



**NATIONAL SKELETON PROGRAM  
2019-20 SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA**

**FOR SELECTING CANADIAN SKELETON ATHLETES TO THE  
SENIOR SKELETON TEAM (SST) & DEVELOPMENT SKELETON TEAM (DST)  
& NEXTGEN SKELETON ATHLETE DESIGNATION  
FOR THE 2019-20 SEASON**

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The following outlines the process **Bobsleigh CANADA Skeleton (BCS)** will follow in selecting athletes to the **Senior Skeleton Team (SST)** and **Development Skeleton Team (DST)** as part of the **National Skeleton Program (NSP)** and **NextGen Skeleton Athlete (NGSA)** designation. This Selection Process has been designed in support of BCS' mission to develop and sustain World and Olympic Champions. Fairness, equal opportunity, the desire to field competitive teams for international competition and development of NextGen athletes are the guiding principles of the NSP - Selection Process & Criteria.

BCS will utilize a combination of testing camp results, including athletic testing and/or icehouse push testing (as applicable) where athletes earn their **Athletic Performance Evaluation (APE)** score (see Appendix A for reference), and undergo push testing, along with a **Selection Race Series (SRS)** for the process of completing team selections.

## 1) NSP - SELECTION PROCESS

### A) ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in, and at all times throughout, the NSP – Selection Process, including testing camps (as applicable) and the SRS, candidates must fulfill the conditions below. The candidate must:

- i) be a member in good standing of either BCS or the candidate's respective provincial association;
- ii) unless a written exemption is granted by the High Performance Director in advance, have participated in and/or competed in all required events, camps and/or competitions in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 Seasons to which the candidate was selected to participate, including:
  - (1) NSP camps;
  - (2) Canadian Championships;
  - (3) Competitions (OWG / WCh / WC / ICC / NAC and/or EC); and/or
  - (4) Such other mandatory events as may be notified to the athlete from time to time in advance.
 ("Season" means the 12 month period from April 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> annually.);
- iii) have paid all outstanding fees;
- iv) have a passport valid for a period of at least 6 months beyond the end of the upcoming competitive season;
- v) meet the eligibility requirements to obtain a Canadian IBSF license;
- vi) not have a current sanction imposed resulting from an anti-doping rule violation; and
- vii) demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the NSP-Head Coach, sufficient on-ice sliding proficiency.

### B) SELECTION RACE SERIES (SRS)

The SRS consists of one (1) World Championships format race, **SRS Race #1**, being conducted on 1 track for a combined total of four (4) heats where **SRS Points** are earned.

	<b>SRS Race #1</b>
<b>Planned Location</b>	Whistler

<b>Race Format</b>	World Championships (4 heats over 2 days)
<b>Start Order Heat 1</b>	By rank according to each athlete's previous season's IBSF ranking. Athletes without an IBSF ranking will be drawn at the end of the field.
<b>Start Order Heat 2</b>	Reverse order according to the ranking of Heat 1.
<b>Start Order Heat 3</b>	1 to end, according to the combined ranking of Heats 1 & 2
<b>Start Order Heat 4</b>	Reverse order according to the combined ranking of Heats 1, 2 & 3.

**Note: "By rank" means by highest rank first i.e. athletes who finish first, then second, then third etc.**

**C) CONDUCT OF THE SRS**

The SRS will be conducted in accordance with the IBSF rules in force at the time of the SRS, where applicable, with any modifications to the SRS Rules to be announced at the pre-race meeting(s)/draw(s). Athletes are responsible for representing themselves at these meetings.

General race format will be as follows:

- i) Race draws will be held following the final training heats;
- ii) All equipment (sleds, runners, etc.) must conform to the current IBSF rules, pass the appropriate technical inspections and equivalent equipment must be available to the athlete for the entire season;
- iii) Specific race protocols will be announced at the race draw, to reflect the race conditions (times, weather, etc.); and
- iv) Protests must be made verbally to a jury member within five minutes of the race ending, and must be submitted in writing within twenty minutes of the race conclusion, along with a non-refundable \$100 CAD protest fee.

**D) SRS POINTS & ATHLETE RANKING**

SRS Points will be awarded in accordance with the WC and WCh Skeleton IBSF Ranking List – Points system as per current IBSF Skeleton rules in force at the time of the SRS.

Total combined SRS Points will be used to determine athletes' rank based on SRS results for the purposes of section **3**).

In the event of a tie in total SRS Points, the tie will be broken by athletes' respective cumulative push times over all SRS race heats. The athlete with the lowest cumulative push time will be deemed to be the athlete of higher rank.

**E) UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES**

Fairness, equal opportunity, the desire to field competitive teams for international competition and development of athletes are the guiding principles of the NSP - Selection Process & Criteria, which are based on the latest information available to BCS. Unforeseen, intervening circumstances (weather, budget, etc.) may occur.

- i) If a scheduled event or portion thereof cannot be held or must be interrupted, BCS will first try to re-schedule the event or portion thereof;
- ii) If a venue change is feasible, BCS will attempt to change the venue but will not guarantee funding for travel to the new venue; and/or
- iii) If a venue change is not feasible, ranking will be based first on the portion of that event completed or if no portion has been completed, then ranking will be based on the discretion of the NSP-Head Coach.

**2) IBSF PARTICIPATION QUOTA**

For the 2019-20 season, Canada has qualified the following participation quotas:

<b>Circuit</b>	<b>Men’s Quota</b>	<b>Women’s Quota</b>
World Cup (WC)	2	3
Intercontinental Cup (ICC)	3	3
North American Cup (NAC)	4	4
Europa Cup (EC)	2	2

**3) NSP - SELECTION CRITERIA**

**A) FINAL SELECTION PROCESS**

Upon completion of the SRS, the NSP-Head Coach (or alternative, designated by the High Performance Director) will nominate the list of eligible athletes to the Selection Committee, in accordance with the criteria set out herein, for selection to the Senior Skeleton Team and Development Skeleton Team and NextGen Skeleton Athlete designation(s). The Selection Committee will review the nominations and ratify the selection in accordance with the criteria set out herein.

The Selection Committee will be comprised of:

- i) BCS Board Member (Committee Chair);
- ii) BCS Chief Executive Officer;
- iii) BCS High Performance Director;
- iv) Athletes Representative - Bobsleigh; and
- v) Independent participant.

***Note: If any named member is not available the High Performance Director may designate a replacement at his/her sole discretion.***

## **B) SENIOR SKELETON TEAM (SST) SELECTION**

The maximum number of athletes that may be selected to the **SST** is the number of the combined Canadian WC and ICC quota spots as set out in section **2**). For the avoidance of doubt, BCS may select fewer athletes than the maximum combined quota spots.

i) **SST - Eligibility:**

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements as per section **1)a)** at the time of nomination, to be selected to the SST, candidates must fulfill the following conditions:

- (1) execute the current year's BCS Athlete Agreement; and
- (2) be eligible to compete on the WC and/or ICC Circuits under the current IBSF rules.

ii) **SST - Position Allocations:**

In accordance with the combined WC and ICC quota places qualified by Canada as per section **2**), per discipline, the NSP-HC shall nominate the following athletes to the Selection Committee:

(1) For each discipline in which BCS fills six (6) SST Positions:

- (a) SST Position 1 - designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
- (b) SST Position 2 - designated to the second highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
- (c) SST Position 3 - designated to the third highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
- (d) SST Position 4 - designated to the fourth highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
- (e) SST Position 5 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the fifth highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results; and
- (f) SST Position 6 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the sixth highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results.

(2) For each discipline in which BCS fills five (5) SST Positions:

- (a) SST Position 1 - designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
- (b) SST Position 2 - designated to the second highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
- (c) SST Position 3 - designated to the third highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
- (d) SST Position 4 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the fourth highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results; and
- (e) SST Position 5 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the fifth highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results.

- (3) For each discipline in which BCS fills four (4) SST Positions:
- (a) SST Position 1 - designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
  - (b) SST Position 2 - designated to the second highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
  - (c) SST Position 3 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the third highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results; and
  - (d) SST Position 4 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the fourth highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results.
- (4) For each discipline in which BCS fills three (3) SST Positions:
- (a) SST Position 1 - designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results;
  - (b) SST Position 2 - designated to the second highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results; and
  - (c) SST Position 3 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the third highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results.
- (5) For each discipline in which BCS fills two (2) SST Positions:
- (a) SST Position 1 - designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results; and
  - (b) SST Position 2 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the second highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results.
- (6) For each discipline in which BCS fills one (1) SST Position:
- (a) SST Position 1 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on SRS results.

### **C) DEVELOPMENT SKELETON TEAM (DST) SELECTION**

The maximum number of athletes that may be selected to the **DST** is the number of combined Canadian NAC quota spots as set out in section **2)**. For the avoidance of doubt, BCS may select fewer athletes than the maximum combined quota spots.

i) DST - Eligibility:

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements as per section **1)a)** at the time of nomination, to be selected to the DST, candidates must fulfill the following conditions:

- (1) execute the current year's BCS Athlete Agreement;
- (2) be eligible to compete on the NAC/EC Circuits under the current IBSF rules;
- (3) not be nominated to the 2019-20 SST; and
- (4) never have been nominated to the Sport Canada AAP at the SR1/SR2 carding level.

ii) DST - Position Allocations:

In accordance with the NAC quota places qualified by Canada as per section **2**), per discipline, the NSP-HC shall nominate the following athletes to the Selection Committee:

(1) For each discipline in which BCS fills four (4) DST Positions:

- (a) DST Position 1 - designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score;
- (b) DST Position 2 - designated to the second highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score;
- (c) DST Position 3 - designated to the third highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score; and
- (d) DST Position 4 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the fourth highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score.

(2) For each discipline in which BCS fills three (3) DST Positions:

- (a) DST Position 1 - designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score;
- (b) DST Position 2 - designated to the second highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score; and
- (c) DST Position 3 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the third highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score.

(3) For each discipline in which BCS fills two (2) DST Positions:

- (a) DST Position 1 - designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score; and
- (b) DST Position 2 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the second highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score.

(4) For each discipline in which BCS fills one (1) DST Position:

- (a) DST Position 1 - designated by BCS, at its sole discretion, to any eligible athlete at any time, otherwise it shall be designated to the highest ranked eligible athlete based on APE score.

**D) NEXTGEN SKELETON ATHLETE (NGSA) DESIGNATION**

BCS may designate an unlimited number of candidates as **NGSAs**.

i) NGSA - Eligibility:

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements as per section **1)a)** at the time of nomination, to be designated as a NGSA, candidates must fulfill the following conditions:

- (1) unless a written exemption is granted by the High Performance Director in advance, have participated in the SRS, if eligible and qualified to do so;

- (2) execute the current year's BCS Athlete Agreement;
- (3) be eligible to compete on the WC, ICC, NAC, and/or EC Circuits, as applicable, under the current IBSF rules;
- (4) meet their respective NGSA Push Standard or NSP Sprint Standard at any of the *NSP Testing Opportunities* between April 1 and December 31 of the current Season, specifically:

NGSA Push Standard		NSP Sprint Standard	
Men:	≤ n/a	Men:	≤ 3.90sec
Women:	≤ n/a	Women:	≤ 4.20sec

- (5) be born during or after the year:

Men: 1991  
 Women: 1994; and

- (6) never have been nominated to the Sport Canada AAP at the SR1/SR2 carding level.

For the avoidance of doubt, athletes may be nominated and/or selected to any team and concurrently be designated as a NGSA.

**E) IBSF CIRCUIT ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to compete on each IBSF circuit, athletes selected to a Position on the SST or DST must meet their respective Push Standard at any of the *NSP Testing Opportunities* between April 1 and December 31 of the current season, specifically:

<b>WC CIRCUIT</b>		<b>ICC CIRCUIT</b>	
WC Push Standard		ICC Push Standard	
Men:	≤ 4.85sec	Men:	≤ n/a
Women:	≤ 5.25sec	Women:	≤ n/a
<b>NAC CIRCUIT</b>		<b>EC CIRCUIT</b>	
NAC Push Standard		EC Push Standard	
Men:	≤ n/a	Men:	≤ n/a
Women:	≤ n/a	Women:	≤ n/a

**F) IBSF CIRCUIT QUOTA SPOT ALLOCATIONS**

- i) WORLD CUP (WC) / INTERCONTINENTAL CUP (ICC)

The **WC** and **ICC** quota spot allocations will be made by BCS at its sole discretion, in accordance with the individual athletes' development and competition plans and in accordance with Position priority. Such development and competition plans will be made by BCS in consultation with the athlete and may be modified by BCS at its sole discretion from time to time, in consultation with the athlete, taking into consideration factors, including but not limited to, changes to the IBSF competition calendar, the season and/or long term goals



of the individual athlete and/or NSP program, Position re-allocation, competitive results, injuries, quota spot strategies, unforeseen circumstances and/or such other factors as BCS may deem relevant from time to time.

ii) NORTH AMERICAN CUP (NAC) / EUROPA CUP (EC)

The **NAC** and **EC** quota spot allocations are at the sole discretion of BCS and designated on a per race basis. NAC and EC quotas will first be designated to BCS athletes.

Following designations to BCS athletes, if any quota spots remain BCS may designate such spots to PSO athletes in collaboration with the PSOs: British Columbia Bobsleigh and Skeleton Association (BCBSA), Alberta Bobsleigh Association (ABA), Ontario Bobsleigh & Skeleton Association (OBSA), Bobsleigh Skeleton Québec (BSQ).

***Note: BCS, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to fill and/or change the number of quota spots filled on each of the circuits (WC, ICC, NAC and/or EC) at any time throughout the competitive season, including but not limited to not filling all quota spots on any circuit or in any competition at any time.***

**G) IN SEASON POSITION RE-ALLOCATION**

BCS may re-allocate designated Positions (SST and DST) at certain times in the 2019-20 season. For avoidance of doubt, all competitive results may be taken into consideration for the purposes of In Season Re-Allocation.

**H) BCS DISCRETION**

BCS shall consider using discretion in accordance with this **2019-20 Selection Process & Criteria** in the event of circumstances such as, but not limited to:

- i) Injury or long term sickness resulting in missed *NSP Testing Opportunities* and/or SRS Race(s) and/or IBSF Competitions and/or other events;
- ii) In the event of a tie that is not broken by section **1)d)** herein;
- iii) "Acts of God" - adverse weather conditions or other external factors resulting in modified or cancelled *BCS Push Testing Opportunities* and/or SRS Race(s);
- iv) "IBSF Rulings" - decisions made by the IBSF which impact the nations rankings or athlete results or qualification standards; and/or
- v) Such other circumstances and/or events that in the determination of the Selection Committee and/or High Performance Director, as appropriate, warrants the use of discretion, as set out in section **3)** herein.

**I) APPEALS - INTERNAL**

Any dispute of the Selection Process may be dealt with through the BCS Appeals Policy.