



ALBERTA PARK & PIPE TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA

Updated: December, 2024

The Freestyle Alberta Park & Pipe Team comprises the best Slopestyle & Halfpipe 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 Director of Sport and Development 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

- The Alberta Park & Pipe Team Selection period: December 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025
- Team selection is for one calendar year (May to April)

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for selection to the Alberta Park & Pipe Team 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 Slopestyle rankings and the Alberta Halfpipe rankings. All athletes eligible for selection will be ranked using their 3 highest placings in Slopestyle/Big Air and their 3 highest placings in Halfpipe events. For Tier 1, 2 and 3 category events the top 2/3rds of the fields results will be used for an athlete's 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.

Athletes 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, using a maximum of one Big Air placing. Thus, the higher of the following two ranking combinations will be taken as an athlete's final ranking:
 - 2x SS placings and 1x BA placing
 - 3x SS placings

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 AB Director of Sport and Development will be a member of this committee and will hold the tie breaking vote.

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.

The Alberta Park & Pipe Team does not have a fixed quota of athletes, and Freestyle Alberta is not obligated to fill spots to a specific number. Provided minimum skill levels are met, spots will be allocated as follows.

Regular spots (eight total) will be determined based on an athlete's final ranking, allocated as:

- 2x Male Slopestyle/Big Air athletes
- 2x Female Slopestyle/Big Air athletes



- 2x Male Halfpipe athletes
- 2x Female Halfpipe athletes

Additional spots will be allocated by the HP Committee with no requirement to evenly allocate among the four discipline/gender categories. Typically, up to four additional spots are allocated in this manner. When allocating additional spots, the HP committee will be guided by the following criteria:

- Strive for gender equity, notwithstanding minimum skill requirements
- Size of the athlete pool in a specific discipline/gender category
- Competition ranking on both or either of the Slopestyle/Big Air and Halfpipe ranking list
- Skill and competition level as per Freestyle Canada's Gold Medal Profile, Skills Matrix, and LTAD (see appendix)
- Special ranking considerations

SELECTION PROCESS

The selection of athletes to participate in the Alberta Park & Pipe Team is the responsibility of the Director of Sport and Development, acting on the recommendations of the Freestyle Alberta High Performance Committee (HP Committee).

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

Within 14 days of the competition of the final eligible event:

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 7 days to accept or decline selection.



OUT OF PROVINCE ATHLETES

Out of province athletes may be considered for selection to Alberta Team 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, out of province athletes may be considered for remaining spots based on ranking.
- 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 Freestyle Alberta Director of Sport and Development, in consultation with the HP Committee.



APPENDIX

ELIGIBLE EVENTS AND VALUES

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)
NorAm Cup (M SS/BA only)	725	1.5% (M), 2% (W)
World Cup & equivalent (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:

- 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 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.

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.



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- 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.

RESOURCES

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](#) and Skill Matrices for all Freestyle Skiing disciplines can be found on Freestyle Canada's website.