



**CARDING NOMINATION CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES  
FOR THE SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP)  
2020-2021 Carding Cycle**

<b>Approval Authority:</b>	Executive Director & Sport Canada
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	High Performance
<b>Approval Date:</b>	November 1, 2019
<b>Revision:</b>	Yearly (Pre-Season)
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	Aug 2020
<b>Related Policies:</b>	Canada Snowboard High Performance Program General Policies, & Team Selection Protocols.

**I. GENERAL PRACTICES**

- 1) The Carding Criteria are developed as prescribed in Sport Canada’s AAP Policies and Procedures, “*Section 5.5 - Establishing Carding Criteria*”. Specifically, the process is:
  - a) Nomination Criteria and Procedures are developed by the High Performance Program technical and coaching staff;
  - b) These are reviewed by the CS Athletes’ Council and Executive Director and they independently propose recommendations;
  - c) The same draft document is provided to the CS Board of Directors for their review and comment;
  - d) Sport Canada reviews the criteria to ensure they comply with the AAP Policies; and
  - e) Final version of the criteria is approved by the Executive Director, as the Board-delegated “NSO decision making body” for submission to Sport Canada;
- 2) This document is renewed on an annual basis, published and communicated normally 8 to 10 months before the beginning of the carding cycle as recommended by Sport Canada. Approved criteria should be published no later than the beginning of the competition season for the upcoming carding period.
- 3) Canada Snowboard does not make the final decisions regarding the carding of individual athletes but rather nominates eligible athletes for AAP support (carding) to Sport Canada based on the application of the criteria and procedures outlined in this document, and in compliance with Sport Canada’s AAP Policies and Procedures.
- 4) The recommendation of nominees for carding is based on a robust process as outlined in Section V of these Nomination Criteria and Procedures.

## II. SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP) OVERVIEW

- 5) The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is a sport-funding program that contributes to the pursuit of excellence. AAP support seeks to relieve some of the financial pressures associated with preparing for and participating in international sport and assists high-performance Canadian athletes to combine their sport and academic or working careers while training intensively in pursuit of world-class performances. The AAP is commonly referred to as “*Athlete Carding*”.
- 6) Sport Canada’s latest version of their general policies and procedures governing AAP can be referenced online at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>
- 7) Athletes approved by Sport Canada for the AAP may be eligible for a living and training allowance, tuition support, deferred tuition support, and supplementary support. Athletes funded by AAP receive a monthly financial stipend (paid every two months) for up to 12 months as follows:

Card Type	Monthly Stipend
Senior International Card (SR1/SR2)	\$1,765
Senior National Card (SR)	\$1,765
Senior Probationary Card (C1)*	\$1,060
Development Card (D)	\$1,060

**Note:** C1 carded athletes are funded at the Development Card level in the first year that they meet the national criteria for a Senior Card even if they have previously been carded at the Development (D) level. If, however, the athlete has been previously carded at the SR1 or SR2 level, has been named to the national senior team, and has competed in World Championships before meeting the national criteria for the Senior Card for the first time, then the athlete will be funded at the Senior Card (SR) level rather than at the Development Card level.

## III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 8) In order to be **eligible for nomination** by Canada Snowboard to participate in the AAP, that is, to be nominated as a carded athlete, an athlete **must:**
  - a) Be named as a team member of the 2020-21 High Performance Program (HPP), which is defined as the National Team, or Nextgen (Team or Prospect). The HPP selection criteria for all disciplines can be found in the ‘Document Centre’ of the Canada Snowboard Website: <https://www.canadasnowboard.ca/en/docs/>;
  - b) Be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada and have been a legal resident in Canada (student status, refugee status, work visa or permanent resident) for a minimum period of one year before the beginning of the carding cycle. The athlete would normally be expected to have participated in Canada Snowboard sanctioned programs during that time period;
  - c) Compete in snowboard events on the 2022 Olympic program (Parallel Giant Slalom, Halfpipe, Slopestyle, Big Air or Snowboardcross);
  - d) Achieve competition results as an individual detailed in section, “VII. Carding Criteria” between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

- i. Team event results are not eligible for carding nominations.
- ii. Big Air results will only be considered for nominations from the following events:
  - 2019 FIS World Championships (SR2)
  - 2020 FIS Jr World Championships (D)
- iii. It is important to note that International Senior Cards SR2, are allocated based on the results from the 2019 FIS World Championships;
- e) The athlete, under the Snowboard eligibility requirements of the Federation International de Ski (FIS), must currently be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, including World Championships at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated; and
- f) Be in good standing with Canada Snowboard, for example, all outstanding fees and invoices have been paid.

**NOTE:** Canada Snowboard recommends that all athletes with an annual income after sport expenses of \$50,000 or more, decline AAP financial support. Funds declined in this way are reallocated to other athletes in the same sport whose income is below the voluntary income guideline.

#### **IV. PRIORITIZATION OF NOMINATIONS**

- 9) The quota for Canada Snowboard is the equivalent of 27 senior cards or \$571,860. Sport Canada normally reviews its carding allocations for all sports after each Paralympic/Olympic Games; therefore, Canada Snowboard's carding quota may be subject to change.
  - a) Nominations for AAP will be made in the following priority order for each of the three (3) Carding levels:
    - 1. International Senior Card (SR1/SR2)
      - a. Carding Priority Met
        - i. Athlete Score ranking
    - 2. National Senior Card (SR, C1) including Senior Injury Cards (SRinj)
      - a. Carding Priority Met
        - i. Athlete Score ranking
    - 3. Development Card (D) including Development Injury Cards.
      - a. Carding Priority Met
        - i. Athlete Score ranking

Nominations will be made at each Carding level in the order of priority until there are no remaining eligible athletes in the Carding level before allocating cards to the next Carding level and so on, until there are no remaining cards, or there are no remaining eligible athletes. Note: a minimum of 4 months of carding support must be available for an athlete to be nominated.

- b) There will be a minimum of two (2) Development cards (D) allocated to each discipline for a total of 8 Development Cards (\$101,760). If there are less than two (2) eligible athletes that meet the Development criteria in a discipline, then the unused carding amount will be returned to the overall amount for allocation. In the rare case that a card nomination is

returned and the nomination of an athlete from Development is eligible for an SR or C1 due to the available funds, it is possible that the new development card for that discipline would be awarded as a partial card.

- c) Athlete ranking for nomination within the carding priorities will be determined by the cross-discipline Canada Snowboard Athlete Ranking List using the athlete's points. This list will be made internally by collecting data from the FIS Points List for Speed and the World Snowboard Points List (WSPL) & FIS Points list for Freestyle,
  - 1. Freestyle athletes eligible for carding will be ranked on the same scale as speed athletes and will be based on the FIS points rules. Any non-FIS event that is 700+ WSPL Points or higher (being the equivalent of a world cup) will be calculated on the same point distribution as a FIS world cup. The athletes' best two (2) results will be averaged and calculated, which will be the same as the speed FIS list for each eligible athlete.
  - 2. For the purpose of the nomination rankings, the Slopestyle and Big-Air disciplines will be considered one discipline, and only Slopestyle results will be used for the athlete score ranking. The other 3 disciplines will be Alpine including both parallel slalom (PSL) and parallel giant slalom (PGS), Snowboardcross and Halfpipe.

## **V. DECISION-MAKING PROCESS**

- 10) The Selection Committee will consist of the Sport & High Performance Director (HPD) and High Performance Managers (HPM) in consultation with the National Team Coach(es) or appointed technical coach for each discipline. The Selection Committee will evaluate all eligible athletes based on Canada Snowboard's published criteria and then recommend a prioritized list of athletes to be nominated for carding support. The prioritized list is submitted to Canada Snowboard's Executive Director for approval based on the recommendations of the HPP Selection Committee.
- 11) This prioritized list will be posted around May 31, 2020 on the Canada Snowboard website and sent to all members of Canada Snowboard (athletes and coaches) via Canada Snowboard Newsletter (email) of the provisional nominations. Athletes will have a period of seven (7) days following the notification to appeal their provisional status of not being nominated or their ineligibility for carding. Any appeal launched by an athlete will be expedited in accordance with the 'Canada Snowboard Appeal Policy' at: <http://www.canadasnowboard.ca/files/AppealsProtocol.pdf>

\*It is important to note that the email used for your CS membership account will be the one used for the newsletter unless you have opted out of receiving notifications. To sign up an email there is a newsletter sign up box at the bottom of our webpage.

- 12) Sport Canada reviews all nominations put forward by Canada Snowboard and has the final approval of the nominations in accordance with the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) policies and Canada Snowboard approved carding criteria.

## VI. APPLICATION PROCESS

13) Athletes whose nominations are approved by Sport Canada must do the following to receive their carding support:

- a) Complete an AAP Application Form;
- b) Sign the Canada Snowboard athlete agreement; and
- c) Complete the CCES online anti-doping courses for the year in question.

## VII. CARDING CRITERIA

14) International Senior Card (SR1/SR2):

International Senior Card (SR1/SR2) Criteria for All Disciplines:

- a) **Only** athletes named to the Canada Snowboard 2020-21 HPP may be eligible for an International Senior Card (SR1/SR2)
- b) Athletes who meet the criteria are eligible to be nominated for carding for two consecutive years (SR1=1<sup>st</sup> year, SR2=2<sup>nd</sup> year)
- c) Team event results will not be considered for SR1/SR2 carding
- d) The second year of International Senior Carding (SR2) is contingent on the athlete remaining in the Canada Snowboard HPP (or being granted an approval to train outside of the HPP), being re-nominated by Canada Snowboard and maintaining a training and competitive program approved by both Canada Snowboard and Sport Canada.
- e) Sport Canada sets the criteria for International Senior Cards:

### **INTERNATIONAL SENIOR CARDS (SR1/SR2) All Disciplines**

International Senior Cards (SR1, SR2) are awarded to athletes named to the 2020-21 High Performance Program, and who achieve the following priority:

Please note that, No SR1 cards will be available for the 2020-21 carding cycle because there is no FIS World Championships or Olympics scheduled for the 2019-20 competition season

**Priority 1:** An eligible athlete qualifies for an SR2 Card if they placed in the top eight (8) and top half (1/2) of the field at the 2019 FIS World Championships and were eligible for carding at the SR1 level for the 2019-20 carding cycle.

- Big Air results that meet the criteria will be considered for nomination

15) National Senior Card (SR/C1):

National Senior Card (SR/C1) Criteria for All Disciplines:

- a) Only athletes named to the Canada Snowboard 2020-21 HPP may be eligible for a Senior Card (SR).
- b) SR/C1 cards support athletes with the potential to reach International Senior Card status. Senior Cards are awarded to members of the HPP on the basis of International Event results.
- c) For the first year an athlete meets the Senior National Criteria, he or she will receive a C1 Senior Card which is funded at the Development card level. If, however, the athlete has been previously carded at the SR1 or SR2 level, has been named to the national senior team, or has competed in World Championships before meeting the national criteria for the Senior Card for the first time, then that athlete will be funded at the Senior Card (SR) level rather than at the Development Card level.
- d) Big Air and team event results will **not** be considered for SR/C1 carding.
- e) An athlete is expected to progress in their results in order to maintain Senior card (SR) status. Normally five (5) years is the maximum that an athlete will be carded at the Senior (SR & C1) level based on national criteria (SR1/SR2/SRinj/D) will not count towards the five years). After such time, the HPP Selection Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of the athlete's performances over the past five years in order to assess whether they have demonstrated progress towards meeting the International Senior carding criteria, to justify the nomination for an additional year. To do so, the committee will analyse a variety of elements including but not limited to: the athlete's results and skill progression compared to the top 8 performers in the discipline; the Gold Medal Profile; and the Podium Pathway data.
- f) Athletes that have reached this maximum number of years as per point e) above will be informed by Canada Snowboard that on top of meeting the SR criteria they must show progression towards being a top 8 performer in their discipline to be eligible for an additional year of AAP support.

**NATIONAL SENIOR CARDS (SR/C1)  
All Disciplines**

Senior Cards (SR, C1, SRinj) are awarded to athletes named to the 2020-21 HPP, and who achieve one of the following priorities:

**Priority 1:** Athletes who place in the top third (1/3) at one (1) of the following during the 2019/20 season:

- FIS World Cup (speed);
- 900+ point WSPL event (freestyle);
  
- **Freestyle Athletes** who place in the top quarter (1/4) at a 700-800 point WSPL event during the 2019-20 season; or
- Athletes named to the HPP who meet the "Health Related Curtailment of Activities" criteria (as described in section 19) and were carded the previous year at the Senior (SR1, SR, C1) level.

**Priority 2:** This priority is only available to athletes who meet the Senior National Carding criteria for the first time ordinarily for a C1 card.

- **Speed Athletes** who place in the top half (1/2) at a minimum of one (1) FIS World Cup; or
- **Freestyle Athletes** who place in the top third (1/3) at a 700+ Point WSPL event.

If, however an athlete has previously been named to the national senior team or competed at a FIS World Championships before meeting the national Senior Card criteria (for the first time), he or she will receive a Senior card (SR). Note: This priority is not available to athletes that have met the senior international (SR1/SR2) criteria in previous years.

Rankings within the priorities, will be based on the Canada Snowboard Athlete Ranking determined by the 'Athlete's Points' (including frozen FIS points for a health related curtailment of activities).

If a further tie exists in the 'Athlete's points' they shall be broken by the single best (lowest) field placing at an eligible event within the priority until the tie is broken. (field placing = Result / field size x 100).

**16) Development Card (D):**

**Development Card (D) Criteria for All Disciplines:**

- a) Only athletes named to the 2020-21 Canada Snowboard HPP may be eligible for a Development Card (D)
- b) 'D' cards are intended to support the development needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior International criteria but are not yet able to meet the Senior criteria.
- c) 'D' cards are awarded on the basis of the athlete's Canada Snowboard Athlete Ranking which will include International/National Event results.

- d) Team event results will not be considered for D carding.
- e) Big Air results will only be considered for a D card based on priorities 1 and 3
- f) Athletes will be nominated based on the following priorities and as per the nomination process outlined in section IV):
- g) **Development Card Restrictions:**
  - 1. All Disciplines – Alpine, SBX, SBS/BA, HP
    - a. Athletes previously carded at a Senior level (SR1, SR2, SR, SRinj, C1) for two (2) or more years are not eligible for nominations under the Development card criteria, unless they were at the FIS Junior age category or in another discipline/sport when they achieved these levels.
  - 2. Alpine and SBX
    - a. Athletes must be under the age of 25 (U25) as of December 31, 2021, which is five years post the FIS Junior Age Category of the 2020/21 season. To determine these age eligibility requirements, Canada Snowboard uses the expertise of a group of technical experts in Snowboard and in Athlete Development who take into consideration a variety of factors, including but not limited to, the discipline’s podium pathway, the technical evolution of the discipline, and the LTAD. According to expert opinion, there is a clear link between the reference to this age eligibility, the performance criteria, and the potential to achieve the international criteria for Senior Cards in these disciplines.
    - b. Athletes 25 and over may receive an extension to the Development card criteria age up to a maximum of one (1) Development card at any age, as long as the athlete meets the Development card (D) priority 2 criteria and that the HPP Selection Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the athlete’s performances over the past three years that clearly demonstrates that the athlete is progressing towards meeting the Senior carding criteria. To do so, the committee will analyze a variety of elements, including but not limited to, the athlete’s results and skill progression compared to the top 8 performers in the discipline, the discipline’s Gold Medal Profile, and the Podium Pathway.
  - 3. HP and SBS / BA
    - a. Athletes must be under the age of 22 (U22) as of December 31, 2021, which is four years post the FIS junior age category of the 2020/21 season. To determine these age eligibility requirements, Canada Snowboard uses the expertise of a group of technical experts in Snowboard and in Athlete Development who take into consideration a variety of factors, including but not limited to, the discipline’s podium pathway, the technical evolution of the discipline, and the LTAD. According to expert opinion, there is a clear link between the reference to this age eligibility, the performance criteria, and the



potential to achieve the international criteria for Senior Cards in these disciplines.

- b. Athletes 22 and over may receive an extension to the Development card criteria age up to a maximum of one (1) Development card at any age, as long as the athlete meets the Development card (D) priority 2 criteria and that the HPP Selection Committee conducted a comprehensive review of the athlete's performances over the past three years that clearly demonstrate the athlete is progressing towards meeting the Senior carding criteria. To do so, the committee will analyse a variety of elements, including but not limited to, the athlete's results and skill progression compared to the top 8 performers in the discipline, the discipline's Gold Medal Profile and the Podium Pathway.

The details of FIS junior age categories can be referenced online in point 2014.10 on page 55 at: [https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/v1562569434/fis-prod/assets/SBFSFK\\_ICR.pdf](https://assets.fis-ski.com/image/upload/v1562569434/fis-prod/assets/SBFSFK_ICR.pdf)

## DEVELOPMENT CARDS (D)

A minimum of two (2) Development Cards will be allocated to the top two (2) ranked athletes per discipline based on the development priorities and the 'athlete's points'. If there are less than two (2) eligible athletes that meet the Development criteria in a discipline, then the unused carding amount will be returned to the overall amount for allocation.

Development Cards (D) are awarded to athletes named to the 2020-21 HPP, and who achieve one of the following priorities:

**Priority 1:** Athletes who place in the top 3 at the 2020 Junior World Championships (JWCH). Rankings will be based on the athlete's placing at JWCH.

**Priority 2:** Will be awarded to athletes who rank within the top three (3) on their respective Nor-Am Tour. Rankings will be based on the athlete's placing on the overall Nor-Am tour.

**Priority 3:** Athletes who place in the top 8 and top third (1/3) of the field at the 2020 Junior World Championships (JWCH). Rankings will be based on the Canada Snowboard Athlete Ranking; or

**Priority 4:** Remaining cards will be awarded to the highest ranked Development card eligible athletes based on the Canada Snowboard Athlete Ranking.

Athletes named to the HPP who meet the "Health Related Curtailment of Activities" criteria (as described in section 19) and were carded the previous year at the Development (D) level. Rankings will be based on the Canada Snowboard Athlete rankings (including the athlete's frozen points).

In Priority 1 & 3, if there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the priority, then athletes will be ranked using the Canada Snowboard Athlete Ranking. If a tie still remains, then it will be broken by the single

best (lowest) field placing result at a FIS Nor-Am event until the tie is broken. (field placing = Result / field size x 100).

In Priority 2, if there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the priority, then athletes will be ranked using the Canada Snowboard Athlete Ranking. If a tie still remains, then it will be broken by the single best (lowest) field placing result at a FIS Nor-Am event until the tie is broken. (field placing = Result / field size x 100).

In Priority 4, If a tie remains, then it will be broken by the athlete's best result (based on FIS Points) until the tie is broken.

## 17) Athletes Qualifying for Cards in Multiple Disciplines or for both Development and Senior Cards:

- a) An athlete who is eligible for both a Senior Card (SR) and a Development Card (D) must be nominated for a SR Card and cannot be nominated for a D Card unless no SR Cards remain available.
- b) An athlete can only be nominated for a single card even if they meet criteria for multiple disciplines.

## 18) Health Related Curtailment of Activities Card Criteria :

- a) A carded athlete who, for health-related reasons documented by a Canada Snowboard approved physician, is unable to participate in training or competitive activities shall continue to be carded for the balance of the cycle, provided the following conditions are met:
  1. The athlete does not withdraw from the HPP during that period and provides written confirmation of his or her intention to return to full participation in the HPP at the earliest possible date.
  2. Written evaluation is provided by both the Canada Snowboard coaching staff and a Canada Snowboard approved physician, indicating that the athlete can be expected to return to full participation within the next twelve months.
  3. The athlete undertakes in writing to train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of Canada Snowboard or its designate at a level that minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures an optimal return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date. Failure to follow such a program without due cause shall be grounds for the immediate termination of the athlete's carding.
- b) A carded athlete, who at the end of the carding cycle has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of their carding status after missing at least 15% of events that they would have normally been invited (and planned) to attend strictly due to a health related issue (pregnancy/illness/injury) and the issue has been clearly documented by a Canada Snowboard approved physician (or Physio Lead), may be considered for re-

nomination for carding at the same level (C1 carded athletes may be recommended for SR) based on the priority of nominations set in the carding criteria (Point #16) and provided that sufficient cards remain available at that level, under the following conditions:

1. The athlete has not started in eight (8) or more events throughout the 2019/20 carding cycle.
    - a. Alpine events would count as a single event regardless of competition starts at each location. For example: a 2-start PSL world cup at a single location would only count as a single event in this case.
  2. The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable Canada Snowboard supervised training and rehabilitation requirements;
  3. A written evaluation to be provided by a Canada Snowboard designated physician (or Lead Physio) indicating that the athlete can be expected to return to full participation during the extended carding period;
  4. A written evaluation to be provided by the Canada Snowboard coaching staff indicating that the athlete can be expected to achieve at least the minimum standards required for future carding during the extended carding period; and
  5. The athlete has demonstrated his or her long-term commitment to the HPP and has stated his or her intention to pursue full high performance training and competition during the extended carding period.
- c) A carded athlete who misses, for health-related reasons documented by a Canada Snowboard approved physician, two consecutive seasons of training/competition due to the same health issue (pregnancy/illness/injury), will no longer be eligible for re-nomination for an "injury card".

## **VIII. WITHDRAW TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY**

19) If an athlete wishes, for other than health related reasons, to withdraw temporarily or permanently from regular athlete training and competition activities (unless Canada Snowboard has authorized them to train outside of the HPP), the normal rules for withdrawal from the Athlete Assistance Program shall apply. The athlete will no longer be eligible for monthly training and living support, but may be eligible, if qualified, for Deferred Tuition or Supplementary support.

## **IX. APPEALS**

20) Appeals of the Snowboard Canada AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of Snowboard Canada's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through Snowboard Canada's review process, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). Appeals of AAP Decision made under Section 6 ([Application for and Approval of Cards](#))

or Section 11 ([Withdrawal of Carding Status](#)) may be pursued through Section 13 of the ([AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines](#)).

**21)** Any member in good standing of Canada Snowboard who is materially affected may appeal a decision of Canada Snowboard with respect to a nomination/re-nomination/withdraw of an athlete to the Athlete Assistance Program. Appeals must be conducted in accordance with the Canada Snowboard Appeals Protocol, which is available on the Canada Snowboard website [www.canadasnowboard.ca](http://www.canadasnowboard.ca)

**22)** In the event of an appeal, the affected athletes will have their carding support placed on hold until the appeal is finalized.