

## **ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CRITERIA**

### **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020**

#### **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 2020 shall be January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

#### **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](#)), and:

- a) must be a registered member in good standing of a provincial branch of Canada Artistic Swimming throughout the carding cycle and;
- b) must have paid all outstanding fees to Canada Artistic Swimming prior to the start of the carding cycle and;
- c) must not be under suspension or other sanction for any doping or doping-related offense and;
- d) must have signed a 2020 Canada Artistic Swimming Athlete Agreement and;
- e) must meet the criteria set out in this document.

Athletes who are ill or injured or absent at the time of the Sport Canada carding nomination will follow the process outlined in Section 10 of this document.



### 3. DEFINITIONS

**“2019 National Ranking”** refers to a national athlete ranking that will be established following the 2019 World Championships and that will be revised throughout the 2019 Fall Training Period based on athlete performances in their daily training environment

**“2020 Junior World Championships Team Final Selection Ranking”** refers to a national junior athlete ranking that will be established on June 15, 2020 following the completion of the National Junior Selection Camp

**“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

**“Full-Time Olympic Training Group”** refers a pool of athletes that will train full-time in a one training location starting September 18, 2019, until the completion of the 2020 Olympic Games

**“2019 Fall Training Period”** refers to the Full-time Olympic Training Group’s period of training from September 18, 2019 to November 27, 2019, inclusive

### 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 2020.

#### **5. ALLOCATION OF CARDS**

Canada Artistic Swimming has been allocated 15 Senior cards for the 2020 Carding Cycle.

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**

Following the completion of the 2019 Fall Training Period, a Final 2019 National Athlete Ranking will be established. Using the Final 2019 National Athlete Ranking, Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate athletes to Sport Canada for the 2020 Carding Cycle.

Following the selection of the 2020 [FINA Junior World Championship Team](#), Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate athletes to Sport Canada for the 2020 Carding Cycle subject to the availability of cards

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.

## **7. PRIORITIZATION OF CARDING NOMINATIONS**

**PRIORITY 1** Senior International Card nominations (SR1) 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.

## **8. CARDING CRITERIA**

### **Senior International Criteria (SR1/SR2)**

Sport Canada establishes the international criteria used to award Senior Cards (SR1/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.

Senior International Cards (SR1) will be nominated based on the following criteria:

- a) Athletes who represented and competed for Canada and placed in the top 8 and top ½ of the field at the 2019 FINA World Championship who are members of and training with the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group

The availability of SR1 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 (SR1) and who is a member of and training with the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group
- b) An athlete's ranking in the ***Final 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.

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 selected to the 2020 Junior World Artistic Swimming Championships Team and,
- b. An athlete's ranking in the ***2020 Junior World Championships Team Final Selection Ranking***. The final selection ranking for the Junior World Artistic Swimming Championships Team will determine the ranked order in which athletes will be nominated.

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.



## 9. CANADA ARTISTIC SWIMMING CARDED ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive and maintain their AAP support, carded athletes who are a member of and training with the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group 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;
- Perform individual assessment protocols prescribed by the program established by the Canada Artistic Swimming.

In order to receive and maintain their AAP support, athletes selected to the 2020 Junior World Championship Team must:

- Attend all scheduled activities they are invited to participate in (e.g. once invited an athlete must attend any camps, events, or training sessions) and;
- Follow the 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 and will not be considered for further Canada Artistic Swimming National Program activities.



## **10. CARDING ALLOCATIONS FOR INJURED AND ILL ATHLETES**

A carded athlete who at the end of the 2019 carding cycle is unable to be ranked in the the Final 2019 National Athlete Ranking due to injury or illness (confirmed by a doctor's written notice) and **who** continues to be a member of and training with the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group 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 March 31, 2020 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 2020 National Senior Team Program.

If the athlete achieves d) and e) their AAP funding will be available retroactively to January 1, 2020.

If the athlete is unable to return to the National Team training program by March 31, 2020, the athlete's AAP funding will be allocated to the next ranked athlete on the Final 2019 National Athlete Ranking who meets the Canada Artistic Swimming's Athlete Assistance Program Criteria.