

ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CRITERIA

January 1st 2023 to August 31st 2023

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 2023 shall be January 1st, 2023, to August 31st, 2023.

This is a one-time 8-month carding cycle to shift to the preferred 12-month cycle that will begin on September 1, 2023 and end on August 31, 2024.

*This document is subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the changing international event calendar.

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 2023 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

"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

"2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group Evaluation and Selection Camp" refers to the Evaluation and Selection Camp that will select athletes to the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group in the Fall of 2022

"2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group" refers a group of athletes that will train full-time in a training location in preparation for the 2023 FINA World Series Calendar of events, the 2023 FINA World Championships.

"2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group Ranking" refers to the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group ranking following the completion of the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group Evaluation and Selection Camp

"2022 FINA World Championships Team" refers to a group of athletes that are selected to represent Canada at the 2022 FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary from June 18 – July 3, 2022.

"2023 FINA World Championships Team" refers to a group of athletes that are selected to represent Canada at the 2023 FINA World Championships in Fukuoka Japan from July 14, 2023, until July 30, 2023.

4. SWIMMERS ATTENDING A FOREIGN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Sport Canada policy states that athletes 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 institution's 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 2023.

If an athlete should wish to appeal a nomination or non-nomination, please refer to the [CAS Appeals Policy](#) for the process.

6. ALLOCATION OF CARDS

Canada Artistic Swimming's current allocation is equivalent to 15 Senior cards. Due to this carding cycle being 8-months, the 15 Senior cards will be pro-rated to a value of 15 Senior Cards x 8 months.

Sport Canada reviews its carding allocations; therefore, this number is subject to change.

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 selection of athletes to the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group, Canada Artistic Swimming will nominate athletes to Sport Canada for the 2023 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 SR1 National Card nominations based on the criteria outlined in this document.
- PRIORITY 2 SR National Card nominations (including C1 cards) based on the criteria outlined in this document
- PRIORITY 3 Development Card nominations based on the criteria outlined in this document.

9. 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.

SR1 International Cards (SR1)

SR1 International cards will be nominated based on the following criteria:

1. Athletes who represented Canada and placed in the top 8 and top ½ of the field at the 2022 FINA World Championships and who are members of and are training in the training location with the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group.

Senior National Criteria (SR/C1)

Senior National Cards will be nominated in the following priority order based on the following criteria subject to the availability of cards:

1. Athletes who represented Canada at the 2022 FINA World Championships who are members of and are training in the training location with the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group.

- a. An athlete's ranking in the "2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group Ranking" will determine the ranked order in which athletes will be nominated.
2. Athletes who competed for Canada in the 2022 FINA World Series In-Person Super Final Event and who are members of and are training in the training location with the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group.
 - a. An athlete's ranking in the "2022-2023 Senior National Team 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/C1 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 subject to the availability of cards.

1. Athletes selected to the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group. will be nominated for 8 months of carding from January 2023 to August 2023
 - a. An athlete's ranking in the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group Ranking 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 2022-2023 Senior National Team 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.

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 physician as agreed upon by the NSO, indicates in writing there is a reasonable expectation that the athlete will be able to return to training full-time without restrictions with the 2022-2023 Senior National Training Group, no later than January 3, 2023 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 declaring in writing their intention to return to training full-time with the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group and 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 all of the above criteria CAS will consider the nomination probationary and will request that the athlete's nomination be put on hold until the athlete meets both of the following additional conditions

- d) The athlete returns to full time training without restrictions with the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group no later than January 3, 2023 **AND**
- e) The athlete can demonstrate their readiness by meeting at least the minimum performance standards required by the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group.

The athlete will only be nominated if they meet conditions d) and e).

If the athlete achieves d) and e) their AAP funding will be available retroactively to January 1, 2023.

If the athlete is unable to return to the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Training Group by January 3, 2023, the athlete's AAP funding will be allocated to the next ranked athlete on the 2022-2023 Full-time Training Group Ranking who meets the Canada Artistic Swimming's Athlete Assistance Program Criteria.