

ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CRITERIA January 1st 2019 to December 31st 2019

1. OVERVIEW

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is a program of the Federal Government administered by Sport Canada. It is more commonly referred to as the Carding Program. The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is aimed at enhancing the Canadian high-performance sport system. The AAP assists international calibre athletes with their training and competition needs, through the provision of a living and training allowance and, where applicable, tuition expenses. The AAP is also intended to assist carded athletes in dealing with the increasing demands of high-performance sport and to enhance their personal and career development both during, and following, their athletic careers.

The carding cycle for 2019 shall be January 1st, 2019 to December 31st, 2019.

2. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for carding nomination, an athlete must meet Sport Canada's AAP's athlete eligibility requirements ([Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures](#), Policy Section 2.3) and:

- a) must possess Canadian citizenship by January 1, 2019 and;
- b) must be a registered member in good standing of a provincial branch of Canada Artistic Swimming at the time of qualification and throughout the carding cycle and;
- c) must have paid all outstanding fees to Canada Artistic Swimming prior to the start of the carding cycle and;
- d) must not be under suspension or other sanction for any doping or doping-related offense and;
- e) must have a 2019 Yearly Training Plan (YTP) approved by Canada Artistic Swimming and;
- f) must have signed a 2019 Canada Artistic Swimming Athlete Agreement and;
- g) must meet the criteria set out in this document.

Athletes who are ill or injured or absent at the time of a 2018 Fall Evaluation Camp or Sport Canada carding nomination will follow the process outlined in Section 9 of this document.



3. DEFINITIONS

“2019 National Ranking” refers to a national athlete ranking that will be established following the 2018 Fall Evaluation Camp and that will be revised from time-to-time based on athlete performances in their daily training environment and in competitions from January 14, 2019 until the end of the national domestic and international competition seasons

“AAP” refers to Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program

“CAS” refers to Canada Artistic Swimming

“CSO” refers to Canada Artistic Swimming’s Chief Sport Officer

“DEVELOPMENT ATHLETE POOL” refers to a pool of developing athletes with the potential to represent Canada at the 2024 Olympic Games

“PERFORMANCE ATHLETE POOL” refers a pool of athletes that will train full-time in a one training location starting in January 2019, until the completion of the 2019 Pan American Games

4. SWIMMERS ATTENDING A FOREIGN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Sport Canada policy states that athletes and who are receiving an athletic scholarship are not eligible to receive AAP support in the months in which they are attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution.

As per Sport Canada policy (2.5.2), Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate swimmers who are attending a foreign post-secondary educational institution and are receiving an athletic scholarship for AAP funding provided that they commit to support the National Team Program activities.

These swimmers will be nominated by Canada Artistic Swimming for AAP support during the months they are not attending the foreign post-secondary institution. It is the responsibility of the individual athlete to notify Canada Artistic Swimming of the applicable time period for which they will not be attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution

It is the responsibility of the NCAA-based athlete to notify their institutions compliance department to confirm that they are eligible to receive AAP support. It is also a NCAA-based athlete’s responsibility to determine any procedures that they must follow in order to meet the requirements of the institution’s compliance department.



4. AUTHORITY FOR CARDING DECISIONS

All matters relating to the nomination of athletes for the AAP are the sole authority of Canada Artistic Swimming. The Chief Sport Officer will apply the process and criteria contained within this document to nominate athletes for carding to Sport Canada.

If an athlete does not meet (in the discretion and opinion of Canada Artistic Swimming) any of the criteria or requirements set out in the Canada Artistic Swimming AAP Criteria, Canada Artistic Swimming may decide in its sole discretion, to either recommend withdrawal of carding, or to not nominate an athlete for 2019.

5. ALLOCATION OF CARDS

Canada Artistic Swimming has been allocated 15 Senior cards for the 2019 Carding Cycle.

Sport Canada regularly reviews the allocation of cards, which is subject to change pending any reviews that are completed.

The breakdown of these funds into Senior International Cards, Senior National Cards and Development Cards, is at the sole discretion of Canada Artistic Swimming.

Per Sport Canada policy an athlete may not be nominated for less than four months of carding.

6. THE CARDING PROCESS

Using the processes described in the [2018 Senior National Team Selection Process](#) following the 2018 Fall Evaluation Camp athletes will be selected to a Performance Athlete Pool and the 2019 National Athlete Ranking will be established.

Following the 2018 Fall Evaluation Camp, Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate athletes to Sport Canada for the 2019 Carding Cycle. Additional nominations may be made at later date as described by the processes and criteria in this document.

All athletes being nominated must complete and submit all required documentation by the specified deadline in their carding notification letter. Funding will not be activated until such time that all required documentation has been submitted.



6. PRIORITIZATION OF CARDING NOMINATIONS

- PRIORITY 1 Senior International Card nominations (SR2) based on criteria outlined in this document.
- PRIORITY 2 Senior National Card nominations (including C1 cards) based on criteria outlined in this document.
- PRIORITY 3 Development Card nominations based on criteria outlined in this document.

7. CARDING CRITERIA

Senior International Criteria (SR1/SR2)

Sport Canada establishes the international criteria used to award Senior Cards (SR2). These criteria are based on international performance at Olympic Games, in an Olympic year or World Aquatic Championships in Olympic events, in a non-Olympic Year. Sport Canada reserves the right to review and revise these criteria with appropriate notice.

Athletes who meet the Senior International criteria are eligible to be nominated for two consecutive years, with the card for the first year referred to as SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as SR2.

There are no SR1 Card nominations following a Non-Olympic /non-World Aquatics Championships year.

Senior International Cards (SR2) will be nominated based on the following criteria:

- a) Athletes who represented Canada and placed in the top 8 and top ½ of the field at the 2017 FINA World Championship who have been selected to the 2019 Performance Athlete Pool by Canada Artistic Swimming and who are training with the full-time centralized training group and
- b) An athlete's ranking in the **2019 National Athlete Ranking**.

The availability of SR2 cards is subject to the total number of cards available under the Sport Canada card quota.



Senior National Criteria (SR/C1)

Senior National Cards will be nominated based on the following criteria:

- a) An athlete who is not eligible for a Senior International Card (SR2) who has been selected to the 2019 Performance Athlete Pool by Canada Artistic Swimming **and** is training with the full-time centralized training group.
- b) An athlete's ranking in the **2019 National Athlete Ranking**.

Senior Cards awarded to athletes who meet the National Criteria for Senior Cards for the first time are called C1 Cards and are funded at the Development Card level.

The availability of SR/C1 cards is subject to the total number of cards available under the Sport Canada card quota and the number of cards awarded in the Senior International category.

Development Cards

Development cards are intended to support the development needs of athletes earlier in their career who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior International criteria in the future.

Following the 2019 Fall Evaluation Camp, Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate athletes to Sport Canada for Development Cards. Development cards for the 2019 Carding cycle will be for the months of September, October, November and December. A minimum of four months of carding support must be available to nominate an athlete for a Development Card.

Athletes previously carded at the Senior (International or National) level for more than two years are not eligible for Development Cards.

Development cards will be nominated for carding based on the following criteria:

- a. Athletes who have been selected to the 2020 Performance Athlete Pool by Canada Artistic Swimming and who are training with the full-time centralized training group and
- b. An athlete's ranking in the **2019 National Athlete Ranking**.

The availability of Development Cards is subject to the total number of cards available under the Sport Canada card quota and the number of cards awarded in the Senior International and Senior National Card categories.

8. CANADA ARTISTIC SWIMMING CARDED ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive and maintain their AAP support, carded athletes must:

- Be training in the full-time training environment and meet the performance standards communicated by Canada Artistic Swimming and;
- Participate in all scheduled activities and;
- Follow year-round prescribed training programs that are provided to the athlete by Canada Artistic Swimming and;
- Submit to Canada Artistic Swimming their individual training reports as prescribed by the program established by the Canada Artistic Swimming and;
- Perform individual assessment protocols prescribed by the program established by the Canada Artistic Swimming.

Notwithstanding Sport Canada policy for special situations described in section 9, if a carded athlete does not submit a training or assessment report by the scheduled deadline then the following process will be followed:

- Missed deadline – An email reminder to submit the required information within 48 hours
- Missed deadline by 48 hours – written notification advising the athlete that they must comply with the requirement to retain their carding status. They will have 5 days to comply.
- Missed deadline by 7 days – The Chief Sport Officer will recommend to Sport Canada an immediate withdrawal of the athlete’s carding. Athletes will be removed from their Athlete Pool for the current season and will not be considered for further Canada Artistic Swimming National Program activities.

9. CARDING ALLOCATIONS FOR INJURED AND ILL ATHLETES

A carded athlete who at the end of the 2018 carding cycle is unable to compete in the appropriate National Team Selection due to injury or illness (confirmed by a doctor’s written notice) **AND** is selected to the 2019 Performance Athlete Pool through a Medical Bye may be considered for nomination for the upcoming year if:

- a) The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to training and competition during the period of her injury or illness and, despite making every reasonable effort, has failed to achieve the standards and;
- b) The NSO team physician or equivalent indicates in writing there is a reasonable expectation that the athlete will be able to return to participation in the full national



team training program no later than April 30, 2019 and meet at least the minimum standards required and;

- c) The athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate her long- term commitment to high performance training and competition goals, as well as her declaring in writing her intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which he or she wishes to be renewed despite not having met the carding criteria.

If the athlete meets the above criteria their nomination to Sport Canada will be probationary and will only be activated if;

- d) The athlete returns to full national team training with the full-time National Team centralized training group
- e) The athlete can demonstrate their readiness by meeting at least the minimum performance standards required by the 2019 National Senior Team Program.

If the athlete achieves d) and e) their AAP funding will be available retroactively to January 1, 2019.

If the athlete is unable to return to the National Team training program by April 30, 2019, the athlete's AAP funding will be allocated to the next ranked athlete on the 2019 National Athlete Ranking who meets the Canada Artistic Swimming's Athlete Assistance Program Criteria.