



## FREESTYLE ONTARIO – 2024 JUNIOR NATIONALS SELECTION CRITERIA

### REVISION RECORD:

January 6, 2015 – 2015 Junior Nationals Selection Criteria created.

January 12, 2016 – Ontario Ranking Spots distribution system changed to align with CFSA Performance Spots; U14 Assessment Spots Removed; U20 age category removed (as per changes made by CFSA); Gender Ratio criteria adjusted; Aerial Selections criteria created; dates adjusted for the 2016 season.

January 24, 2017 – Dates, locations, disciplines, ratios, NSO/PSO names, and FC quota allocations updated; Order of Ontario Ranking Spot distributions changed to give priority to higher ranked athletes.

December 12, 2017 – Dates and locations updated; changed number of mogul RPA scores counting to Ontario Ranking Spots from 3 to 2 (see section 8-h).

November 27, 2018 – Dates, locations, gender ratios updated; changed number of *park and pipe* RPA scores counting to Ontario Ranking Spots from 3 to 2 (see section 8-h); changed number of *mogul* RPA scores counting to Ontario Ranking Spots from 2 to 3 (see section 8-h);

January 24, 2020 – Dates, locations, gender ratios updated; Age exemption criteria added; Ontario Ranking Spots count the athlete's top 3 RPAs.

December 6, 2021 – Annual updates for 2021-2022 season to align with event dates. These updates impact many aspects of the criteria in unique ways.

January 21, 2022 – Updates to align with new event dates for Canadian Jr. Mogul Championships.

February 23, 2022 – Updates to align with dates and quotas from Freestyle Canada.

November 16, 2022 – Dates, locations and disciplines updated, HPP right of first refusal removed.

January 10, 2024 – Dates and locations updated. Corrected athlete license requirement. Updated quotas. Change to Aerials and Half pipe specialist spot allocation. Details added for determining Minimum Skill Level. Change to gender ratios.

### SELECTION FOR 2024 JUNIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Freestyle Ontario (FO) Policy Requirements: This Selection Criteria is subject to all the procedures and requirements outlined in the most current draft of the FO Selection Criteria, including section 5.7 (FO's residency policy).
2. License: All athletes must have a valid Freestyle Ontario Provincial or FIS Athlete license to be eligible for selection. By the start of the 2023 Jr. Nationals, all athletes must have a valid FO Provincial or FIS Athlete license to represent FO at Jr. Nationals.
3. Disciplines, Dates and Locations:
  - Moguls/Dual Moguls /Aerials: March 20-24, Whistler Blackcomb (Whistler) BC
  - Slopestyle/Big Air/Halfpipe: March 20-24, Winsport (Calgary) AB



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4. Age Eligibility: Athletes will be competing in the following age categories:
- a) U14: Athletes ages 12 and 13 on January 1, 2024
    - i) Age exemptions for athletes under the age of 12 may be made by FO on a case by case basis. For an age exemption to be approved by FO, the athlete must:
      - Have their parent/guardian place a request with FO for an age exemption to be made. This request must be made prior to the conclusion of the Junior Nationals Selection Period;
      - Meet the minimum skill level;
      - Earn a higher Junior Nationals Ontario Ranking Spot than the U14 athlete whose spot the athlete will be taking. No alternates from the U12 category will be considered.
  - b) U16: Athletes ages 14 and 15 on January 1, 2024
  - c) U18: Athletes ages 16 to 17 on January 1, 2024
- If an age exemption is approved by FO, FO will request an age exemption for the athlete with Freestyle Canada. Freestyle Canada then reserves the right to approve or not approve the age exemption.
5. Quotas: FO is allocated athlete quotas from Freestyle Canada (FC). Before reallocations, Ontario has been awarded the below Jr. Nationals spots:

- 20 Mogul/Dual Mogul/Aerials spots
- 9 Slopestyle/Big Air/Halfpipe spots

Additional spots may become available during Freestyle Canada's reallocation process. This process begins on **January 20, 2023**.

Quota spots will not be reallocated after **14** days prior to the first day of Official Training. Unused quota spots after **21** days prior to the first day of Official Training will be made available to the host T/PSO.

6. Quota Allocation:
- a. Junior Nationals Selection Period: From the start of the 2023-24 competitive season (as per the definition of "competitive season" in the most current draft of the FO Selection Criteria), and ends on and includes the events occurring on:
    - i. Mogul/Dual Mogul/Aerial Spots: **February 25, 2024**
    - ii. Slopestyle/Big Air/Halfpipe Spots: **February 25, 2024**



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- b. Offers for Ontario Jr. National spots will start being distributed on:
- i. February 27, 2024 for Mogul/Dual Mogul/Aerials spots
  - ii. February 27, 2024 for Slopestyle/Big Air/Halfpipe spots

*\*Spots may be distributed at an earlier date if spots are secured before the end of the selection period.*

Athletes will have 24 hours to respond to their Jr. Nationals invitation. After 24 hours, the offer may be revoked.

7. **Minimum Skill Level:** All athletes must meet a Minimum Skill Level (MSL) to participate in Jr. Nationals. Athletes who meet one or more of the following criteria will be considered **to have met the MSL needed to compete at Jr. Nationals:**

- c. The athlete received an official invitation from Freestyle Ontario to the current season's Ontario Team or Ontario Development Squad, regardless of whether the athlete accepted their Ontario Team/Development Squad spot or not.
- d. The athlete has previously competed at a Jr. Nationals or Canada Cup event in the same discipline.
- e. Athletes who do not meet either of the above criteria will have their MSL eligibility assessed by FO's High Performance Selection Committee (HPSC). Members of the HPSC are outlined in section 5.2 of FO's Ontario Athlete Selection Criteria. Athlete safety will be the primary factor in determining this level. MSL required is dependent on the terrain expected for each event. One or more of the following factors will be considered by the HPSC to determine whether the MSL has been demonstrated:
  - i. The athlete's position on the Ontario Ranking List in relationship to other athletes competing at the Jr. Nationals.
  - ii. Coach endorsement of the athlete's ability to safely ski the Jr. Nationals event course, and to safely train on the course with other Jr. Nationals level competitors.
  - iii. Video evidence of successful training on terrain equivalent to the terrain expected at the event being considered.
  - iv. Evidence that the athlete's technical ability aligns with the stage of the Jr. Nationals event, as measured through the athlete possessing a general alignment with the technical ability outlined in the FO High Performance Skill Assessment Tool (available at <https://freestyleontario.ski/hp-programs-overview>).



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- v. Evidence of a periodized annual training plan including physical strength, conditioning, and injury prevention programming that demonstrates competition readiness.

### 8. Gender Ratio:

- Gender ratio for each quota limited event is 50:50.
- If an uneven number of quota spots are available to FO, the additional spot will be allocated to the gender with a greater number of athletes who appear on the discipline-specific Ontario Ranking List and hold a current FO Provincial athlete license.
- Any unused ranking spots may be moved to the other gender category.

### 9. Order of Spot Distribution: Ontario Ranking Spots/Wild Card Spots will be distributed first, followed by AE and HP specialist spots.

- **Aerials and Half Pipe Selections:** Freestyle Canada has 25 spots reserved for Aerials specialists for the AE event, and spots reserved for HP specialists who are approved by PSO for the HP event.

### 10. Ontario Ranking Spots: Spots will be awarded to the top ranked athletes in each Jr. Nationals age category, using the process outlined in Section 5 of the 2023-24 FO Ontario Athlete Selection Criteria.

For Mogul/Dual Mogul athletes, Ontario Ranking Spots will be awarded to the athletes with the highest **Ontario Mogul Ranking**. Athletes will be selected for the Mogul/Dual Mogul/Aerials events using the Mogul Ranking system described in the FO Selection Criteria.

For Slopestyle/Big Air/Halfpipe athletes, Ontario Ranking Spots will be awarded to the athletes with the highest **Ontario P&P Ranking**. Athletes will be selected for the Slopestyle/Big Air/Halfpipe events using the P&P Ranking system described in the FO Selection Criteria.

Ontario Ranking Spots will be distributed in groups of three. The first three Ontario Ranking Spots will be distributed to the highest ranked athletes in each age category listed in section 6 of this Jr. Nationals Selection Criteria. The next three Ontario Ranking Spots will be distributed to the second highest ranked athletes in each age category. This process will continue until there are no remaining Ontario Ranking Spots.

Priority will be given to the higher ranked athlete within each group of three. Example: if the highest ranked U16 athlete has a higher Ontario Ranking score than the highest ranked U18 and U14 athletes, the U16 athlete will earn their spot first.



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Example:

Male P&P Ontario Ranking Spot Distribution	U18 P&P	U16 P&P	U14 P&P
Highest Ranked Athlete in Age Category  (Ontario Ranking Spots 1-3)	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 600</u>  1 <sup>ST</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 575</u>  2 <sup>nd</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 500</u>  3 <sup>rd</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot
2 <sup>nd</sup> Highest Ranked Athlete in Age Category  (Ontario Ranking Spots 4-6)	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 550</u>  4 <sup>th</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 480</u>  6 <sup>TH</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 490</u>  5 <sup>TH</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot
3 <sup>rd</sup> Highest Ranked Athlete in Age Category  (Ontario Ranking Spots 7-9)	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 400</u>  8 <sup>th</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 450</u>  7 <sup>th</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot	<u>Ontario Ranking Points: 390</u>  9 <sup>th</sup> Ontario Ranking Spot
Etc...	Etc...	Etc...	Etc...

11. Wild Card Spot: Up to two Wild Card Spots may be made available for athletes from underserved geographical regions. This includes the Lake Superior Region and remote areas of the Northern Ontario Region. These spots may be earned through an athlete submitting a video application. Video submissions will be reviewed by the HPSC.

If a Wild Card Spot is granted to an athlete, the spot will be removed from the Ontario Ranking Spots. Wild Card Spots will only be granted to athletes who have demonstrated that they are more qualified than a potential Ontario Ranking Spot athlete.

FO's High Performance Director must receive video submissions by the end of the Jr. Nationals Selection Period (see section 6.a for details). Please contact FO's High Performance Director at [heather@freestyleontario.ski](mailto:heather@freestyleontario.ski) for details on how to submit video applications.

The guidelines below will be considered for Wild Card video submissions for mogul skiers:

- i. Rationale for why the athlete was unable to earn an Ontario Ranking Spot.



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- ii. The athlete's potential for a strong performance at Jr. Nationals.
- iii. The athlete's demonstrated ability to safely ski a Jr. Nationals type course.
- iv. The athlete's demonstrated air skills.
- v. The athlete's demonstrated speed.
- vi. The athlete's demonstrated mogul skiing skills, including their abilities in:
  - Stance and balance
  - Steering and edging
  - Pressure control
  - Turn timing and coordination

The guidelines below will be considered for Wild Card video submissions for slopestyle and big air skiers:

- i. Rationale for why the athlete was unable to earn an Ontario Ranking Spot.
- ii. The athlete's potential for a strong performance at Jr. Nationals.
- iii. The athlete's demonstrated ability to safely ski a Jr. Nationals type course.
- iv. The athlete's jumping abilities and versatility.
- v. The athlete's abilities on rails, boxes, and wall rides.
- vi. The athlete's basic skiing skills.

12. Tiebreaker: In the event of a tie, an additional Ontario Ranking score will be used to break the tie (eg. 4 Mogul Ranking scores used instead of 3 Mogul Ranking scores for moguls).
13. Residency: All athletes must meet the residency requirements outlined in section 5.7 of the most current draft of the FO Ontario Athlete Selection Criteria.
14. Good Standing: All athletes must be in good financial standing with FO to be eligible for a Jr. Nationals spot.
15. COVID-19: In the event of widespread cancellation of qualifying events during the Selection Period Ontario's High Performance Program Committee (HPPC) reserves the right to modify this criteria. The HPPC reserves the right to determine if such a modification is warranted. Changes will be made publicly available on Freestyle Ontario's website (<http://freestyleontario.ski>), along with the justification for the change.