



NATIONAL SKELETON PROGRAM CARDING CRITERIA

**FOR NOMINATING NATIONAL SKELETON PROGRAM (NSP)
ATHLETES TO THE SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM (AAP) FOR THE 2024-25 CARDING CYCLE**

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Approved by Sport Canada:

PREAMBLE

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is a federal government grant program that provides direct financial assistance to Canadian high-performance athletes and is one of three Sport Canada programs ([Funding-Sport](#)) designed to assist in the development of high-performance sport.

The AAP contributes toward improved Canadian performances at major international sporting events such as the Olympic/Paralympic Games and World Championships.

The AAP recognizes the commitment that athletes make to the National Team training and competitive programs provided by their NSO and seeks to relieve some of the financial pressures associated with preparing for and participating in international sport. The AAP financial assistance provides support to athletes in the form of a living and training allowance, plus tuition and supplementary AAP support. The living and training allowance is intended to offset some, but not all, of the living and training expenses athletes incur as a result of their involvement in high-performance sport, while tuition support is intended to help athletes obtain a post-secondary level education. The AAP is the only Sport Canada program that provides direct financial support to athletes.

Eligible Athletes who are approved for funding and are financially supported through the AAP are referred to as carded athletes. AAP support is also known as carding.

1. OVERVIEW & INFORMATION

1.1. Carding Types and Levels

Senior International Cards (SR1/SR2)

Funding for athletes who achieve the Senior International Performance Standards (SIPS), as set out by Sport Canada, at World Championships (WCh) or the Olympic Winter Games (OWG). The following are the current SIPS:

- 1.1.1.** Finish in the top 8 (eight), counting a maximum of three entries per country;
and
- 1.1.2.** Finish in the top half of the field.

Senior National Cards (SR)

Funding for athletes who demonstrate potential to achieve the SIPS.

Development Cards (D)

Funding for younger athletes who demonstrate potential to achieve the SIPS but are not yet able to meet the Senior International Card or Senior National Card criteria.

1.2. Monthly Living and Training Allowance(s)

Athletes nominated by the NSP Technical Lead and approved by Sport Canada will receive

a monthly living and training allowance from Sport Canada according to carding status. This allowance is usually paid in advance every two months.

Carding Status	Monthly Allowance
Senior International Cards (SR1, SR2)	\$1,765
Senior National Cards (SR)	\$1,765
Development Cards (D)	\$1,060

1.3. Only Olympic Program Disciplines Considered

Athletes in Olympic sports are eligible to be nominated for AAP support based on their participation and training for events that are on the program for the upcoming OWG. Athletes in Olympic sports competing in World Championship events that are not on the program for the upcoming OWG are not eligible for carding based strictly on performances in those events.

For the avoidance of doubt only results from disciplines on the Olympic program are eligible for consideration for nominations to the Sport Canada AAP.

1.4. Definition of "Competed"

For the purposes of this NSP AAP Carding Criteria, athletes are deemed to have competed if they were registered, entered and intended to compete, but were unable to complete the competition because the athlete:

- 1.4.1.** was disqualified (DSQ) for any reason other than an Anti-Doping related infraction;
- 1.4.2.** did not finish (DNF) because of a crash or other incident; or
- 1.4.3.** did not start (DNS) for health, equipment or similarly related reasons.

For the avoidance of doubt, if the athlete DNS because the athlete refuses to compete other than for the reasons set out above or was removed by BCS from the competition because the athlete was not in good standing with BCS, for disciplinary reasons or for having breached BCS policies, then the athlete will not be deemed to have competed.

1.5. Process

The Technical Lead is responsible for nominating eligible athletes to the AAP. Sport Canada reviews all nominations put forward by the Technical Lead and approves nominations in accordance with the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#) and this published and approved BCS NSP AAP Carding Criteria.

2. NSP AAP CARD QUOTA

The NSP AAP card quota is allocated by Sport Canada on the basis of a number of Senior International Cards. For the 2022-23 Carding Cycles the NSP is allocated a quota of **7 Senior International Cards**, equivalent to a maximum monetary value of **\$148,260**. Eligible athletes are nominated for Senior International, Senior National and/or Development Cards according to this BCS NSP AAP Carding Criteria up to the maximum monetary value of the NSP AAP card quota.

Sport Canada regularly reviews carding quota allocations for all sports; therefore the NSP AAP card quota allocation is subject to change from time to time. If the NSP AAP card quota allocation differs from that mentioned in this document, the Technical Lead will inform the athletes as soon as possible.

3. CARDING ELIGIBILITY

3.1. Athlete Eligibility

To be considered for nomination and to maintain eligibility for AAP carding, athletes must at all material times be current National Skeleton Program Athletes ("NSP Athletes"), specifically to be a NSP Athlete, athletes must:

- 3.1.1.** be a member in good standing of BCS with current National Team Athlete status having a valid fully executed BCS Athlete Agreement, committed to a BCS approved Individual Performance Plan (IPP), as applicable, paid all outstanding fees owing to BCS and having met such other associated obligations from time to time;
- 3.1.2.** unless a written exemption is requested by the Athlete to, and granted by, the Technical Lead in advance, have participated in and/or competed in all required events, camps and/or competitions in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Seasons to which the athlete was selected to participate, including:
 - NSP camps (on and off ice);
 - Canadian Championships;
 - International Competitions (WCh / WJrCH / WC / EC / NAC); and
 - Such other mandatory events as may be notified to the athlete from time to time in advance; and("Season" means the 12 month period from April 1st through March 31st annually)
- 3.1.3.** be eligible:
 - to compete for Canada at applicable international competitions under [IBSF eligibility rules](#); and
 - under Section 2.3 (Athlete Eligibility Requirements) of the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#).

3.2. Maximum Eligibility Length

An athlete may be carded at each of the Senior National Card (in any combination of SR and/or C1) and the Development Card levels, respectively, for a ***maximum of 5 years***.

An athlete is expected to improve each year to maintain carding and to eventually achieve the International Criteria. Only those athletes who demonstrate year-to-year improvement, progression toward the SIPS and future potential will be considered by BCS for nomination for an additional carding cycle at either level. Additionally, Sport Canada will review this evidence and, in discussion with BCS, determine whether an additional year of support at the relevant card level is warranted. If an additional year is granted, BCS and the athlete must agree on performance targets to be attained by the athlete for carding consideration in subsequent carding cycles.

Note: In order to ensure equality of opportunity to demonstrate improvement, progression and potential, consideration will be given to athletes who miss significant portions of a Season, WCh or OWG because of reasons encompassed in **section 6.**, whereby the 5-year maximum may be extended by up to one additional year at the sole discretion of BCS.

4. BCS AAP CARDING CYCLES

Because of the nature and schedule of the sport of skeleton, BCS utilizes 2 distinct NSP carding cycles to nominate athletes to the Sport Canada AAP:

- Pre-Season Carding Cycle: July 1st – October 31st; and
- In-Season Carding Cycle: November 1st – June 30th.

A “Carding Period” is defined as July 1st – June 30th.

An athlete is deemed to be carded for a “Year” if that athlete’s nomination has been approved for funding and the athlete is financially supported through the AAP for four [4] months or more in any Carding Period.

5. CARDING NOMINATION CRITERIA

5.1. Pre-Season Carding Cycle

For the Pre-Season Carding Cycle, on July 1st, 2024, eligible NSP Athletes who:

Senior International Cards

5.1.1. SR1 Cards

achieved the SIPS at the 2024 WCh are eligible for nomination at the SR1 level; and

5.1.2. SR2 Cards

at carding cycle renewal were SR1 carded who *did not* achieve the SIPS at the 2024 WCh are eligible for nomination at the SR2 level.

5.2. In-Season Carding Cycle

For the In-Season Carding Cycle, upon completion of the 2024-25 NSP Selection Process, eligible NSP Athletes who have been selected to the 2024-25 NSP who:

Senior International Cards

5.2.1. SR1 Cards

at carding cycle renewal were SR1 carded, are eligible for nomination at the SR1 level; and

5.2.2. SR2 Cards

at carding cycle renewal were SR2 carded, are eligible for nomination at the SR2 level.

Senior National Cards

5.2.3. SR Cards

are not eligible for Senior International cards above, who:

5.2.3.1. Competed at the 2024 WCh but did not achieve the SIPS, are eligible for nomination at the SR level;

5.2.3.2. did not Compete at the 2024 WCh, who have been in prior Carding Periods, been carded at either the SR1, SR2, SR and/or C1 level, in any combination, for more than 2, consecutive or non-consecutive, seasons, are eligible for nomination at the SR level; or

5.2.3.3. are returning to the NSP from self-directed time away, either for personal or performance related reasons (retirement, injury etc.), who were carded at the Senior International Card level at the time of their self-directed time away, are eligible for nomination at the SR level.

Development Cards

5.2.4. D Cards

are not eligible for Senior International or Senior National cards above, who:

5.2.4.1. did not Compete at the 2024 WCh, who have been in prior Carding Periods, been carded at either the SR1, SR2, SR and/or C1 level, in any combination, for 2 or fewer, consecutive, or non-consecutive, years, are eligible for nomination at the D level; or

5.2.4.2. did not Compete at the 2024 WCh, are eligible for nomination at the D level.

5.3. Ranking & Nominations

NSP Athletes eligible for nomination to the AAP will be ranked by **Carding Level Priority** in accordance with the **NSP AAP Ranking System (Appendix A)** and correspondingly nominations will be made up to the maximum monetary value of the NSP AAP Card Quota as set out in **section 2**

Carding Level Priority

- Priority 1 – Senior International Cards
- Priority 2 – Senior National Cards
- Priority 3 – Development Cards

5.4. Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-related Reasons

A carded athlete who, at the end of the carding cycle has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of carding status because of strictly health related reasons, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming Carding Period, as applicable, provided the conditions are met as set out in section 9.1.3 (Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-related Reasons) of the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#).

5.5. Remaining Funds Following Ranking & Nominations

If, after nominations are complete in accordance with **section 5.3.**, there are remaining funds within the NSP AAP Card Quota, the remaining funds may be allocated to the top ranked Development carded athlete(s) as additional months (to a maximum of 12 months).

Example: If 6 carding months (calculated at the D level) are remaining and the top ranked D carded athletes have 8 months' carding already allocated, these top ranked D carded athletes will be allocated additional months as follows:

- 4 months (for a total maximum of 12 months) for the top ranked D carded athlete; and
- 2 months (for a total of 10 months) for the second ranked D carded athlete.

6. ILLNESS, INJURY or PREGNANCY WITHIN A CARDING CYCLE

In accordance with the [BCS Athlete Agreement](#), this NSP AAP Carding Criteria and the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#), athletes must adhere to the competitive and training program and administrative requirements specified by BCS throughout the cycle for which they are carded and must, at the earliest opportunity, notify the TECHNICAL LEAD in writing of any illness, injury or pregnancy that may prevent the athlete's participation in the NSP.

6.1. Short-term Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-related Reasons

Carded athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for 4 months or fewer because of illness or injury will continue to receive 100 percent of the

AAP financial support to which they would otherwise be entitled, on the condition that the athlete:

- 6.1.1.** provides, without delay, a positive prognosis with anticipated timeline for the athlete's return to full training and/or competition from the BCS team physician, or BCS's designate; and
- 6.1.2.** undertakes in writing, to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness or injury; and
- 6.1.3.** at all material times throughout the Carding Cycle, rehabilitate(s) and/or train(s) under the supervision of BCS and/or its designate for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfill the training and competition commitments described in the [BCS Athlete Agreement](#).

6.2. Long-term Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-related Reasons

Carded athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for longer than 4 months because of injury, illness or pregnancy will continue to receive 100 percent of the AAP financial support to which they would otherwise be entitled, provided the conditions are met according to Section 9.1.2 (Long-term Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-related Reasons) of the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#).

7. CARDING WITHDRAWAL

7.1. Voluntary Withdrawal from the AAP or Declining AAP Support

The policy and procedures associated with Voluntary Withdrawal from the AAP or Declining AAP Support are described in Section 10 (Voluntary Withdrawal from the AAP or Declining AAP Support) of the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#).

7.2. Withdrawal of Carded Status

Carded Athletes may have their carded status withdrawn under the following conditions:

- Failure to meet training or competition commitments;
- Violation of the [BCS Athlete Agreement](#);
- Failure to meet athlete responsibilities outlined in the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#);
- Gross breach of discipline;
- Investigation for cause; and
- Violations of anti-doping rules.

In most cases, BCS makes the recommendation that carded status be withdrawn; however,

Sport Canada may also withdraw carded status without a recommendation from BCS. These situations are described in Section 11 (Withdrawal of Carded Status) of the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#).

8. APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals of a BCS AAP nomination decision or of a BCS recommendation to withdraw carding may only be pursued through the [BCS Appeals Policy](#).

Appeals of an AAP Decision made under the [Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedures](#) Section 6 (Application for and Approval of Cards) or Section 11 (Withdrawal of Carded Status) may be pursued through Section 13 (Appeals Policy) of the [Sport Can](#)