

## **ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CRITERIA**

### **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021**

#### **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 2021 shall be January 1st, 2021 to December 31st, 2021.

#### **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 2021 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 11 of this document.

#### **3. DEFINITIONS**



**“2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group Ranking”** refers to an athlete ranking of the Full-time Olympic Training Group that will be established and revised throughout the 2020 Fall Training Period, based on athlete performances in their daily training environment

**“2021 Junior World Championships Team Selection Ranking”** refers to the Junior World Championships Team athlete ranking following the completion of the National Junior Selection Process

**“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

**“2020 Full-Time Olympic Training Group”** refers a group of athletes that will train full-time in a training location (s) from September 17, 2020 until December 31, 2020

**“2021 Full-Time Olympic Training Group”** refers to a group of athletes that will train full-time in a training location (s) from January 4, 2021, until the start of the 2021 Olympic Games

**“2021 Full-Time Training Group”** refers a group of athletes that will train full-time in a training location (s) from November 2, 2021 until December 31, 2021

**“2020 Fall Training Period”** refers to the Full-time Olympic Training Group’s training period from September 17, 2020 to December 31, 2020, inclusive

**“2021 Full-time Training Group Selection Camp”** refers to the Evaluation and Selection Camp to select the 2021 Full time Training Group



#### **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.

#### **5. 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 2021.

#### **6. ALLOCATION OF CARDS**

Canada Artistic Swimming has been allocated 15 Senior cards for the 2021 Carding Cycle.

The breakdown of these funds into 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.



## 7. THE CARDING PROCESS

Following the completion of the 2020 Fall Training Period, a final 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group Ranking will be established. Using the final 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group Ranking, Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate athletes to Sport Canada for the 2021 Carding Cycle.

Following the selection of the 2021 FINA Junior World Championship Team, Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate athletes to Sport Canada for the 2021 Carding Cycle, subject to the availability of cards.

Following the selection of athletes to the 2021 Full-Time Training Group, Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate athletes to Sport Canada for the 2021 Carding Cycle, subject to the availability of cards

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.

## 8. PRIORITIZATION OF CARDING NOMINATIONS

**PRIORITY 1** Senior International Card (SR2) and Senior National Card nominations (including C1 cards) based on criteria outlined in this document.

**PRIORITY 2** Development Card nominations based on criteria outlined in this document.

## 9. CARDING CRITERIA

### Senior International Criteria (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 (SR2) will be nominated in the following priority order based on the following criteria:

1. Athletes who competed for Canada in the 2019 FINA World Championships



### **Senior National Criteria (SR/C1)**

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

1. Athletes who competed for Canada in the 2019 FINA World Series Circuit
  - a. An athlete's ranking in the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group Ranking will determine the ranked order in which athletes will be nominated.
2. Athletes that did not compete for Canada at the 2019 FINA World Championships or in the 2019 FINA World Series Circuit, but who are ranked in the top 8 of the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group Ranking
  - a. An athlete's ranking in the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group Ranking will determine the ranked order in which athletes will be nominated.

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

### **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.

Developmental Cards will be nominated in the following priority order based on the following criteria:

1. Athletes in the 2021 Full-Time Olympic Training Group will be nominated for 8 months of carding from January to August 2021.
  - a. An athlete's ranking in the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group Ranking will determine the ranked order in which athletes will be nominated.



2. Athletes selected to the 2021 Junior World Artistic Swimming Championships Team will be nominated for carding for 4 months from May 2021 to August 2021 based on the following criteria:
  - a. The 2021 Junior World Championships Team Final Selection Ranking will determine the ranked order in which athletes will be nominated.
3. Athletes selected to the 2021 Full-time Training Group who have already received a minimum of 4 months of a Development Card in 2021 will be nominated for carding for 2 months from November to December 2021.
  - a. An athlete's ranking following the 2021 Full-time Training Group Selection Camp 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 National Card category .

## 10. 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 2021 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 2021 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.

#### **11. 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 year provided the following conditions are met:

- 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 February 28, 2021 and meet at least the minimum standards required and;
- c) The athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate their long-term commitment to high performance training and competition goals, as well as their declaring in writing their intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which they wish 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 2021 Full-Time Olympic Training Group
- e) The athlete can demonstrate their readiness by meeting at least the minimum performance standards required by the 2021 Full-Time Olympic Training Group



If the athlete achieves d) and e) their AAP funding will be available retroactively to January 1, 2021.

If the athlete is unable to return to the 2021 Full-Time Olympic Training Group by February 28, 2021, the athlete's AAP funding will be allocated to the next ranked athlete on the 2020 Full-time Olympic Training Group Ranking who meets the Canada Artistic Swimming's Athlete Assistance Program Criteria.