

Alberta Snowboard CanWest Pass Policy Effective for the 2026/2027 Season

Overview

The [CanWest Competitor Pass](#) is a privilege extended to a limited number of eligible high-performance athletes and coaches who are actively training and competing within FIS-sanctioned snowboard disciplines.

The CanWest Pass is governed by the Canada West Ski Areas Association (CWSAA) Competitor Pass framework and is administered provincially by Alberta Snowboard through Alberta's assigned quota and policy.

This pass is not for recreational use. It is intended only for eligible athletes and coaches who are actively participating in organized training and FIS competition programs through an Alberta Snowboard-affiliated club or Alberta Snowboard provincial program.

All pass recipients are representing Alberta Snowboard and are expected to conduct themselves with professionalism, integrity, accountability, and respect both on and off the hill.

Alberta Snowboard is responsible for monitoring pass eligibility, FIS competition participation, athlete training status, coach affiliation, and conduct throughout the season.

Alberta Snowboard reserves the right to deny, suspend, or revoke access to the CanWest Pass program if eligibility requirements are not met or maintained.

1) Athlete Eligibility

- a) To be eligible under Alberta Snowboard's CanWest Pass quota, athletes must meet all of the following requirements:
 - i) Be a resident of Alberta for at least one full year prior to the start of the 2026/2027 season, July 1st, 2026.
 - ii) Have trained in Alberta with an Alberta Snowboard-affiliated club during the previous 2025/2026 season.
 - iii) Be a member in good standing with Alberta Snowboard.
 - iv) Will be training with a sanctioned Alberta Snowboard club or Alberta Snowboard Provincial program for 2026/2027 season
 - v) Holding a CAN FIS code does not automatically qualify an athlete for a CanWest Pass. Athletes must meet all Alberta Snowboard and CWSAA eligibility requirements for consideration.
 - vi) Athletes must continue to meet all eligibility requirements throughout the 2026/2027 season. If an athlete no longer meets the requirements, Alberta Snowboard may review, suspend, or revoke the pass.

b) Application Review and Allocation

- i) All applications will first be reviewed by Alberta Snowboard to confirm eligibility under this policy and the CWSAA Competitor Pass framework. Eligible applications may then be submitted to the CWSAA Competitor Pass Committee for review and allocation.
- ii) Final pass allocation is determined by the number of passes made available to Alberta Snowboard through CWSAA. If eligible applications exceed Alberta Snowboard's available allocation, Alberta Snowboard will apply the selection criteria outlined in this policy to determine which applicants receive a pass.

c) Previous Season Compliance

- i) Athletes or coaches who received a CanWest Pass in the previous season, must have complied with the eligibility, conduct, training, competition, and pass use requirements in effect for that season.
- ii) Previous season CanWest Pass recipients may be deemed ineligible for the current season if they did not meet the previous season's requirements, including but not limited to:
 - Failing to communicate injury, withdrawal, or changes in training or competition status to Alberta Snowboard;
 - Continuing to use the pass after withdrawing from organized training or competition, or after becoming unable to train or compete without an approved return-to-sport or return-to-competition plan;
 - Failing to comply with Alberta Snowboard's Code of Conduct, Safe Sport requirements, the Alpine Skier/Rider Responsibility Code, or host ski area expectations;
 - Having outstanding fees, invoices, or amounts owing to Alberta Snowboard.
- iii) Failure to meet previous season requirements may result in the applicant being denied, deprioritized, or disqualified from current or future CanWest Pass eligibility.

d) Eligible Birth Years by Discipline:

- i) Snowboard Alpine, Snowboard Cross, and Big Air: born between **2007 and 2011**
- ii) Snowboard Halfpipe and Slopestyle: born between **2008 and 2012**
- iii) Athletes outside the eligible birth year ranges may only be considered through the age exception process outlined below.

e) Age Exceptions:

- i) Age exceptions are limited and are not approved by Alberta Snowboard.
- ii) An athlete who is up to two years older than the maximum eligible birth year, or one year younger than the minimum eligible birth year, may only be submitted for consideration if they provide a letter from an authorized representative of Canada Snowboard confirming that the athlete is under serious consideration for nomination to the

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- National Team in the upcoming competition year.
- iii) Alberta Snowboard will not submit an age exception request without the required Canada Snowboard letter.
- iv) Submission of an age exception request does not guarantee approval or allocation of a CanWest Pass. All exceptions remain subject to CWSAA review and approval, and the athlete must meet all other Alberta Snowboard and CWSAA eligibility requirements.

2) **Para-Athletes:**

- a) There are no age restrictions for carded members of the Canadian Para-Alpine or Canadian Para-Snowboard Team who are permanent residents of Alberta.
- b) Para-athletes must meet all other applicable Alberta Snowboard and CWSAA eligibility requirements.

3) **Non-Resident Eligibility:**

- a) Athletes who do not reside in Alberta are not automatically eligible under Alberta Snowboard's quota.
- b) A non-resident athlete may only be considered under Alberta Snowboard's quota if they meet all of the following requirements:
 - i) Hold a CAN FIS code;
 - ii) Are registered with a sanctioned Alberta Snowboard club;
 - iii) Are actively training and competing full time with an Alberta-based club during the 2026/2027 season;
 - iv) Trained full time in Alberta with an Alberta Snowboard-affiliated club during the previous 2025/2026 season;
 - v) Meet all other Alberta Snowboard and CWSAA eligibility requirements.
- c) Athletes who do not reside in Alberta and did not train in Alberta with a sanctioned Alberta Snowboard club during the previous 2025/2026 season are not eligible under Alberta Snowboard's quota.

4) **Alberta Snowboard Requirements**

a) **Code of Conduct, Safe Sport, and Sport Safety**

- i) All athletes and coaches must uphold Alberta Snowboard's Code of Conduct and comply with all applicable safe sport, screening, conduct, and sport safety requirements, including any applicable Government of Alberta sport safety requirements.
- ii) Misuse of the CanWest Pass, unsafe behaviour, harassment, maltreatment, bullying, discrimination, misconduct, or inappropriate conduct at training venues, competitions, travel settings, public settings, or host ski areas will not be tolerated.
- iii) All athletes and coaches are responsible for representing Alberta Snowboard, CWSAA, and the CanWest Competitor Pass Program with professionalism, accountability, and respect.
- iv) All coaches supporting athletes through the CanWest Pass Program must meet Alberta Snowboard's coach eligibility, safe sport, screening, and coach compliance requirements before being submitted for consideration.

b) Conduct, Discipline, and Revocation

- i) Alberta Snowboard may deny, suspend, revoke, or cancel a CanWest Pass at any time if an athlete or coach:
 - (1) Breaches Alberta Snowboard's Code of Conduct, Safe Sport requirements, or other applicable policies;
 - (2) Breaches the Alpine Skier/Rider Responsibility Code;
 - (3) Is disciplined by Alberta Snowboard, a club, a host ski area, Canada Snowboard, CWSAA, or another applicable sport organization;
 - (4) Fails to maintain the eligibility requirements outlined in this policy;
 - (5) Acts in a way that negatively reflects on Alberta Snowboard, CWSAA, a host ski area, or the CanWest Competitor Pass Program.
- ii) Alberta Snowboard may also disqualify an individual from current or future participation in the CanWest Pass Program based on conduct, misuse, failure to meet requirements, or disciplinary concerns.

c) Minimum Competition and Travel Requirement

- i) Athletes must compete in a minimum of two FIS-level events, unless there is a direct scheduling conflict with a higher-level competition or an approved competition pathway conflict.

d) Monitoring, Audits, and Pass Use Review

- i) Pass eligibility must be maintained throughout the full season. Alberta Snowboard may revoke or suspend a pass at any time if the pass holder no longer meets the eligibility requirements or the pass is not being used for its intended purpose.

5) Coach Eligibility

- a) A limited number of Coach CanWest Passes may be available to coaches who are actively supporting eligible athletes through a Sanctioned Alberta Snowboard club or Alberta Snowboard provincial program.
- b) To be eligible, coaches must meet all of the following requirements:
 - i) Be a full-time Club Coach at a Sanctioned Alberta Snowboard Club with Alberta Snowboard.
 - ii) Be a current (2026/2027) Alberta Snowboard Coach member in good standing by July 24th, 2026.
 - iii) Be actively coaching athletes who are receiving a CWSAA competitor Pass for 2026/2027 season
 - iv) Hold, at minimum, Canada Snowboard Competition Introduction certification, or provide proof of active completion status as accepted by Alberta Snowboard.
 - v) Meet all Alberta Snowboard Safe Sport, screening, coach licensing, and coach compliance requirements.
- c) Independent coaches, private coaches, unaffiliated coaches, parent coaches, athlete-coaches, junior helpers, introductory, grassroots, instructor, community stream, junior helper, or athlete mentors are

ineligible for CanWest Passes.

- d) Coach eligibility must be maintained throughout the season. Alberta Snowboard may review, suspend, or revoke a Coach CanWest Pass at any time if the coach no longer meets the eligibility requirements or is not using the pass for its intended purpose.

6) Pass Costs

- a) Athlete Pass: **\$805.00 + applicable taxes**
- b) Coach Pass: **\$1,610.00 + applicable taxes**
- c) Invoices will be issued after pass allocation is confirmed.
- d) Passes will only be distributed once payment has been received in full.

7) Application Process

- a) Clubs must submit athlete applications to highperformance@albertasnowboarding.com no later than Friday, July 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. MT.
- b) This internal deadline is set in advance of the CWSAA submission deadline to allow Alberta Snowboard time to review applications, confirm eligibility and submit eligible applicants to the CWSAA Competitor Pass Committee by the required deadline.
- c) Athletes applying for an age exception must submit the required letter from an authorized representative of Canada Snowboard at the time of application. Alberta Snowboard will not submit an age exception request without the required Canada Snowboard letter.
- d) Late applications will not be considered.
- e) All athletes and coaches who wish to be considered must also complete the required [CWSAA Release Agreement](#) by July 24th, 2026. For athletes under the age of majority, the Release Agreement must be completed by a parent or guardian.
- f) Applicants who do not complete the CWSAA Release Agreement by the CWSAA deadline will not be considered in the first round of allocations.
- g) Alberta Snowboard will submit eligible applicants to the CWSAA Competitor Pass Committee by the required CWSAA deadline (August 7th, 2026). Submission to CWSAA does not guarantee allocation of a CanWest Pass.

8) Selection Process

- a) **Athletes:**
 - i) Alberta Snowboard will review all complete applications that meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this policy.
 - ii) Applications will be reviewed by Alberta Snowboard and the High Performance Committee.
 - iii) Eligible applications will be assessed using the WSPL base list ranking as of **July 1st, 2026**.
 - iv) Eligible applications for speed athletes will be assessed on their provided training and competition plan for the 2026-2027 season.
 - v) Athlete pass distribution will follow:
 - 65% of eligible passes allocated to Slopestyle athletes
 - 30% of eligible passes allocated to Halfpipe athletes
 - 5% of eligible passes allocated to Speed athletes

- Within each discipline allocation, passes will be split evenly between male and female athletes, any un-allocated passes per discipline or gender within, will be re-allocated accordingly.
- vi) Final selection is subject to Alberta Snowboard's available allocation from CWSAA. Results will be communicated by email.

b) Coaches:

- i) Alberta Snowboard will review all complete applications that meet the eligibility requirements outlined in this policy.
- ii) Clubs are eligible to receive one (1) coach pass for every five (5) eligible athletes with a CWSAA competitor pass.
- iii) The number of coach passes allocated to each club is determined by the percentage of riders with CWSAA pass within that club
- iv) Clubs will distribute the Coach Passes within their organization
- v) All coach passes are subject to CWSAA approval

9) Appeals

- a) Any person wishing to appeal an Alberta Snowboard CanWest Pass eligibility, selection, or revocation decision must do so in accordance with Alberta Snowboard's Appeals Policy.
- b) Appeals must be submitted within the timeline and process outlined in the Appeals Policy. A decision cannot be appealed only because an individual disagrees with the outcome. Appeals must be based on sufficient grounds as outlined in the Appeals Policy.
- c) CWSAA decisions, CWSAA quotas, CWSAA allocation limits, CWSAA policies, and requirements established by external organizations are not appealable through Alberta Snowboard's Appeals Policy.

10) Pass Termination, Injury, and Refunds

- a) Alberta Snowboard may suspend, revoke, or require the return of a CanWest Pass if an athlete or coach no longer meets the eligibility requirements, withdraws from organized training or competition, misuses the pass, or is subject to conduct or disciplinary concerns.
- b) If an athlete is injured and can no longer actively train or compete within an approved return-to-sport or return-to-competition plan, Alberta Snowboard may review the athlete's pass eligibility and may require the pass to be returned to Alberta Snowboard or CWSAA.
- c) Alberta Snowboard does not issue refunds for CanWest Passes.
- d) In cases of serious injury, the pass holder may contact CWSAA directly to inquire about any available refund process. Any refund decision is subject to CWSAA review and approval.

Important Dates

- **Friday, July 24, 2026 at 5:00 PM MT** – Alberta Snowboard internal application & CWSAA Release Agreement deadline
- **Friday, August 7, 2026** – Alberta Snowboard submission deadline to CWSAA
- **Friday, September 25, 2026 at 5:00 PM MT** – Alberta Snowboard payment



deadline for approved passes (*Approved passes will not be distributed until payment has been received in full*)

- **2026/2027 Season** – Alberta Snowboard may monitor eligibility, training, competition activity, and pass use at any time

Questions?

Please contact Alberta Snowboard at:

highperformance@albertasnowboarding.com

Alberta Snowboard is committed to fostering excellence, accountability, and athlete development. The CanWest Pass Program is a privilege and is intended to support eligible athletes and coaches who are actively participating in high-performance training and competition pathways.

For complete program details, visit: www.albertasnowboarding.com