



---

## National Development (ND) Selection Criteria

August 2019

Snow Sports New Zealand's National Development (ND) level is normally made up of athletes aged 12-14, with exceptions from 10-16, who are competing regularly at national events, or, if eligible, safely competing in Continental Cup or higher-level FIS events and have a progressive performance profile and individual performance plan. Aligned to the SSNZ strategy of "Future Focused Investment," National Development athlete's *performances must be tracking to achieve finals at World Cups before turning 18<sup>1</sup>*.

National Development is the step before High Performance Development in the SSNZ talent pathway and is normally the most direct way to meet HPD criteria and potentially be selected for HPD status. ND camps will commonly focus on on-snow development across all areas of freestyle skiing and snowboarding as dictated by the Rocket Ship tracking tool, and will run in parallel with off-snow development supported by Pathway to Podium and SSNZ with the goal of helping ND athletes reach HPD on and off-snow criteria by no later than the age of 16.

ND athletes will be chosen for domestic camps at least 2 weeks before each camp. Participation in a domestic camp does not ensure an invitation to the next camp, and the criteria will be reviewed for each athlete before each domestic camp's selections.

ND athletes will be chosen *once per season* for the Northern Hemisphere Camp, usually in September, and being selected for ND does not guarantee recurrent selection the following year, nor progression through to HPD in the following year.

### Criteria

#### Competition Based

##### Athletes would normally be:

- Competing at multiple Regional Development Pathway events, and achieving top results.
- Within the top 10% of any National Points Lists available to their discipline.
- Competing at multiple other events, and achieving top results.
- Specifically competing at Cardrona Continental Cup, if eligible, and achieving competitive results for their age.
- If eligible and competing internationally, competing at Continental Cup level events and demonstrating growth towards reaching finals, or consistently reaching finals.

---

<sup>1</sup> As described by SSNZs tracking analytics.

## Performance Based

### Athletes would normally be:

- Consistently performing well at SSNZ sessions or camps.
- Performing well during training sessions with SSNZ coaches.
- Actively working on their Individual Performance Plan with coaches and SSNZ, and continually improving their Rocket Ship Profile (RSP).
- Overtaking, or at least comparable, with previous successful SSNZ athlete's Personal Best graphs
- If previously part of a ND camp, demonstrating a continuously improving RSP.

## Training Approach

### Athletes would normally be demonstrating:

- Positive interactions and a positive overall impression with the SSNZ coaching and support team.
- A dedicated training ethic both on and off snow.
- "Coachability" normally through a performance relationship with a coach during SSNZ observed training sessions/competitions.
- A growth mindset and motivated to continue improving as a snow sports athlete.
- A strong desire to compete internationally.
- Maturity, taking personal ownership of interactions with SSNZ regarding the above criteria.

## Expectations of Skill

**Athletes would normally be performing to the following standards by the age of 14. As athletes pass through the ND age range (10-16) they should exceed the standard.**

**Expectations can be applied to both Slopestyle and Halfpipe on medium to large courses for slopestyle, and an Olympic pipe for halfpipe:**

- Boys
  - Spinning 360s through 900s in a variety of directions, switch and regular, with a variety of grabs.
  - Multiple off-axis spins.
  - Combining spinning on and off features in multiple directions, switch and regular.
- Girls
  - Spinning 360s through 720s in multiple directions, switch and regular, with some grabs.
  - Multiple entries on to rail features, switch and regular.
  - Multiple tricks exiting rail features.

***Relationship and interactions with SSNZ not limited by location. Correspondence is a valued form of communication for all the above criteria.***

## **Camps and Support**

- The camps are organized by SSNZ, or in conjunction with regional programs, and SSNZ employed ND coach.
- If available SSNZ may allocate funding to the performance camp.
- The camps are available to selected ND athletes at their own cost or with an athlete contribution.
- All funding requirements will be discussed and agreed prior to the performance camps with the selected ND families.