



# JUNIOR NATIONAL SELECTION CRITERIA

UPDATED: November 2024

## 1. PREAMBLE

The Junior National Championship is an opportunity for athletes under 18, as of Jan 1, 2025, to compete at a National Championship. The event is operated by Freestyle Canada ("FC"). Freestyle BC ("FBC") will select the top-performing provincial athletes to represent FBC at the Junior National Championships in all disciplines based on each discipline's ranking list.

### 1.1 Determination of Provincial Quotas

Freestyle Canada establishes the allocation of divisional quotas for Junior Nationals. The quotas allocated to the BC division are the property of Freestyle BC. Only Freestyle BC can select the athletes to fill the quotas allocated to the BC division for the Junior National Championships. Freestyle Canada will reallocate unused quotas.

**1.2 Age Categories** will be calculated as of January 1 before the event:

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

### 1.3 Eligibility for Selection to Junior Nationals

- 1.3.1 To be eligible to compete at Junior Nationals, an athlete must:
  - 1.3.1.1 Be a member in good standing with Freestyle BC.
  - 1.3.1.2 Be a member of a Freestyle BC club or team.
  - 1.3.1.3 Meet the age requirements for Junior Nationals.
  - 1.3.1.4 Through the selection process.

### 1.4 Out-of-province athletes:

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



## 1.5 Selection Process

**Method A** - Athletes who are BC Freestyle Ski Team members will be given quota spots for their respective disciplines.

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

## 1.6 Junior National Mogul Selection

Athletes who earn a spot for moguls will be registered and expected to compete in single moguls, dual moguls, and aerials. All athletes eligible for selection will be ranked using their three highest-ranking events. Events can be ranked by three single events, two singles, and one dual.

The athlete will obtain a score for each event relative to the winner's score (RPA method). Suppose only one mogul event of an eligible series is offered before the selection deadline. In that case, an athlete can use their best single mogul score from the previous season's BC Timber Tour. Events eligible for selection are the BC Timber Tour, Canadian Series, and Canadian Selections. NorAm events are not eligible. Special consideration will be given to events outside of the eligible events on a case by case basis.

Freestyle BC values gender equity and aims to have an equal representation of male and female athletes. With input from the BC Team Head Coaches, the Freestyle BC HP Committee 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.

Freestyle BC aims to have equal representation in each of the age categories. Jr Nationals has three medal categories: U14, U16, U18. Athletes will be selected based on their age category within the BC Mogul Rankings. With input from the BC Team Head Coaches, the Freestyle BC HP Committee will determine the minimum performance level between the age categories. Specific age categories may receive extra spots based on performance level and membership numbers in that age category.

The selection committee reserves the right to select athletes based on special ranking considerations or extraordinary circumstance clauses. With input from the BC Team Head Coaches, the Freestyle BC HP Committee reviews all matters related to selection. The Freestyle BC Executive Director will be a committee member and hold the final decision.



## **1.7 Junior National Park & Pipe 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 in disciplines slopestyle or big air events. At least one slopestyle event must be used. The BC Park & Pipe place value point system will determine the ranking. The BC Regional Series, Timber Tour, and the Canada Cup events are eligible for selection.

Freestyle BC values gender equity and aims to have an equal representation of male and female athletes. With input from the BC Team Head Coaches, the Freestyle BC HP Committee 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.

Freestyle BC aims to have equal representation in each of the age categories. Jr Nationals has four medal categories: U14, U16, U18. Athletes will be selected based on their age category within the BC Park & Pipe Rankings. With input from the BC Team Head Coaches, the Freestyle BC HP Committee will determine the minimum performance level between the age categories. Specific age categories may receive extra spots based on performance level and membership numbers in that age category.

The Selection Committee reserves the right to select athletes based on special ranking considerations or extraordinary circumstance clauses. With input from the BC Team Head Coaches, the Freestyle BC HP Committee reviews all matters related to selection. The Freestyle BC Executive Director will be a committee member and hold the final decision.

## **1.8 Injury Clause**

If an athlete is unable to compete in a selection event due to injury/illness, results from the previous season may be used if:

- 1.8.1 Proper documentation from a medical doctor is provided.
- 1.8.2 They have demonstrated to their club/team coach and the competition coach before the selection deadline that they can compete at the same skill level or above as their previous season results.
- 1.8.3 The HP Committee may ask for video documentation to review.



## 1.9 Selection Deadline

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

Otherwise, the selection deadline will be 14 days before the first day of official training.

Once an athlete has been selected for the Jr National Championships, they will have 24 hours to RSVP before the spot is given to the next athlete in the rankings.

## 1.10 Organization

Freestyle BC will manage the collection of registration and entry fees as per the Freestyle Canada Junior National guidelines. All BC athletes must pay their registration fees directly to Freestyle BC. Entry fees are non-refundable under any circumstances, including injury or event cancellation.

Freestyle BC will manage fee payment and athlete data collection through the registration portal. Fees must be paid by credit card. A 5% administration fee is included in addition to the event registration fees to offset the transaction cost associated with credit card processing.

# Appendix

## 1. Special Ranking Considerations

The Freestyle BC HP Committee may sometimes choose to select athletes out of the initial ranking order. In such cases, the committee must 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:

- 1.1 An athlete showing excellent results and increasing their performance may be moved higher than their calculated ranking.
- 1.2 An athlete with excellent physical characteristics and/or technical capability may be moved higher than his or her calculated ranking. This is more likely to happen early in an athlete's career. **Rationale:** In some stages of development, an athlete may focus on training and not perform as well at competition.

- 1.3 An athlete who has had opportunities and is not advancing towards the program goal may move lower than her or his calculated ranking.
- 1.4 When there is a relatively narrow point spread between two athletes, there is a greater chance of “out of order” selection.
- 1.5 An athlete with a strong work ethic and commitment to training opportunities may move ahead of an athlete without these traits.
- 1.6 Athletes who have reached major event podiums in recent years.

## **2. Score Anomaly**

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

3. **Extraordinary Circumstances** include, but are not limited to, circumstances such as injury or death in the family. The committee will nominate athletes they feel qualify under this clause:
  - 3.1 If an athlete misses an entire season due to health-related curtailment of activities, the selection period will be extended backward (18) eighteen months.
  - 3.2 If an athlete misses a portion of the competition season due to health-related curtailment of activities, the selection period will be extended back (18) to eighteen months.
  - 3.3 The selection committee can make exceptions to injury clauses for special cases. This may include expanding the backward extension of the selection period or other adjustments to meet the special case.
  - 3.4 Freestyle BC may, at any time, require an athlete unable to participate in training or competition due to injury to obtain a medical assessment from a team physician. The medical assessment aims to confirm the degree of the athlete's injury and the anticipated time of the athlete's recovery.
  - 3.5 With input from medical experts, the selection committee may prevent an athlete from entering the event if the pace of the athlete's rehabilitation from injury warrants doing so.