



## Selection Criteria for the FIS Freeride World Championships 2026 – Ski and Snowboard

### 1. Vision

- 1.1 New Zealand's Freeride athletes win medals at the FIS Freeride World Championships 2026 (FWCh26).

### 2 Introduction

- 1.1 Snow Sports New Zealand intends on selecting the best New Zealand Freeride athletes to give them a chance to win a World Championship title in 2026.
- 1.2 The 2026 FIS Freeride World Championships are the first ever FIS Freeride World Championships and are setting the stage for Olympic inclusion in 2030.

### 2. FIS Qualification System

- 2.1 The Snow Sports NZ Selection Criteria for the FIS Freeride World Championships 2026 – Ski and Snowboard is based on the FIS Qualification System published [here](#).
- 2.2 The FIS Qualification System will be referenced throughout this document and is referring to the document linked above.

### 3. Selectors

- 3.1 A selection panel (members TBD) will be convened by the Snow Sports NZ CEO after 30 April 2025 if Snow Sports NZ receives any Nation Spots.
- 3.2 If required, the panel will convene in September and all spots will be confirmed by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

### 4. Eligibility Criteria

- 4.1 To be eligible for selection athletes must:
  - a Be a NZ passport holder.
  - b Hold a current FIS membership and be a member of SSNZ.
  - c Have an individual performance plan.
  - d Meet FIS age eligibility (born before 1st January 2008).
  - e Meet FIS requirements (see FIS Qualification System).
  - f Demonstrate to the satisfaction of SSNZ that they are not suffering any physical or mental impairment that would prevent them from competing to the highest possible standard.
  - g Act in such a manner so as not to bring the Athlete, or SSNZ into public disrepute.
  - h To SSNZ's knowledge, has not used or administered any substance which, if detected, would constitute doping, or used any prohibited method or committed any other doping offense as defined in the SSNZ or FIS Integrity Regulation.

### 5. Qualification

- 5.1 New Zealand must qualify for places in the FIS Freeride World Championships in accordance with the FIS Qualification System.
- 5.2 Qualification for a place in any event(s) by an Athlete does not guarantee that Athlete will be nominated or selected to compete in the event(s) at the World Championships unless qualified as a Personal Spot (Group 1, 2, and 4 on the FIS Qualification System).
- 5.3 The Selectors may select Reserve Athletes for any Snow Sports Event. Reserve athletes may not meet all requirements in Section 4 to be reserves if there is a clear pathway to meeting those requirements prior to the event date.

## 6. Selection Criteria

- 6.1 Athletes can earn Personal Spots or receive quota spots through Groups 1, 2, and 4 on the FIS Qualification System.
- 6.2 All athletes must meet the requirements set out in Section 4.0 to be entered/selected for both Personal and Nation spots.
- 6.3 Personal Spot Criteria:
  - a The Athlete has achieved a personal spot via performance at the FWT Pro 2025 (Group 1) by achieving in the 2025 Freeride World Tour:
    - i. Top 12 Men Ski OR
    - ii. Top 6 Women Ski OR
    - iii. Top 6 Men Snowboard OR
    - iv. Top 3 Women Snowboard.
  - b The athlete has received a Personal Spot via Continental quota by being the top-ranked athlete (not already qualified) per continent in the qualifying global seeding list (Group 2).
  - c The athlete has received a personal Wild Card for the event (Group 4).
- 6.4 Nation Spots: In the event New Zealand is allocated National Spots (on 30 April 2025 and again 16 September 2025) athletes will be selected to fill those spots based on:
  - a Athlete ranking on the Qualifying Global Seeding List on September 16th, 2025, and
  - b Any other factor(s) the Snow Sports NZ Selectors consider relevant.

## 7. Appeals Process

- 7.1 An athlete may lodge an appeal with the SSNZ Chief Executive at any time. All appeals must be submitted in written form.
- 7.2 The SSNZ Chief Executive will:
  - a Respond to the athlete within one day (24 hours), but not later than five days (120 hours) of the appeal.
  - b Consult with the members of the Selection Panel and any other appropriate individuals.
- 7.3 Grounds for appeal:
  - a The applicable selection criteria were not properly applied.
  - b The athlete was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the criteria.
  - c The selection process was affected by actual bias.
  - d There was no material basis for the decision.

7.4 Determination of Appeal:

- a The SSNZ Chief Executive will communicate their decision and recommendation to both the SSNZ Board and the athlete.
- b If dissatisfied, the athlete may escalate the appeal to the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand.
- c The Sports Tribunal decision will be binding.