



Canadian Slopestyle and Big Air  
2023-2024 World Cup Spot Allocation  
*Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

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## 1. Introduction

Freestyle Canada (FC) will allocate World Cup (WC) starts to members of our national team programs under the rules and guidelines of the FIS Quota Allocation system. Each year, FC is given a quota for each event which have been earned by our athletes' performance in the previous year. Details on how countries earn these quotas can be found on the FIS website. This document describes the process in which Freestyle Canada will allocate the FC FIS World Cup quota.

## 2. Mission and Philosophy:

### Mission

Freestyle Canada Mission: To develop athletes in a safe and ethical manner, who win medals at the Olympic Winter Games, the FIS World Championships and X-Games.

### Philosophy

OTP reviews recent results from FC athletes and the HP plans then makes a funding recommendation to Sport Canada. Their recommendation considers medal results from FC athletes in the most recent Olympic Winter Games and the evidence that current skiers are trending towards medals in the subsequent Games. While FC would love to provide WC opportunities to all our skiers, quota spots are limited, and we must give priority to those athletes who have the strongest evidence of medal potential for upcoming World Championships and Olympic Winter Games.

## 3. Preamble

Freestyle Canada will:

- Strive to balance opportunities for athletes to improve their ranking.
- Provide a transparent selection process for athletes eligible to ski in the events.
- Consider all National Team athletes, including NextGen, for the 2023-2024 World Cup events under this process.

## 4. HPP SS/BA Selection Committee

Under the authority of the CEO, the Selection Committee is responsible for all team selections and the allocation of quota for competitive opportunities.

The HPP "Slopestyle-Big Air" Committee will consist of:

- Three voting members:

- National Team Lead Coach
- National SS-BA Team Manager / Coach
- National Team Assistant Coach

High Performance Director (Chair) the Chair manages a fair and accurate process.

- Non-voting members with critical input during the process:
  - National Team Strength and Conditioning Coach
  - NextGen SS-BA Head and Assistant Coaches
  - Other team support staff as needed.
  - Sport Science Sport Medicine Director
  - CEO

When relevant the Selection Committee will seek input from content experts, such as but not limited to, the HPP Manager, mental training consultants, strength and conditioning trainers, medical team members or others.

Meetings of the HPP “Slopestyle-Big Air” Committee:

- Meetings may be held for selection, informational or performance planning purposes. The committee will meet frequently through the year after training camps and major competition blocks to discuss athlete performance and progress.
- The committee will meet at pre-established timelines outlined in section 6.3, events selections and in some circumstances.
- The HPD will chair meetings.
- Meetings may be held either:
  - Live:
    - i. in person,
    - ii. using technology (such as phone, web conference, etc.)
  - Non-live: using electronic means such as e-mail to share information and poll on positions.
- For live meetings: in the event one of the three voting members is not available, the Freestyle Canada CEO will appoint an equivalent replacement for that meeting.
- The committee will usually make decisions by consensus however, if a vote is necessary, it will be by majority.
- Selection committee members shall abstain from voting on matters that directly affect members of their immediate families.
- Meetings of the selection committee shall be open to members of the committee and invited guests only.

Documentation / Communication from Meetings of the Selection Committee:

- Notes from the meeting will be kept by HP staff and distributed to members of the committee.

- A summary of the decisions of the committee meetings shall be made available to interested parties on request; divisions will be notified of their availability.
- HPP staff will notify selected athletes in writing of the decisions of the meeting.

## 5. FIS Quotas

Nations receive an earned number of quotas spots for World Cups based on the FIS Base Points list and the World Cup List following FIS World Cup Rules, document found [here](#).

- *Basic Nation Quota: 1 woman / 1 man, per discipline*
- *Elite Nation Quota: Top 8 women / 10 men earned through the previous season's FIS World Cup list*
  - *An updated list will be used half-way through the year,*
    - *current [FIS points](#) and*
    - *current [World Cup List](#)*
- *Additional Nation Quota: (based on last year's Final FIS rankings)*
  - 1 additional spot with 2 competitors ranked between 1-20th women or 1-25th men.
  - 2 additional spots with 3 or more competitors ranked between 1-20th women or 1-25th men.

(The count for additional nation quotas spots will exclude the names of competitors who earned elite spots from the World Cup ranking).
- *Host Nation Quota: 3 women / 5 men*
- *Personal Spot Continental Cups (5) 1 woman / 1 man per Continental Cup\**
- *Personal Spot World Cup Overall Winner 1 woman / 1 man per discipline\**
- *Personal Spot World Jr Champion 1 Man / 1 Woman per discipline\**
- *Additional Spots: Allocated as open spots allow with filed size caps for each discipline. Decided 38 days prior to 1<sup>st</sup> day of training.*
- *"Personal spots" are only available to the individual who earned the spot. If that athlete does not participate, the spot will be returned to the "FIS additional spot" pool.*

Freestyle Canada has been allocated the following quota up to a maximum team size of ten plus personal spots:

<b><u>CANADIAN FIS QUOTA 2023-2024</u></b>				
<b>SLOPESTYLE</b>			<b>BIG AIR</b>	
<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>MEN</b>		<b>WOMEN</b>	<b>MEN</b>
3	5		3	3

In addition to the above FIS Nations Quota, Canada will also receive:

- FIS Additional Quota, this will be determined by the current FIS Points list updated throughout the year under the World Cup Rule process.
- One Personal FIS Spots from the 2022-2023 NorAm season,
  - Jeremy Gagne: Slopestyle / Big Air NorAm Champion, receives a FIS Personal spot for both Slopestyle and Big Air

- TBC: Jr World Championship Personal Spot still to be determined by September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## 6. FC World Cup Spot Allocations

### 6.1 Eligibility:

All athletes must:

- Sign the FIS Declaration stating compliance with all FIS rules of competition for the current season.  
remain in good standing with Freestyle Canada
- meet the below event specific benchmarks and /or expectations.

### 6.2 Performance Considerations:

The following guidelines are discussed by the committee when determining the overall performance ability competitive readiness of the eligible individuals during each selection period:

- Major Event Eligibility: For Olympic Winter Games and sometimes World Championships there will be specific criteria for current ranked and eligible athletes to attain, these specific situations will take priority in the initial spots allocated.
- HPP Rankings (Appendix 1): the HPP rankings are used to determine the group of athletes who are to be considered for selection based on competitive readiness: it provides one perspective for podium potential.
  - When there is a relatively narrow point spread between two athletes, there is greater chance of “out of order” selection.
  - Exceptional Circumstances are described in section 7.
  - Any competition anomalies are acknowledged and discussed if they affect the ranking order.
- Individual’s Performance Plan (IPP) will be considered to determine if the ranking is a true picture of podium and performance potential. In some stages of development an athlete may focus on training and not perform as well at competition to target major events or achieve a certain competitive skill for long term success. Any weaker information / data in this process will not be considered a true indication of peak performance.
- 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.
- Fitness: An athlete fitness levels may be considered (measurable in regular fitness assessments)

- 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 when skill set is close between them.
- 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 World Cup Team based on Extraordinary Circumstance clause.
- Current season podium and top 12 placings are emphasised.

### 6.3 World Cup Selection Timelines:

The following dates are in accordance with the FIS World Cup Entry final deadlines and are also strategically planned around competitive and training blocks through the competitive season:

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. September 12 <sup>th</sup> : | Chur BA, Stubai SS, Beijing BA, Copper BA |
| 2. December 19 <sup>th</sup> :  | France SS, Laax SS, Mammoth SS            |
| 3. February 6 <sup>th</sup> :   | Tignes SS, Silvaplana SS                  |

### 6.4 2022-23 Athlete Selection Process:

Athletes will be selected to World Cup events based on the following process:

1. Current HPP Rankings (calculation process outlined in Appendix 1): this ranking is used to determine the pool of eligible athletes. It also provides information to the committee to analyse current overall competitive results to aid in World Cup spot allocations. Rankings for spot allocations include the HPP ranking and are combined with the World Cup spot skill assessment analysis, detailed in step 2 below. The Current HPP Rankings are a combination of:
  - 2022-2023 Final HPP Ranking: The calculation of all the HPP athletes 3 best point values from the 2022-23 FIS Competitive season This is used as the base of the Current HPP Rankings.
  - The Current HPP Ranking: The current season Tier 1 events are added to the previous season Final HPP Ranking (above) and updated after each event is completed. This creates a current HPP Ranking for consideration of World Cup spot selections. This is to ensure we are using current results in our competitive analysis,
2. World Cup spot allocation skill analysis: The following skill assessment tool will provide the parameters to identify potential for World Cup and major event podium and World Cup Final performances. This process is executed by our professional and experienced technical

coaches who gain their past and current knowledge from training activities and competitions at the international level. The skill analysis will happen prior to each selection timeline listed in section 6.3. The analysis will occur, and athletes will be ranked. Once the skill analysis ranking is complete, athletes will be selected to World Cups as per the selection timelines.



SCALE GUIDE:		
Comparable to current top performers		Consistency: completing skills
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 - WC 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	ATHLETE 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 WC top skills will be entered to compare											

BIG AIR SKILL ANALYSIS - WC Spot allocation											
NAME	JUMP 1 DD	QUALITY	JUMP 2 DD	QUALITY	CREATIVITY: style, grabs, height?	QUALITY	CONSISTENCY: % achieving quality jumps	SCORE	OVERALL IMPRESSION	TOTAL SCORE	ATHLETE RANK
EXAMPLE	R-trip16-2xocto	3	sw-L-dub-14 Buick grab	2		3	85%	3	4	15	
Current WC top skills will be entered to compare											

Freestyle Canada is not required to fill all available FIS World Cup quota spots. If additional spots are available and Freestyle Canada chooses to fill them, they may be allocated to eligible FC-HPP athletes.

An athlete who was previously allocated competitive opportunities and is not achieving their benchmarks or performance standards may be withdrawn by the Committee. A decision to withdraw an opportunity will never be taken lightly and all the performance considerations will be discussed as well as all decisions will be documented in the meetings of the selection committee.

## 7. Exceptional Circumstances for WC Spot Allocations:

Injuries in 2022-2023 FIS competitive season:

Should an eligible National Team athlete be injured for two or more events in the 2022-23 season, the selection committee will discuss the Performance Considerations in section 6.2 to determine the athlete's readiness for future competitions in the 2023-2024 season.

2022-2023 Final HPP Rankings: The following process was followed to use past results for athlete with athletes who fit the Exceptional Circumstances clause in the 2022-2023 FIS competitive season:

An athlete who is progressing in their career but has a setback due to an injury, a death in the family or similar life experience could be afforded additional flexibility when it comes to HPP Slopestyle / Big Air Rankings, these situations are referred to as "Exceptional Circumstances".

<b>If during the current season, an athlete has missed the following number of starts due to Exceptional Circumstances:</b>	<b>Then the athlete may use up to the following from the previous season:</b>
Entire Season	Selection period will be extended backwards to a maximum of one full FIS season.  The athlete's top 3 placing point values will be taken from the previous year and entered the current year's HPP Rankings to be considered for selections.
Partial season missed, minimum 2 starts	Considered events will be taken from the individual's injured period and extended backwards to a maximum of one FIS competitive season. Events considered will be the same number and level of events missed.  Example: if an athlete was injured during the period of January 5 <sup>th</sup> to March 30 <sup>th</sup> in the current season and

	missed two Tier 1 boosted events, FC staff will go back and select the athlete's best two Tier 1 boosted events within January 5 <sup>th</sup> – March 30 <sup>th</sup> from the previous season.
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1. The selection committee has the discretion to use the Exceptional Circumstance clause for special cases. This is more likely for athletes with a significant body of recent WC results (medals, top 6, or top 16 at major games or X-Games). This may include expanding the backwards extension of the selection period, or other adjustments to meet the special case.
2. Any injury must be evaluated and validated by a FC medical staff member. 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.
3. The 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.
4. 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:
  - Any such determination shall be made collectively by the athlete, the athlete's personal physician, the Freestyle Canada HPD, and FC's Chief Medical Officer.
  - The athlete shall remain a member of the High-Performance Program and shall purchase a FC membership and an International Competitor's License which is part of their team fee.
  - The athlete shall remain eligible for HPP clothing and other supplier pool goods, shall continue to be promoted in the FC Media Guide, and shall continue to be eligible for Sport Canada carding and Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Sport Institute Network (COPSIN) services until financial support is depleted.
  - A rehabilitation program for the athlete shall be developed jointly, by the athlete and the FC. The rehabilitation program shall be monitored by the FC 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.
  - 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.

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

## 8. General

Issues not otherwise covered by this document are subject to the decision of the Chief Executive Officer of FC, in consultation with the Selection Committee.

## 9. Appeal and Hearing Process

Freestyle Canada is bound by the mandate of our organization, and in some cases our performance partners; every attempt is made to make decisions that are in line with those parameters. If an athlete feels a decision was incorrect, they may launch an appeal.

The purpose of an appeal is to correct any missing or incorrect information or correct any procedures that were not properly followed by the Selection Committee or HPP staff. Appeals must be conducted in accordance with the Appeal Policy established by the FC. Policy can be found on [www.freestylecanada.ski](http://www.freestylecanada.ski)

## Appendix 1 – Calculation of Slopestyle / Big Air HPP Rankings

Point Values are determined from the final placing an athlete receives in a recognized competition. All competitions are factored based on the Tier and Value – please see Appendix 2 for a sample Points Value Table.

The sum of 3 best point values, within the selection period, will be calculated using one of the following combinations:

Group	Combination of Results
World Cup Team	The sum of each athlete's three best Point Values will be considered using one of the following four options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• one from Slopestyle and two from Big Air</li><li>• two from Slopestyle and one from Big Air</li><li>• three from Slopestyle</li><li>• three from Big Air (max 2 spots per gender for team selections)</li></ul>
NextGen Team	The sum of each athlete's three best Point Values will be considered (using one of the following three options): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• one from Slopestyle and two from Big Air</li><li>• two from Slopestyle and one from Big Air</li><li>• three from Slopestyle</li></ul> *a NG Athlete must use a combination of Slopestyle and Big Air results – they cannot only use Big Air results

Eligible events and placing values are categorized in three different tiers as described below.

## Identifying & valuing the rating of events:

COMPONENT	DETAILS
<b>ESTABLISHING THE HPP TIER (based on the level of the event):</b>	
TIER 1	FIS World Cups and Major Events / Identified independent events
TIER 2	FIS NorAms and identified Independent
TIER 3	Canada Cup and identified Independent events
<b>VALUE OF THE TIERS</b>	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boosted: + 15 &amp; +7.5 or</li> <li>• Neutral or</li> <li>• Diminished -7.5, &amp; -15</li> </ul>
<b>PLACING VALUES</b>	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 an "R-Value" for each Tier which is the rate of diminishing value for each placing, and it is relative to the value and tier of the event. Please see Appendix 2.
<b>ESTABLISHING EVENT VALUES</b>	All 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 Notes:**

- Event values will be established after the event is complete to ensure accurate values are used for final rankings
- Values of events can be changed throughout the season. This would be done 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 recognized for ranking or selection purposes up to two weeks prior to the first training day
- Within two weeks after completion, an event will be valued and may be shifted into a different tier to accurately value the event.
- Value of events are determined as follows:
  - 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 of that event.

## Appendix 2 – Placing Value Charts

Samples (Truncated for readability, partial chart shown to give concept of placing values)

### Women

Tier 1: WC and Similar					Tier 2: FIS NORAM, Gold AFP, etc					Tier 3: Canada Cup, Silver AFP, etc					
ADJUSTMENT		EVENT VALUE			ADJUSTMENT		EVENT VALUE			ADJUSTMENT		EVENT VALUE			
+15		1000			+15		776			+15		575			
+7.5		968			+7.5		726			+7.5		538			
Bench		900			Bench		675			Bench		500			
-7.5		833			-7.5		624			-7.5		463			
-15		765			-15		574			-15		425			
R Value		0.020			R Value		0.020			R Value		0.020			
+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	Test Place
Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	
1000	968	900	833	765	776	726	675	624	574	575	538	500	463	425	1
980	948	882	816	750	761	711	662	612	562	564	527	490	453	417	2
960	929	864	800	735	746	697	648	600	551	552	516	480	444	408	3
941	911	847	784	720	731	683	635	588	540	541	506	471	435	400	4
922	892	830	768	706	716	669	623	576	529	530	496	461	427	392	5
904	875	814	753	691	702	656	610	564	519	520	486	452	418	384	6
886	857	797	737	678	688	643	598	553	508	509	476	443	410	376	7
868	840	781	723	664	674	630	586	542	498	499	467	434	402	369	8
851	823	766	708	651	660	617	574	531	488	489	457	425	393	362	9
834	807	750	694	638	647	605	563	521	478	479	448	417	386	354	10
817	791	735	680	625	634	593	552	510	469	470	439	409	378	347	11
801	775	721	667	613	622	581	540	500	459	460	430	400	370	340	12
785	759	706	653	600	609	569	530	490	450	451	422	392	363	334	13
769	744	692	640	588	597	558	519	480	441	442	413	385	356	327	14
754	729	678	627	577	585	547	509	471	432	433	405	377	349	320	15
739	715	665	615	565	573	536	499	461	424	425	397	369	342	314	16
724	700	651	603	554	562	525	489	452	415	416	389	362	335	308	17
709	686	638	591	543	551	515	479	443	407	408	381	355	328	301	18
695	673	626	579	532	540	504	469	434	399	400	374	348	322	295	19
681	659	613	567	521	529	494	460	425	391	392	366	341	315	290	20

### Men

Tier 1: WC and Similar					Tier 2: FIS NORAM, Gold AFP, etc					Tier 3: Canada Cup, Silver AFP, etc					
Slide Value		Event Value			Slide Value		Event Value			Slide Value		Event Value			
+15		1000			+15		776			+15		575			
+7.5		968			+7.5		726			+7.5		538			
Bench		900			Bench		675			Bench		500			
-7.5		833			-7.5		624			-7.5		463			
-15		765			-15		574			-15		425			
R Value		0.010			R Value		0.015			R Value		0.025			
+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	Contest Placing
Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	Points	
1000	968	900	833	765	776	726	675	624	574	575	538	500	463	425	1
990	958	891	824	757	765	715	665	615	565	561	524	488	451	414	2
980	948	882	816	750	753	704	655	606	557	547	511	475	440	404	3
970	939	873	808	742	742	693	645	597	548	533	498	463	429	394	4
961	929	865	800	735	731	683	635	588	540	520	486	452	418	384	5
951	920	856	792	728	720	673	626	579	532	507	474	441	408	374	6
941	911	847	784	720	709	663	616	570	524	494	462	430	397	365	7
932	902	839	776	713	698	653	607	562	516	482	450	419	387	356	8
923	893	830	768	706	688	643	598	553	508	470	439	408	378	347	9
914	884	822	761	699	678	633	589	545	501	458	428	398	368	338	10
904	875	814	753	692	667	624	580	537	493	446	417	388	359	330	11
895	866	806	745	685	657	614	572	529	486	435	407	378	350	322	12
886	858	798	738	678	647	605	563	521	479	424	397	369	341	314	13
878	849	790	731	671	638	596	555	513	471	414	387	360	333	306	14
869	841	782	723	665	628	587	546	505	464	403	377	351	324	298	15
860	832	774	716	658	619	578	538	498	457	393	368	342	316	291	16
851	824	766	709	651	610	570	530	490	451	383	358	333	308	283	17
843	816	759	702	645	600	561	522	483	444	374	350	325	301	276	18
835	807	751	695	638	591	553	514	476	437	365	341	317	293	269	19
826	799	744	688	632	582	545	507	469	431	355	332	309	286	263	20