



**HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM SELECTION PROTOCOL
SLOPESTYLE NATIONAL TEAM & NEXTGEN PROGRAM
2024-2025**

Approval Authority:	Vice President, Sport
Responsible Department:	High Performance
Approval Date:	January 10, 2024
Revision:	Yearly (Pre-Season)
Next Review Date:	June 2024
Related Policies:	HPP – General Policy

INTRODUCTION

1. **The Purpose** of the “*High Performance Program Selection Protocol*” is to set out the process of:
 - a) Identifying those athletes who are eligible for selection to the 2024-2025 High Performance Program in the Slopestyle and Big Air discipline; and
 - b) Determining which athletes shall be offered positions on the 2024-2025 Slopestyle & Big Air National and NextGen teams.
2. 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.
3. This “*High Performance Program Selection Protocol*” has been drafted by the HPP Technical and coaching staff and reviewed by the Canada Snowboard Athletes Council, and approved by the Vice President, Sport (VPS) of Canada Snowboard prior to publishing the document on the document centre of our website.
4. 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/>
5. 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 16 and 17 in this document.

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) “*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

7. The Selection Committee will be comprised of the Slopestyle National Team staff, and coaches, including but not limited to:
 - a) the Vice President Sport (VPS);
 - b) the Director High Performance – Park & Pipe, (HPD);
 - c) the Director Health & Athletic Performance (HAPD);
 - d) the Manager Podium Pathway (PPM); and
 - e) the Coordinator High Performance (HPC).

If the Selection Committee determines additional input is necessary, input may be gathered from:

- a) HPP Health and Athletic Performance Team Staff (HAP), including strength coaches, physiotherapists, mental performance consultants, etc.; and/or
 - b) Lead Canadian Coaches (such as the athlete's private coach).
8. The Selection Committee will meet between April 22, 2024 (conclusion of the competitive season) and before May 31, 2024 (conclusion of the 23/24 athlete agreements), to identify and recommend athletes eligible for selection to the HPP for the 2024-25 season.
9. The Selection Committee's recommendations shall be made on the basis of the eligible athletes' performances during the 2023–24 season.
10. All HPP athlete selections for the 2024/25 National Team are valid for up to one-year, ending on May 30, 2025.
11. The maximum number of National and NextGen Team available positions in the HPP shall be identified at the outset of the selection process. This number will be based on the program capacity of the HPP.
12. Athlete rankings based on the selection process outlined in Section 16 will ordinarily determine the order of selection (for available HPP positions). However, the Selection Committee has the authority to recommend athletes for selection in an order other than that indicated by the rankings. The grounds for any such recommendations shall be set out in detail, and 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 may be given benchmarks as an addendum to their athlete agreement. The benchmarks will be created by the National Team coaches and include performance enhancement opportunities for the athlete to progress their Olympic medal potential and their international competitive future. If the athlete meet's all of the benchmarks over the course of the season, they will be named to the 2024/25 National team for meeting their benchmarks regardless of competition results. If an athlete is unsuccessful in meeting the benchmarks, they are eligible for team selection based on the eligibility and selection criteria in sections #13 through #17.



IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

National Team

13. To be eligible for selection to the **National Team** 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 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;
 - C. Be within the top 12 Canadian men or top 8 Canadian women ranked within the top 100 riders on the latest SBS WSPL; and
 - D. Athletes (and their coaches) meeting the above eligibility will be emailed with application details to submit their **Skill Charts and videos** to tyler@canadasnowboard.ca by a communicated deadline which will be disclosed on or around April 22, 2024. Athletes must submit their application prior to the deadline to be included in the selection.
 - i. Currently named 2023/24 NT and NG rider applications will be completed by their respective national team coach.

NextGen Program

14. To be eligible for selection as a Nextgen athlete, athletes 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. To be defined as a NextGen athlete, their results must be tracking towards an Olympic medal up 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 entry age of a NextGen athlete is 18 for males and 20 for females as of December 31, 2024. This data is based on the age ranges of past major events.
 - ii. 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.
 - C. Have competed in a minimum of two (2) SBS National (N) WSPL or higher and either: one (1) SBS International (I) or the Canada Air Nation Nationals in the program year just-concluded;
 - D. Be ranked within the top 20 Canadian men or top 15 Canadian women on the latest SBS WSPL;
 - E. Athletes (and their coaches) meeting the above eligibility will be emailed with application details to submit their **Skill Charts and Videos** to tyler@canadasnowboard.ca by a communicated deadline which will be disclosed on or around April 22, 2024. Athletes must submit their application prior to the deadline to be included in the selection.
 - iii. Currently named 2023/24 NT and NG rider applications will be completed by their respective national team coach.
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 18 and 19 or the discretionary grounds within the 'High Performance Program General Policies' document here: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/HPP-GeneralPolicies.pdf>.



SELECTION PROCESS

16. All athletes who satisfy the eligibility requirements indicated in Sections 13 to 14, as applicable, will be contacted by email from the HPP after the conclusion of the 2023/24 Slopestyle World Cup competitive season around April 22, 2024 and must submit their completed application within seven (7) days including their 'Skill Based Assessment sheet', video footage and document(s) the athlete incorporates into their yearly plan to be considered for the HPP. It is important to note that CS will use the email available in the Membership system (SnowReg) associated with the athletes CS Membership and cc the known club coaches for the athlete and their parent(s) if they are a minor.

The Skill Based Assessment form can be accessed through 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 has the authority 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 complete the selection committee will use the order of ranking to discuss the athletes for team positions. As a general rule of thumb, to be named to the NextGen team the athlete shall be able to achieve consistent top 8 results at a Nor-Am Level field or other WSPL National level events. To be named to the National Team an athlete shall be competitive against an international field at a FIS World Cup event. Being competitive against an international field would mean able to demonstrate the skills necessary to achieve consistent top third of the field results.

It is important to note that the amount of a significant gap can fluctuate depending on the athletes being compared in the ranking, for example: a veteran athlete compared to a rookie will have a much larger gap then comparing two veterans to the team and this variation of gap is taken into consideration by the selection committee 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 play that the selection committee shall discuss with the gap scores when determining where a gap exists and if it is significant which includes (but is not limited to): injuries, commitment, age, competitive age, competition experience, *Competition 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 has been determined by what is important for podium success from the technical experts. The National Team is primarily based mainly on the results athletes can achieve at FIS World Cup and above events, where as a NextGen Athlete’s weighting is primarily on the overall skill level and progression of skill. These both include assessments of the foundational building blocks of a High Performance 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 the date of the team selection meeting which will take place after the conclusion of the 23/24 World Cup Season around April 22, 2024.
- 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, the 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 1080 to 2160 and for females this will include 720 up to 1260 in addition to any new tricks landed during the 2023/24 season after this protocol is published.

For NextGen, 20% of their skill score will come from *Competition Skills* similar to the National Team, and 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 the CS 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 1080, similar to how judges would score a single trick in a run.

All eligible athletes will be given a percentage score for *Competition Skills* (NT and NG) and for *Foundational Skills* (NG) this percentage score 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 the technical coaches as being accurate then the rider would receive 16 points as their gap score in Foundational Skills.

C. Seasonal Progression

(NT: 10%, NG: 20%)

Seasonal progression is also given a gap score based on the Skill Assessment (sheet, video and coaches' input) 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 skills will only include 'Game Changing' skills that would improve their *Competition Skills* for the athlete in an event.



NextGen scores are determined by the percentage of all skills learned from the previous season which can include *Foundational or Competition Skills*, *Competition Skills* are 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 demonstrated 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.

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 towards being a high performance athlete. Discretion will be used for athletes clearly showing initiative with their elite characteristics they have established.

1. Identifies Performance Gaps and commits to plan designed to close these gaps.
2. Creates Annual Plan - adjusts for prioritization towards addressing identified gaps.
3. Implements an intentional On-Snow training plan.
4. Implements an intentional Off-snow training plan.
5. Implements an intentional Recovery/Regeneration plan.
6. 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

17. After the ranking sheets are completed, the athletes will be discussed for selection to the National Team and NextGen Program positions by the order of their final ranking on the ranking sheets. In cases where there is a regression in the



athlete's results or skills, or a gap is present in the selection ranking the Selection Committee shall consider the following:

- a) The overall team size according to an athlete / coach ratio and
- b) expected world cup quota for the following competitive season.
- c) the athlete's pathway, past results, ranking within the selection, and current ranking
- d) *Competitive Skills* against the world and the level of events attended.

EXCEPTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

18. CS reserves the right to require a HPP 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, train and to determine the expected timeline for the athlete's recovery.
19. 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, performance analysis, etc.) as may be available to the Selection Committee. Except as detailed in Section 23, 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

20. Selection to the Slopestyle and Big Air National or NextGen team 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.
21. Athlete selection for World Cups, World Championships and Olympic Winter Games is done according to separate Selection Protocols, which are available on the 'Document Centre' of the CS website at:
[\(http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/\)](http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/).

APPROVAL AND APPEAL PROCESS

22. Final decisions on athlete selection shall be ratified by the Vice President, Sport (VPS) of CS, on the basis of recommendations by the Selection Committee.
23. 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 Vice President – Sport, in consultation with the High-Performance Director – Park & Pipe, shall determine how the issue or circumstance shall be addressed, taking into account the best interests of the HPP program. Should any action be taken pursuant to this provision, CS will notify the impacted parties as soon as reasonably possible.
24. 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

25. 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.
26. This Selection Protocol is intended to apply as drafted. Unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Canada Snowboard's control may arise which prevent relevant competitions from taking place or from taking place in a fair manner. Should the procedure for nomination as described in this Selection Protocol be impacted due to unforeseen circumstances, which would result in a nomination process which is unfair or not in the best interests of Canada Snowboard's performance objectives and the general principles for selection, as indicated in this Selection Protocol, the High Performance Director – Park & Pipe will, where possible, consult with the Vice President, Sport to determine if the circumstances justify nomination taking place in an alternative manner.
27. 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.