

PART 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION

1.0 AIM

- 1) The aim of this document is to describe the criteria that will be used by Cross Country Ski de Fond Canada (CCC) for nominating Para-Nordic (PN) athletes for Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2019-2020 carding year.
- 2) This document is published under the authority of CCC’s PN High Performance Director
- 3) The Sport Canada policy and procedures which govern the AAP and the establishment and application of criteria can be found on the Sport Canada website: [Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program](#)

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 1) To qualify for AAP cards, an athlete must meet the following criteria set by Sport Canada:
 - a) The athlete must be a **Canadian citizen** or **permanent resident of Canada** at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated. Permanent residents must live in Canada for the full year preceding the carding cycle for which the athlete is being considered for AAP support. All athletes are expected to have participated in National Sport Organization (NSO) sanctioned programs during that time; the athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Para Nordic Skiing (WPNS) World Championships (WCH), and the Paralympic Winter Games (PWG). Further, under the eligibility requirements of the sport’s International Federation as it pertains to citizenship or residency status, the athlete must be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, including WPNS WCH, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated;
 - b) Athletes who have been permanent residents of Canada for three years or more. Continued eligibility to receive AAP support is contingent on the athlete becoming eligible to represent Canada at the PWG;
 - c) The athlete must meet the published NSO approved, AAP compliant sport specific carding criteria;
 - d) The athlete must participate in National Team preparatory and annual training programs;
 - e) Athletes must meet the carding criteria as the member of a Canadian team, at international events or at a domestic event or events sanctioned by CCC for such purpose.
- 2) CCC has established that guides of visually impaired athletes will be eligible for Sport Canada AAP support under the following conditions.
 - a) The guide will be considered for AAP support based upon the results and awarding of AAP support for the visually impaired athlete they are guiding.
 - b) The guide must guide the athlete in a qualifying event as outlined in Part-2 Carding criteria.
 - c) More than one guide may be nominated for Sport Canada AAP support. Each guide must have a full training and competition schedule and be fully integrated with the visually impaired athlete’s program. Sport Canada must approve additional guides for AAP support.

3) CCC has established the additional criteria to be eligible for AAP support, an athlete or guide must be:

- a) A member of the Para-Nordic National Ski Team (PNST) - Para-Nordic World Cup Team or Development Team; or
- b) A member of a CCC club program (refer to 6.2.b).

3.0 TYPES OF CARDS

There are two types of cards: Senior cards and Development cards.

1) **Senior Cards (SR)** are awarded on two sets of criteria:

a) International Criteria (SR1/SR2) - Sport Canada sets these criteria. Senior Cards based on international criteria are normally awarded to recognize outstanding performance at the WPNS WCH (Para Nordic World Ski Championships) or the Para Nordic Olympic Winter Games (PWG). They are eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 card and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2 card. The second year is subject to the athlete meeting requirements in 2.0 Eligibility, completing the online anti-doping courses and signing an Athlete/NSO agreement. Note: Following a season where there is neither a PWG nor WCH, there will be no nominations for SR1 cards.

b) National Criteria (SR/C1) - Senior cards awarded based on national criteria are intended to support athletes with the potential to reach international criteria. National criteria for Senior cards are negotiated between Sport Canada and CCC and are approved by Sport Canada each year. Senior cards based on national criteria are awarded for one year and are referred to as SR cards. C1 cards are awarded to athletes who meet the national criteria for Senior cards for the first time. They are awarded for a period of one year and are funded at the Development card level.

2) **Development Cards (D)** are intended to help meet the developmental needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior card international criteria but are presently unable to meet the Senior card criteria. Development card criteria are negotiated between Sport Canada and CCC and are approved by Sport Canada each year. Development cards are awarded for one year and are referred to as D cards. A D card may be awarded to an athlete who has met SR criteria if there are insufficient SR cards. For recording purposes, an athlete in this situation would be considered to have received a SR card.

4.0 ALLOCATION OF CARDS

1) Sport Canada allows NSOs to utilize the full financial value of their quotas. The carding quota for CCC's Para-Nordic program is 11 senior cards or equivalent to \$232,980. Senior cards are currently valued at \$21,180 (\$1,765 / month x 12). C1 cards are currently valued at \$12,720 (\$1,060 / month x 12). Development cards are currently valued at \$12,720 (\$1,060 / month x 12). A minimum of 4 months of carding support must be available to nominate an athlete to the AAP. 2) Athletes will be nominated for the AAP in the following priority order until no further cards remain in the quota:

- a) Athletes eligible under the SR1 card criteria;
- b) Athletes eligible under the SR2 card criteria;
- c) Athletes eligible under the SR/C1 card criteria;
- d) Athletes eligible under the D card criteria.

3) During the first six months of the carding cycle, the NSO may recommend withdrawal of the carding support of a guide for health-related reasons or if the guide is no longer a member of the

National Team. The remaining months of carding may be allocated to the new guide as long as he/she is recommended by the National Team Coach and is a member of the National Team. In the case of a SR1, SR2 or SR card replacement, if the new guide has never been carded at the Senior level before he/she will be eligible for a C1 card.

PART 2 – CARDING CRITERIA

2.0 SENIOR CARDS

1 INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

- 1) For the 2019-20 carding year, SR1 cards will be awarded for international criteria to athletes achieving a top eight and top half of the field at the 2019 IPC WCH. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing.
- 2) For the 2018-19 carding year, carded athletes who held a SR1 card in 2018-19 may be eligible for nomination for a SR2 card provided they:
 - a. meet the eligibility requirements outlined in section 2.0.
 - b. if injured, present a written request with evidence supported by a physician that the athlete will be making a full return to training and competition as soon as possible. Documentation must be submitted to the HPD by March 31, 2019.

2. NATIONAL CRITERIA (SR)

- 1) **Expectations:** Athletes are expected to make progress in their results in order to maintain SR card status. Normally, eight years is the maximum that an athlete will be carded at the senior level based on national criteria. After which time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive thoroughly documented review of the athlete's performance over the past eight years in order to demonstrate progress toward meeting the senior international criteria which then warrants nomination of "Senior National" card status for an additional year. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level.
- 2) **Eligibility:** Only athletes on the PNST will be eligible for SR cards. The PNST is comprised of the Para-Nordic World Cup Team and the Para-Nordic Development Team. Selection to the PNST will be finalized by the Para-Nordic High Performance Committee (PNHPC), through application of the PNST 2019-20 Team Selection Criteria. Therefore, the performance standards and ranking mechanisms contained in the PNST 2019-20 Team Selection Criteria also function as the entry standard for AAP carding. The web link to the 2019-20 PNST Selection Criteria is as follows: <http://www.cccski.com/National-Ski-Team/Selection-Criteria.aspx>
- 3) **Nomination:** Nomination of athletes for SR cards will be made in the following order of priority:
 - a) Nomination SR Priority 1 – WPNS WC Athletes placing 1st to 8th and top half of the field individual result at a 2018-19 WPNS WC. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing at any 2018-19 WPNS WC. This assessment will consider quality of competition.
 - b) Nomination SR Priority 2 – WPNS WC/WCH Athletes placing 9th to 16th and top half of the field individual result at the 2018-19 WPNS WC or WCH. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing at any 2018-19 WPNS WC or WCH. This assessment will consider quality of competition.
 - c) Nomination SR Priority 3 - Nomination of athletes for SR Priority 3 cards will be made in the following order priority:

- i. Athlete who held SR2 cards in 2018-19 and who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”;
- ii. Second – athletes selected to the PNST - World Cup Team in accordance with the 2019-20 PNST Selection Criteria, but not already nominated for international criteria or national priority 1 and 2. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their best (lowest WPNS Points) individual result in any WPNS WC or WCH race during the 2018-19 season. This assessment will consider quality of competition;
- iii. Athletes holding SR/C1 cards in 2018-19 who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”.

3.0 DEVELOPMENT CARDS

1) **Expectations:** Athletes are expected to make progress in their results in order to progress to SR card status. Normally, three years is the maximum that an athlete will be carded at the development level. After which time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive thoroughly documented review of the athlete’s performance over the past five years in order to demonstrate progress toward a performance equivalent to top 16 and top half at the WPNS WCH or PWG, which then warrants nomination of “Development” card status for an additional year. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level. Athletes who have previously been carded for two years or more at the Senior card level (SR1, SR2, SR & C1) are not normally eligible to be nominated for Development cards.

2) **Eligibility:** To be eligible for a Development card, athletes must meet the following criteria:

- a) Be a member of the PNST – World Cup Team or Development Team; or
- b) Athletes must be a member of a CCC club program and follow an annual periodized program that is (1) adapted to their stage of athletic development and (2) consistent with CCC sport’s LTAD model with regard to the type, the amount, and the sequential organization of training activities to be carried out. This program will be monitored by a CCC National Coach or designate.

All such athletes must also achieve 120 or fewer WPNS Points at any “distance” WPNS sanctioned WC, or WCH event during the 2018-19 season or achieve 120 or fewer WPNS Points and finish in the top half of the field at any “sprint” WPNS sanctioned WC or WCH event. This assessment will consider quality of competition.

3) **Nomination:** Nomination of athletes for Development cards will be made in the following order of priority:

- a) Athletes on the PNST - Development Team ranked in accordance with their best (lowest WPNS Points) individual result at any WPNS sanctioned COC, WC, or WCH race during the 2018-19 season.
- b) Club program athletes ranked in accordance with their best (lowest WPNS Points) individual result at any WPNS sanctioned COC, WC, or WCH race during the 2018-19 season.
- c) Athletes holding Development Cards in 2018-19 who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”.

4.0 APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals of CCC AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of CCC's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through CCC's review process, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada. 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.