



The Orienteering Canada Board of Directors does not support the proposal submitted by Michael Svoboda.

The Board's position is that decisions regarding team selection processes are best handled by the High Performance Committee (HPC) in discussion with the selection committee and input from the Athletes' Rep in discussion with athletes. Both the HPC and selection committees have the in-depth knowledge and understanding of the many issues that go into team selection, and the Athletes' Rep is involved so as to ensure the athletes' voice is heard in creating a fair and open system for all athletes.

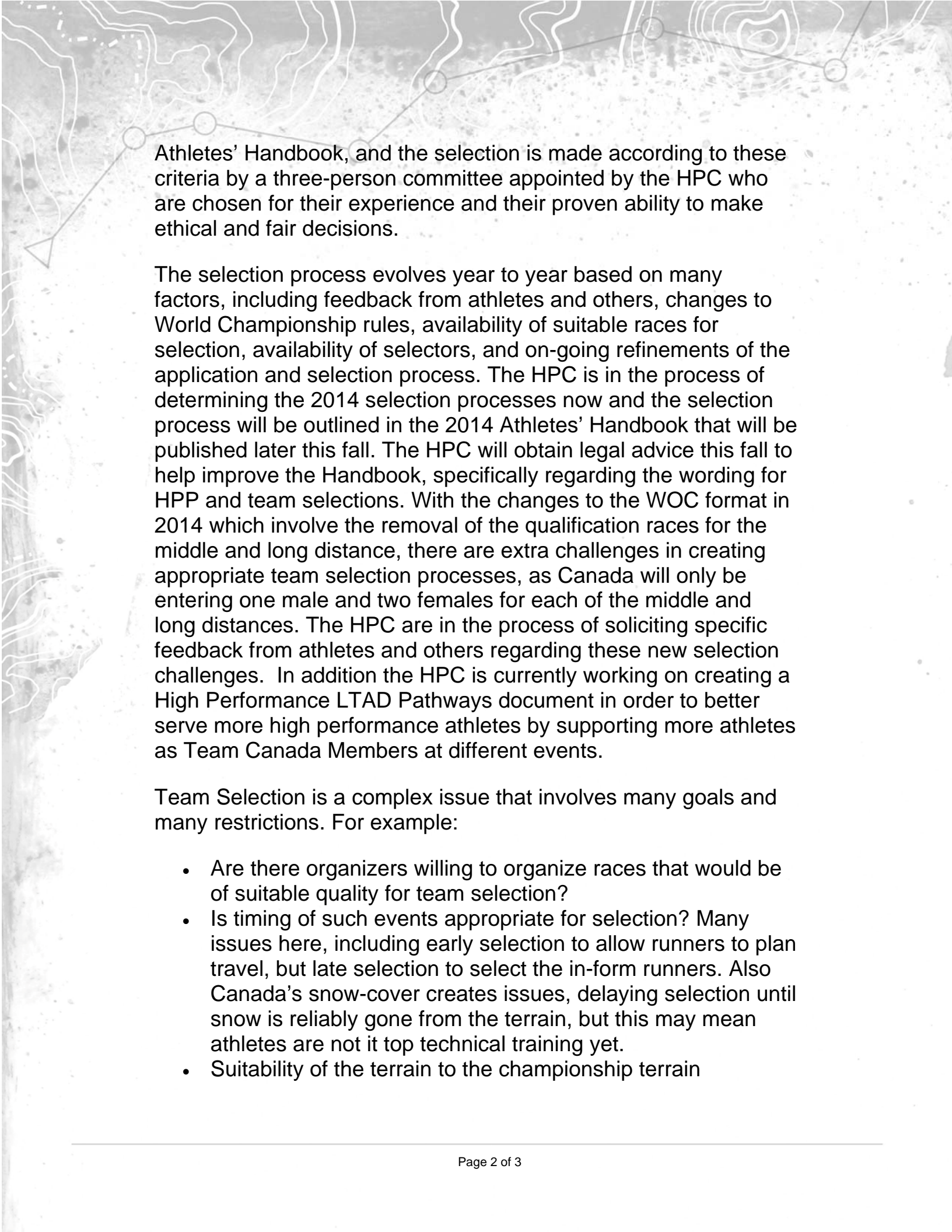
We understand that team selection can be a contentious issue and that it is unlikely that all individuals will be in agreement with any given selection process. The Board has complete faith in the HPC to create fair and well thought-out selection processes. We know that the HPC has ongoing consultation with athletes, other orienteering federations and other sport organizations to create appropriate selection criteria.

Michael Svoboda and his father Robert have frequently made their views on team selection known to members of the Board, to members of the HPC, to the Athletes' Rep, and to many other members of the orienteering community. There is no reason to believe that their opinions are not be considered by the HPC in their annual update of the selection criteria.

We see no reason to enter into a discussion about a complex matter such as this at the AGM when it is being adequately and appropriately handled by the HPC and overseen by the Orienteering Canada Board.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, JWOC and WOC selection processes have included a both mixture of discretionary and non-discretionary factors. The selection process and criteria is laid out in the

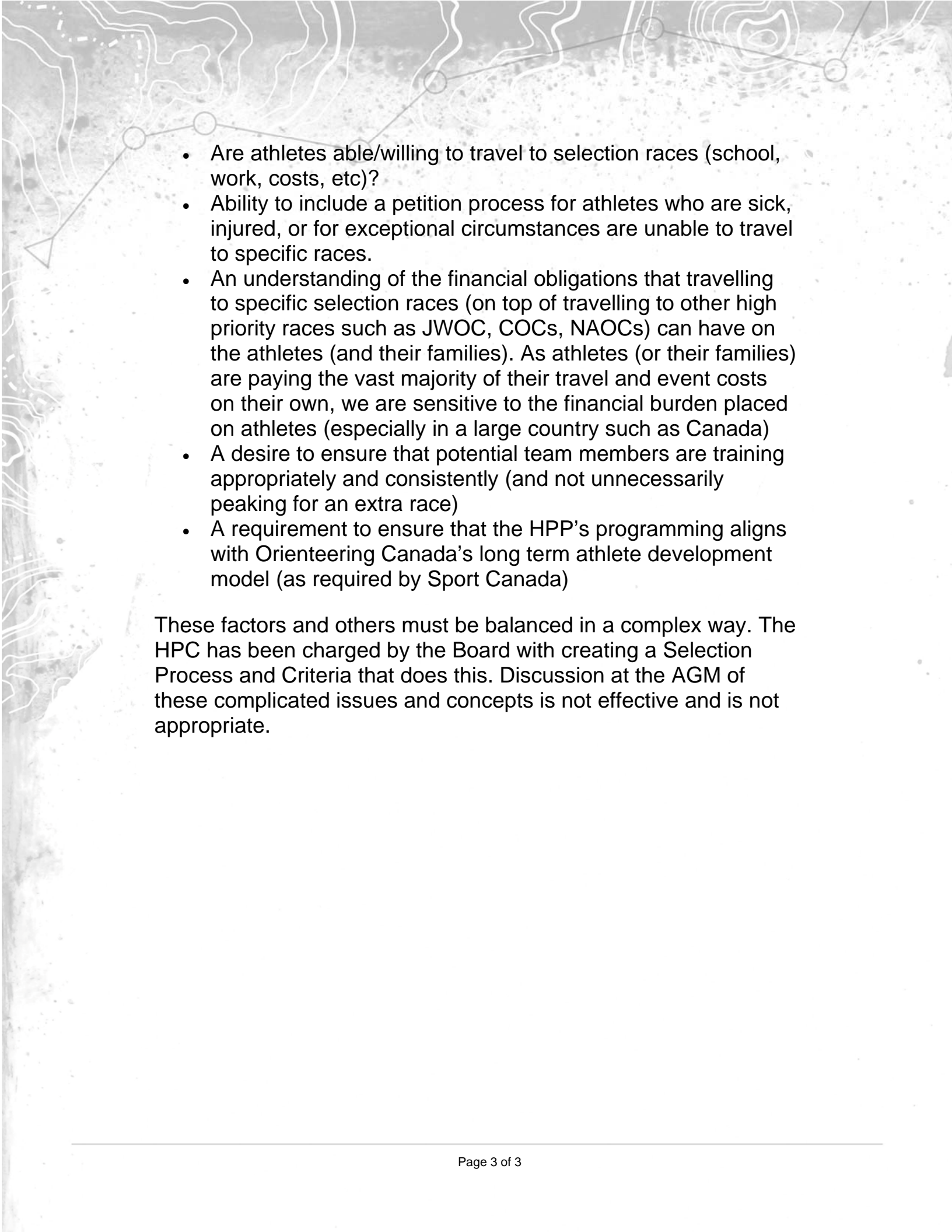


Athletes' Handbook, and the selection is made according to these criteria by a three-person committee appointed by the HPC who are chosen for their experience and their proven ability to make ethical and fair decisions.

The selection process evolves year to year based on many factors, including feedback from athletes and others, changes to World Championship rules, availability of suitable races for selection, availability of selectors, and on-going refinements of the application and selection process. The HPC is in the process of determining the 2014 selection processes now and the selection process will be outlined in the 2014 Athletes' Handbook that will be published later this fall. The HPC will obtain legal advice this fall to help improve the Handbook, specifically regarding the wording for HPP and team selections. With the changes to the WOC format in 2014 which involve the removal of the qualification races for the middle and long distance, there are extra challenges in creating appropriate team selection processes, as Canada will only be entering one male and two females for each of the middle and long distances. The HPC are in the process of soliciting specific feedback from athletes and others regarding these new selection challenges. In addition the HPC is currently working on creating a High Performance LTAD Pathways document in order to better serve more high performance athletes by supporting more athletes as Team Canada Members at different events.

Team Selection is a complex issue that involves many goals and many restrictions. For example:

- Are there organizers willing to organize races that would be of suitable quality for team selection?
- Is timing of such events appropriate for selection? Many issues here, including early selection to allow runners to plan travel, but late selection to select the in-form runners. Also Canada's snow-cover creates issues, delaying selection until snow is reliably gone from the terrain, but this may mean athletes are not at top technical training yet.
- Suitability of the terrain to the championship terrain

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- Are athletes able/willing to travel to selection races (school, work, costs, etc)?
 - Ability to include a petition process for athletes who are sick, injured, or for exceptional circumstances are unable to travel to specific races.
 - An understanding of the financial obligations that travelling to specific selection races (on top of travelling to other high priority races such as JWOC, COCs, NAOCs) can have on the athletes (and their families). As athletes (or their families) are paying the vast majority of their travel and event costs on their own, we are sensitive to the financial burden placed on athletes (especially in a large country such as Canada)
 - A desire to ensure that potential team members are training appropriately and consistently (and not unnecessarily peaking for an extra race)
 - A requirement to ensure that the HPP's programming aligns with Orienteering Canada's long term athlete development model (as required by Sport Canada)

These factors and others must be balanced in a complex way. The HPC has been charged by the Board with creating a Selection Process and Criteria that does this. Discussion at the AGM of these complicated issues and concepts is not effective and is not appropriate.