



SELECTION CRITERIA JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Junior National Championship is an opportunity for athletes under the age of 18 to compete at a National Championship. The event is operated by Freestyle Canada (FC). Freestyle Alberta (FAB) aims to select the top performing provincial team at the Junior National Championships in all disciplines.

As of January 1, 2017 the traditional freestyle disciplines (Moguls, Dual Moguls and Aerials) will be run at a separate location and time from the freeski disciplines (Slopestyle, Halfpipe and Big Air). This policy has been updated to reflect these changes.

Determination of Provincial Quotas

Freestyle Canada establishes the allocation of divisional quotas for Junior Nationals. The quotas allocated to the Alberta division are the property of Freestyle Alberta. Only Freestyle Alberta is empowered to select the athletes to fill the quotas allocated to the Alberta division for the Junior National Championships. Unused quotas will be re-allocated by Freestyle Canada.

Age Categories

Athlete age will be calculated as of January 1 prior to the Junior National event.

- U14: Ages 12 and 13
- U16: Ages 14 and 15
- U18: Ages 16 and 17

Eligibility for Selection to Junior Nationals

To be eligible to compete at Junior Nationals, an athlete must:

- Be a member in good standing with Freestyle AB;
- Be a member of a Freestyle AB club or team program or the AB Freestyle Ski Team;
- Meet the age requirements for Junior Nationals; and go through the selection process.



Out of province athletes

Athletes that participate in programs outside of Freestyle Alberta will have their member status reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Athletes must be primarily representing a club or team within Alberta. Athletes that have represented provinces other than AB during the current or previous ski season may not be eligible for an Alberta division spot. The Freestyle AB High Performance Committee will determine an athlete's membership status.



Selection Process

Method A - Athletes that are members of the Alberta Freestyle Ski Team will be given quota spots for their respective discipline. Should there not be enough quota spots for all Team members, Method B will be used to select intra-team.

Method B - Selection for the remaining Junior National Championship spots will be based on the current Alberta Junior National Mogul Ranking and Alberta Junior National Park & Pipe Ranking.

Eligible events

The following events that occur during the selection periods will be used to rank athletes for Junior Nationals selection:

- Alberta provincial series
- Canada Cup
- North America Cup
- Canadian Selections (MO only)

Junior National Mogul Selection

Athletes who earn a spot for moguls will be registered and expected to compete in the disciplines of single moguls, dual moguls and aerials. All athletes eligible for selection will be ranked using their two highest ranking events in single moguls and dual moguls from the selection period. The athlete will obtain a score for each event relative to the event winner's score (RPA method).

Freestyle Alberta values gender equity and aims to have an equal representation of male and female athletes. The Freestyle AB HP committee, with input from the AB Team Head Coaches, will determine the minimum performance level for the Junior National Championships. 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 selection committee reserves the right to select athletes based on Special Rankings considerations or Extraordinary circumstance clause.



The Freestyle AB HP committee, with input from the AB 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.

Junior National Park & Pipe (Freeski) Selection

Athletes who earn a spot for park & pipe will be registered and expected to compete in the disciplines of slopestyle, big air and halfpipe (if available). All athletes eligible for selection will be ranked using their three highest ranking events from eligible halfpipe, slopestyle or big air events. Only one big air event is eligible to be used for selection. The ranking will be determined using the AB Park & Pipe place value point system.

Freestyle AB values gender equality and aims to have an equal representation of male and female athletes. The Freestyle AB HP Committee, with input from the AB Team Head Coaches, will determine the minimum performance level for the Junior National Championships. 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 selection committee reserves the right to select athletes based on Special Rankings considerations or Extraordinary circumstance clause. The Freestyle AB HP Committee, with input from the AB 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.

Selection Periods

- Moguls: All eligible events from the 24/25 competition year prior to February 10th
- Freeski: All eligible events from the 24/25 competition year prior to February 17th

Selection Deadline

If the Junior National Championship event is held outside of Alberta or BC the selection deadline will be 21 days prior to the first day of official training. Otherwise the selection deadline will be 14 days prior to the first day of official training.

Selection deadlines for the 2025 Junior National Championships are:

- Moguls: February 10th, 2025
- Freeski: February 17th, 2025



Organization

Freestyle AB will manage the collection of registration and entry fees as per the Freestyle Canada [Canada Cup Guidelines, Section 7.2](#). All AB athletes must pay their registration fees directly to Freestyle AB or through the dedicated online registration page. Once an athlete is confirmed on a start list, refunds will not be issued. In the case of an injury the coach must notify the registration desk and email <mailto:events@freestylealberta.ski> to inform that an athlete is injured and unable to ski before the Team Captains meeting the day before competition day. In this case athletes are entitled to partial refunds of up to 50% per event. Requests for refunds for other extraordinary circumstances shall be considered only at the discretion of the Organizing Committee. If an event is cancelled due to weather or exceptional circumstances no refunds will be provided. (The organizing committee has already incurred all costs for the event).



Appendix

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 her or his 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 her or his calculated ranking. This is more likely to happen early in an athlete's career. Rational: in some stages of development an athlete may focus on training and not perform as well at competition.
- An athlete who has had opportunities and is not advancing towards the program goal may move lower than her or his 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 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.
- If 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 AB 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.