



## 2025 - 2026 National Halfpipe Team Selection Criteria

January 12, 2025

## 1. Preamble and Introduction:

This document explains how Freestyle Canada (FC) selects athletes for the 2025-2026 National Halfpipe program. FC's High Performance Program (HPP) focuses on preparing athletes to achieve podium results at the Olympic Winter Games and FIS World Championships.

FC's high-performance staff will assist athletes by providing:

- Personal assessment that will feed a plan to identify each athlete's strengths and areas for improvement.
- Competitive experience on the international stage to refine technical, tactical and psychological skills and strategies.

## 2. Definitions and Roles

	<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Role</b>
Freestyle Canada	FC	Governing body for Freestyle skiing in Canada
Chief Executive Officer	CEO	Top staff member of FC; answerable to the Board of Directors
High Performance Program / High Performance Director	HPP / HPD	Performance stream within FC and the Director
FC Leadership Team		Includes FC's CEO, COO, Director of Sport Science, Sport Medicine and Innovation, High Performance (HP) Director, and HP Manager.
Long-Term Athlete Development	LTAD	Pathway for development of freestyle skiers from grass roots through sport for life
Health Curtailment		A health status or situation approved by the FC Medical team that causes an athlete to miss training or competitive opportunities.
International Ski Federation	FIS	Governing body for Freestyle skiing internationally
FIS World Cup, NorAm	WC, NorAm	FIS competition series
NextGen	NG	Athletes showing evidence of medal potential for the subsequent Olympic Winter Games (up to 7 years ahead)
Sport Science, Sport Medicine, and Innovation	SSSMI / IST	Category of performance services for medical, paramedical, and applied research aimed at enhancing athlete performance
Own the Podium	OTP	Technical agency who makes recommendations to Sport Canada on the funding for all Canadian sports
HP Ranking		A score calculated for each athlete by summing the Placing Value points from their top three results within a rolling 12-month period.
Placing Value		The point value assigned to an athlete's final placement in a competition, determined by the event's tier and value.
Event Value		A reduction in score could be applied to an event if there is a low level of competitors or a poorly constructed site with substandard features. See Appendix 1.
Event Tier		The designated level of competition – see Section 6 and Appendix 1

### 3. Selection Authority and HP Committee Responsibilities

The High Performance Committee (HPC) oversees team selection and ensures alignment with FC's goals. The committee also allocates competitive opportunities and advises the HP Director.

Voting members include the:

- WC Head Coach,
- NextGen Head Coach and,
- HP Director (chair, tie-breaking vote).

Non-voting members may include other national Halfpipe program coaches, FC's CEO, and other FC staff members. The HPC may seek input from other IST members. Meetings are open to committee members and invited experts only. Members abstain from votes impacting their immediate family members.

Team selection details are described in this document; FIS World Cup spot allocations and selection for major events (examples: Olympic Winter Games and World Championships) will be published in separate documents aligned with each event's specific timelines and selection requirements.

### 4. Selection Process

The 2025-26 Team selection qualification period includes eligible events held between July 1, 2024, and April 15, 2025.

1. The HPC reviews athlete performance and rankings by May 15 each year.
2. Athletes are nominated to tiers (Podium, A, B, NextGen); these nominations are provided to the HP Leadership team for final review.
3. Sensitive decisions (e.g., non-selection) will be communicated directly by the athlete's coach.
4. Nominated athletes have 10 days to accept or decline.

Athletes eligible for consideration due to exceptional circumstance will be evaluated.

### 5. Selection Eligibility

OTP provides support under two programs:

1. Enhanced Excellence (World Cup): for athletes on track to medal at the next Olympic Winter Games.
2. NextGen: for athletes projected to medal within eight years.

To be eligible for selection to the 2025 - 2026 National Halfpipe Team program, an athlete needs to meet the following eligibility criteria. An athlete must:

- be a FC member and be current with their personal FC financial account.
- hold a Canadian passport.
- show an upward sport-specific performance trajectory.
- meet FIS age requirement for FIS World Cup competition.
- if requested by FC, agree to be subject to any proceedings taken under the UCCMS, including, without limitation, signing a UCCMS Participant consent form and accepting the jurisdiction of the Office of the Sport Integrity Commissioner/Abuse-Free Sport.
- Returning HP team member’s compliance with the previous year’s training programs and camps may be considered. Non-compliance or lack of commitment to an approved training plan, without an approved release, may result in provisional or conditional selection, or non-selection.

## 6. HPP Halfpipe Ranking

Athletes are ranked based on a sum of their three top ranking points received from eligible competitions. Rankings feed selections which consider event quotas, budgets, and long-term performance goals. Non-HPP athletes must compete in three eligible events to be ranked. Athletes are expected to progress throughout the program, with ranking adjusted for injuries and special circumstances.

The High Performance Director coordinates the HPP Halfpipe Rankings related to the selection of the National and NextGen teams, which are presented to the HPC. HP coaches report on each athlete’s skill level and overall progression and commitment over the season.

Athletes will be nominated for selection to the HPP by the HPC. The FC Leadership Team will review the nominations and discuss any concerns with the HPC. Once satisfied with the nominations, the leadership team will ratify them and release staff to contact the athletes with the offer to join (or rejoin) the program.

Athletes aiming for selection to the 2025-26 High Performance Halfpipe Program are encouraged to compete in the FIS Canadian Championships.

**Score Anomalies** - In some circumstances, there are three to four competitive, qualifying events on the same course within a short period of time, often with the same panel of judges. Circumstances such as these can skew rankings (positively or negatively). Scenarios such as these will be reviewed by the HPC and may warrant out of order selections.

### 2024-2025 Halfpipe Competitions that will be used for Ranking Calculations.

Tier 1 Level:	Independent Tier 1:	Tier 2 Level	Tier 3 Level
World Cup	X-Games (Aspen)	NorAm	Canada Cup Events
FIS World Ski Championships		FIS Junior World Ski Championships	
Olympic Winter Games		FIS Canadian Championships	

## 7. National Team Tiering and Standards

Athletes will be selected to the national Halfpipe team in tiers.

World Cup Team Tiers:

- **Podium:**
  - **Criteria:** Three Tier 1 or Independent Tier 1 level event podium finishes in the 2024-2025 season.
  - **Benefits:** Priority entry into World Cup (WC) events and the highest level of FC funding support.
- **A:**
  - **Criteria:** One Tier 1 or Independent Tier 1 level event podium or two top five Tier 1 or Independent Tier 1 level event results in the 2024-2025 season:
  - **Benefits:** Priority entry into WC events and a high level of FC funding.
- **B:**
  - **Criteria:**
    - In 2024-2025 FIS Tier 1 level events.
      - Men: 2 - top 10 Halfpipe
      - Women: 2 - top 8 Halfpipe
    - One of the above two events can be replaced by a top 50% of the field at the Aspen X-Games (Independent Tier 1 Event).
    - Must be ranked in the top 5 by gender and requires two top placings:
  - **Benefits:** Next priority entry into WC events and enhanced FC funding compared to NextGen athletes.

Podium, A & B athletes are expected to be on track to win a major event within four years.

The formation of the team is contingent on resource availability. The HPC may add athletes as discretionary spots or otherwise adjust the team sizes by tier based on skills and circumstances. Levels of funding will be communicated in the summer of 2025, after the OTP/Government of Canada application process and announcements.

- **Next\_Gen Team (NextGen):**
  - The NextGen team is for athletes showing medal potential within eight years.
    - For 2025-2026, selection is based primarily on the HPP Halfpipe Ranking list, but the HPC may consider factors like return from injury or exceptional skills.
    - For 2026-2027, selections are moving towards alignment with the Athlete Development Pathway and the FC published Gold Medal Profile (GMP). The HPC is formulating a selection model that combines a minimum level of competitive performance and a detailed physical and technical skill assessments.
  - The NG team size will be determined after the World Cup team athletes are identified.
  - The HPC may select athletes out of ranking order base on skills and/or injury status.
  - Skill assessment can occur throughout the season by any of our national

program coaches. Skills will be assessed based on the FC GMP.

- The HPC may decide to reduce the team size at the point where a large drop in points occurs between athletes on the ranking list.

NextGen athletes are expected to progress to the World Cup team within four years of being first named to the team. Athletes not showing appropriate progression in performance or skill level may not be offered a renewal of their NextGen position.

**Conditional Nomination Status\*:**

- A nominated athlete may be offered a spot on the team on a conditional basis, pending assessment by FC's medical team to ensure they have no underlying injuries or physical limitations that could affect their training or performance.
- Newly selected athletes will remain provisional until their performance, compliance, and integration are reviewed during their first training camp.

**Provisional Nomination by the HPC:**

- The HPC may provisionally nominate athletes to the NextGen group. These athletes have met the minimum skill standards but have not yet demonstrated all the technical and athletic traits outlined in FC's Gold Medal Profile framework.
- Provisionally nominated athletes will be given the opportunity to train with the group, with their full selection status to be reviewed following the first training block.
- Provisional athletes must meet their assigned individual benchmarks by October 15 each year to retain their position in the NextGen group.

\*Conditional Status is intended for skiers moving into the HP Program for the first time; skiers returning to the program have history with the FC IST staff.

**Future Talent Identification**

Provincial level athletes who have demonstrated strong skill development and are trending towards NextGen qualification may be invited to a select training opportunity or skill evaluation session that allows the national team coaching staff to work directly with the athlete to evaluate development potential. These opportunities will allow the coaches to better assess specific skills, and overall aptitude for longer term HP prospective while providing direct feedback on expectations to the athlete.

## 8. Exceptional Circumstances and Special Ranking Considerations

**Exceptional Circumstances**

The HPC may consider exceptional circumstances to adjust athlete rankings for team selections. These adjustments ensure fairness and alignment with program goals. Decisions will be documented and approved by FC leadership.

### **Special Ranking Considerations**

- Athletes may be selected out of rank order for exceptional reasons, including:
  - Demonstrated exceptional skill performance or physical capability.
  - Outstanding work ethic or progression.
- Any deviations from standard rankings must align with program objectives and be justified in writing.

### **Health or Family-Related Issues**

- Athletes experiencing health-related curtailments or family emergencies may qualify for ranking adjustments if:
  - The situation is documented and approved by FC leadership.
  - The athlete is a current member of the High-Performance Program (HPP).

Non-HPP (PSO) athletes are not eligible to use this clause.

- Previous season results may substitute for missed competitions if:
  - The missed events were due to approved health or family circumstances.
  - The athlete did not voluntarily miss the competition without prior approval.

### **Health Curtailment Clause**

- Athletes with documented injuries may:
  - Have their HP Ranking calculated using select results from equivalent previous-season events to meet ranking requirements.
  - Replace up to five missed starts with prior results, depending on the event tier.
- Health assessments must be validated by FC medical staff to confirm injury severity and recovery timeline.
- Athletes cannot invoke this clause for voluntarily missed events without prior FC approval.

### **Additional Provisions**

- The HPC may extend the selection period backward or make other adjustments for athletes with a significant body of recent high-level results (e.g., World Cup podiums, top 6 or qualifying for final round finishes at major events).
- The HPC, with medical expert input, may restrict an athlete's participation in events if their rehabilitation pace warrants it.

### **Documentation and Evaluation**

- All exceptional circumstances must be clearly documented.
- Medical and performance evaluations will guide decisions to ensure fairness and transparency.

### **Application of Missed Events**

FC calculates the HP Ranking score for each athlete based on five "starts" during the competition season. If an athlete is unable to complete five starts due to a health curtailment (injury), the calculation may use results from the previous season to meet the five-start requirement. This applies only in cases of injury and not for athletes who voluntarily miss events or were not selected.

- When eligible for a Health Curtailment calculation, the most recent event(s) of the same value from the previous season will be counted to meet the five-start requirement.  
Examples:
  1. If the athlete missed a Tier 2 event, the most recent Tier 2 or higher event from the previous season would be used.

2. If the athlete missed a Tier 1 event, the equivalent Tier 1 event from the previous season would be used.

If an athlete has five starts in the current season, only those results will be used for the HP Ranking calculation. An athlete cannot opt out of an event and invoke this clause without prior medical and FC approval.

## 9. Injured Athlete Carryover from Previous Season

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 FC HPD, and FC's Chief Physician.
- The athlete shall remain a member of the High-Performance Program and shall purchase a FC membership and an International Competitor's License.
- The athlete shall remain eligible for any available HPP clothing and other supplier pool goods, shall continue to be promoted through FC Media activities, and shall continue to be eligible for Sport Canada carding and Canadian Olympic and Paralympic Sport Institute Network (COPSIN) services.
- 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, dependent 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.

## 10. Appeal and Hearing Process

Athletes may appeal through the FC Appeal Policy if they believe an error occurred in applying these criteria. If an athlete feels an error was made in the application of this criteria, they should immediately contact their HPP Director. If the situation is not resolved through this discussion an athlete may file an appeal through the regular Freestyle Canada process ([Appeal Policy](#)).



## Appendix 1: Calculation of the Halfpipe Ranking

Each athlete in the Freestyle Canada High Performance system is ranked based the point values he or she receives from results achieved in competitions.

The sum of an athletes three best point values from halfpipe competitions, between July 1, 2024, and April 15, 2025, determines an athlete's rank value. The points available from each competition are based on the Event Tier and the Event Value.

**Event Tier:** Each level of competition correlates to a different Tier value. Tiers have identified values for each placing; each tier has an R value that creates a diminishing point value for each placing, from first to last place. Events are tiered based on their level:

- Tier 1: FIS World Cups, FIS World Championships and Olympic Winter Games
- Tier 1 – Independent: Aspen X-Games only for 2025-26.
- Tier 2: FIS NorAms and identified independent events
- Tier 3: Canada Cups (excluding Jr Nationals) and identified independent events

**Event Value:** Halfpipe, Slopestyle and Big Air events can be “neutral” (standard) or “depreciated”; The points available in each competition are referred to as the “Event Value”.

- **Neutral** or Standard Value Events are those that meet the standards set out by the FIS. It is expected that all WC events meet these standards and will receive 100% of the calculation in the HP Ranking.
- **Depreciated Value Events** are those that do not meet FIS standards or can be seen as “not up to par”. Results from Depreciated Value Events provide athletes reduced HP Ranking points in each tier.  
Depreciated Value Events can be reduced by either 7.5% or 15% based on a variety of factors including:
  - Venue: Quality of course/pipe/transition/jump; course feature/layout/flow.
  - Event Format: # of runs within a heat/phase; counting runs – leading to the possibility for an easier win.
  - Field Caliber: presence of top skiers, number of countries, size of field, etc.
  - Weather Conditions: delays, lower level skills being performed due to limiting conditions.
- Value of events are determined by:
  - Tier 1 and Independent Tier 1: The Halfpipe HPC will determine the value of these events.
  - Tier 2 and 3: The HPAD advisory group will value the Tier 2 and 3 events.
- Event values will usually be established before the event start to ensure an unbiased determination is made of the quality and value of the event.

The HPC may determine that an event will not be recognized for ranking or selection purposes up to two weeks prior to the first training day if the event had depreciated greater than 15%.

### Placings Eligible for Ranking Use

For Tiers 1, 2 and 3, counting results must be in the top 2/3 of the competition field including DSQ and DNF skiers but not DNS: international (non-Canadian) athletes on the event's final result sheet will be included in all field size calculations. For Tier 1 Independent events, counting results must be in the top 50% of the competition field (to a maximum of: men 25<sup>th</sup>, women 20<sup>th</sup>). A competition is defined as a FIS event with a unique FIS code. Counting placings are subject to a maximum per tier as per the chart below.

	<b>Halfpipe</b>	
<b>Event Tier Level</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
<b>FIS Tier 1</b>	25	20
<b>Independent Tier 1</b>	Top ½ Field Size up to 25 <sup>th</sup> position	Top ½ Field Size up to 20 <sup>th</sup> position
<b>Tier 2</b>	25	20
<b>Tier 3</b>	16	12

\*Available placings will be reviewed annually considering field sizes for each gender.

### **HPP Halfpipe Placing Value Ranking (“HP Ranking”) Process**

- HP ranking scores for each athlete are calculated as a sum of each athlete’s three highest Placing Values.
- Placing values are unique to each tier of competition: Tier 1 / Independent Tier 1, Tier 2, or Tier 3.
- A Placing Value per competition based on the athlete’s final ranking (considering Event Tier and Event Value) will be assigned and available to be used for ranking purposes.
- If a two or more athletes have Ranking Scores that are the same, the tie will be broken by comparing each athlete’s best placing result within the same event tier. If the tie remains, the next placing results will be compared, and so on. The better placing will prevail.
- Additional skill assessment: The national team coaching staff keeps an ongoing record of skill progression for athletes in the program. The coaching staff:
  - Will perform a detailed skill assessment on any athlete who may be affected by an out of rank order nomination. These skill assessments may be used to compare athlete progression in a head-to-head manner.
  - May perform a detailed skill assessment on any athlete who falls into consideration as an Exceptional Circumstance.
  - May perform detailed skill assessments on any athlete who is deemed to be in question of achieving their performance / skill progression targets or who have poor, unexcused attendance record at camps. This assessment will determine if continued investment by FC can be justified and if their re-selection is warranted.

Athletes will be nominated for selection to the HPP by the HPC. The FC Leadership Team will review the nominations and discuss any concerns with the HPC. Once satisfied with the nominations, the leadership team will ratify them and release staff to contact the athletes with the offer to join (or rejoin) the program.

Appendix 2 – Placing Value Charts

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

Women

Tier 1: WC and Similar					Tier 2: FIS NORAM, Gold AFP, etc					Tier 3: Canada Cup, Silver AFP, etc					Contest Placing
Scenario	Event Value				Scenario	Event Value				Scenario	Event Value				
Slide Value					Slide Value					Slide 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					R Value					R Value					
0.025					0.025					0.025					
+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	
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
975	943	878	812	746	757	707	658	609	559	561	524	488	451	414	2
951	920	856	791	727	738	690	642	594	545	547	511	475	440	404	3
927	897	834	772	709	719	673	626	579	532	533	498	463	429	394	4
904	874	813	752	691	701	656	610	564	518	520	486	452	418	384	5
881	852	793	734	674	684	639	595	550	506	507	474	441	408	374	6
859	831	773	715	657	667	623	580	536	493	494	462	430	397	365	7
838	810	754	697	641	650	608	565	523	481	482	450	419	387	356	8
817	790	735	680	625	634	593	551	510	469	470	439	408	378	347	9
796	770	717	663	609	618	578	537	497	457	458	428	398	368	338	10
776	751	699	646	594	603	563	524	485	445	446	417	388	359	330	11
757	732	681	630	579	588	549	511	473	434	435	407	378	350	322	12
738	714	664	614	565	573	536	498	461	423	424	397	369	341	314	13
720	696	648	599	550	559	522	486	449	413	414	387	360	333	306	14
702	679	631	584	537	545	509	474	438	403	403	377	351	324	298	15
684	662	616	569	523	531	496	462	427	392	393	368	342	316	291	16
667	645	600	555	510	518	484	450	416	383	383	358	333	308	283	17
650	629	585	541	497	505	472	439	406	373	374	350	325	301	276	18
634	613	571	528	485	492	460	428	396	364	365	341	317	293	269	19
618	598	556	515	473	480	449	417	386	355	355	332	309	286	263	20

Men

Tier 1: WC and Similar					Tier 2: FIS NORAM, Gold AFP, etc					Tier 3: Canada Cup, Silver AFP, etc					Contest Placing
Scenario	Event Value				Scenario	Event Value				Scenario	Event Value				
Slide Value					Slide Value					Slide 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					R Value					R Value					
0.015					0.030					0.030					
+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	+15	+7.5	Bench	-7.5	-15	
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
985	953	887	820	754	753	704	655	606	557	558	521	485	449	412	2
970	939	873	808	742	730	683	635	587	540	541	506	470	435	400	3
956	925	860	796	731	708	662	616	570	524	525	491	456	422	388	4
941	911	847	784	720	687	642	598	553	508	509	476	443	409	376	5
927	897	834	772	709	667	623	580	536	493	494	462	429	397	365	6
913	884	822	760	699	647	604	562	520	478	479	448	416	385	354	7
900	870	810	749	688	627	586	545	504	464	465	434	404	374	343	8
886	857	798	738	678	608	569	529	489	450	451	421	392	362	333	9
873	844	786	727	668	590	552	513	475	436	437	409	380	352	323	10
860	832	774	716	658	572	535	498	460	423	424	396	369	341	313	11
847	819	762	705	648	555	519	483	447	410	411	384	358	331	304	12
834	807	751	694	638	539	503	468	433	398	399	373	347	321	295	13
822	795	739	684	629	522	488	454	420	386	387	362	337	311	286	14
809	783	728	674	619	507	474	441	408	375	375	351	326	302	277	15
797	771	717	664	610	492	460	427	395	363	364	340	317	293	269	16
785	760	707	654	601	477	446	415	384	352	353	330	307	284	261	17
773	748	696	644	592	463	432	402	372	342	343	320	298	276	253	18
762	737	686	634	583	449	419	390	361	332	332	311	289	267	246	19
750	726	675	625	574	435	407	378	350	322	322	301	280	259	238	20

Appendix 3: Skill Assessment Guide

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																	
NAME	Sking Stance Forward	Sking 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																	

\* Benchmark skills are outlined in Freestyle Canada's Gold Medal Profile (GMP) Guidelines. The GMP is used as a guideline, with the rate of skill progression in the NorAm and World Cup circuit along with our Canadian high performance athlete pool skill set, the base for comparison may change to stay current with the performance needs in team selection.