



Selection Criteria for the 2026 FIS Park & Pipe Junior World Championships: Big Air, Halfpipe, Rails, Slopestyle.

Calgary, Canada – 26th February to 7th March 2026

Expression of Interest Form: [Here](#)

1.0 Vision

New Zealand pathway athletes compete at the 2026 FIS Park & Pipe Junior World Championships (JWC) and represent New Zealand to a high standard while also benefitting from the opportunity of experiencing a major international event.

2.0 Introduction

Snow Sports New Zealand intends on entering developing athletes to give them a chance to shine on the international stage at appropriate levels of competition for their age and stage of development.

Participation in the JWC 2026 Team is intended to provide an opportunity for eligible athletes to test themselves against the rest of the world in their age group.

The FIS JWC offers an insight into competing at an elite level in the future and how major events are run (World Championships/World Cups etc). Athletes are expected to compete in all four Park and Pipe disciplines at the 2026 JWC to demonstrate the complete skillset required for future major event success.

Results gained and overall performance at the competition will allow an assessment of how the eligible athletes compare against their international peers at a given point in time.

Snow Sports New Zealand has six spots per discipline per gender to allocate for JWC 2026 for both snowboard and freeski.

3.0 Goals

1. NZ athletes win Junior World titles.
2. NZ Junior athletes prepare for and target a Top 8 ranking or better.
3. NZ Junior athletes are benchmarked against the rest of the world.

4. NZ Junior athletes are given the opportunity to experience high level competition and be more prepared for future elite level events.
5. NZ Junior athletes secure FIS points which build towards quota spots for future FIS World Cups.

4.0 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for participation athletes must:

1. Hold a NZ passport.
2. Be a current financial member of Snow Sports NZ.
3. Meet FIS age and rules eligibility for the event. Athletes must be born between 2008 and 2012.
4. Hold a current FIS licence.
5. Have proved through previous results or training the ability to safely compete on the JWC courses, such as 2025 ANC Cup courses.

5.0 Expression of Interest

To participate in Junior World Championships 2026 athletes must fill in the Expression of Interest form by September 30, 2025.

[The Expression of Interest form can be found here.](#)

6.0 Allocation of Quota Spots

Freeski: there are six spots available for each gender per discipline. Snowboard: there are six spots available for each gender per discipline.

JWC Quota Spots will be allocated by the following process:

1. Six athletes in each discipline and gender will be allocated a spot in Halfpipe, Big Air, Slopestyle and Rails.
2. If over six athletes apply in a particular discipline and gender the spots will be allocated by the Selection Panel (7.0) and by the Selection Criteria (8.0, 9.0).
3. Allocated spots will be communicated to athletes by October 10th 2025.
4. In the event there are free quota spots after October 10th, the Selection Panel will attempt to fill those quota spots by applying the Selection Criteria (8.0, 9.0) to the remaining athletes.
5. Athletes not allocated spots will be communicated with where they sit on a prioritised reserve list by October 17th.

7.0 The Selection Panel

The panel for the 2026 Junior World Championships is:

- Sarah Gillespie (Convenor)
- Hamish McDougall

- Tom Willmott
- Luke Hetzel

8.0 Over-Riding Selection Criteria

Athletes are allocated quota spots based primarily on their competition results, FIS points and progression tracking.

The Selection Panel will use the above measures to rank athletes if required. All previous competition results will be evaluated with a consideration for strength and depth of field.

9.0 Additional selection factors

- a. Current FIS Point and/or WSPL Rankings.
- b. A high degree of fitness and a commitment to maintain a fitness and training programme as agreed with the applicable coach(es).
- c. Demonstrated good behaviour, including a commitment to training.
- d. Attendance at training camps.
- e. Demonstrated compatibility with others in a team environment.
- f. Demonstrated compliance with the rules of events and competitions.
- g. Understanding and respect for the obligations that accompany being a member of a New Zealand Team when competing at the JWC, including respect for team members and support staff.
- h. Willingness to promote Snow Sports NZ in a positive manner.
- i. Demonstrated ability to take personal responsibility for themselves and their results.
- j. Proven ability to be reliable.
- k. Any other factor(s) the Snow Sports NZ Selectors consider relevant.

10.0 Selection Dates

September 30th, 2025: Expressions of Interests close.

October 10th, 2025: Quota spots communicated/allocated.

October 17th, 2025: Any remaining quota spots allocated.

11.0 Appeals Process

- An athlete may lodge an appeal with the Snow Sports NZ Chief Executive at any time. All appeals must be submitted in written form.
- The Snow Sports NZ Chief Executive will attempt to respond to the athlete within one day (twenty-four (24) hours), but not later than five (5) days (120 hours) of lodgement of the appeal.
- The Snow Sports NZ Chief Executive will consult with the members of the relevant Selection Panel and any other person as may be deemed appropriate to properly respond to the athlete.
- An appeal by an athlete may only be made on one or more of the following grounds:

- The applicable selection criteria have not properly been followed, applied and/or implemented.
 - The athlete seeking selection was not afforded a reasonable opportunity to satisfy the applicable selection criteria.
 - The selection process was affected by actual bias.
 - There was no material on which the selection decision could reasonably be based.
- Determination of Appeal. Upon determination of the appeal the Snow Sports NZ Chief Executive shall communicate his or her decision together with an appropriate recommendation to both the Snow Sports NZ Board and the athlete.
 - The Snow Sports NZ Board after due consideration of the findings and recommendation of the Snow Sports NZ Chief Executive shall decide as to the course of action to be followed by Snow Sports NZ which shall be communicated to the athlete at the earliest opportunity.
 - If at the conclusion of the above process the athlete remains dissatisfied, the athlete may file an application for appeal with the Sports Tribunal of New Zealand ("Sports Tribunal"). Thereafter the appeal shall be determined in accordance with the Rules of the Sports Tribunal (see sportstribunal.org.nz).
 - The decision of the Sports Tribunal shall be binding on the parties and, subject to any right of review and/or appeal as set out in the Rules of the Sports Tribunal, no party to the appeal may institute or maintain proceedings in any Court or other Tribunal.