



**2019-2020 NATIONAL HALFPIPE TEAM SELECTION
&
2018-2019 WORLD CUP SPOT ALLOCATION CRITERIA**

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PREAMBLE

The following document defines the selection procedures for the 2019-20 National Halfpipe Team Programs

1. HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM GOAL:

To develop athletes in a safe and ethical manner, who win medals at the Olympic games, FIS World Championships, and X-Games.

Objective of the National Halfpipe A & B groups:

- Support and prepare athletes in order to consistently achieve podium performances at the highest level, whom are less than 4 years from winning major events;

Objective of the National Halfpipe NextGen Group:

- Gain experience competing on the International stage,
- Provide technical and sport science support to guide athletes who have been identified as having the potential to reach the podium at major events 3 to 8 years from now.

2. DEFINITIONS:

- Freestyle Canada (FC)
- High Performance Program (HPP)
- High Performance Program Director (HPD)
- Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD)
- High Performance Athlete Development (HPAD)
- World Cup (WC)
- Nor-Am Cup (NAC)
- Canadian Open Tour (COT)
- Association of Freeskiing Professionals (AFP)

3. TIME FRAMES:

- Team selection is normally for one calendar season (May to April)
- 2019-20 National Halfpipe Team Selection period: December 1st 2018 to April 30th 2019, inclusively.

4. SELECTIONS:

The selection of athletes to participate in the Freestyle Canada's HPP is the responsibility of the CEO, acting on the recommendations of the HPP Selection Committee. The CEO may overrule any decision of the HPP Selection committee.

Selections are comprised of the following:

- ✓ FC Selection Committee,
- ✓ Selection Process,
- ✓ HPP Rankings.

HPP Selection Committee

Under the Authority of the CEO, The FC Selection Committee is responsible for all selections. Team selection and World cup spot allocation details are as described in this document, Major Events will be published in separate document aligned with their specific timelines and selection requirements.

The HPP Selection Committees shall, as its regular business:

- ✓ Select athletes to be offered positions on the National Team and within team groups (i.e. A, B and C - NextGen).
- ✓ Allocate HPP athletes with competitive opportunities for targeted AFP and FIS events.
- ✓ All team selections are for a one-year period only.

The Committee will have 6 votes (in the case of a tie, the chair will have the tie breaking vote). The HPP Selection Committee is comprised of the:

- National Halfpipe Team Head coach
- National Halfpipe Team Assistant coach
- NextGen Group Lead coach
- Sport Science Sport Medicine Director
- High Performance Athlete Development Manager
- High Performance Program Director (Chair)

When applicable, the committee will seek input from:

- High Performance Program Manager
- HPP Mental Training Consultant(s)
- HPP Strength and Conditioning Trainer(s)
- HPP Medical Team

- HPAD Advisory group coaches

Meetings of the Selection Committee:

- 1 The HPPD will chair the meetings.
- 2 All members of the HPP Selection Committee shall abstain from voting on matters that directly affect members of their immediate families.
- 3 The HPP Selection Committee operates on a majority vote.
- 4 Final recommendations from the HPP Selection committee are presented to the CEO of the Freestyle Canada for review and final decision.
- 5 Meetings of the HPP Selection Committee shall be open to members of the committee and invited guests only. A minimum of 4 members, including the chair, must be in attendance.
- 6 Notes from the meeting will be kept by the HPD and distributed to members of the HPP Selection Committee.
- 7 A summary of the decisions of Committee meetings shall be distributed to the Freestyle Canada CEO, and shall be made available to other interested parties on request.
- 8 The HPD notify athletes in writing who have been selected either to the A or B group, or NextGen group (C).
- 9 The HPD shall post the results of Team Selection meetings and notify the divisions that they are available.

Selection Process:

Within 30 days of the completion of the season;

- a) For the National Halfpipe Team, the HPP Selection Committee reviews the initial ranking list and determines if there are any Special Ranking Considerations or mistakes in the data entry. Corrections will not be made after May 15th for that selection period (see Appendix #1)
- b) Eligible athletes are identified and ranked for nominations.
- c) Athletes who would qualify for Extraordinary Circumstances (i.e. Injury, etc.) are identified and ranked appropriately.
- d) National Team 'A' Group is identified and determined from the nominations.
- e) National Team 'B' Group is identified and determined from the nominations.
- f) NextGen Group is identified and determined from the nominations following the A & B Team Groups.
- g) The HPP Selection Committee will determine if there will be prospects named to the NextGen group.

- h) Nominated athletes will be officially notified, having a period of 10 days to accept or decline selection.

HPP Rankings:

The HPP Ranking Criteria is explained in detail in Appendix 1.

The High Performance Program Director and the High Performance Program Manager coordinate all HPP Rankings and calculations related to the selection of HPP teams. These rankings are presented to the HPP Selection committee for their input and consideration. Coaches also report on each athlete's skill level and overall progression and commitment the past 12 months.

- For an athlete to be ranked they must normally have competed in at least three different Freestyle Canada eligible competitions during the current season.
- Athletes' results are used from the selection period outline in section 3: Time Frames.

5. TEAM STRUCTURE: 2019-2020 NATIONAL TEAM:

Freestyle Canada's High Performance Program will name athletes to the National Halfpipe Team; which is composed of an

- a. A and B group for athlete performance level and funding purposes.

AND

- b. The NextGen Team, referred to as the C group for athlete development, tiering and funding purposes.

**The HPP Committee will determine the team size on an annual basis. Group sizes may change depending on the year of the cycle, depth and skill level of athletes, ranking point spreads, and/or funding fluctuations, Freestyle Canada reserves the right to modify the team structure at any time in order to ensure quality programming.*

6. ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for selection to the 2019-20 National Halfpipe Program an athlete needs to meet the following:

1) General Eligibility

- An athlete must be a Freestyle Canada member in good standing
- Have a valid Canadian passport
- Have the FIS age requirement to compete at FIS World cup level events for 2019-20

2) Performance Eligibility for each group are as follows:

'A' Group - "Podium Excellence" (LTAD stage: Train to Win):

Athletes will be selected to this group based on 2018-19 HPP Rankings and meeting the following performance benchmarks:

- For Women: Minimum of one (1) podium AND one (1) Top 6, coming from the Tier 1 events neutral or boosted.
- For Men: Minimum of one (1) podium AND one (1) Top 8, coming from the Tier 1 events neutral or boosted.

**The events may be modified with at least 14 days prior to the event due to unexpected and/or new events added to the calendar.*

****Only the traditional events will count as Tier 1 events, any venues with new features will not be considered for the 2018/2019 HPP Rankings for Halfpipe.*

- The selection committee reserves the right to:
 - select athletes to the A group based on Special Rankings considerations or Extra-ordinary circumstance clause. Section 12 & 13.

'B' Group: "Performers" (LTAD stage: Learn to Win):

The HPP Selection committee will select athletes to this group based on the final 18-19 HPP rankings. The HPP rankings are based on:

- The sum of the athlete's three (3) best placing values from eligible 2018-19 competitions (set in Section 8) and within the set selection period (Section 3).
 - The placing must be in the top 2/3rds of the field size (excluding DNS skiers), rounded down to the nearest whole number, to count for ranking.
 - Athlete must have at least one Top 16 finish from Tier 1 level events that are valued "neutral" or "boosted" ("Diminished" Tier 1 events are not eligible).
- The selection committee reserves the right to select athletes to the B group based on Special Rankings considerations or Extraordinary circumstance clause. Section 12 & 13.

'C' Group: NextGen (LTAD stage: Train to Compete):

For athletes to be eligible for selection to this group, they must meet one of the following categories:

- a. Ranked Top 5 on the Halfpipe HPP Rankings (excluding National A & B program athletes). NextGen Group 2018-2019 athletes who don't graduate to the National Team (A & B groups) are counted in the rankings as well;

AND/OR

- b. Win the Women's or Men's 2018-19 Canada Cup ranking in Halfpipe

OR

- c. Skill Assessment: Skill assessment can occur throughout the season by any of our National program coaches or during the spring Halfpipe HPP Training camp, normally held in Calgary.

- o Skills will be assessed based on the framework outlined in our Gold Medal Profiles

- For the NextGen group, the HPP committee reserves the right to nominate athletes as prospects. These prospects will be invited to train with the NextGen group but will be required to meet specific individual benchmarks by October 1st 2019 to solidify their place on the Team.

3) Freestyle Canada will strive to maintain gender equity.

TIMELINE: The National A, B and NextGen Halfpipe Teams will normally be named by May 15th of each year.

7. COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES

- 1) Freestyle Canada is not required to fill all FIS World Cup and World Championship quota spots.
- 2) WC opportunities will be prioritized for National A & B group Athletes and then the NextGen group athletes, as determined by the HPP Committee based on current team ranking or special considerations.

8. QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS:

For the 2018-19 season, the following events will count towards the HPP rankings (if the event location and/or date changes, the event will still remain eligible for ranking, unless informed by Freestyle Canada at least 21 days in advance). Eligible events are categorized in 3 different tiers, for the purpose of establishing relevant placing values (values within each Tiers may vary, based

on such variables as level of field, course quality and conditions, and/or other anomalies reported by present HPP Selection Committee members):

9. World Cup spot allocation for 2018-19:

Canada receives a fixed amount of quotas spots for World Cups. These will be re-calculated by FIS in January 2019. The following methods will be used for each World Cup's Canadian spot allocation:

- National Team A & B group athletes have a guaranteed spot for all 2018-19 FIS World Cups in Halfpipe;
- If additional spots are available, they will be allocated to Next Gen athletes as follows:
 - The HPP Selection Committee will meet periodically to allocate available spots for World Cups, by considering the following variables:
 - Achieving the set World Cup skill benchmarks in camps or competitions relative to the athlete's signed agreement, and
 - Ongoing HPP Rankings and / or potential to qualify for major events

10. EXTENUATING SELECTION CRITERIA:

1. If within the selection period a HPP athlete is not making the necessary progress as determined by the HPP Selection committee, the Freestyle Canada maintains the right to implement the Extenuating Selection Criteria.
2. Criteria will be determined by the HPP Selection Committee and agreed upon in writing with the athlete in question. Extenuating Selection criteria will be added to the athlete's contract and implemented for identified period.
3. The Freestyle Canada maintains the right to withhold FC funding (not AAP carding) of an athlete failing to achieve certain performance goals within a specified period.
4. The Freestyle Canada may at any time withhold competitive opportunities or withdraw an athlete from the HPP Program.

11. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Extraordinary circumstances include, but are not limited to circumstances such as injury, death in the family. The selection committee will nominate HPP athletes they feel do qualify under this clause.
2. If an athlete misses an entire season due to health related curtailment of activities the selection period will be extended backwards to a maximum of one season.

3. If an athlete misses a portion of the competition season and has fewer than 5 results in the season, due to health-related curtailment of activities, the selection period will be extended backwards to a maximum of 1 year. The most recent events will be counted until a total of 5 results are available.
4. The maximum backwards extension of the selection period shall ordinarily be one competition season.
5. The HPP Selection committee has the discretion to make exceptions to injury clause for special cases. This is more likely for athletes with a significant body of high-level event podium results (i.e. X-Games, World Championships, etc.). This may include expanding the backwards extension of the selection period, or other adjustments to meet the special case.
6. Freestyle Canada 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 the anticipated time of the athlete's recovery.
7. The HPP Selection committee, with input from medical experts, may prevent an athlete from entering an event if the pace of the athlete's rehabilitation from injury warrants doing so.
8. It may occur that it is inappropriate for a High Performance Program athlete, by reason of a health related curtailment of activities, to participate in HPP training and competition activities for an entire program year. In such a situation, the following shall apply:
 - a. The athlete, the athlete's personal physician, the Freestyle Canada, and the Freestyle Canada's Chief Physician shall make any such determination collectively.
 - b. The athlete shall remain a member of the High Performance Program and shall have a Freestyle Canada membership and an International Competitor's License.
 - c. The athlete shall continue to be promoted in the Freestyle Canada Media Guide and shall continue to be eligible for Sport Canada carding and National Sport Centre services.
 - d. A rehabilitation program for the athlete shall be developed jointly, between the athlete and the Freestyle Canada staff. The rehabilitation program shall be monitored by the Freestyle Canada and evaluated on a regular basis. The athlete's return to full HPP participation shall be, in part, dependant on satisfactory completion of the rehabilitation program.
 - e. The rehabilitation program may include formal HPP training and entry into competitions, as well as physiotherapy, individual training, and other rehabilitative measures. Any formal HPP training or entry into competitions shall be for rehabilitative purposes only. Evaluations or results from such training or entry into competitions shall not be used for the ranking of the athlete for HPP Team selections.

- f. The athlete shall be eligible to return to full HPP participation only after the Freestyle Canada determines that the rehabilitation program has been successfully completed.

12. HEARING AND APPEAL PROCESS:

An appeal of any decision of the HPP Selection Committee may be made by any Freestyle Canada member in good standing. Appeals must be conducted in accordance with the Appeals Policy established by the Freestyle Canada. Policy can be found on the FC website.

<http://www.freestylecanada.ski/files/policies/CFSA-appeals-protocol-2009-ENGLISH.pdf>

13. GENERAL:

Issues not otherwise covered by this document are subject to the decision of the CEO of the Freestyle Canada, in consultation with the High Performance Program Selection Committee.

14. SPECIAL RANKING CONSIDERATIONS:

The selection committee may in some cases choose to select athletes out of the initial ranking order. In such cases the Committee must record in detail the reasons for its decisions. These reasons must support the program goals outlined at the beginning of this document.

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

- An athlete who is showing excellent results and increasing her or his performance results may be moved higher than their calculated ranking.
- An athlete who shows excellent physical characteristics (measurable in testing) and / or technical capability; may be moved higher than her or his calculated ranking. This is more likely to happen early in an athlete's career. Rational: in some stages of development an athlete may focus on training and not perform as well at competition.
- An athlete who has had ample opportunities and is not advancing towards the program goals may move lower than her or his calculated ranking and may result in not being selected to any of the teams. Written rational form the relative selection committee will be provided.
- When there is a relatively narrow point spread between two athletes, there is greater chance of "out of order" selection.
- An athlete who is tracking well with strong work ethic and commitment to training opportunities may move ahead of an athlete who has not demonstrated these traits.
- Athletes who have reached major event podiums in recent years (i.e. Olympics, World Championships and X-Games).

Major Games Selection:

During an Olympic Winter Games or World Championships selection period, athletes who have a reasonable chance at selection may be given priority in the allocation of Taxi squad positions.

Score Anomaly:

In some circumstances, there are 3 to 4 counting events on the same course within a short time frame, often with all events judged by the same panel. This scenario may warrant an out of order selection

APPENDIX # 1 HPP RANKING CRITERIA

CALCULATION OF RANKING:

- The sum of 3 best point values, within the selection period, will be used;
- ***Due to the fluctuating nature of freeskiing; events being changed in the schedule, change in format, and/or snow conditions, the HPP Selection Committee in consultation with the HPAD advisory group may decide to eliminate or add eligible events with a minimum of 2 weeks notice prior to the first competition day.*
- Eligible events and Placing Values are categorized in 3 different tiers as described below.

HPP RANKING CRITERIA continued:

Identifying & Valuing the events:

COMPONENT	DETAILS
ESTABLISHING THE HPP TIER:	Tiers are established by the level of event
TIER 1	FIS World Cups and Major Events / Identified AFP Platinum or Gold
TIER 2	FIS NorAms and identified AFP Gold
TIER 3	Canada Cup and identified AFP Silver events
VALUE OF THE TIERS	Tier 1 is the highest valued events, then Tier 2. Tier 2 is valued more than Tier 3
	Each Tier can be given more detailed value: "Neutral," "Boosted" or "Diminished" based on the below guidelines
	There are 5 values within a tier: Boosted: + 15 & +7.5 / Neutral / or Diminished -7.5, & -15
PLACING VALUES	The placing values are established by the Tier and then if it is Neutral, Diminished or Boosted.
	Have a diminishing value from 1st place to last place in the event.
	There is a "R-Value" for each Tier.
	This is the rate of diminishing value for each placing and it is relative to the value and tier of the event.
ESTABLISHING EVENT VALUES	All of the below is taken into consideration when determining the value of events
COURSE DETAILS	Quality of course overall; features, layout or flow of course, quality of jumps or Pipe - wall & transition
JUDGING	Quality judging throughout the heats within the phases, accurate scores and placings at the end of the event
CALIBRE OF FIELD	SKILLS: overall level and quality of skills performed in the top 10 for Women, Top 20 for Men
	COMPETITORS: did the top skiers participate? Countries attending, Current FIS rankings are referred to
	NOTE: FIS rankings can change week to week and so establishing the value will fluctuate based on the current FIS rankings
	Injured top athletes not present will also be taken into consideration
COURSE CONDITIONS	weather delays, snow conditions, wind, maintenance of venue
FIELD SIZE	total field size without DNS, # of countries
EVENT FORMAT	was the format conducive to a quality event?
	Were the heats fairly designed: size / good distribution of calibre of athletes
	# of heats in each phase
	# of runs within each heat

RANKING CRITERIA IMPORTANT NOTES:

Event values will be established after the event happens to ensure accurate values are used for final rankings

Values of events can be changed throughout the season. The reason for this is to ensure the events are fairly valued comparatively with all events throughout the season

The selection committee reserves the right to determine that an event will not be valued up to 2 weeks prior to the first training day.

Within 2 weeks, the event will be valued but may be shifted into a different tier to accurately value the event

The HPP Selection Committee will determine the value of the Tier 1 events

The HPAD advisory group will value the Tier 2 and 3 events.

These committees may decide to add eligible events with a minimum of 3 weeks notice prior to the first competition day.