



**CARDING NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR THE SPORT CANADA
ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR 2021-22**



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INTRODUCTION

- a) The aim of this document is to describe the criteria that will be used by Freestyle Canada (FC) for nominating athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2021-22 cycle.
- b) The nomination of athletes to the AAP is the responsibility of the FC's Chief Executive Officer, acting on the recommendations of the HPP Selection Committees. Sport Canada is responsible for the final approval of nominations to the AAP.
- c) Sport Canada's general policies and procedures governing AAP can be found on the Sport Canada website at:
 - a. https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/services/sport-policies-acts-regulations/app_policy_procedures_eng.pdf
 - b. This includes all information pertaining to the establishment and application of criteria used by FC.

The definitions in the 2020-2021 FC HPP discipline National Team Selection Protocols will apply to this document.

COVID 19 STATEMENT

Freestyle Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact events happening, obtaining quota and attending events in respect to selection of athletes for the High-Performance Program and qualifying events. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of the coronavirus, FC will respect these published Selection Criteria as written.

However, situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this Selection Criteria to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the Selection Criteria. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.



Further, situations may arise that do not allow this Selection Criteria to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this Selection Criteria in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, FC will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

PRIORITY OF NOMINATIONS:

Cards will be allocated in the following priority order:

- A. Athletes who meet SR1 criteria.
- B. Athletes who meet SR2 criteria.
- C. Injured athletes carded at SR2 in 2020-21 who meets the Exceptional Circumstance clause in the HPP Team selection criteria.
- D. Athletes who meet the SR/C1 criteria in the order described in section IV.
- E. Athletes who meet the D criteria in the order described in section V.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to qualify for AAP cards, an athlete must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A. The athlete must be a permanent resident of Canada on the date of the beginning of the carding cycle, and the athlete must have been a legal resident in Canada (student status, refugee status, work visa or permanent resident) for a minimum period of one year before being considered for AAP support. The athlete would normally have been expected to participate in FC-sanctioned activities during that period.



- B. The athlete, under the Freestyle Skiing eligibility requirements of the Federation International de Ski (FIS), must currently be eligible to represent Canada at major international events, including FIS World Championships.
- C. To be eligible for Sport Canada Carding an athlete must be a member in good standing of the FC High Performance Program.
- D. Only athletes competing in 2022 Olympic Winter Games medal events – single moguls, aerials, team aerials, halfpipe, slopestyle and big air – are considered for Sport Canada Carding.
- E. The athlete must provide, prior to the AAP review (by the end of May), confirmation of his or her intention to compete in the coming year through;
 - i. Signing the 2021-22 FC/High Performance Program Athlete contract
 - ii. Purchasing the 2021-22 FC membership and paying any appropriate team fees

(Athletes who have not done this may not be eligible for nomination for carding).

TYPE OF CARD	ALLOCATED FOR	AMOUNT
Senior International card	2 years SR1: 1 st year with this card SR2: 2 nd year of this card	\$21,180 per year (\$1,765 per month)
Senior National card / C1	1 year (maximum 5 years)	1 st year (C1): \$12,720 per year (\$1060 per month) Following years: \$21,180 per year (\$1,765 per month)
Development card	1 year (maximum 5 years)	\$12,720 per year (\$1060 per month)

* The current AAP allotment for Freestyle Canada is the equivalent of 41 Senior cards. Sport Canada regularly reviews its allocation of cards to National Sport Organizations; therefore this number is subject to change.



SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CARD CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

Cards in this category are awarded for results in the most recent World Championships or Olympic Winter Games.

- A. Eligible athletes placing in the top 8 and top half of the field (counting a maximum of three entries per country) at the FIS World Championships or at the Olympic Games may be nominated for SR1/SR2.
- B. In Olympic years, nominations for carding will be based on results from athletes competing in 2022 Olympic Winter Games medal events – single moguls, aerials, team aerials, halfpipe, slopestyle and big air.
- C. In FIS World Championships years, nominations for carding will be based on results from athletes competing in 2022 Olympic Winter Games medal events – single moguls, aerials, team aerials, halfpipe, slopestyle and big air.
- D. Athletes that qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 Card and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2 card. The second year is subject to the athlete being re-nominated by FC, training and competitive program approved by FC and Sport Canada, signing an Athlete/FC agreement completing the on-line anti-doping courses, and signing the AAP application form for the year in question.

D.1: Provision in the case that 2021 World Ski Championships are cancelled:

- Freestyle Canada will nominate a SR card to an athlete that was allocated a SR2 in 20-21 AAP cycle (based on 2019 World Championships) and meets the training and administrative requirements as stated in point D above.
- There will be no SR1 cards allocated for 2021-22, SR2 cards would be allocated in 2021-22 to athletes who are SR1 in 20-21.

SENIOR NATIONAL CARD CRITERIA (SR/C1)

- A. Carding in this category will be granted for a period of one year at a time.
- B. For the first year an athlete meets the SR National Criteria he or she will be classified at the C1 carding level and is funded at the Development card dollar amount. If an athlete has been identified at the Freestyle Canada A Team level and/or has competed at the last World Championships, they may skip



the C1 classification and be eligible for a Sr Card. Athletes previously carded at SR1/2 would also skip C1 (example: an athlete is carded at D, then goes to SR1/SR2, then meets SR).

- C. Athletes are expected to make progress in their results and/or maintain top 8 international rankings (i.e. WC FIS standings for moguls, aerials, slopestyle, big air and halfpipe), in order to maintain SR Card status. Normally, five (5) years is the maximum that an athlete will be carded at the senior level based on national criteria (excluding years when the athlete was awarded a SR/C1 injury card). After such time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive thoroughly documented review of the athlete's performance over the past five years in order to demonstrate progress toward performance equivalent to top 8 and top half at the FIS World Championships or Olympic Games, which then warrants nomination of "Senior National" card status for an additional year. In addition, FC will specify performance criteria (training criteria or competitive results) that must be met to receive subsequent nominations. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level

- D. Athletes will be nominated based on the following order:
 1. Eligible athletes, named to the 2021-2022 National World Cup Slopestyle – Big Air team or 'A' group in any of the freestyle ski Olympic disciplines, may be eligible for nomination for a SR card.
 2. Eligible athletes named to the 2021-2022 National World Cup Slopestyle – Big Air team or 'B' group who meet the following performance benchmark may be eligible for nomination for a SR/C1 card:
 - i. Moguls:
One (1) FIS World Cup podium (excluding Dual Moguls)
OR
Two (2) Top 12 placings from FIS World Cup Competitions; only one (1) of the top 12 placings can be achieved in Dual Moguls, the other must be achieved in single moguls.

 - ii. Aerials:
One (1) Top 12 and top half of the field at FIS World Cup Competitions



*Senior National carding for aerial athletes is only available for individual aerialists, results in the aerial team event.

- iii. Halfpipe: Using the final 2020-2021 HPP Halfpipe Rankings
One (1) podium at a tier one eligible event
OR
Two (2) top 12 placings within the top 2/3rd of the field size, from eligible tier 1 events (boosted and neutral),
 - iv. Slopestyle & Big Air: Using the final 2020-2021 HPP Slopestyle & Big Air Rankings athletes need to achieve in either Slopestyle or Big Air events the following:
MEN: One (1) podium at a tier 1 neutral or boosted eligible event.
WOMEN: One (1) podium at a tier one eligible event.
OR
MEN: Two (2) top 16 placings within the top 2/3rd of the field size, from eligible tier 1 events (neutral and boosted).
WOMEN: Two (2) Top 10 placings within the top 2/3rd of the field size, from tier one eligible events.
- See the HPP Ranking Criteria for description of the tiers, eligible and neutral or boosted events:
<https://www.freestylecanada.ski/files/FC-2019%202020%20Halfpipe%20National%20Team%20Selection%20and%202018%202019%20World%20Cup%20Spot%20Allocation%20Criteria%20FINAL%20Nov%202019%202018.pdf>
3. Eligible athletes named to the 2021-2022 World Cup Teams or National 'A' and 'B' groups by the "Exceptional circumstances" clause, as outlined in the HPP team selection protocols and who had a SR card for the 2019-20 carding cycle, may be eligible for nomination for a SR injury card (SR-HC).
 4. Eligible athletes named to the 2021-2022 National World Cup or 'A' and 'B' groups, who were ranked Top 10 in World rankings in 2020-2021 (As of May 1st, 2021: FIS World Cup Standings) may be eligible for nomination for a SR card for 2021-22 upon the High performance selection committee's recommendation, provided they were carded at a Senior card level for the 2020-2021 carding cycle.



E. If there are fewer Cards than athletes meeting one of the Senior National criteria, and there is a need to compare athletes from different disciplines or within a discipline, the following tiebreaking will be used:

1. The athlete's 2 best eligible placings from high level competitions (i.e. FIS World Cups and Tier 1 neutral or boosted events) held in the previous twelve months, will be given a value of the placing. (1st = 1 point, 7th = 7 points). The athlete with the lowest sum of points will be ranked highest. If a tie remains it will be broken in favor of the athlete with the best eligible placing.
2. If a tie remains, it will be broken in favor of the athlete with the best ranking on the final 2020-2021 FIS World Cup standings list (previous season) of their discipline.

COVID consideration: Nominations are based on an assumption by the NSO that there will be a minimum of four (4) WC events held in each discipline. In the event that less than four WC events are held in a specific discipline, results will be considered from the 2019-20 season

- in reverse chronological order to make up four events.
- An athlete can only go as far back as the number of events missed and
- results are taken from the most recent events

DEVELOPMENT CARD CRITERIA (D CARD)

A. Development Card restrictions:

1. Once they have reached the Senior FIS age, as defined by the FIS age categories, athletes are eligible to be carded a maximum of five (5) years at the D card level (excluding years when the athlete was awarded a D injury card).
2. Athletes previously carded at the Senior card levels (SR1, SR2, SR, C1) for two or more years are not eligible for nominations under the Development card criteria, unless they:
 - i. Were at the FIS Junior age category;



AND/OR

- ii. Were competing in another discipline/sport, when they achieved these levels.

AND/OR

COVID Consideration: there were less than four WC events held in their discipline in the 2020-2021 season.

B. Development Card eligibility:

In addition to the requirement listed in II Eligibility, mogul, aerial, halfpipe, slopestyle / big air athletes named to HPP nominated for a Development card (D) must meet the following eligibility requirement:

1. Commit to relocating to a designated Freestyle Canada Training Centre or approved training program, under the terms set out in her or his FC/High Performance Program Athlete Agreement.
2. Compete in at least 3 competitions (or greater) eligible for National team selection in the season just ended.
3. Athletes must meet the minimum performance level described below, in order to be eligible for card nomination:

Moguls Athlete D Card Eligibility:

Mogul Athletes, named to HPP, who meet qualifier #1 or #2 or #3 may be eligible for nomination for Development Carding:

#1 - One (1) medal at a NorAm level event (or other Continental Cup (CC) event recognized by Freestyle Canada for HPP selection purposes) in single moguls. Recognized events will be published before the start of the competitive season on the Freestyle Canada website as part of the HPP Selection criteria.

#2 - Two (2) top 8 at a NorAm level event (or other CC event recognized by Freestyle Canada for HPP selection purposes) in single or dual moguls (final placing only). Recognized events will be published before



the start of the competitive season on the Freestyle Canada website as part of the HPP Selection criteria:

<https://www.freestylecanada.ski/en/programs/hp/policies/>

#3 - Top 40% of field size at a WC event in single or dual moguls (final placing only).

COVID Consideration: If less than 3 NorAm events are held in the 2020-21 season, NorAm results from the 2019-20 season will also be considered and in this case only 1 Dual result may be used.

Aerial Athlete D Card Eligibility:

Aerial Athletes, named to HPP, who meet qualifier #4 or #5 may be eligible for nomination for Development Carding.

#4 - One (1) medal and Top 50% of field size at a NorAm level event (or other Continental Cup (CC) event recognized by Freestyle Canada for HPP selection purposes) **OR** Nationals. Recognized events will be published before the start of the competitive season on the Freestyle Canada website as part of the HPP Selection criteria:

<https://www.freestylecanada.ski/en/programs/hp/policies/>

#5 - Achieve 1 jump raw score of 25.8 or higher from HPP National ranking eligible events, while performing a degree of difficulty of 2.6 or higher (bLT) for women and 2.9 or higher for men (bLF).

Halfpipe and Slopestyle / Big Air Athlete D Card Eligibility:

Halfpipe, Slopestyle and Big Air athletes, named to HPP, who meet qualifier #6 or #7 or # 8 may be eligible for nomination for Development Carding.



#6 - Two (2) Top 8 and top 2/3rds at a Tier 2 level or higher event. Only from HPP Ranking eligible events.

#7 - One (1) Top 16 and top 2/3rds at a Tier 1 coming from HPP Ranking eligible events.

#8 – One (1) podium at a Tier 2 event, coming from HPP Ranking eligible events.

- See the HPP Selection criteria for description of the HPP Ranking eligible events:
<https://www.freestylecanada.ski/files/hpp/2019/FC-HPP-2019%202020%20Slopestyle-National-Team-Selection%202018%202019%20World%20Cup%20Spot%20Allocation%20FINAL%20Nov%201%202019.pdf>

C. Distribution of Development Cards:

Round 1: After the nominations of the athletes eligible for Senior level cards is completed, the remaining amount will be divided equally as Development cards between Aerials, Moguls, Halfpipe and Slopestyle / Big Air disciplines. If the remaining quota of D cards is an uneven number, the odd number card(s) will be allocated in round 2. These discipline cards will then be allocated equally by gender to eligible athletes (or to eligible athletes within one gender if there is not an equal gender distribution), according to each discipline's HPP rankings (see HPP Team selection protocols for ranking procedure), including previously carded athletes who qualify under the Extraordinary clause and are ranked accordingly in the HPP ranking of their discipline.

Round 2: Repeat round 1 for the remaining disciplines with eligible athletes. If the number is uneven, the tie-breaking rule will be applied (see section D, below).

D. Development Card Tie breaking between disciplines or genders:

If there is an odd number of Cards remaining for athletes meeting the Development card criteria and there is a need to compare athletes from



each discipline, or Female and Male athletes, the following tiebreaking process will be used:

1. The athlete with a Top 16 and Top 1/3rd of field size in a high-level event (i.e. FIS World Cup or Tier 1 event. (Including Dual moguls)) would receive the card. If neither have a top 16, then;
2. The athlete's 2 best eligible placings from Tier 2 (or higher) level eligible events OR HPP Valued Continental level competitions held in the 2019-20 competition season, will be given a value of the placing. (1st = 1 point, 7th = 7 points). The athlete with the lowest score will be ranked highest. If a tie remains it will be broken in favor of the athlete with the best top placing.
3. If a tie still remains after tiebreaking 1. and 2. have been applied, it will be broken in favor of the athlete with the highest number of FIS points, from the most recent published list.

HEALTH RELATED CURTAILMENT OF ACTIVITIES (SR-HC or D-HC)

1. Health Related Curtailment of Activities will use the regulations outlined in the team selection protocols under "Exceptional Circumstances".
2. Athletes who were not carded in the previous season are not eligible for a Senior or Development HC card.
3. Athletes who were carded in the previous season and were unable to meet the carding criteria strictly due to health-related reasons as outlined in the HPP teams' selection document under "Exceptional Circumstances", may be eligible for a Senior or Development HC Card if the following conditions are met:
 - The athlete meets the extra-ordinary circumstance criteria in the discipline specific HPP Team Selection policy;
 - The athlete must be recommended for an Injury Card by the HPP Selection Committee.

Conditions for the athlete injured:

1. The athlete does not withdraw from the High-Performance Program during that period and provides written confirmation of his or her



intention to return to full participation in the HPP at the earliest possible date.

2. Written evaluation is provided by both, the FC's coaching staff and a FC designated physician, indicating that the athlete can be expected to achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.
3. The athlete undertakes in writing to train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of Freestyle Canada or its designate at a level that minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures optimum return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date. Failure to follow such a program without due cause shall be grounds for immediate termination of carding.

RETURNING OLYMPIC/WORLD TOP 8 ATHLETES

An athlete/team who is returning to the national team after a period of no more than one competitive season may be nominated for an SR card if they demonstrate the following criteria:

- Has previously obtained a top-8 result at the Olympic Winter Games and/or at one of the two most recent World Championships,
- Is currently demonstrating they are tracking well towards the competitive skill levels as described in section D, "SR NATIONAL CARD CRITERIA (SR / C1)." The HPP selection committee will determine within the timelines of this policy,
- A commitment to international competition in the upcoming season, and
- An approved training and coaching plan.

Returning athletes will be ranked at the end of all SR card nominations, in the discipline order for the given carding cycle. In the case of more than one such nomination within any discipline, the nominations will be ranked in order of their placement at the most recent Olympic Winter Games. Those with no Olympic result will be ranked after the returning Olympic medalist(s) and ranked in order of their placement at the most recent Worlds, followed by the preceding Worlds. Placement in the aerial team event will not be used in any of these cases.



WITHDRAW TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY:

If an athlete wishes, for health-related reasons or other reasons, to withdraw temporarily or permanently from normal carded athlete training and competition activities, the normal rules for withdrawal from the Athlete Assistance Program shall apply. The athlete will no longer be eligible for monthly training and living support but may be eligible for Deferred Tuition or Special Needs support.

APPEAL PROCESS:

Appeals of FC's AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of FC's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through FC's review process, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). Appeals of AAP Decision made under Section 6 ([Application for and Approval of Cards](#)) or Section 11 ([Withdrawal of Carding Status](#)) may be pursued through Section 13 of the AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.