



— JEUX DU —
CANADA
— GAMES —

**MEDIA INFORMATION PACKAGE
FREESTYLE SKIING**



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A. HISTORY OF SPORT

To air is human. To BIG AIR is Freestyle!

Freestyle skiing has been a part of the Canadian sport system since the mid 1970s. What started out as a bunch of skiers trying to make the most flamboyant run down a Mogul course, more for fun than anything else has, over the years, evolved into a seven discipline structured and always breath-taking culture that has won Canada more World Cup medals than any other sport.

Over the course of its career the jumps have gotten bigger and the Mogul courses have gotten steeper which has made for a legacy of making spectators' jaws drop. As the sport has grown coaching techniques have been refined which has resulted in skills that were once only the domain of the elite now being performed by kids of much younger ages.

Canada has seen World Cup and World Championship winners in every discipline. We have been in the Olympics as a full medal status sport since 1992 (Moguls) and 1994 (Aerials).

The late 1990s saw the emergence of the new disciplines of Half Pipe, Table Top, Skier Cross and Slope Style all which feature new and daring ways for the athletes to defy gravity on skis.

Freestyle has been a part of the Canada Winter Games since 1995 where the Mogul event was competed at Marmot Basin in Jasper (co-host with Grande Prairie).

"Aerials" was added when the Games went to Corner Brook. The Aerial event was so popular it shut down the trans-Canada highway and the army had to be brought in to assist with traffic control.

Duals Moguls added more flair when the Games travelled to Campbellton-Bathurst in 2003

Half Pipe will be introduced to the Games in Whitehorse.

B. CANADA GAMES SPORT HISTORY AND PAST RESULTS

Freestyle skiing was first contested at the Canada Games in 1995 in Grande-Prairie, Alberta. Below are the ranking of the Provinces/Territories since the inaugural games:

	1995		1999		2003	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
AB	2	5	7	4	3	4
BC	4	2	6	2	1	2
MB	9	4	2	6	5	5
NB	8	7	9	7	6	6
NF	6	6	1	8	8	-
NWT	-	-	-	-	-	-

NS	5	8	8	5	-	-
ON	3	3	5	3	4	3
PEI	7	9	3	-	-	-
QC	1	1	4	1	2	1
SK	-	-	-	-	7	7
NU	-	-	-	-	-	-
YK	-	-	-	-	-	-

C. NUMBER OF ATHLETES PER TEAM

Competitors: 4 male & 4 female

D. EVENT FORMAT AND RULES OF PLAY

The Canadian Freestyle Ski Association (CFSA) Rules and Regulations will be in effect. Competition will be held in men's and women's moguls, dual moguls, aerials and Half-Pipe.

Single Moguls

One run Qualification
 Cut to Top 16 (M & W)
 One run Final

Dual Moguls

Full elimination rounds seeded by results from Single Moguls.

Air

Two jumps best-of for Qualification
 Cut to Top 10 (M & W)
 Two Jumps best-of Final

Half Pipe

Two runs – best-of Qualification
 Cut to Top 6 (M & W)
 Two runs – best-of Final

E. EQUIPMENT & TERMINOLOGY

Mogul skiers use stiff straight cut skis that are between 165 and 190 cm. in length. Mogul poles are shorter than those used on flat terrain. Shorter poles allow the athlete to plant their poles on the top of moguls without a lot of exaggerated movement.

Aerial skis are shorter (generally 160 cm. to allow more manoeuvrability. Poles are either used or not depending on the trick the athletes chooses to do. Some athletes choose to go off the jump (and land...yes land!) backwards. These athletes and those in the Half Pipe use twin tip skis (or twinnies) to facilitate this.

Helmets are mandatory in all disciplines mouth guards which protect teeth and prevent concussion are strongly recommended.

During the summer that athletes train on trampolines and water ramps (artificial ski hills and jumps with plastic running surface and a water landing) to perfect their tricks in a safe and controlled environment.

Terms

Flair - Back flip with a half-twist

Corked - Describes any kind of flip or spin that is executed with a tilt off of the true vertical and/or horizontal axes.

McTwist - Tilted front flip with one-and-a-half spins
540, 720, 900, 1080 - 1.5, 2, 2.5 and 3 spins respectively

Grab - A style effect where the hand grabs a part of the ski (there are MANY variations of grabs)

Ally-Oop - A trick that spins away from the fall line of the pipe

Coping - The edge of the pipe

Deck - The flat areas on the sides of the pipe

Walls - The sides of the pipe

Flat - The bottom of the pipe

Transition - The area between the Wall and the Flat

Off axis - A true flip is one that turns around the horizontal (zero degree) axis. A true spin is one that turns around the vertical (90 degree) one. An off-axis spin or flip is one that deviates from these norms.

D Spin - A back flip with an off axis full twist

Back full - A back flip with a full twist both true to the "normal" axes

Lincoln Loop - Old school brought into new school - a sideways flip

Grab - Any part of the ski or binding that is grabbed by the hand - there are Tail, Mute, Japan and Toxic grabs in addition to a whole mess of others, all which add "flavour" to the tricks.

Rodeo - Backwards initiated off-axis flip

Flat Spin - Another off axis trick where the skier looks like they are spinning like a horizontal wheel.

Mysty - Forward initiated off axis flip

Switch - Taking off a jump backwards

Fakie - Landing backwards

F. ELIGIBILITY

Athletes must be born between July 1, 1986 and June 30, 1993 inclusive (ie. Juvenile and Junior categories).

G. JUDGING/SCORING SYSTEM

Moguls

Competitors rip down the 29-degree (give or take a degree or two) mogul course and launch themselves off two jumps on the way down under scrutiny of a panel of seven judges. Marks are awarded for the technical quality of the skier's turns (50%), the two upright aerial maneuvers (25%) and speed (25%). While speed is a factor, the fastest skier across the finish line does not necessarily win.

Dual Moguls

As with Single Moguls, a panel of seven judges award marks for turns, speed and air, deciding by a show of panels who will go forward to the next round. Again, the fastest skier over the finish line is not necessarily the winner.

Aerials

Competitors must perform two different jumps consisting of single or multiple somersaults with or without twists. Each jump must vary by one somersault or one twist. Points are awarded for take-off (20% of score), form in the air (50% of score) and landing (30% of score). Scores of both jumps are added together for a final mark.

Half-Pipe

In the half-pipe, competitors are judged on a number of different aspects:

Judging criteria	Value
Amplitude (how high they fly out of the pipe while doing their tricks)	20%
DD (the Degree of Difficulty of the tricks)	20%
Execution (how well the athletes perform their tricks)	20%
Overall (the whole package)	40%

The basic DD equates to the number of spins or flips done in the trick but the "total package" includes the grabs and positions (personality and style) that athletes add to the tricks to make them their own.

Provincial/Territorial Ranking

Men and women will be ranked separately. Athletes will be ranked from 1st through last place. The provinces/territory's three best finishers will count towards the provincial/territorial ranking point total. If there is a tie, points will be shared equally between competitors (i.e. if tied for first then each competitor would receive 98.5 points $(100+97)/2$). If an athlete does not finish or is disqualified, the athlete does not receive any points.

Position	PTS	Position	PTS	Position	PTS	Position	PTS
1 st	100	21 st	65	41 st	45	61 st	25
2 nd	97	22 nd	64	42 nd	44	62 nd	24
3 rd	94	23 rd	63	43 rd	43	63 rd	23
4 th	91	24 th	62	44 th	42	64 th	22
5 th	88	25 th	61	45 th	41	65 th	21
6 th	85	26 th	60	46 th	40	66 th	20

7 th	83	27 th	59	47 th	39	67 th	19
8 th	81	28 th	58	48 th	38	68 th	18
9 th	79	29 th	57	49 th	37	69 th	17
10 th	77	30 th	56	50 th	36	70 th	16
11 th	75	31 st	55	51 st	35	71 st	15
12 th	74	32 nd	54	52 nd	34	72 nd	14
13 th	73	33 rd	53	53 rd	33	73 rd	13
14 th	72	34 th	52	54 th	32	74 th	12
15 th	71	35 th	51	55 th	31	75 th	11
16 th	70	36 th	50	56 th	30	76 th	10
17 th	69	37 th	49	57 th	29	77 th	9
18 th	68	38 th	48	58 th	28	78 th	8
19 th	67	39 th	47	59 th	27	79 th	7
20 th	66	40 th	46	60 th	26	80 th	6

When the ranking of men's and women's teams has been established, points for the Games flag will be awarded as follows:

Position	PTS	Position	PTS	Position	PTS
1 st	10	6 th	5	11 th	1.5
2 nd	9	7 th	4	12 th	1
3 rd	8	8 th	3	13 th	0.5
4 th	7	9 th	2.5		
5 th	6	10 th	2		

H. PLAYOFF AND TIE-BREAKING FORMAT

Competition

If a tie occurs in an event, the tie shall be broken according to the CFSA General Rules and Regulation and the CFSA Judging Manual.

In the event that a tie cannot be broken according to the above, then both competitors would receive the same position and award and the next position would be eliminated. For example, in the case of a tie for first place, both competitors would receive a gold medal and the second place competitor would be placed third and awarded a bronze medal.

Provincial/Territorial Ranking

1. If a tie occurs in the final provincial/territorial team standing, the province/territory with the greater number of event first places will be assigned the higher rank.
2. If the tie persists, the procedure is repeated for event team second places.
3. If necessary, the procedure is repeated for event team, third place, then fourth places, etc.

Note: When a triple tie occurs and is only partially resolved, the remaining ties will be resolved by returning to priority #1 and proceeding through the order again.

I. ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN SPORT

Chief of Competition: Responsible for preparation of all sites and officials

Chiefs of Course: Responsible for preparation of a specific course

Course Crews: Assist with preparation and maintenance of courses.

Starters: Ensure athletes are in order of start and that in the case of Dual Moguls that the start procedure is fair.

Scorer: Calculates and produces scores.

Timers: Responsible for installation, maintenance and operation of timing systems and speed trap for the event.

Judges: Evaluate athletes as per the criteria listed in the CFSA Rules & Regulations.

J. FACILITY DESCRIPTION

All freestyle ski events will take place at Mount Sima. This is a ski and snowboard hill that began operating fully in 1993. The ski club boasts 12 runs, snowmaking from top to bottom, one double chair lift and one handle tow as well. There is also a full service lodge at the base of the mountain.

K. SPORT MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AND STRUCTURE

Freestyle skiers are members of local clubs where they live which are a part of an Association linked to their Province or Territory. Each Association is then a member of the Canadian Freestyle Skiing Association (CFSA). For more information regarding the CFSA visit their website at www.freestyleski.com.

L. ATHLETES TO WATCH FOR

The Quebec team is a Mogul dynasty and any of their skiers (men or women) could take a spot on the Single or Dual Mogul podium.

Cedric Rochon has a likely shot at the top of the podium in the Men's events.

The Pipe competition points to Alberta which is the only province to currently have a Pipe-specific Team and this work and energy has paid off in spades. BC runs a close second.

The Air event is literally "up in the air" because when it comes to speculating a potential winner all provinces have good depth which makes for excellent competition. Alberta would be a good bet due their mastery of skills in the Pipe but don't drop it all on one province because there will likely be some surprises.

One athlete who is a "combined" threat is Mighty Michael Henitiuk from Calgary Alberta who has been top three in all disciplines over the course of his career.

M. NOTABLE PAST ATHLETES/ALUMNI

Athlete	Province	Canada Games	World Cup Overall	Olympics	Other
Jennifer Heil	Alberta	1999	2005 (1st) 2006 (1st)	2002 (4 th) 2006 (Gold!!)	
TJ Schiller	BC	2003			X Games Big Air (Gold!!)
Diedra Dionne	Alberta	1999		2002 (Bronze!)	
Kyle Nissen	Alberta	1999	2006 (2nd)	2006	

N. NOTABLE CANADIAN RECORDS

Canada won the “Nations Cup” emblematic of the top team on the FIS World Cup circuit for the third time in five years in 2002-2003. The team won 26 medals.

At the 2001 World Championships, Canada won five medals including gold by Veronika Bauer in Aerials.

Nicolas Fontaine won an unprecedented four consecutive World Cup titles from 1996/97 through 1999/2000 making him the unquestioned leader of the Aerials team before retiring.

Canada’s best World Championship medal count came in 1997 at Nagano, Japan with seven medals out of a possible 21.

Jean-Luc Brassard won the first Olympic Gold medal by a Canadian male skier at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics in Moguls.

O. ATHLETE/TEAM MATCH-UPS (RIVALRIES)

With a strong moguls team always hailing from Quebec, all other competitors will look to take this title away in both the single or dual mogul competition.

In the Pipe competition Alberta and BC will likely fight it out for the top spot.