

# SHOOTING FEDERATION OF CANADA HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM 2027 TEAM SELECTION CRITERIA (National and Development Teams)

## INTRODUCTION

The Shooting Federation of Canada (SFC) High Performance Program (HPP) is designed to systematically identify, develop, and support Canadian target shooting athletes with the highest potential for sustained international success. The program aligns with the SFC's Long-Term Development (LTD) framework, the SFC's high-performance priorities, and has been developed in consultation with Own the Podium and Sport Canada.

The HPP is structured around clearly defined National and Development Teams, each with distinct objectives, performance expectations, with the aim of increasing both the quality and depth of Canadian athletes capable of performing at world-class levels.

The National Team focuses on athletes who have demonstrated the ability to deliver performance on demand and who are capable of achieving world class performances, sufficient to achieve World Cup Top-15 finishes, CAT Championship finals, and Olympic quota qualification within the LA 2028 cycle.

The Development Team supports athletes who have demonstrated strong international potential and who are progressing toward world-class performance benchmarks. These athletes are targeted for development, enhanced support, and strategic international competition exposure, with the objective of preparing them to achieve world class performances and compete for Olympic quota in the LA 2028 or Brisbane 2032 cycles.

Across both teams, the HPP emphasizes evidence-based criteria, transparent selection, and the expectation that athletes are capable of producing personal-best performances under competitive pressure. The selection philosophy reflects a commitment to the best athletes while ensuring long-term sustainability and growth of the program.

The purpose of this document is to establish clear, transparent, and fair criteria and procedures for the selection of athletes to the 2027 SFC National and Development Teams, and governs athlete selection for the competition season covering January 1st, 2027 to December 31, 2027.

## ABBREVIATIONS

The abbreviations used in this document have the following meaning:

CAT	Championships - Continental Championships of the Americas
DT	Development Team
HPC	High Performance Committee
HPP	High Performance Program
ISSF	International Shooting Sport Federation
IST	Integrated Support Team
LTD	Long-Term Development Framework
MQS	Minimum Qualifying Score (as defined by the ISSF)
NT	National Team

OTP	Own the Podium
QROG	Qualification Ranking for Olympic Games
RPO	Ranking Points Only
SFC	Shooting Federation of Canada
TBD	To be determined
YTP	Yearly Training Plan

## 1. HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW & CONDITIONS

- 1.1. High Performance Program athletes include those who have met the expectations posted in this document at the National and Development level.
- 1.2. The High Performance Committee (HPC) will communicate directly to the athlete only once the athlete has reached the age of majority (18). For those athletes under the age of majority, the HPC will communicate directly with the athlete's parent or legal guardian on matters pertaining to the High Performance Program. The onus is on the athlete and parent to keep each other informed.
- 1.3. Athlete selection for Major Games or Championships, and events independent of ISSF World Cups will be based on separate criteria that will be developed and published by the High Performance Committee (HPC) on an as-and-when- needed basis.
- 1.4. ISSF World Cup participation is at the discretion of the National Team Coach of each discipline, subject to the approval of the HPC. The National Team Coach will focus on the specific needs of the individual athlete at each competitive level (National and Development), review gaps in performance, desired achievements relevant to their Yearly Training Plan (YTP) and agree participation at ISSF World Cup/Championship competitions accordingly.
- 1.5. The selection criteria and procedures are based on best practices, are in line with the SFC Long Term Development Framework, and with the input and guidance of Own the Podium (OTP).
- 1.6. All deadlines are considered firm. The SFC, and by extension the HPC, is not responsible for any late, lost, delayed, misdirected or stolen correspondence directed to the SFC or HPC; either submitted online, via fax, electronically, via postal service, commercially shipped or voice activated.
- 1.7. In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the SFC that prevent the implementing of these procedures as written, the SFC shall have full discretion to resolve the matter as it sees fit, taking into account factors and circumstances that are deemed relevant.
- 1.8. The HPC shall have full discretion to name athletes to the team based on, but not limited to, ranking, overall desired outcomes, coachability, commitment to training and improving, scores achieved in international events, and regular communication with the National Team Coach.

## 2. HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM TEAMS

### National Team (NT)

National Team Athletes are those who have met the performance criteria for the 2027 High Performance Program as listed in Item 6 of these criteria.

**Performance objective:** to progress athletes towards world class performances (World Cup Top 15 finishes, CAT Championship Finals) and with the objective of preparing them to compete for Olympic quota qualification within the LA 2028 cycle.

### Development Team (DT)

Development Team Athletes are those who have met the performance criteria for the 2027 High Performance Program as listed in Item 6 of these criteria.

**Performance objective:** to progress athletes towards world-class performance benchmarks (Top Half of a World Cup field and Top 15 CAT Championships) with the objective of preparing them to compete for Olympic quota in the LA 2028 or Brisbane 2032 cycles.

### 3. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY & RESPONSIBILITIES

To be eligible for selection to the 2027 SFC National or Development Team athletes are required to:

- 3.1. Be a member in good standing of the SFC and, inherently, pay in full any outstanding accounts receivable owing the SFC.
- 3.2. Be a Canadian Citizen in possession of a valid Canadian passport OR be a recognized Permanent Resident in the process of obtaining Canadian Citizenship; if naturalized, the ISSF international participation rule will be applicable (Article 3.7 Participation and ISSF Athletes, item 3.7.4). Athletes must be fully eligible to compete for Canada at the time of representation at an ISSF World Cup or Major Competition / Games.
- 3.3. Consent to being subject to the Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (the “UCCMS” available at <https://sportintegrity.ca/safesport>) and the processes required for its administration and enforcement.
- 3.4. Sign and adhere to the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) Athlete Contract specific to the year of participation.
- 3.5. Complete Sport Integrity Canada True Sport Clean online education module specific to the year of participation.
- 3.6. Complete mandatory Abuse and Harassment training as required by Sport Canada.
- 3.7. Submit and follow a YTP (including Gap Analysis) outlining their planned training and competition activities for the year in collaboration with the applicable National Team Coach.
- 3.8. Pay the High Performance Program Fee of \$350 at the time of team registration.
- 3.9. Work with a Personal Coach who is NCCP and/or ISSF certified in their respective discipline, or a Personal Coach who can demonstrate that they are actively working towards appropriate certification. (Note: As of 2026 new ISSF Rule 6.12.5.2 only Coaches with a valid ‘A’ or ‘B’ ISSF Coach license can be present on the field of play at an ISSF sanctioned event)
- 3.10. Discuss qualifying score competitions with your respective National Team Coach
- 3.11. Sign and adhere to the SFC Athlete Agreement, including SFC Code of Conduct & all applicable policies.

### 4. BENEFITS of TEAM MEMBERSHIP

World Cup participation is at the discretion of the HPC and will be assigned by the National Team Coach to each National and Development Team athlete based on, but not limited to, ranking, overall desired performance objectives, commitment to training and improving, scores achieved in other international events, and regular communication with the National Team Coach.

The List of ISSF World Cups/Championships is available on the ISSF [website](https://www.issf-sports.org/calendar.ashx) (<https://www.issf-sports.org/calendar.ashx>).

Athletes meeting and maintaining High Performance Program requirements for the various teams may benefit from the following:

- 4.1. ISSF World Cups/Championships participation for MQS and Ranking Points (age eligible)
- 4.2. Participate in Mixed Team events at World Cups/Championships as assigned and in accordance with the relevant Major Games selection policy.
- 4.3. Invitation to HP training. (camps, online presentations, etc.)
- 4.4. Administrative support for ISSF World Cups/Championships and Major Games competition participation
- 4.5. Observation and feedback from National Team Coach (webinars, training camps, coaching subject to availability)

- 4.6. Gap Analysis and Training Plan (YTP) building, guidance & planning support from the National Team Coach
- 4.7. Benchmark and goal setting with National Team Coach
- 4.8. Access to, and support from, IST (CAT, S&C, MPC etc.) when available
- 4.9. Consideration for Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Carding nomination (as per posted AAP Criteria)
- 4.10. Major Games participation (as per posted Major Games Criteria)
- 4.11. Funding for participation in training camps, IST support, and competitions when available
- 4.12. High Performance Team Uniform and items of insignia

## 5. ATHLETE QUALIFICATION

It is the responsibility of the athlete to provide evidence of performance, and the intention of the selection criteria is to select the best athletes. These athletes can reasonably produce a personal best at a competition fulfilling the requirement of performance on demand and are actively striving for performance improvement. However, to protect the development of all events in the program the High Performance Committee (HPC) reserves the right to add athletes to the program to ensure ongoing development of any event that is not already represented by athletes in the program. These athletes would be named to the Development Team; would not displace a natural Development Team or Games position; would be limited to designated development opportunities as decided with their National Team Coach; and will not be eligible for AAP Funding, nor attendance at World Cups nor attendance at World Championships (unless determined a development opportunity by the National Team Coach and approved by the HPC).

### QUALIFICATION PROCESS

- Any athlete who wants to be considered for National or Development Team Selection will be required to express interest (EOI) in being considered for selection and to submit 4 eligible scores during the Team Selection Intake Period (known as the “Intake Period”).
- A maximum of three (3) scores can be from domestic events, at least one (1) score must be from an eligible international event outside of Canada.
- The four (4) scores must come from a minimum of three (3) different competitions.
- Scores must be achieved during the 2026 competitive season defined for these purposes as between **December 1, 2025 and December 2nd, 2026.**
- The opportunity to express interest (EOI) in being considered for selection and to submit scores online will be from **December 7<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> 2026.**
- Scores must be from events that are approved or sanctioned by SFC and/or meet ISSF rules and regulations. Guidance and a list of eligible events is provided below - see Annex A
- Results from MQS only (formerly RPO - Ranking Points only) competitions will be accepted.
- If an athlete is attempting to qualify in multiple events (e.g. Air Rifle and 3 Position), a separate EOI (Intake Form) must be filed for each event.
- To be on the 2027 Development or National Team athletes are expected to attend the National Championships held in 2026 ([dates published here](#)) unless exempted by the HPC.
- National and Development Team athletes are expected to review their competition plan with their assigned National Team Coach to confirm the scores they plan to submit during the Intake Period qualify as outlined above.

### GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION

- 5.1. Athlete selection to the 2027 Team, World Cup participation, and nomination to Major Games participation is at the discretion of the HPC based on, but not limited to, ranking, overall desired

performance objectives, commitment to training and improving, scores achieved in other international events, and regular communication with the National Team Coach.

## 6. TEAM SELECTION and RANKING

### OVERVIEW

The High Performance Program uses a world-class, percentile-based ranking system to assess and compare athlete performances for the purposes of National and Development Team selection.

This system replaces the previous approach, of using a % of an 8<sup>th</sup> place standard based on a single reference year (e.g., “2022 average 8th-place World Cup scores”) with a multi-year, evidence-based model that reflects how scores have actually translated into competitiveness at the highest levels of international competition. The ranking system is designed to answer a fundamental high-performance question:

“If this score were achieved in a typical world-class field, where would the athlete place?”

The following table provides an illustrative example of the predicted competitive placings associated with specific score ranges in a world-class field for each Olympic event (based on 2017–2024 international data). This table is provided only to illustrate performance standards, and the scores do not represent thresholds or minimum scores for selection.

<b>Shotgun</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Top 8 %</b>	<b>Top 15%</b>	<b>Top 25%</b>	<b>Top 50%</b>
Trap - Men	122	120	119	117	114
Trap - Women	120	116	115	113	109
Skeet - Men	124	122	120	119	116
Skeet - Women	121	119	118	116	112
<b>Rifle</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Top 8 %</b>	<b>Top 15%</b>	<b>Top 25%</b>	<b>Top 50%</b>
10m Air Rifle - Men	631.7	629.1	627.9	626.6	623.7
10m Air Rifle - Women	632.8	629.9	628.5	627.1	624.1
50m 3P Rifle - Men	592	589	588	586	583
50m 3P Rifle - Women	591	588	586	585	581
<b>Pistol</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Top 8 %</b>	<b>Top 15%</b>	<b>Top 25%</b>	<b>Top 50%</b>
10m Air Pistol - Men	586	582	579	577	572
10m Air Pistol - Women	583	577	575	572	567
25m Pistol - Women	589	584	582	579	574
25m Rapid Fire - Men	589	585	582	579	573

The complete normalized score tables used to calculate percentile-based rankings and overall team selection rankings are available [here](#). This is the official reference for all percentile-based ranking determinations.

### QUALIFICATION

There are three ways to qualify for the 2026 National or Development Team:

- 6.A National Percentile-Based Ranking List (National & Development Team)
- 6.B Top 15 AND must finish in the top half of the field at a Major Competition including Olympics, ISSF World Championships, ISSF World Cup (National Team only)

- 6.C Make Finals at a Major Games including Olympics, Pan Am Games, CAT Championships, and International events where Olympic quota positions are available (National Team only)

### **IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING QUALIFICATION UNDER 6.B & 6.C**

- 6.1. Qualification under 6.B or 6.C excludes consideration of performance in Team Events.
- 6.2. If any athlete qualifies under 6.B or 6.C, they shall be named to the National Team. However, they shall not displace any other athletes with a higher ranking than them who qualifies for the National Team under 6.A.
- 6.3. If an athlete qualifies under 6.B or 6.C, they are still required to attend Nationals (unless given an exemption), submit 4 scores and meet the qualification process, as outlined in section 5.

### **PERCENTILE BASED RANKING LIST**

- 6.4. Athlete ranking shall be determined using the Percentile-Based Ranking System.
- 6.5. For each athlete, the average of the four (4) submitted scores ("Average Score") will be calculated and applied to the Percentile-Based Ranking System to determine the athlete's predicted placing in a world-class field. An athlete must achieve an Average Score at or above the score established by the model to receive that predicted placing.
- 6.6. Athletes shall be ranked from highest to lowest based on the predicted placing derived from their Average Score. In the event that two or more athletes have an identical predicted placing, the tie shall be broken by comparing each athlete's single highest submitted score; the athlete whose highest single score produces the higher predicted placing shall be ranked higher (see 6.13 below).
- 6.7. The twelve (12) highest-ranked athletes on the National Percentile-Based Ranking List shall be named to the National Team, subject to meeting all eligibility and qualification requirements. Athletes qualifying under sections 6.B or 6.C shall be added to the National Team in accordance with section 6.2 and shall not displace any athlete ranked above them under 6.A.
- 6.8. Following the identification of the National Team under 6.7 (and 6.2 where applicable), the next twelve (12) highest-ranked eligible athletes on the Percentile-Based Ranking List shall be named to the Development Team.
- 6.9. As stated in Section 5.0, the High Performance Committee (HPC) reserves the right to add athletes to the Development Team to ensure the continued development of any event not adequately represented. Such additions shall not displace a Development Team athlete ranked under 6.8.
- 6.10. If an athlete achieves National Team status for more than one discipline, they shall be considered a National Team athlete, and the next highest-ranked eligible athlete shall be invited to the National Team to maintain the intended team size.
- 6.11. If an athlete achieves National Team ranking in one discipline and Development Team ranking in another, the athlete shall be designated a National Team athlete, and the next highest-ranked eligible athlete shall be invited to the Development Team to maintain the intended team size.
- 6.12. If an athlete achieves Development Team ranking in more than one discipline, they shall be considered a Development Team athlete, and the next highest-ranked eligible athlete shall be invited to the Development Team to maintain the intended team size.
- 6.13. If two or more athletes achieve an identical Percentile-Based Ranking at a selection threshold (National or Development Team), they may still be ranked according to 6.6 above, but all such athletes shall be named to the respective team regardless of team size.
- 6.14. If any National or Development Team member is a Permanent Resident and is not eligible to officially compete for Canada at the time of international representation, they shall still be named to the respective team, and the next highest-ranked eligible athlete on the Percentile-Based Ranking List, not on that team, shall be invited to the respective team.

## 7. ATHLETE EXEMPTIONS

### Granted only to current High Performance Program Athletes (National, Development and Junior National Team and ID Athletes)

#### 7.1. General Exemption Rules:

- Exemptions are considered on a case-by-case basis and are confirmed by the CEO subject to approval by the HPC.
- The athlete understands they may be forfeiting qualifying score opportunities when applying for an exemption.
- The athlete must submit their request for an exemption, by email to [ceo@sfc-ftc.ca](mailto:ceo@sfc-ftc.ca).

#### 7.2. Medical Exemption:

- Application for Medical exemption must be applied for as soon as a medical issue is realized and can be substantiated by a doctor's certificate.
- An athlete who has been granted a 'Medical Exemption':
  - will not displace those who have met the requirements in the qualifying year;
  - will be ranked in the last position on the respective team for which they achieved their scores during that competition year.
- Medical Exemptions are granted only for the competitive season of which it is applied. After the end of the competitive season, the athlete must, once again, successfully achieve a place on the National or Development Team.
- The SFC reserves the right to request a doctor's note to confirm medical exemptions if one has not been provided.

#### 7.3. Compassionate Exemption:

- An athlete who has been granted a 'Compassionate Exemption' will be ranked in the last position on the respective team for which they achieved their scores during that competition year.
- 'Compassionate Exemptions' may be considered for issues beyond the control of the athlete that can negatively impact performance. These are on a case by case basis.
- An athlete who has been granted a Compassionate Exemption:
  - will not displace those who have met the requirements in the qualifying year;
  - will be ranked in the last position on the respective team for which they achieved their scores during that competition year.
- Compassionate Exemptions are granted only for the competitive season of which it is applied. After the end of the competitive season, the athlete must, once again, successfully achieve a place on the National or Development Team.

#### 7.4. Maternity Exemption:

- An athlete who becomes pregnant may apply for a Maternity Exemption, which will be considered a specific and recognized category of exemption within the SFC High Performance Program.
- Application for a Maternity Exemption should be made as soon as reasonably practicable, at a time chosen by the athlete, and may be substantiated by appropriate medical documentation if required.
- An athlete who has been granted a Maternity Exemption:
  - will not displace those who have met the requirements in the qualifying year;
  - will be ranked in the last position on the respective team for which they achieved their scores during that competition year.

- Maternity Exemptions are granted only for the competitive season or seasons for which they are applied. After the end of the exemption period, the athlete must once again successfully achieve a place on the National or Development Team, subject to applicable eligibility and selection criteria
- The SFC recognizes that pregnancy and post-pregnancy recovery timelines vary between athletes. Consideration of return-to-training and return-to-competition planning will be managed on a case-by-case basis, guided by medical advice and athlete readiness.
- The SFC reserves the right to request medical confirmation to support a Maternity Exemption, while respecting athlete confidentiality and privacy.

7.5. Competition Exemption:

- Should a **MANDATORY** selection match occur within 30 days **PRIOR OR AFTER** a Major Games, the athletes that attended the Games, may apply for a Competition Exemption. However, should the selection match for which the exemption is being applied for be a required selection match for Major Games/Competition, no exemption shall be granted without the athlete understanding that they forfeit their placement on the Major Games/Competition Team.

**The above criteria are final and supersede all other previously issued criteria pertaining to the selection of athletes to the Shooting Federation of Canada High Performance Program.**

**This document was drafted in English, and the official French document is a translation. When there are issues of interpretation of this selection policy, the English and French versions are equally authoritative and must be read together in order to determine the intended meaning.**

## ANNEX A

### 2027 Eligible Events & Match Criteria

#### Domestic

The following domestic competitions will be accepted as listed below.

<b>National / Development / Junior / Identified Team</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian National Championships*</li> <li>• Provincially Hosted Competitions**</li> <li>• Canadian National Junior Championships (CNJC)***</li> <li>• SFC Sanctioned Competitions</li> </ul>

*\*Refers exclusively to the (Pistol / Rifle / Skeet / Trap) SFC sanctioned Canadian National Championships.*

*\*\*Provincially hosted competitions must meet the Match Criteria for Qualifying Score Consideration (see below) or have received written exemption from SFC for any variance or exemption that – in the opinion of SFC - does not reasonably impact safety or fairness.*

*\*\*\*CNJC scores will only be eligible in “In Person” years and must meet the Match Criteria for Qualifying Score Consideration. Scores in “Remote” years are not eligible.*

#### International

Eligible international competitions are listed below (in no particular order). For events not listed here, please email [sverdier@sfc-ftc.ca](mailto:sverdier@sfc-ftc.ca) to confirm if it is an eligible event.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olympic &amp; Paralympic Games</li> <li>• Pan &amp; Para-Pan American Games</li> <li>• ISSF World Championships (SR &amp; JR)</li> <li>• ISSF World Cups (SR &amp; JR)</li> <li>• CAT Championships</li> <li>• Grand Prix (including Canadian Air Gun Grand Prix)</li> <li>• USA Shooting hosted events using ISSF certified Officials</li> <li>• British Shooting hosted events using ISSF certified Officials</li> <li>• H&amp;N Cup (January 2026)</li> <li>• ISSF Grand Prix Ruse (January 2026)</li> <li>• InterShoot (February 2026)</li> <li>• Denmark Open (February 2026)</li> <li>• Qatar Grand Prix, QAT (February 2026)</li> <li>• ISAS Dortmund (March 2026)</li> <li>• Portugal Grand Prix, POR (March 2026)</li> <li>• Cyprus Grand Prix, CYP (March 2026)</li> <li>• IWK Berlin (April 2026)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hellenic Grand Prix Malakasa, GRE (May 2026)</li> <li>• Grand Prix of France Chateauroux, FRA (May 2026)</li> <li>• IRS Cup (May 2026)</li> <li>• Gibraltar Open (May 2026)</li> <li>• EMIR Cup Grand Prix, Todi ITA (June 2026)</li> <li>• Green Cup Grand Prix, Todi ITA (July 2026)</li> <li>• GP Wroclaw TBC</li> <li>• GP Jozef Zapadzki TBC</li> <li>• Liberation GP TBC</li> <li>• Danish Masters TBC</li> <li>• Pardini Rapid Fire Cup TBC</li> <li>• MASPED Cup TBC</li> <li>• Shooting Hopes TBC</li> <li>• Hungarian Open TBC</li> <li>• RIAC TBC</li> <li>• GP Osijek TBC</li> </ul>
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## MATCH CRITERIA FOR QUALIFYING SCORE CONSIDERATION

Competitions should meet the Match Criteria for Qualifying Score Consideration (see below) or have received written exemption from SFC for any variance or exemption that – in the opinion of SFC - does not reasonably impact safety or fairness.

	RIFLE / PISTOL	SHOTGUN
Minimum number of positions	Ten (10) except for 25m Rapid Fire pistol requiring two (2) bays	One (1) ISSF approved Bunker for Trap One (1) ISSF approved field of play for Skeet
Minimum number of Officials (for each range/field of play in use)	1 ISSF Certified B Licensed Judge and 1 National Certified Official;  <b>or</b> 2 ISSF Certified B Licensed Judges;  <b>or</b> 1 ISSF A Licensed Judge	1 ISSF Certified Referee or B Licensed Judge; and 1 National Certified Referee;  <b>or</b> 2 ISSF Certified Referees or B Licensed Judges;  <b>or</b> 1 ISSF certified A licensed Judge
Target System	Electronic	International Targets thrown to current ISSF specifications
Match Format	Current ISSF	Current ISSF

### COURSES OF FIRE

At National Championships and any High-Performance Team Trial (as set out by the HPC) where the current standard of two (2) separate courses of fire count as one competition containing two unique opportunities.

Athletes are expected to complete all courses of fire, including finals, if applicable, in any qualifying score match, team trials or international match (including US selection matches) in which they are registered to compete unless there are unforeseen circumstances (examples: illness/injury, equipment malfunction, match rescheduling).