



PARK & PIPE TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

UPDATED: December 1, 2022

The Freestyle Alberta Park & Pipe Team comprises the best provincial Freestyle Skiers representing Alberta in Provincial, National and International competitions. The goal of the provincial team program is to advance the skills of the athletes and to offer competitive opportunities in a team atmosphere to ultimately qualify the athlete for the Canadian National Team program.

There must be at least six interested athletes meeting a minimum skill level (MSL) to form a provincial team for any Freestyle discipline (Moguls, Aerials, Halfpipe, Big Air, and Slopestyle). A maximum team size will be decided based upon the number of eligible athletes and operation budget. The Freestyle Alberta High Performance Director with input from the FA Team coaches and Freestyle Alberta High Performance Committee (HP Committee) will assess whether the athlete meets the minimum skill level to join the Alberta Team program.

TIMEFRAME

- Team selection is normally for one calendar season (May to April)
- The Alberta Park & Pipe Team Selection period: November 1st to April 30th inclusively.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for selection to the Alberta Team Park & Pipe Program an athlete must:

- Have an active membership with Freestyle Canada indicating that they are part of a Freestyle Alberta registered club.
- Be registered in a Freestyle Alberta club program; or be registered to the Alberta Team.
- Have no outstanding debt with Freestyle Alberta or a Freestyle Alberta registered club.

SELECTION METHOD

Selection of Park & Pipe athletes to the Alberta Team will be based on the Alberta Park & Pipe rankings. All athletes eligible for selection will be ranked using their 3 highest placings in



Slopestyle/Big Air and Halfpipe events. For Tier 1, 2 and 3 category events the top 2/3rds of the fields results will be used for an athletes placing points. Athletes who place in the bottom 3rd of a Tier 1-3 event will receive zero place points. In Tier 4 events, every competitor will receive points unless a DNS. Selections will normally be based on the just concluded season. All team selections are for a one-year period only.

Athletes rankings will be separated into two ranking lists, 1) Halfpipe and 2) Slopestyle/Big Air Rankings in each are calculated using the following highest placing events:

- Three highest placings in Halfpipe Events
- Three highest placings in Slopestyle / Big Air Events
- See Appendix 1 for ranking combinations

The Freestyle Alberta High Performance Team coaches and Freestyle Canada HPAD committee, will review the placing value points after each event. Adjustments of up to 15% will be made to provide the most accurate overall standings. Weighting can be adjusted in either the positive or negative direction. FA's event points are aligned with Freestyle Canada's event weightings. Adjustments do not have to be made.

Factors that will be considered by Freestyle Canada HPAD committee when making adjustments to the place value points will include:

- Field size (Total number of athletes).
- Depth of field (Ability level of athletes).
- Canadian National Team representation.
- International athlete representation.
- Difficulty of course/features.
- Assessment of points.

The HP Committee reserves the right to select athletes based on Special Ranking considerations or Extraordinary circumstance clause. The Freestyle Alberta HP Committee, with input from the FA Team Head Coaches, reviews all matters related to selection. The Freestyle Alberta Executive Director will be a member of this Committee and hold final decision.

Freestyle Alberta values gender equity and aims to have an equal representation of male and female athletes. The Freestyle Alberta HP Committee, with input from the FA Team Head Coaches, will determine the minimum performance level for the Alberta Team. If a gender ranking list does not fill the full quota based on the minimum performance level the unused spots will be transferred to the other gender.



Athletes current skill level relative to their point in the Long-Term Development (LTD) pathway will be strongly considered in the selection process.

An overview of the LTD benchmarks can be found in Sport For Life's [Long-Term Development In Sport and Physical Activity 3.0](#).

Additionally, detailed [Gold Medal Profiles](#) for all Freestyle Skiing disciplines can be found on Freestyle Canada's website.

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection of athletes to participate in the Alberta Team is the responsibility of the High Performance Director, acting on the recommendations of the Freestyle Alberta High Performance Committee (HP Committee). The Executive Director may overrule any decision of the Freestyle Alberta High Performance Committee.

All revisions to Alberta Team Selection documents shall, unless otherwise specifically indicated, come into effect immediately upon their ratification by Executive Director of Freestyle Alberta.

Within 14 days of the completion of the Spring Talent ID Assessment:

1. The HP Committee reviews the initial ranking lists and determines if there are any Special Ranking Considerations (see Appendix).
2. Eligible athletes are identified and ranked for nominations.
3. Athletes who would qualify for Extraordinary Circumstances (i.e. Injury, etc.) are identified and ranked appropriately.
4. Nominated athletes will be officially notified, having a period of 10 days to accept or decline selection.

OUT OF PROVINCE ATHLETES

Out of province athletes may be considered for selection to Alberta Team if:

- The considered athlete provides an address of residence in Alberta by Sept. 1st prior to the next competition season.
- If team spot allocations have not been exhausted following selection of all Alberta athletes that have met the required minimum skill level for Alberta Team as well as the selection of coach discretionary athletes, out of province athletes may be considered for remaining spots based on National Team rankings.



- If the out of province athlete will improve the daily training environment for current Alberta Team athletes.

APPEALS

An appeal of any decision of the HP Committee may be made by any Freestyle Alberta member in good standing. Appeals must be conducted in accordance with the Appeals Policy established by Freestyle Alberta.

GENERAL

Issues not otherwise covered by this document are subject to the decision of the Executive Director of Freestyle Alberta, in consultation with the HP Committee.

APPENDIX 1 – CALCULATION OF SLOPESTYLE / BIG AIR AND HALFPIPE RANKINGS

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

The sum of 3 best placing values for Slopestyle / Big Air or Halfpipe within the selection period, will be calculated using one of the following combinations:

- Any combination of Slopestyle and Big Air ranking events can be used to determine the sum of the three best placing values
- The sum of the three best Halfpipe placing values
- Tiers 1-3 place values will be calculated based on top 2/3rds of field

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

APPENDIX 2

ELIGIBLE EVENTS AND WEIGHTING

EVENT	MAXIMUM POINTS	RECURSIVE VALUE
Alberta Provincial	300	6% (M), 8% (W)
Junior Nationals	500	6% (M), 8% (W)



Canada Cup	500	3.5% (M), 5% (W)
National Championship	500	2.5% (M), 4% (W)
Canada Winter Games	600	2.5% (M), 4% (W)
NorAm Cup	675	1.5% (M), 2% (W)
World Cup	900	1.5% (M), 2% (W)
Elite Independent Events (e.g. X-Games, Dew Tour)	900	1.5% (M), 2% (W)

SAMPLE PLACING POINT SUMMARY (Tiers – example only)

Rank	Tier 2	Tier 3	Tier 4
	NorAm Cup: 65%	Canada Cup: 50%	Provincial: 30%
1	675	500	300
2	665	488	294
3	655	475	286
4	645	463	279
5	635	452	272
6	626	441	266
7	616	430	259
8	607	419	252
9	598	408	246
10	589	398	240
11	580	388	234
12	572	378	228
13	563	369	222
14	555	360	217
15	546	351	211
16	538	342	206

SPECIAL RANKING CONSIDERATIONS

The Freestyle Alberta HP Committee may in some cases choose to select athletes out of the initial ranking order. In such cases the committee must record in detail the reasons for its decisions. These reasons must support the program goals outlined at the beginning of this document.

Special Ranking Considerations include, but are not limited to the following examples:



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- An athlete who is showing excellent results and increasing their performance results may be moved higher than their calculated ranking.
 - An athlete who shows excellent physical characteristics and/or technical capability; may be moved higher than their calculated ranking. (Rational: in some stages of development an athlete may focus on training and not perform as well at competition.)
 - An athlete may be moved higher than their calculated ranking based on the Spring Talent ID Assessment. (Usually conducted in April at Winsport or Sunshine Village)
 - An athlete who might have demonstrated high achievement of KPIs/benchmarks but may not have a competition ranking reflective of their ability.
 - An athlete who has had opportunities and is not advancing towards the program goal may move lower than their calculated ranking.
 - When there is a relatively narrow point spread between two athletes, there is greater chance of “out of order” selection.
 - An athlete with strong work ethic and commitment to training opportunities may move ahead of an athlete who has not demonstrated these traits.
 - Athletes who have reached major event podiums in recent years.

SCORE ANOMALY

In some circumstances, there are 3 to 4 counting events on the same course within a short time frame, often with all events judged by the same panel. This scenario may warrant an out of order selection.



EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Extraordinary circumstances include, but are not limited to circumstances such as injury, death in the family.

The HP Committee will nominate athletes they feel do qualify under this clause if:

- An athlete misses an entire season due to health-related curtailment of activities the selection period will be extended backwards to a maximum of one season.
- An athlete misses a portion of the competition season due to health-related curtailment of activities; the selection period will be extended backwards.
- The Selection Committee has the discretion to make exceptions to injury clause for special cases. This may include expanding the backwards extension of the selection period, or other adjustments to meet the special case.
- Freestyle Alberta may, at any time, require an athlete who is unable to participate in training or competition due to injury, to obtain a medical assessment from a team physician. 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.
- The Selection Committee, with input from medical experts, may prevent an athlete from entering the event if the pace of the athlete's rehabilitation from injury warrants doing so.