



**2019-2020 NATIONAL SLOPESTYLE/BIG AIR
TEAM SELECTION &
2018 2019 WORLD CUP SPOT ALLOCATION
PROTOCOL**

November 1st, 2018

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PREAMBLE

The following document defines the selection procedures for the 2019-20 National Slopestyle/Big Air Programs as well as the HPP Ranking Criteria.

HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM GOALS:

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 Slopestyle/Big Air 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 Slopestyle/Big Air 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.

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)
- Canada Cup – National Competition Circuit (SS / HP / BA)
- Association of Freeskiing Professionals (AFP)

HPP SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The purpose of the HPP Selection Committee is to discuss and determine official athlete selection to National Programs and Events.

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

MEETINGS OF THE HPP SELECTION COMMITTEE

1. The HPD will chair the meetings.
2. Final recommendations from the HPP Selection committee are presented to the CEO of the Freestyle Canada for review and final decision.
3. **TEAM PROGRESS:** The committee will meet frequently through the year after training camps and major competition blocks to determine all athletes' progress and not always to only vote on selections.
4. **VOTING:** The committee will meet at established timelines to vote on:
 - team selections,
 - events selections and
 - potentially, funding decisions
 - All members of the HPP Selection Committee shall abstain from voting on matters that directly affect members of their immediate families.
 - The HPP Selection Committee operates on a majority vote.
 - 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.
 - Notes from the meeting will be kept and distributed to members of the HPP Selection Committee.
 - 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.
 - The HPD or HP Manager will notify athletes in writing who have been selected either to the A or B group, or NextGen group (C).
 - The HPD shall circulate the results of Team Selection meetings and notify the divisions that they are available.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

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 and will vote in this order:

- National Slopestyle / Big Air Team Head Coach
- National Team Technical Coach
- NextGen Team Head Coach
- HPP Sport Science Sport Medicine Director
- NextGen Team Assistant Coach
- High Performance Athlete Development Director
- High Performance Program Director (Chair, tie breaker vote)

When applicable, the committee will seek input from:

- High Performance Program Manager
- HPP Sport Psychologist Consultant(s)
- HPP Strength and Conditioning Trainer(s)
- Other HPP Medical Team
- HPAD Advisory group coaches

TIME FRAMES:

- Team selection is normally for one calendar season (May to April)
- 2019-2020 National Slopestyle/Big Air Team Selection period: August 15th 2018 to April 30th 2019, inclusively.
- The High Performance Program Team Groups will normally be named by May 15th of each year.

NATIONAL TEAM STRUCTURE:

Freestyle Canada will determine the team size on an annual basis. Freestyle Canada reserves the right to modify the team structure at any time in order to ensure quality programming.

Group / Team sizes may change depending on

- the year of the quadrennial,
- depth of athlete pool,
- skill level of athletes,
- ranking point spreads,
- major games strategy,
- funding fluctuations.

The High Performance Program for Slopestyle / Big Air will name athletes to the;

- a. World Cup Team: A Group and B Group for competition & funding levels.
 - ✓ **No more than 2 athlete per gender can use only Big Air results**
 - ✓ **No more than 2 athlete per gender can use only Slopestyle results**
- b. NextGen Team: C Group for appropriate athlete development & funding purposes.

SELECTION PROCESS:

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

Selection to the Freestyle Canada High Performance Program will be conducted under the following process.

Normally, within 21 days of the completion of the season;

- a) The Committee reviews the initial ranking list and determines if there are any Performance Considerations, or mistakes in the data entry. Corrections will not be made after May 15th for that selection period,
- 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. Any "Performance Considerations" will be determined at this point.
- 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.

NOTES:

- To understand how the HPP Rankings are calculated, see section “HPP Ranking Criteria” in APPENDIX 1
- Team Selections will be based off performance from the season just finished.
- All team selections are for a one-year period only.
- For an athlete to be ranked they must normally have competed in at least three different Freestyle Canada eligible competitions during the current season.
- Freestyle Canada will strive to maintain gender equity.

HPP ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY:

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for selection to the 2019-20 National Slopestyle/Big Air Program an athlete must:

- be a Freestyle Canada member in good standing,
- have a valid Canadian passport,
- active FIS member for World cup level events for 2018-19 (license & age)

PERFORMANCE ELIGIBILITY:

1. A Team: Competition Benchmarks + HPP Rankings
2. B Team: Competition Benchmarks + HPP Rankings + Performance Considerations
3. NextGen: HPP Rankings + Competition benchmarks + Performance Considerations (all skills)

'A' Group - "Podium Excellence" (LTAD stage: Train to Win): Athletes will be selected to this group based on 2018-19 HPP Slopestyle/Big Air Rankings and meeting the following competitive benchmarks:

HPP RANKINGS: See section for ranking criteria, APPENDIX 1

The sum of 3 best point values

- 1 from Slopestyle – 2 from Big Air
- 2 from Slopestyle – 1 from Big Air
- 3 from Slopestyle (max 2 spots per gender)
- 3 Big Air (max 2 spots per gender)

A GROUP COMPETITION BENCHMARKS:

- WOMEN: Minimum of one (1) podium AND one (1) Top 5, coming from Tier 1 Neutral or Boosted events
- MEN: Minimum of one (1) podium AND one (1) Top 8, coming from the Tier 1 Neutral or Boosted.

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

The HPP Selection committee will select athletes to this group based Competition Benchmarks + HPP Rankings + potential Performance Considerations see Athlete must have at least:

HPP RANKINGS: See section for ranking criteria, APPENDIX 1

The sum of 3 best point values

- 1 from Slopestyle – 2 from Big Air
- 2 from Slopestyle – 1 from Big Air
- 3 from Slopestyle (max 2 spots per gender)
- 3 from Big Air (max 2 spots per gender)

B GROUP COMPETITION BENCHMARKS:

- MEN: One Top 16 in Tier 1 level events that are valued "neutral" or "boosted" ("Diminished" Tier 1 events are not eligible).
- WOMEN: One Top 10 in Tier 1 level events that are valued "neutral" or "boosted" ("Diminished" Tier 1 events are not eligible).
- Or a WIN (1st place) at Tier 2 Neutral or Boosted

B GROUP PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS:

Athletes who are demonstrating noticeable improvements in all or any of the below may be moved higher than their HPP ranking. The framework of the performance considerations are guided by our Gold Medal Profile Guidelines (GMP) which include, but are not limited to the following examples:

- Competitive: An athlete who is showing excellent tracking in their competition performances.
- Fitness: An athlete who shows excellent fitness characteristics (measurable in fitness testing)
- Technical: An athlete who is demonstrating noticeable improvements in their technical capability as determined by the GMP and the National Coaches assessment in training or competition.
 - 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 goal may move lower than her or his calculated ranking and may result in not being selected to any of the teams. Written rationale from 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).
- If a case presents itself, the selection committee reserves the right to select athletes to the B group based on Extraordinary Circumstance clause.

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

For athletes to be eligible for selection to this group, the committee will look at the following components: HPP Rankings + Competition Benchmarks + Performance Considerations (skills)

HPP RANKINGS: Ranked Top 5 on the Slopestyle/Big Air 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;

The sum of 3 best point values, APEENDIX 1

- 1 from Slopestyle – 2 from Big Air
- 2 from Slopestyle – 1 from Big Air
- 3 from Slopestyle

AND/OR

a. COMPETITON BENCHMARKS:

- Ranked Top 5 on the Nor-Am tour.
- AND/OR
- Win the 2018-19 Canada Cup title in Slopestyle or Big Air

AND/OR

b. PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS: Skill assessment can occur throughout the season by any of our National program coaches OR during a specifically scheduled HPP Training camp.

- Skills will be assessed based on the framework outlined in our Gold Medal Profiles. Skills can be in the form of, but are not limited to, technical, psychological, attitude, commitment and creativity.

*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 to solidify their place on the Team.

WORLD CUP SPOT ALLOCATIONS 2018-19:

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

Spots will be allocated based on current team ranking or special considerations.

- A Team have a guaranteed spot for all FIS World Cups in the current season.
- B Group athletes will only be guaranteed spots up to November 30th 2018. Following this date, the committee will re-evaluate the allocation of the Slopestyle and Big Air Spots based on the following timelines:

1st spot allocation: September 20th for events up to November 30th.

2nd: Sport allocation: November 30th for events up to January 30th.

3rd Spot allocation: January 30th for the completion of the season

- If additional spots are available, they will be allocated to Next Gen athletes as follows:
 - The HPP Selection Committee will meet according to the above outlined allocation dates 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 / or
 - Ongoing HPP Rankings and / or
 - Potential to qualify for major events

Freestyle Canada is not required to fill all FIS World Cup and World Championship quota spots.

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, in the way of a Athlete Benchmark Agreement, and implemented for identified period.
3. The Freestyle Canada maintains the right to withhold funding 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.

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.

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/en/programs/hp/policies/>

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.

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. Major Games Selection Criteria will be developed in a separate document and posted on the Freestyle Canada website.

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;

- 1 from Slopestyle / 2 from Big Air
- 2 from Slopestyle / 1 from Big Air
- 3 from Slopestyle

- For NextGen: Athletes cannot use only 3 Big Air results to qualify for NextGen Team, they need a combination of Slopestyle & Big Air, or 3 Slopestyle results.

- For A & B Group:
 - No more than 1 athlete per gender can use only Big Air results
 - No more than 1 athlete per gender can use only Slopestyle results

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.