

INTRODUCTION

1. The Alberta (AB) Provincial Team Program comprises Athletes chosen to represent AB as part of the AB Provincial Team.
2. Athletes selected for the AB Provincial Team Program will continue training with sanctioned Clubs under certified coaches' guidance and will receive support from AB Snowboard as AB Provincial Team members.
3. This AB Provincial Team Program Selection Protocol outlines the process for identifying Athletes eligible for selection to the AB Provincial Team Program for 2024-2025.
4. This AB Provincial Team Selection Protocol and other AB Snowboard Selection Protocols are available on the Alberta Snowboarding Association website: www.albertasnowboarding.com.
5. AB Snowboard defines high performance as a sport program aimed at developing Athletes through the LTD pathway, starting with the "Train to Train" up to "Train to Win" stages to compete at FIS level to World Cup events. Coaching and IST service support will be provided at these stages to help Athletes achieve success.

TERMS

6. Abbreviated terms used in the Selection Protocol:

AAP: Athlete Assistance Program
CADS: Canadian Adaptive Snowsports (Alberta)
CRL: Canadian Ranking List
CS: Canada Snowboard Federation
CSCP: Canadian Snowboard Coaching Program
FIS: Federation International de Ski
HPP: High Performance Pathway
LTD: Long Term Development
Nextgen: National Nextgen Team
SBX: Boardercross
WSPL: World Snowboard Point List
YTP: Yearly Training Plan

GENERAL CONSIDERATION

7. Athlete selections for the AB Provincial Team Program are solely based on performance during the 2023/2024 season, following the procedures outlined in this document.
8. All selections to the AB Provincial Team Program are for a one-year snowboard season period only.
9. AB Snowboard is committed to adjusting the qualifying criteria of the AB Provincial Team Program to ensure fair and equitable opportunities for young women and men. The AB Team Selection Committee will determine the number of participants based on the number of interested competitors who meet the prescribed qualifications to ensure equitable access for underrepresented groups. When feasible, AB Snowboard may allocate team spots proportionally or favorably toward underrepresented groups.

10. AB Snowboard acknowledges its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the AB Provincial Team Program selection policy by referencing the most recent version of the CGC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy (2020) for guidance on adjustments in the selection process and procedure.
11. The number of Athletes selected for the AB Provincial Team Program is determined by:
 - a. The number of Athletes meeting or exceeding the Selection Protocol; and/or
 - b. AB Snowboard's ability to run the Program within financial constraints.
 - c. The number of available spots or quotas for each discipline shall be determined on an annual basis, contingent upon the overall team structure and the resources available to AB Snowboard.

IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

12. Athletes must compete under a Canadian FIS number as of the date of submission of their Application to AB Snowboard.
13. Alberta must be the Athlete's current province of residence for the 12 months prior to their date of Application submission to AB Snowboard.
14. Athletes must have held an AB Snowboard membership in good standing for the entire 2023-2024 season.
15. Athletes must be in good standing with AB Snowboard Association and must purchase a 2024-2025 AB Snowboard membership, SAIP insurance, and FIS license prior to September 1, 2024.
16. Athletes must be current members of an AB Snowboard sanctioned club/program and be training with a CSCP coach whose training/certification fulfills the needs of the LTD stage 4-5 Athletes.
17. Athletes are expected to have participated in a minimum of three (3) 2023-2024 AB, BC, or CS FIS Snowboard events (i.e., Provincial Series, Jr Nationals, Nationals, or NorAMs barring extraordinary circumstances). Extraordinary circumstances must be explained by the Athlete if requested, and the sole discretion regarding whether there is an extraordinary circumstance remains with AB Snowboard. Once an Application is received from an Athlete, the Athlete's CRL ranking in style events and FIS points in SBX will be considered in the selection. Position will be based on the ratio ranking of Athletes in the category and discipline. (For example, an Athlete that is ranked 20th in Canada out of 60 in female halfpipe will rank lower than a male Athlete that is ranked 20th in Canada out of 640 Athletes in slopestyle). In addition, applications may be discussed with coaches and Athletes to ensure a fulsome evaluation of an Athlete and their application.

*Note – the CRL ranking uses the top three results to generate points. If an Athlete only competes in two events, said Athlete may not achieve as high a ranking when compared to Athletes that competed in three events, all things being equal.

18. Athletes cannot be current members of the CS National Team Program (including the Next Gen or Development Team programs).
19. The Athlete must be between the ages of 13 and 19 years old as of December 31, 2024, depending on discipline, as follows:
 - a. Freestyle (Slopestyle/Halfpipe): Age 13-18 as of December 31 of the selection year;
 - b. Snowboardcross: Age 15-19 as of December 31 of the selection year; and
 - c. Para-Snowboard: case by case basis.
20. All Athletes interested in being a part of the AB Provincial Team submit an application to AB Snowboard via [google form](#) by 5:00 pm MST. on August 30th, 2024. The 2024/2025 AB Provincial Team will be announced no later than September 6, 2024.

TEAM STRUCTURE

21. The number of Athletes named to the AB Provincial Team Program will be based on the criteria set out herein, and the ability of AB Snowboard to support those Athletes. This includes consideration of any budgetary constraints.
22. All Athletes named to the AB Provincial Team will be required to be in a suitable training program with an AB Sanctioned Club. AB Snowboard will work to provide ancillary services that will help supplement the support from the Athlete's current club.
23. Athletes named to the AB Provincial Team Program are expected to adhere to the following responsibilities and expectations:
 - a. Attendance at team meetings, training sessions, and other team-related activities as required;
 - b. Compliance with all team rules, codes of conduct, and policies established by AB Snowboard and the AB Provincial Team coaching staff;
 - c. Active participation in team-building activities and initiatives aimed at fostering a supportive and cohesive team environment;
 - d. Representation of Alberta with pride and sportsmanship at all competitions and events;
 - e. Timely communication with coaches and team officials regarding any concerns, issues, or conflicts that may arise;
 - f. Commitment to personal development and continuous improvement as a snowboard Athlete, both on and off the slopes; and
 - g. Resolution of any disputes or conflicts within the team in a respectful and constructive manner, following the established team protocols and procedures.

ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

24. Please refer to the Identification of Eligibility section of this policy. In addition to following the CS pathway and LTD, the following criteria have been set for selection to the AB Provincial Team Program:

- a. The most current Canadian Ranking List or FIS List, as defined above for the respective disciplines as of August 1st of the selection year, will be used to determine the ranking order:
 - i. Freestyle: The Canadian Ranking List for Freestyle will be used to determine Provincial Team ranking order:
 - 1. Male Athletes: must be within the top 75 in Canada on the CRL for slopestyle and/or top 25 in Canada for halfpipe; and
 - 2. Female Athletes: must be within the top 50 in Canada on the CRL for slopestyle and/or top 10 in Canada for halfpipe.
 - ii. Snowboardcross: The FIS Ranking List for Snowboardcross will be used to determine Provincial Team ranking order:
 - 1. Male Athletes: must be within the top 300 ranked on FIS; and
 - 2. Female Athletes: must be within the top 200 ranked on FIS.
 - iii. Para: Participation and results in Provincial events will be used to determine Provincial Team ranking order.
- b. Competed in a minimum of three (3) AB, BC, or CS FIS events the previous season.

ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

- 25. Athletes must confirm their team position by completing the AB Provincial Team Athlete Agreement within 2 weeks of selection notification.
- 26. Participation in all auxiliary training organized and scheduled by AB Snowboard for Provincial Team Athletes is mandatory, unless exempted by the AB Snowboard Executive Director or High-Performance Director.
- 27. Athletes must always act and participate in a respectful and sportsmanlike manner while representing AB Snowboard.
- 28. Adherence to the AB Snowboard Code of Conduct and Safe Sport Policy is mandatory.
- 29. Athletes must wear supplied AB Snowboard clothing for award ceremonies, podium appearances, and other team appearances as directed by AB Snowboard.
- 30. Athletes agree to attend all provincial-level events unless they conflict with larger events where the Athlete has the opportunity to achieve more CRL or FIS points (e.g., NorAm's, Rev Tours, World Cups).
- 31. In the event of disputes or conflicts within the team, Athletes must follow the conflict resolution procedures outlined by AB Snowboard, which may include mediation or arbitration processes. Prompt and respectful resolution of conflicts is essential for maintaining team cohesion and morale.

ATHLETE SUPPORT

32. Details of Athlete support will be determined and communicated annually based on funding availability.

EXCEPTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

33. If an Athlete is unable to attend the National Championships, they must notify AB Snowboard in writing at least one week prior to the event, stating the reasons for their inability to attend. Failure to fulfill this requirement may render the Athlete ineligible for future Alberta Provincial Team Program benefits.
34. AB Snowboard may require an Athlete, who, due to a health-related curtailment of activities is unable to participate in training or competition activities, to obtain a medical assessment conducted by an AB Snowboard recognized doctor or other health support practitioner. This assessment aims to confirm the Athlete's ability to compete and to determine the expected recovery timeline.
35. In cases where an Athlete is unable to participate in the minimum number of events due to health-related curtailment of activities or extraordinary circumstances, the Athlete's eligibility for selection will be reviewed based on projected medical rehabilitation and other available information (results, video, coaches' assessments, etc.).
36. Athletes will undergo regular performance reviews and evaluations to assess progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure accountability within the program. Feedback provided during these reviews will be used to inform individualized development plans and training strategies.
37. Individualized Athlete development plans will be created for each Athlete, taking into account their goals, strengths, and areas for improvement. These plans will outline specific training objectives, competition schedules, and support initiatives to optimize Athlete performance and growth.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

38. The Selection Committee for the AB Provincial Team Program consists of AB Snowboard High Performance Director, and the High-Performance Committee appointed by the AB Snowboard Board of Directors.

APPEALS

39. Individuals wishing to appeal an AB Snowboard selection decision must follow the AB Snowboarding Appeals Policy, available at www.albertasnowboarding.com.

CONSEQUENCES AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

40. Consequences for failing to meet the outlined requirements and responsibilities or violating the code of conduct may include, but are not limited to:
- a. Temporary suspension from team activities or competitions;
 - b. Removal from the AB Provincial Team Program for the current season;

- c. Loss of future eligibility for participation in the AB Provincial Team Program; and/or
- d. Other sanctions deemed appropriate by the AB Snowboard Association.

41. Disciplinary Procedures:

- a. Any violations of the AB Snowboard Code of Conduct or team rules will be addressed through a fair and transparent disciplinary process;
- b. Allegations of misconduct will be thoroughly investigated by AB Snowboard;
- c. Athletes will have the opportunity to present their side of the story and provide any relevant evidence or witnesses;
- d. AB Snowboard will make a determination based on the findings of the investigation and any applicable policies or procedures; and/or
- e. Athletes found to be in violation may be subject to disciplinary action, as outlined in section 40 above.

42. Legal Costs: In the event that an Athlete is found to be at fault for any violation of the code of conduct or disciplinary procedures, they shall be responsible for covering any legal fees or costs incurred during the investigation and resolution process. AB Snowboard shall not be liable for any such expenses accrued by the Athlete.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

43. All members of the Selection Committee and any other relevant governing bodies involved in the AB Provincial Team Program must declare any conflicts of interest that may arise during the selection process.

44. Conflicts of interest may include, but are not limited to, personal relationships with Athletes, financial interests, or any other situation that may compromise impartial decision-making.

45. In the event of a conflict of interest, the affected member shall recuse themselves from any discussions or decisions related to the Athlete in question.

46. If a conflict of interest arises involving the majority of the Selection Committee, an alternate impartial panel will be appointed to oversee the selection process.

CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE

47. All information obtained during the selection process, including Athlete applications, performance data, and deliberations, shall be treated as confidential.

48. Members of the Selection Committee and any other individuals involved in the selection process are prohibited from disclosing any confidential information to unauthorized parties.

49. Confidential information shall only be shared on a need-to-know basis and for the sole purpose of facilitating the selection process.

50. Violation of the confidentiality clause may result in disciplinary action as outlined in Section 40 of this policy.

COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

51. All communication regarding Athlete selection, program updates, and disciplinary matters will be conducted through the designated High-Performance Director.

52. Athletes will receive timely updates on their selection status, program requirements, and any changes to the program via email from the High-Performance Director.

53. Coaches, parents, and other stakeholders may contact the High-Performance Director for inquiries or concerns related to the AB Provincial Team Program.

REVIEW AND REVISION PROCESS

54. This policy will be subject to annual review by the AB Snowboard Board of Directors to ensure alignment with current best practices, regulatory requirements, and organizational objectives.

55. Feedback from Athletes, coaches, parents, and other stakeholders will be solicited and considered during the review process.

56. Any proposed revisions to the policy will be communicated to all relevant parties, and a consultation period may be initiated to gather feedback before finalizing the changes.

57. Once revisions are approved by the AB Snowboard Board of Directors, an updated version of the policy will be disseminated to all stakeholders and published on the AB Snowboard website.

SECTION FOR PARENTS

58. Parents are encouraged to participate in educational workshops organized by AB Snowboard. These workshops cover topics such as Athlete well-being, safe sport practices, conflict resolution, and effective communication strategies. By attending these workshops, parents gain valuable insights and tools to support their child's athletic development and contribute positively to the team environment.

59. Parents are required to complete safe sport training courses provided by recognized organizations such as the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) or the Coaching Association of Canada (CAC). This training enhances parents' understanding of safe sport principles, including Athlete welfare, harassment prevention, and ethical behavior.

60. Parents must review and acknowledge the AB Snowboard Code of Conduct, which outlines expectations for parental behavior and adherence to safe sport principles. By signing the acknowledgement, parents commit to upholding the highest standards of sportsmanship, respect, and integrity in their interactions with Athletes, coaches, officials, and other stakeholders.

61. Parents are required to participate in volunteer opportunities within the AB Provincial Team Program and the broader snowboarding community. Volunteering may include assisting with event organization, fundraising, and community outreach programs.
62. AB Snowboard maintains open and transparent communication channels to keep parents informed about program updates, events, volunteer opportunities, and community engagement initiatives. Parents are encouraged to actively participate in team meetings, information sessions, and other communication platforms to stay engaged and connected with the program.
63. By exhibiting positive behavior and adhering to established protocols, parents play a crucial role in shaping the culture of the program and setting a constructive example for Athletes. Their commitment to upholding the values of sportsmanship, respect, and integrity contributes to the overall success and well-being of the AB Provincial Team Program community.
64. In the event of failure to comply with the expectations outlined in this policy or engaging in conduct detrimental to the AB Provincial Team Program community, parents may be subject to the following consequences:

DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

65. Parents found to be in violation of the AB Snowboard Code of Conduct or engaging in behavior contrary to the principles of safe sport may face disciplinary action, including but not limited to:
 - a. Temporary suspension from attending team events or activities;
 - b. Restricted access to program-related communication channels and resources;
 - c. Removal of volunteer privileges or participation in program activities;
 - d. Prohibition from attending future program events or activities; and/or
 - e. Other sanctions deemed appropriate by AB Snowboard.
66. Disciplinary procedures will be conducted in a fair and transparent manner, providing parents with an opportunity to present their side of the story and respond to any allegations. AB Snowboard reserves the right to take disciplinary action as necessary to maintain the integrity of the program and ensure the well-being of all participants.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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