



**HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM SELECTION PROTOCOL
SLOPESTYLE NATIONAL TEAM
2025-26**

Approval Authority:	Vice President, Sport
Responsible Department:	High Performance
Approval Date:	November 7, 2024
Revision:	Yearly (Pre-Season)
Next Review Date:	August 2025
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 2025-2026 High Performance Program in the Slopestyle and Big Air discipline; and
 - b) Determining which athletes shall be offered positions on the 2025-2026 Slopestyle and Big Air National team.
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 and 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 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*” - - *International Ski & Snowboard Federation (formally Fédération Internationale de Ski)*
 - b) “*CS*” - Canada Snowboard
 - c) “*HPP*” - High Performance Program
 - d) “*SS*” - Slopestyle
 - e) “*BA*” - Big Air
 - f) “*NG*” - NextGen
 - g) “*NT*” - National Team
 - h) “*WSPL*” - World Snowboarding Points List
 - i) “*OWG*” - Olympic Winter Games



GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The Selection Committee will be comprised of at least 3 members from the HPP Staff and Slopestyle National Team staff, and coaches, including but not limited to:
 - a) the Director High Performance – Park and Pipe, (HPD);
 - b) the Health and Athletic Performance Lead;
 - c) the Coordinator High Performance (HPC); and
 - d) the Slopestyle National Team Coach(es).

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

- a) HPP Health and Athletic Performance (HAP) Team Staff, including strength coaches, physiotherapists, mental performance consultants, etc.; and/or
- b) Lead Canadian Coaches (such as the athlete's private coach).

The Selection Committee may consider the use of a non-voting independent third party to observe due process. The independent third party observer could be:

- a) Retired Athlete, Judge, or Official; and/or
- b) Another sport professional

8. The Selection Committee will meet between April 22, 2025 (conclusion of the competitive season) and before May 31, 2025 (conclusion of the 2024-25 athlete agreements), to identify and recommend athletes eligible for selection to the HPP for the 2025-26 season.
9. The Selection Committee's recommendations shall be made on the basis of the eligible athletes' performances during the 2024–25 season.
10. All HPP athlete selections for the 2025-26 National Team are valid for up to one-year, ending on May 30, 2026.
11. The maximum number of National 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 and these guiding principles:
 - a) Athlete to Coach Ratio at or below five to one (5:1)
 - b) FIS World Cup expected quota plus three (3) per gender maximum
12. 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 Section 17 and 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 CS 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 meets all of the benchmarks over the course of the season, they will be named to the 2025/26 CS Slopestyle 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

There are two (2) pathways through which athletes can be selected for The CS Slopestyle and Big Air National Team, the National Team pathway and the NextGen pathway. NextGen eligible athletes are ranked separately from the National Team ranking sheet as the focus is on future podium performances at the Olympic Winter Games thus prioritizes skill over results. NextGen selected individuals will be named to the Slopestyle and Big Air National Team.

NATIONAL TEAM PATHWAY

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*. https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/Canada_Snowboard_Bylaws_EN.pdf
 - B. Have competed in a minimum of two (2) SS 'Pro' WSPL or higher ranked events and one (1) SS 'Challenger' WSPL 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 SS WSPL; and
 - D. Athletes (and their coaches) meeting the above eligibility will be emailed with application details to submit their **Intake Form, Skill Charts and videos** to tyler@canadasnowboard.ca by a communicated deadline which will be disclosed on or around April 22, 2025. Athletes must submit their application prior to the deadline to be included in the selection.
 - i. Currently named 2024/25 NT rider applications will be completed by their respective national team coach.
 - ii. 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>

NEXTGEN PATHWAY

14. To be eligible for selection to the **National Team** through the **Nextgen pathway**, 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*. https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/Canada_Snowboard_Bylaws_EN.pdf
 - 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, 2025. This data is based on the age ranges of past major events.
 - i. An athlete may remain on the National team beyond these ages on a case-by-case basis provided they show a significant progress determined by the athlete's performance curve compared to the Podium Results Track data available – a significant progress would show the athletes performance curve closing the gap of the podium results track data, an increase to the gap without a health related curtailment would suggest a regression from the podium pathway.
 - C. Have competed in a minimum of two (2) SS 'Challenger' WSPL or higher and one (1) SS 'Pro' in the program year just-concluded;



- D. Be within the top 20 Canadian men or top 15 Canadian women ranked within the top 150 riders on the latest SS WSPL;
 - E. Athletes (and their coaches) meeting the above eligibility will be emailed with application details to submit their **Intake form, Skill Charts and Videos** to tyler@canadasnowboard.ca by a communicated deadline which will be disclosed on or around April 22, 2025. Athletes must submit their application prior to the deadline to be included in the selection.
 - i. Currently named 2024/25 NT rider applications will be completed by their respective national team coach.
 - ii. 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>
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 or 14, as applicable, will be contacted by email from the HPP staff after the conclusion of the 2024/25 Slopestyle World Cup competitive season around April 22, 2025 and must submit their completed application within seven (7) days including their Intake form, 'Skill Based Assessment sheet' (<https://forms.gle/u6YBDhutWLe6bttp9>), 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.

Overall Athlete Ranking

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 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 teams if the selection committee determines that no athletes are currently performing at the necessary level to be selected to either team.

Athletes will be ranked on two (2) different ranking sheets determined by the eligibility pathway met (National Team or NextGen Pathway).

The eligibility requirements are meant to include a long list of the most talented snowboard 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, to be named to the National Team through the NextGen pathway the athlete shall be able to achieve consistent top 8 results at a Continental Cup Level field or other WSPL challenger level events and technically ready for the size of courses at FIS World Cup 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 (1/3) of the field results.



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 documented 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 Pathway and the ability to safely complete their *Competition Skills* on XL sized features.

It is important to note that the amount of a significant gap can fluctuate depending on the athletes being compared in the ranking this is due to some nuances within the ranking process, for example: The competition pathway different athletes (veterans vs rookies) attend and compete at have an impact on the gap scoring which needs to be considered by the selection committee to determine the gaps between riders.

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 Pathway	NextGen Pathway
A. Slopestyle Rank	35	30
Big Air Rank	15	-
B. Skill Based Assessment	30	40
Foundational Skills	-	(20/40)
Competition and Unique/Creative Skills	(30)	(20/40)
C. Seasonal Progression	20	30
Totals	100	100

A. Rank (Slopestyle and Big Air)

(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 24/25 World Cup Season around April 22, 2025
- 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 = $15 - (R + ((X - P)/140))$

National Team - Women

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



- **NextGen Pathway – Men**
SS Gap Points = $30 - (R + ((X - P)/30))$
- **NextGen Pathway – Women**
SS Gap Points = $30 - (R + ((X - P)/25))$

The gap scores from the equations will be capped at a total of 35 for National Team and 30 for NextGen (SS) 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) and will be highlighted within the ranking sheet for further discussion.

B. Skills Based Assessment

(NT: 30%)

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

For National Team, the skills will be compared against *Competition, Unique and Creative Skills* only and will be given a score out of 100% based on 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 2024/25 season after this protocol is published.

For NextGen, 20% of their skill score will come from *Competition, Unique and Creative Skills* similar to the National Team, and 20% will come from foundational skills as described below:

Foundational Skills: A percentage score of how well and how many skills the rider can 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 for the building blocks to learning the high-level Competition skills.

Each skill in the CS Skill Based Assessment is allocated a rating value, similar to how judges would score a single skill in a run. As an example a landed Cab 1440 would score higher in the assessment than a BS 1080,

For Example: If a NextGen Pathway 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 out of the total 20 as their gap score in Foundational Skills.

C. Seasonal Progression

(NT: 20%, NG: 20%)

Seasonal progression is also given a gap score based on the Skills Based Assessment (sheet, video and coaches' input) and which improvements the rider has made in the past season. Each skill is allocated a rating based on difficulty and potential scores it would receive from judges during a run.

Seasonal Progression Scores are determined by the percentage of all improvements to skills learned from the previous season which can include *Foundational or Competition Skills, Competition (including creative and unique) Skills* are worth more gap points based on the difficulty of learning or improving those skills.



It is Important to note that athletes and coaches should be honest on the submitted skill assessment sheets. An athletes skill can be confirmed by the following: the video submission or at a session / competition where Canada Snowboard National Team coaches attend. Unconfirmed skills will be noted by the selection committee.

17. The Ranking sheets will be completed ahead of the selection committee meeting based on the scoring from section 16 A, B and C categories. Each athlete will be discussed for selection to the National Team 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:
 - The overall team size according to an athlete / coach ratio; and
 - expected world cup quota for the following competitive season.
 - the athlete's pathway, past results, ranking within the selection, and current ranking
 - *Competitive Skills* against the world and the level of events attended.
 - *Athlete Elite Performance Characteristics* including but not limited to:
 - Athlete implementation and commitment to their On and Off Snow training plan, including attending team organized sessions, warm-up, cool down and recovery sessions.
 - Athlete identifies and actively prioritizes a plan to close their identified gaps and build on their strengths.
 - Contributes to the positive and values-based team environment.

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/>.

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 and 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 and 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.