



# **2021-2022 SLOPESTYLE / BIG AIR / HALFPIPE NORAM SPOT ALLOCATION CRITERIA**

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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## **1. PREAMBLE**

Each year FIS operates the Continental Cup circuits, the NorAm circuit is the tour which is governed by the FIS NorAm Committee for the USSA and Freestyle Canada amateur athletes. The following rules describe the process in which the Canadian Quotas are allocated to the Freestyle Canadian athletes in our recognized system.

### **1.1. COVID 19 Statement**

Freestyle Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact 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 NorAm Spot Allocation Policy as written.

However, situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this NorAm Spot Allocation Policy to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the 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 NorAm Spot Allocation Policy 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 document 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.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

“HPP” – High Performance Program

“FC” – Freestyle Canada

“FC member” – all FC members and participants, as defined in the by-laws, including but not limited to coaches, officials, athletes (including athletes training at a national team training camp/center and those selected to the high performance program), team

managers and team staff, competition organizers, administrators, volunteers, staff and contractors of FC.

“FIS” - Fédération Internationale de Ski (International Ski Federation)

“OC” – Organizing committee

“NA Selection Committee” – NorAm Selection Committee is the responsible group who selects that athletes to compete in the Nor Am Tour.

### **3. SLOPESTYLE, BIG AIR & HALFPIPE NORAM FIS QUOTA ALLOCATION**

There are 2 types of FIS events that Freestyle Canada receives quotas for; NorAm and USSA Rev Tour. (Not all Rev Tour events are FIS NorAm events.) These events are targeted for Learn & Train to Compete athlete levels. For the 2021-2022 FIS competitive season, Canada will not be recognizing the Rev Tour FIS events for our High-Performance Ranking (HPP) system, only the NorAm events where we receive regular quota.

Each year, Freestyle Canada has the authority from FIS to allocate the NorAm quotas and entries to FIS level events.

#### **3.1. NorAm Selection Committee**

The voting group responsible for selecting athletes and allocating spots for the NorAm circuit is the NorAm Selection Committee is comprised of:

- NextGen Head Coach
- NextGen Assistant Coach
- High Performance Director (tie breaking vote)

**Other people who are part of discussions and help give perspective when voting is needed are:**

- National Team Head Coach
- National Team Technical Coach
- Sport Development Manager

#### **3.2. Principles of allocating the FIS quotas**

The following are guidelines to direct the selection committee in allocating the FIS spots effectively:

- Provide the Learn to Compete & the Train to Compete stage athletes within the Freestyle

Canada athlete development system with these competitive opportunities. These events are a critical step in their competitive skill development.

- Provide the National Team athletes with NorAm competition starts where and when needed to support their ranking in Canada.
- Keep this policy open enough to allow Canadian outliers (skiers not currently in our programs or competitive system) to be allocated a spot, should a certain level of talent be recognized by the selection committee and the situation aligns with Freestyle Canada's mission of winning Olympic and major event medals and this athletes profile;

## **4. ALLOCATION PROCESS**

### **4.1. NorAm & FIS Quota system**

Freestyle Canada receives 15 male and 15 female spots for all USSA NorAm events. These spots are allocated as per the process outlined below. The Sport Development Manager understands that time is of the essence and will pursue the open spots with the Organizing Committee as soon as can be determined.

For the Canadian NorAms, the organizing committee sets the field size for the event as operating times vary by resort and event parameters. There are initial quotas for:

Canada: 15 male & 15 female spots

USA: 15 male & 15 female spots

Foreign, other countries: 20 total – Max of 8 per nation with a max 5 per gender

\*Any open spots can be distributed at the hosting NSO's discretion. For Canadian NorAm, see below in "Process for Allocation" how any open host spots will be allocated.

The process for allocation described below will be applied individually to Slopestyle / Big Air and Halfpipe.

### **4.2. Athletes' eligibility**

- Athletes must have an active FIS License with FIS number.
- Freestyle Canada FIS License, with appropriate insurance if travelling out-of-country
- Meet the FIS age requirement, athlete needs to turn 13 between January 1 2021 &

December 31 2021. See International Competition Rules (ICR), 2014.2

[https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/v1606809244/fis-prod/assets/SBFSFK\\_NEW\\_ICR\\_valid\\_2020-21\\_clean\\_30.11.2020.pdf](https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/v1606809244/fis-prod/assets/SBFSFK_NEW_ICR_valid_2020-21_clean_30.11.2020.pdf)

- Meet the Freestyle Canada Minimum Skill Level
  - Halfpipe
    - Men:
      - Both directions down the pipe 540° or flare.
      - One switch spin 540+
      - Both way ally oop 360°
      - 2 different grabs
    - Women:
      - One direction 360°
      - One direction 540°
      - Both direction ally oop's
      - 2 different grabs
  - SS-BA
    - Men: 2 different ways doubles
    - Women: 3 different ways 540's and one 720

### 4.3. Halfpipe NorAm Spot Allocations

Quota will be allocated as per the following process.

- USA NorAm (Mammoth, Aspen, Copper): Allocations will be done on **January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**STEP 1:** Any Canadians in the top 16 of the current FIS Point Rankings.

**STEP 2:** All other National Team athletes

**STEP 3:** Skill Assessment Selected athletes: the following section describes the skill assessment process for the USA NorAm allocations should there be more athletes eligible that spots available.

- a. PSOs submit their list of athletes to [sabrina@freestylecanada.ski](mailto:sabrina@freestylecanada.ski) before **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. If there are more athletes than spots available, the National team coaches will do the following skill assessment to rank the athletes.
- b. PSO coaches will be asked to submit videos before **December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021:**
  - 2 to 3 videos at normal speed
  - One full run if possible (we understand that this might not be

possible) or connect of skills.

- Best 2 jumps (ideally in a different direction and/or grab)

c. The Selection Committee will use the Skill Assessment Tool to rank and select the athletes.

The following skill assessment tool will provide the parameters to identify potential for NorAm performances. This process is led by our hired National NextGen team coaches who are experienced in the technical needs on the international stage and they will work with the Provincial coaches as needed.

SCALE GUIDE:		
Comparable to current top performers	Consistency	
Not competition ready	1	0-49%
Doing in competition but not quality of top 50% of field	2	50-69%
Doing in competition, top 50% of field	3	70-79%
Finals round quality	4	80-89%
Top 5 quality	5	90-100%

HALFPIPE SKILL ANALYSIS - NorAm spot allocation																	
NAME	Skiing Stance Forward	Skiing Stance Switch	Line	Amplitude	Grabs	Spins Left 360-900 (down the pipe)	Spins Right 360-900 (down the pipe)	Flare Left	Flare Right	Off Axis Left (540-1080)	Off Axis Right (540-1080)	Allyoop Left	Allyoop Right	Switch Spins Left 360-900	Switch Spins Right 360-900	Total score	Athlete rank
EXAMPLE																	



- Canadian NorAm (Calgary & Stoneham): Allocations will be done on **January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**STEP 1:** Any Canadian athletes in the top 16 of the current FIS Point Rankings.  
**STEP 2:** All other National Team athletes  
**STEP 3:** PSOs submit their list of eligible athletes within their province to [sabrina@freestylecanada.ski](mailto:sabrina@freestylecanada.ski) before **January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. Athletes will be accepted according to meeting the MSL (see section 4.2) and as per the maximum field size.

#### 4.4. Slopestyle/Big Air NorAm Spot Allocations

According to the present competition calendar that is 4 NorAm scheduled, but 3 that are back to back. There will be 2 spot allocation blocks.

- BLOCK 1 (Mammoth, Calgary and Aspen): Allocations will be done by **December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021**
- BLOCK 2 (Stoneham): Allocations will be done by **February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

##### **STEP 1:** HPP ATHLETES:

The Freestyle Canada High Performance Program retains the number of spots required for the National Team athletes (which includes NextGen Team). This will be defined in the ranking sheet once World Cup spots have been allocated, timelines will fluctuate, and this include any Canadians in the top 16 of the current FIS Point Rankings.

##### **STEP 2:** ATHLETE RANKINGS:

###### Allocation for Block 1:

1. After the national team athletes received their spot, the remaining spots to get to the quota of 15 will be allocated using the Freestyle Canada Assessment Tool.
2. In the case where more than 15 Canadian athletes are able to enter the event (Canadian NorAm), those remaining spots will be allocated using the discretion of the PSO.

- Freestyle Canada SS/BA Assessment Tool

The following skill assessment tool will provide the parameters to identify potential for NorAm performances. This process is led by our hired National NextGen team coaches who are experienced in the technical

needs on the international stage and they will work with the Provincial coaches as needed.

Coaches will be asked to input videos in a google drive before **December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021:**

Ideally, we would like to have:

- 2 top to bottom SS run (this can be full runs or just sections of a run)
- 3 jumps
- 3 rails
- Video should be at normal speed (no slow motion)
- More videos can be input if you feel that they are relevant

The skill analysis will occur based on the videos provided and the athletes result at the 2021 Yukon Canada Cup will also be taken into consideration to rank the athletes. Once this process is completed, athletes (and alternates) will be selected for the NorAm in block 1.

SCALE GUIDE:		
Comparable to current top performers	Consistency	
Not competition ready	1	0-49%
Doing in competition but not quality of top 50% of field	2	50-69%
Finals round quality	3	70-89%
Top 5 quality	4	90-100%

SLOPESTYLE SKILL ANALYSIS - NorAm spot allocation											
NAME	JUMP DD	QUALITY	RAIL DD	QUALITY	CREATIVITY: line, grabs, innovation, variety, features	QUALITY	CONSISTENCY: % achieving quality-full runs	SCORE	FULL RUN IMPRESSION	TOTAL SCORE	ATHELTE RANK
EXAMPLE	sw-L-dub-14 & L-dub16-belt	3	6on / 1-ski slide w switch up / flip off	2	one & only rail skill, variety in features,	4	85%	3	3	15	
Current NorAm top skills will be entered to compare skill levels											

- PSO Discretionary spot
  - According to the athletes meeting the minimum skill level (see section 4.2), the PSO will send their list of athletes to [sabrina@freestylcanada.ski](mailto:sabrina@freestylcanada.ski) before **December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**.
  - In the case that there are more athletes than spots available, the highest ranked athlete in the current 2021-22 HPP ranking will be selected.

Allocation for Block 2:

The current 2021-22 HPP ranking as of **February 20<sup>th</sup> 2022** will be used to allocate the spots.

**STEP 3: WILD CARD SPOTS:**

The wild cards will only be used for the allocation in Block 2.

- A maximum of two (2) Wild Card per gender will be saved for allocation by the selection committee.
- There are cases where talented athletes may not be ranked within our HPP rankings for many reasons. Some reasons may include missed events due to; extra-ordinary circumstances, injuries, lack of funds to get to events, or potentially significant recent skill acquisition. The Selection Committee recognizes all of these and more factors and will consider athletes who demonstrate a L2C/T2C skill level and would benefit from competing at a Nor-Am level.

Process for selection of Wild Card athletes:

- Coaches send the video to [sabrina@freestylecanada.ski](mailto:sabrina@freestylecanada.ski) before **February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**
  - Videos need to consist MINIMUM of: 3 different jumps, 2 different rail combinations, a full Slopestyle run, everything else is up to the athlete.
  - Videos should be a maximum of 2 minutes
- The NA Selection Committee will review the videos using the Freestyle Canada SS/BA Assessment Tool.
- The Sport Development Manager will inform the athletes and the coaches.

- If the Wild Cards are not used by the deadline, they will be allocated as per Step 2.

#### **STEP 4 : UNUSED SPOTS:**

Any unused spots will be put back into the mix to be allocated as above.

*NOTE: Event organizers will accommodate us as they can with unused spots, we will notify coaches when we have notice.*

**NOTE: PSO Coaches will have 48 hours to confirm any allocated spots.**

For Canadian NorAm, once the registration deadline has happened, Freestyle Canada will allocate any open spots, field size established by the host organizing committee, as per the process above, these are usually last minute 1 day - 2 weeks prior to the event.

#### **4.5. Injury clause**

Since no one competed during the 2020-2021 season, no injury clause will be applied. The athletes that are injured during the current season will be invited to apply for a wild card spot.

#### **5. FIS REV TOUR SPOTS**

The FIS Rev Tour events that are not designated NorAm will not be valued for the Freestyle Canada rankings. For these regular Rev Tour events, Canada only receives 5 spots total, so these are an unfair competitive opportunity given the open registration process.

**The Rev Tour events will not be valued for the HPP rankings for the 2021-2022 season.**

#### **6. UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES (including COVID)**

This policy is intended to apply as drafted and, specifically, where no athletes are prevented from competing because of unforeseen circumstances. Where unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond FC's control do not allow an adequate number of qualifying competitions to take place in a fair manner, the HPP selection committee will meet to consider alternative competition results and/or extend the dates for selection. Any changes, along with the logic for the change, will be communicated to the HPAD advisory group at the earliest time after the decisions are made.