



HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM SELECTION PROTOCOL
SLOPESTYLE 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:	Aug 2023
Related Policies:	HPP – General Policy

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 Development Group or 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 2022-2023 High Performance Program in the Slopestyle & Big Air discipline; and
 - b) Determining which athletes shall be offered positions on the 2022-2023 Slopestyle & Big Air National Team and NextGen Program.
3. This HPP Selection Protocol and other Canada Snowboard Selection Protocols are located on the 'Document Centre' of the Canada Snowboard web site at:
<http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/>
4. Athletes eligible for selection to the HPP are identified, ranked, and offered National Team or NextGen program positions according to CS's formal 'Selection Process' detailed in sections 15 and 16 in this document.

DEFINITIONS

5. 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) *"SBS"* - Slopestyle
 - e) *"BA"* - Big Air
 - f) *"NG"* - NextGen
 - g) *"NT"* - National Team
 - h) *"WSPL"* - World Snowboarding Points List
 - i) *"CRL"* - Canadian Ranking List
 - j) *"OWG"* - Olympic Winter Games



GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

6. The Selection Committee will be comprised of the Slopestyle National Team staff, the HPP Director (Sport and High Performance Director) and HPP Manager(s). If required, the committee will seek input from:
 - Lead Canadian Coaches
 - HPP Strength and Conditioning Trainer(s)
 - HPP Integrated Support Team (IST)
7. The Selection Committee will meet on or before May 30, 2023, to identify and recommend athletes for selection to the HPP for the 2023-24 season.
8. The Selection Committee's recommendations shall be made on the basis of the eligible athletes' performances during the 2022-23 season.
9. All HPP athlete selections are valid for one-year, ending on May 30, 2024.
10. The maximum number of available positions in the HPP shall be identified at the outset of the selection process. This number will be based on program constraints of the HPP, which are primarily financial.
11. Athlete rankings based on the selection process will ordinarily determine the order of selection (for available HPP positions). However, the CS HPP Management and Coaching staff 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 set out in detail, 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, individuals currently named to the Slopestyle National Team will be given benchmarks with their athlete agreement. The benchmarks will be created by the National Team coaches which will include performance enhancement opportunities for the individual to progress their competitive future to become an Olympic medal potential. If the individuals meet all of the benchmarks over the course of the season, they will be named to the 23/24 National team for meeting their benchmarks regardless of competition results. If an athlete is unsuccessful in meeting the benchmarks, they will still be eligible for team selection based on the eligibility and selection criteria in sections #12 through #16.

IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

National Team

12. To be eligible for selection to the **National Team** an athlete must:
 - Be in good standing with CS, for example, all outstanding fees and invoices have been paid;
 - Have competed in a minimum of two (2) SBS National (N) WSPL or higher ranked events and one (1) SBS International (I) or higher ranked events in the program year just-concluded;
 - Be within the top 10 Canadian men or top 8 Canadian women ranked within



- the top 100 riders on the latest SBS WSPL; and
- Have submitted their **Skill Charts and videos** to tyler@canadasnowboard.ca by April 28, 2023.
 - i. Currently named 2022/23 NT and NG rider applications will be completed by their respective national team coach.

NextGen Program

13. To be eligible for selection as a Nextgen athlete, athletes must:
- Be in good standing with CS, for example, all outstanding fees and invoices have been paid;
 - To be defined as a NextGen athlete, their results must be tracking towards an Olympic medal four (4) to eight (8) years out from the 2026 or 2030 Olympics. Based on the data collected from past major events and yearly rankings the maximum age of a NextGen athlete is 18 for males and 20 for females as of December 31, 2023. This data is based on the age ranges of past major events.
 - i. An athlete may remain on the NextGen team beyond these ages on a case-by-case basis provided they show a significant progress towards achieving national team standards as determined by the athlete's performance curve compared to the Podium Pathway data available.
 - Have competed in a minimum of two (2) SBS National (N) WSPL or higher and either: one (1) SBS International (I) or Canada Air National Nationals in the program year just-concluded;
 - Be ranked within the top 20 Canadian men or top 15 Canadian women on the latest SBS WSPL;
 - Have submitted their Next Gen Application to tyler@canadasnowboard.ca by April 28, 2023 including:
 - i. Skill Chart; and
 - ii. Video footage;
14. 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 19 and 20 or the discretionary grounds within the *'High Performance Program General Policies'* document here: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/HPP-GeneralPolicies.pdf>.

SELECTION PROCESS

15. All athletes who satisfy the eligibility requirements indicated in Sections 12 to 14, as applicable, will be contacted by email from the HPP Manager around April 14, 2023 and will be asked to submit their completed application including their 'Skill Based Assessment sheet', video footage and document(s) the athlete incorporates into their yearly plan. It is important to note that CS will use the email available in the Membership system (SnowReg) associated with the athletes CS Membership.

The Skill Based Assessment form can be requested from tyler@canadasnowboard.ca throughout the season, but it will be sent out with the eligibility email to all eligible riders. New for the 2021/22 Team Selection we started using a fillable google form



for the coach or athlete to fill out available here:

<https://forms.gle/u6YBDhutWLe6bttp9>

Overall Athlete Ranking

The athletes will be ranked based on the categories below (sections A. to D.): the athlete 'Gap Score' will be a total out of 100 and the athletes with the best (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 from athletes eligible for the NextGen Team.

The eligibility requirements are meant to include a long list of the best athletes in Canada for comparison, once the selection ranking is done the selection committee will use the gap scores to discuss the athletes in order of their ranking for team positions. As a general rule of thumb, to be named to the NextGen team the athlete should be able to achieve consistent top 8 results at a Nor-Am Level field or other WSPL National level events, and to be named to the National Team an athlete should be competitive against an international field at WSPL International and Elite level events. Being competitive against a field would mean able to or able to show the skills necessary to achieve consistent top third of the field results.

It is important to note that a significant gap can fluctuate depending on the athletes being compared in the ranking, for example: a veteran athlete vs a rookie will show a much larger gap then comparing two veterans to the team and this variation of gap is taken into consideration during the selection process.

The team will be decided 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 the international field, 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 selection process.

Many factors come into place that the technical experts will discuss with the gap scores to determine where a gap exists and if it is significant which include: age, competitive age, competition experience, competition ready skills and foundational skills to build off of.

Each category will be given a value, for the categories listed below, to make up the total gap score out of 100 for their ranking in the team selection worksheet:

Categories:	National Team	NextGen Program
A. Slopestyle Rank	35	30
Big Air Rank	15	-
B. Skill Based Assessment	25	40
Foundational Skills	-	(20/40)



Competition Skills	-	(20/40)
C. Seasonal Progression	15	30
D. Elite Performance Characteristics	10	-
Totals	100	100

The weighting of the categories is determined by what is important for a national team athlete from the technical experts. The National Team is based mainly on the results athletes can achieve at Elite and International Level events, where as a NextGen Athlete’s weighting is mainly on the overall skill level and progression of skill, which both include assessments of the foundational building blocks of an elite level snowboarder and their ability to spin all four directions comfortably. Results are still required for NextGen selection to meet the eligibility and ultimately selection but as the weightings show, the technical experts believe that skill and progression for the NextGen is most important for future success as a National Team Athlete.

A. Rank

(NT: 50% – Slopestyle: 35% / Big Air: 15%)

(NG: 30% – Slopestyle: 30%)

- Athletes will be ranked based on their active World Snowboarding Points List Results as of May 1, 2023.
- National Team – 35 points of their gap score for selection will come from their Slopestyle WSPL rank/points and 15 points will come from their Big Air WSPL rank/points.
- NextGen Program – 30 points of their gap score for selection will come from their Slopestyle WSPL rank/points.
- The ranks of the athletes will be given a value based on the following:

R = Rider Canadian rank

P = Rider Points

X = NT: 1000, NG: 500

National Team – Men

- SS Gap Points = $35 - (R + ((X - P)/28))$
- BA Gap Points = $15 - (R + ((X - P)/140))$

NextGen – Men

- SS Gap Points = $30 - (R + ((X - P)/30))$

National Team – Women

- SS Gap Points = $35 - (R + ((X - P)/26))$
- BA Gap Points = $35 - (R + ((X - P)/100))$

NextGen – Women

- SS Gap Points = $30 - (R + ((X - P)/25))$

The gap points from the equations will be capped at a total of 35 for National Team and 30 for NextGen (SBS) and for National team 15 (BA) gap points on the selection sheets, to account for the weight of the gap score that rank will make up. Any negative scores will receive a zero (0).

B. Skills Based Assessment

(NT: 25)



(NG: 40% - 20% based on Foundational Skills and 20% on Competition Skills)

The athletes ranking sometimes does not coincide with the actual skill level of the athletes, a point score of skill will be made based on: Comparing all eligible Canadian athletes, the submitted 'Skill Based Assessment' sheet, submitted Video footage, and the expertise of the selection committee against the international field and the requirements to be competitive against it.

For National Team, their skills will be compared against competition skills only and will be given a score out of 100% of competition skills which have been landed by any athlete in any elite level competition. For males, this will include all four (4) direction spins from 900 to 1980 and for females this will include 540 up to 1260 in addition to any new tricks landed during the 2022/23 season after this protocol is published.

For NextGen, not only will 20% of their skill score come from competition tricks similar to National Team, but 20% will come from foundational skills as described below:

Foundational Skills: A percentage score of how many skills the rider can consistently land out of all four (4) directions from 180 to 900 (for males) and 180 to 540 (for females). The riders who can spin in all four (4) directions with higher rotations consistently will score better in this category, this is to reward the riders who have the foundational skills to become a National Team Athlete since these are the building blocks to learning the high-level Competition skills.

Each skill in our skill assessment is allocated a rating value, which means being able to land a Cab 1440 would account for more skill in the assessment than a BS 900, similar to how judges would score a run.

All eligible athletes will be given a percentage of skills for Competition Skills (NT and NG) and for Foundational Skills (NG) this percentage will determine the amount of Gap Points each rider will receive out of the 25 total for National team and 40 (20 Competition and 20 Foundational) total for NextGen.

For Example: If a NextGen eligible rider has a skills rating of 80% of the foundational skills landed on their skills chart and this is confirmed by the video footage or technical coaches as being accurate then the rider would receive 16 as their gap score in Foundational Skills.

C. Seasonal Progression

(NT: 10%, NG: 20%)

Seasonal progression will also be given a gap score based on the skill assessment (sheet, video and coaches' expertise) and which new skills the rider has learned in the past season. Each skill is allocated a rating based on difficulty and potential scores it would receive from judges during a run.

For National Team new tricks will only include 'Game Changing' tricks that would improve their competition skills for the athlete in an event.



NextGen scores will be determined by the percentage of all tricks learned from the previous season which can include foundational or competition tricks but competition tricks will be worth more gap points based on the difficulty of learning those new skills.

It is Important to note that athletes and coaches should be honest on the submitted skill assessment sheets. If the skill is not exemplified in the athlete's video or at a session or competition where Canada Snowboard National Team coaches attend, then the committee will make note and not count the skill in the assessment sheets. This is to protect the rider for the following year. If they have falsely added a newly learned skill to the assessment, it will only make it harder the following year for selection, since they would still need to learn it and they wouldn't be able to gain any gap score towards their selection from it any longer.

D. Elite Performance Characteristics

(NT: 10%)

Elite 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 elite characteristics they have established.

- a) Incorporates On-Snow training plan.
- b) Incorporates Off-snow training plan.
- c) Incorporates a Recovery/Regeneration plan.
- d) Identifies Performance Gaps and commits to plan to close gaps.
- e) Creates Annual Plan - adjusts for prioritization towards addressing gaps.
- f) Engages with complimentary training to snowboarding (ex. Skateboarding, wakeboarding, trampoline, dryland jibbing, acrobatics etc.).

ELITE PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS	
Elite Characteristics	Point Score
5+ elite characteristics	10
(Discretion)	9
4 elite characteristics	8
(Discretion)	7
3 elite characteristics	6
(Discretion)	5



2 elite characteristics	4
(Discretion)	3
1 elite characteristics	2
0 elite characteristics	1

16. Athletes will be discussed for selection to the National Team and NextGen Program positions by the order of their final ranking on the selection sheets.
- When a regression of results or skill, or a gap is present with an athlete on the rankings the selection committee will discuss their pathway, past results and ranking within the selection, current ranking and competitive skills against the world and the level of events they attend when deciding if an athlete has satisfied the requirement for team selection or not.
 - Athletes who have been named to the National team for 5+ years who do not show a progression in skill, or rank in the selection process from the previous year will have individual benchmarks created by the National Team Coaches, which the athlete will have to meet for the 6th (or more) years to remain eligible for selection to the National Team.

ALTERNATES

17. CS may choose to identify alternate athletes who, because of team size limitations, cannot be initially offered Team positions.
18. Should an athlete decline an offered Team position, that position can then be offered to the highest ranked alternate. The alternate shall have one (1) week in which to confirm their acceptance of the position.

EXCEPTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

19. **CS** may, at any time, 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.
20. 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 may be available to the National Team & NextGen Program Coaches.



APPROVAL AND APPEAL PROCESS

21. Final decisions on athlete selection shall be ratified by the Executive Director of CS, on the basis of recommendations by the Sport & HPP Director, in consultation with CS coaching staff and the HPP Managers.
22. The Executive Director of CS, in consultation with the Sport & HPP Director, shall resolve issues not otherwise addressed by this Selection Protocol.
23. Any decision made by 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 Protocol*', available on the 'Document Centre' of the CS website.