

Feedback received on BMX Freestyle criteria through online form, with responses

Commentaires reçus sur les critères BMX Freestyle par le biais d'un formulaire en ligne, avec réponses

Feb. 24, 2025 / 24 février 2025

Comment received	CC response
<p>Additional funding for this Olympic discipline. How are BMX Freestyle athletes supposed to get to international competitions without funding. Less athletes at international competitions, less presence at the Olympic for Canada. Help them achieve their goals.</p>	<p>Despite limited funding, Cycling Canada continues to incrementally grow its investment in BMX Freestyle programming, coaching and direct financial assistance to the athletes. This investment has grown more than 400% since 2022, as follows:</p>
<p>BMX Freestyle is growing so fast in Canada, it would be prudent of our federation to allocate more funding for growth. Team USA is doubling down right now on raising the next generation of riders.</p>	<p>2022: \$30,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hired National Coach Dave Thomas (Oct.) - National team projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pan Am Championship (4 athletes) o World Championship (1 athlete)
<p>Since 2021, BMX freestyle athletes have had to prove themselves to Cycling Canada (CC) in order to secure a larger share of the budget. Since the creation of the program, only three years ago, the results have dramatically improved—going from having no Canadian athlete on the circuit and just one spot at the World Championships for a long time, to now, in 2024, qualifying for the Games for the first time, achieving the best results at the World Cup with two athletes in the top 12, and now having the best results at the World Championships in 2024. It’s extremely difficult to maintain momentum for athletes who invest literally everything they have into this program and see no increase in support, even though Canada is now one of the best nations in BMX freestyle. It’s no secret that results come from investment, as athletes can only do so much on their own for so long. The athletes are doing exactly what they are told—delivering results and showing potential for medals at major events—and yet we remain the smallest piece of the pie for Cycling Canada. I can only imagine what this program could look like for LA 2028 if Cycling Canada truly believed in BMX freestyle. We are requesting concrete reasons as to why there has been no increase in the budget for this program, even after proving that Canadian athletes are now at the top of the field. Thanks.</p>	<p>2023: \$55,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joyride camp (4 athletes) - National Team projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o World Championship (1 athlete) - Canadian Championship (Joyride) <p>2024: \$105,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 carded athletes - National Team projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Paris Olympics (1 athlete) o World Championships (3 athletes) - Bromont camp (8 athletes) - Canadian Championship (Bromont) <p>2025: \$130,000 (projected)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 carded athletes - Women’s camp (projected 8 athletes) - Development camp (TBD athletes) - National Team projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o World Championships (TBD athletes) - Canadian Championship (Bromont) <p>This strategy of incremental growth is intended to create a sustainable base of programming that fosters the identification and development of future talent, with an eye towards LA 2028. While Cycling Canada would like to invest more, we do not yet have the means to do so. Nevertheless, Freestyle currently enjoys greater support than other disciplines such as Downhill and Cyclo-Cross that consistently win world championships medals.</p>
<p>To develop BMX Freestyle, we should have as many events as possible, so that athletes can evolve and learn. For women, organized activities offer a safe training environment. The camps allow you to develop good techniques to avoid injuries. Thank you for allowing events to encourage athletes all year round.</p>	<p>Thank you. Yes, that is the intent of the both the women’s camp and the more general camp that we will be hosting this year.</p>