

2 way 540 at 2 feet

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

SLOPESTYLE

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

Tricks must be grabbed and consistently landed.

Men

2 way 1080's

2 way 900's

Women

2 way 360

1 way 540

Boardslide/lipslide at 90° through entire rail feature