



# **2023-2024 SLOPESTYLE / BIG AIR / HALFPIPE NORAM SPOT ALLOCATION CRITERIA**

November 9, 2023

**TABLE OF CONTENT**

**TABLE OF CONTENT..... 2**

**1. PREAMBLE..... 3**

**2. DEFINITIONS..... 3**

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

**3.1. NorAm Selection Committee.....3**

**3.2. Principles of allocating the FIS quotas..... 4**

**4. ALLOCATION PROCESS..... 4**

**4.1. NorAm & FIS Quota system.....4**

**4.2. Athletes’ eligibility..... 5**

**4.3. Halfpipe NorAm Spot Allocations..... 5**

**4.4. Slopestyle/Big Air NorAm Spot Allocations..... 6**

**4.5. Injury clause..... 9**

**5. FIS REV TOUR SPOTS..... 9**

**6. UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES..... 9**

## 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.

## 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 Train to Compete athlete levels. For the 2023-2024 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
- Athlete Development Director

### **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 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 athlete's 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. Freestyle Canada's Events & Officials Coordinator 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.

FIS Continental Cup rules:

[https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/fis-prod/assets/CoC\\_Rules\\_SB\\_FS\\_FK\\_2023\\_24\\_clean.pdf](https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/fis-prod/assets/CoC_Rules_SB_FS_FK_2023_24_clean.pdf)

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. See International Competition Rules (ICR), 2014.2:

[https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/fis-prod/assets/SBFSFK\\_NEW\\_ICR\\_spring\\_2023\\_clean.pdf](https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/fis-prod/assets/SBFSFK_NEW_ICR_spring_2023_clean.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 for all HP Nor-Am events will be allocated as per the following process.

- Allocations will be done by **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**
  - STEP 1:** Confirm spots for National Team athletes
  - STEP 2:** If there are remaining spots, the 22-23 HPP Rankings will be used.

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

According to the present competition calendar, there are 6 NorAm events scheduled for the 23-2024 season. FC will allocate the spots over 2 separate blocks:

- BLOCK 1 (Copper, Mammoth, Winsport): Allocations of 13 gender spots will be done by **December 8<sup>th</sup> 2023** and Wild card spots (2 per gender) will be confirmed **by December 21<sup>st</sup> 2023**.
- BLOCK 2 (Horseshoe, Aspen, and Stoneham): All spot allocations will be done by **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**

##### Block #1:

**STEP 1:** Confirm National Team Athletes:

The Freestyle Canada High Performance Program retains the number of spots required for the National Team athletes (which includes NextGen Team).

**STEP 2:** Next ranked athletes from the 22-23 HPP Rankings (including the 23-24 Yukon Canada Cup event). PSOs must confirm the spot by December 8<sup>th</sup> 2023. If a spot is declined, FC will select the following athlete in the latest 22-23 HPP rankings.

**STEP 3:** Wild Card spots:

Two (2) spots per gender will be allocated based on a skill assessment. The following skill assessment tool will provide the parameters to identify potential for NorAm performances. This process is led by our 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.

PSOs will be asked to input videos in a google drive by **December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023:**

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)

The skill analysis will occur based on the videos provided. Once this process is completed, athletes (and alternates) will be selected for the NorAms in block 1.



**SCALE GUIDE:**

[https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/fis-prod/assets/SBFSFK\\_NEW\\_ICR\\_spring\\_2023\\_clean.pdf](https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/fis-prod/assets/SBFSFK_NEW_ICR_spring_2023_clean.pdf)

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												
ATHLETE RANK	NAME	JUMP DD	QUALITY	JUMP DD	QUALITY	OVERALL RAILS: variety of skills, DD, creativity, variety of combinations, versatility for different features, <i>in the moment skill strategy</i>	QUALITY	CREATIVITY: line, grabs, innovation, variety, features	QUALITY	CONSISTENCY SCORE: % achieving quality full runs	FULL RUN IMPRESSION	TOTAL SCORE
1	ATHLETE 1	Lf Dub 16 Japan	4	Sw Rt 14 Mute	4	demonstrates dd that can win	3	Has stand out style, unique choice of axis's	4	4	4	23
BIG AIR SKILL ANALYSIS												
ATHLETE RANK	NAME	JUMP 1 DD	QUALITY	JUMP 2 DD	QUALITY	CREATIVITY: style, grabs, <i>in the moment skill strategy</i>	QUALITY	CONSISTENCY: Execution, % achieving quality jumps	OVERALL IMPRESSION	TOTAL SCORE		
1	ATHLETE 1	Sw Lf 18 Mute	4	Lf Trip 16 Jap	3	1 trick no one else does	4	4	4	19		

## **Allocation for Block 2 (Horseshoe, Aspen and Stoneham):**

### **STEP 1:** Confirm National Team Athletes:

The Freestyle Canada High Performance Program retains the number of spots required for the National Team athletes (which includes NextGen Team).

**STEP 2:** Next ranked athletes from the current HPP Rankings (using 2 best 2023-24 results to date). PSOs must confirm the spot by February 13<sup>th</sup> 2023. If spots are declined, FC will select the following athletes in the rankings.

### **STEP 3:** Wild Card spots:

Two (2) spots per gender will be allocated based on a skill assessment. The following skill assessment tool will provide the parameters to identify potential for NorAm performances. This process is led by our 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.

PSOs will be asked to input videos in a google drive by **February 15<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

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

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

For all Canadian NorAms, once the registration deadline has passed for foreign athletes, Freestyle Canada will allocate any open spots, field size established by the host organizing committee, using HPP rankings (i.e. 22-23 For block #1 and current HPP rankings to date for block #2). These spots are usually allocated last minute (1 -2 weeks

prior to the event).

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

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 2023-2024 season.**

### **6. UNFORSEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

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.