

## **PART 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1) The document describes the criteria that will be used by Cross Country Ski de fond Canada for nominating athletes for Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2019-20 carding year.
- 2) This document is published under the authority of CCC’s 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:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance.html>

### **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 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 period of time; the athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships and Olympic Winter Games. Further, under the eligibility requirements of the sport’s International Federation (IF) as it pertains to citizenship or residency status, the athlete must 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;
  - b) For 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 Olympic Winter Games;
  - 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; and
  - e) Athletes must meet the carding criteria as members of a Canadian team, at international events or at a domestic event or events sanctioned by CCC for such purpose.
- 2) CCC has established the additional criterion to be eligible for AAP support, an athlete must be:
  - a) A member of the National Ski Team (World Cup, Senior Development Team and Junior Development Team); or
  - b) A member of a National Team Development Centre (NTDC), or 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** 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 World Senior Championships or Olympic Winter Games. 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 1.2.0 Eligibility, completing the online anti-doping courses, signing an Athlete/NSO agreement and selection to the World Cup Team.  
*Note: No athlete will be nominated for SR1 cards immediately following a season where there is no Olympic Winter Games or World Ski Championships.*
  - 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 development 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.

### 4.0 ALLOCATION OF CARDS

- 1) Sport Canada allows NSOs to utilize the full financial value of their quotas. The carding quota for Cross Country Ski de Fond Canada is currently 17 Senior cards or equivalent to \$360,060.  
  
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.

## **PART 2 – CARDING CRITERIA**

### **5.0 SENIOR CARDS**

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

- 1) For the 2019-20 carding year, SR1 cards will be awarded based on international criteria to athletes achieving a top eight and top half of the field individual result (counting three athletes per nation) at the 2019 World Ski Championships or finishing in the top eight and top half of the field in a relay event (including the team sprint) at the 2019 World Ski Championships
- 2) For the 2019-20 carding year, carded athletes who held a SR1 card in 2018-19 are eligible for nomination for a SR2 card provided they:
  - a. meet the eligibility requirements outlined in section 1.2.0.
  - 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.

#### **5.2 National Criteria (SR)**

- 1) Expectations: Athletes are expected to make progress in their results to maintain SR card status. 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 to demonstrate progress toward meeting the 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 a Senior National Ski Team will be eligible for SR cards. The Senior National Ski Team is comprised of the World Cup Team and the Senior Development Team. The performance standards and ranking mechanisms in the 2019-20 NST Team Selection Criteria function as the entry standard for AAP carding. The web link to the 2019-20 NST Selection Criteria is: <http://www.cccski.com/National-Ski-Team/Selection-Criteria.aspx>
- 3) Selection Lists: The following lists will be used to rank the eligible athletes under the national criteria:
  - a) World Ski Championships: Athletes placing 9th to 16th and top half of the field individual result (counting three athletes per nation) at the 2019 World Ski Championships. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing at the 2019 World Ski Championships.
  - b) 2018-19 NST Selection Points Lists: Gender Integrated Selection Lists (sprint and distance) will be established using the 2018-19 NST Selection Points Lists. The final 2018-19 NST Selection Points List which will be comprised of Tier 1 Selection Events (refer to the 2018-19 Team Selection Criteria 1.2.3 which defines Tier 1 Selection Events) based on the Canada Points List (CPL) Distance and Sprint. If there is a tie on either selection list, the tie will be broken by the athlete's best single World Cup individual placing. If there is still a tie on the

selection list, the tie will be broken by the athletes' best single race result on the 2018-19 NST Selection Points List (Distance or Sprint).

- 4) Nomination: Nomination of athletes for SR cards will be made in the following order of priority:
- a) Athletes selected to the World Cup Team in accordance with the 2019-20 NST Selection Criteria, but not already nominated for international or national criteria will be ranked in the following order of priorities:
    - i. Athletes ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing at the 2019 World Ski Championships or in a 2018-19 World Cup race; this will include individual stages in multi-stage events, during the 2018-19 season. In the event of a tie, the second best individual placing will be used to break the tie.
    - ii. Athletes ranked in accordance with selection list 5.2.3.a
  - c) Athletes selected to the Senior Development Team in accordance with the 2019-20 NST Selection criteria will be ranked in the following order of priorities:
    - i. Athletes placing in the top 30 final individual result at the 2019 World Ski Championships or a 2018-19 World Cup race. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result.
    - ii. Athletes placing in the top 20 individual distance or sprint at the 2019 World U23 Championships, or a top 20 individual distance or sprint result at the 2019 World Junior Championships. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result. In the event of a tie, the second best individual placing will be used to break the tie.
    - iii. The top male and top female on the NST Selection List – Sprint, not including athletes who have been nominated under other criteria;
    - iv. The top male and top female on the NST Selection List – Distance, not including athletes who have been nominated under other criteria;
    - v. The remaining eligible athletes (regardless of gender), ranked in accordance with their single best race on the NST Selection List, until the limit of SR card allocation is reached.
  - d) Athletes holding SR/C1 cards in 2018-19 who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”. Athletes must meet the conditions outlined in 9.1.3 of Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program – Policies and Procedures (refer to link in 1.3.) A written request must be submitted to Nordiq Canada with:
    - i. documentation confirming diagnosis by a physician
    - ii. letter from your coach outlining the impact of your injury, your return to training plan, and your competition plan for next year
    - iii. supporting documentation (physiotherapist or message) of what your treatment has been and will be going forward.Documentation must be submitted to the HPD by March 31, 2019. Athletes will be ranked using the 2017-18 integrated NST Selection Points lists.

## 6.0 DEVELOPMENT CARDS (D)

- 1) **Expectations:** Athletes are expected to make progress in their results to be eligible for nomination for a D card. Three years is the maximum an athlete will be carded at the development level (this criterion applies once the athlete reaches the post-junior category). After which time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive document review of the athlete's performance demonstrating progress toward meeting the senior international criteria, which then may warrant nomination of "Development" card status for an additional year at this level.
  - a) CCC's expectation of this performance progress standard is that athletes nominated for carding in the post U23 age category will have attained the following performance standards in the 2018-19 season:
    - i. Top 30 at a World Cup.
    - ii. Meet International Performance Benchmarks (IPB) established using the athlete's single best points based on Tier One Selection Events achieved during the previous 12 months (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019) compared to the IPBs for the athlete's age. Refer to Appendix A for IPB standards.  
Refer to [2019-20 NST -PNST Team Selection Criteria](#) for a definition of Tier One Selection Events.
  - b) To maintain equity and fairness in this selection process, CCC reserves the right to exclude, or to count only partially, the results of any selection events with a weak depth of field.
- 2) **Eligibility:** To be eligible for a Development card, athletes must meet the following criteria:
  - a) Athletes must be a member of the NST Junior Development Team, a National Team Development Centre (NTDC) or,
  - b) Athletes must be a member of a CCC club program and follow an annual periodized program that is adapted to their stage of athletic development and consistent with CCC's sport's LTAD model regarding the type, the amount, and the sequential organization of training activities to be carried out. This program will be approved and monitored by CCC's HPD or designate.
  - c) Athletes who have previously been carded for more than two years at the Senior card levels (SR1, SR2, SR and C1) are not normally eligible to be nominated for Development cards. An exception can be made for the U23 age category when carded at the senior levels.
- 3) **Events and points lists used for ranking:** The FIS World Cups, World Junior Championships (WJC), World U23 Championships results and the National Development Centre combined points ranking list outlined in section 12.1 in the 2019-20 NST Team Selection Criteria will function as the ranking priorities for Development carding. The web link to the 2019-20 Selection Criteria is <http://www.cccski.com/National-Ski-Team/Selection-Criteria.aspx>
- 4) **Ranking Process.** Nomination of D cards will be ranked in the following order of priority:
  - a) Athletes selected to the NST Junior Development Team in accordance with the 2019-20 NST Selection criteria will be ranked in the following order of priorities:
    - i. Athletes placing in the top 30 final individual result at the 2019 World Ski Championships or a 2018-19 World Cup race. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result.

- ii. Athletes placing in the top 20 individual distance or sprint at the 2019 World U23 Championships, or a top 20 individual distance or sprint result at the 2019 World Junior Championships. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result. In the event of a tie, the second best individual placing will be used to break the tie
  - iii. The top man and top woman on the NST Selection List – Sprint, not including athletes who have been nominated under other criteria;
  - iv. The top man and top woman on the NST Selection List – Distance, not including athletes who have been nominated under other criteria;
  - v. The remaining eligible athletes (regardless of gender), ranked in accordance with their single best race on the NST Selection List.
- b) Athletes with a top 20 distance or sprint result at the World U23 Championships and top 20 individual distance or sprint result at the World Junior Championships. Athletes will be ranked according to their finish placing. In the case of a tie the World Junior Championship result would be first ranked.
- c) Athletes with a top 30 World Cup or WSC final finish result if they meet the expectations in 6.1 a)). Athletes will be ranked according to their best final finish result.
- d) Athletes holding SR/C1 cards in 2018-19 who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”. Athletes must meet the conditions outlined in 9.1.3 of Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program – Policies and Procedures (refer to link in 1.3.) A written request must be submitted to Nordiq Canada with:
- i. documentation confirming diagnosis by a physician
  - ii. letter from coach outlining the impact of injury, and return to training and competition plan for the upcoming year
  - iii. supporting documentation (physiotherapist or message) of what your treatment has been and will be going forward
- Documentation must be submitted to the HPD by March 31, 2019. Athletes will be ranked using the 2017-18 integrated NST Selection Points lists.
- e) The combined NTDC ranking list referenced in 12.1 in the 2019-20 NST Team Selection Criteria will be used to select the remaining Development cards. This ranking list combines the NTDC ranking lists referenced in the 12.1.a and b of the 2019-20 NST Selection Criteria according to the points difference between either their sprint or distance NST selection lists points and the following IPB expressed in CPL points. Refer to Appendix A to reference IPB standards.

Athletes will be ranked from this NTDC combined ranking list in the order described below. If an athlete is selected in more than one quartet ranked (e.g. distance and sprint), then the next ranked athlete for that specific gender and race profile (distance or sprint) will replace any athlete who has already been selected in a previously ranked quartet.

- i. The top ranked male and female sprinters and top ranked male and female distance athletes, collectively referred to as the top-ranking quartet. This does not include athletes named under other criteria. The athletes within this quartet will then be ranked in the following order of priorities based on the 2018-19 race results:

1. Athletes with a top 13-20 finish result at the World U23 Championship or top 21-30 individual finish result at the World Junior Championship. Athletes will be ranked according to their best result. In the case of a tie, the World Junior Championship result would be first ranked;
2. Ranked according to the NTDC combined ranking list (refer to 6.4.e)
  - ii. The next ranked male and female sprinters and the next ranked male and female distance athletes, referred to as the next ranked quartet. This does not include athletes named under other criteria. These athletes will then be ranked in the same order of priorities based on the 2018-19 race results as outlined in 6.4.e) i.
  - iii. If there are still Development cards available, the process in 6.4.e) ii will be repeated for the next ranked male and female sprinters and the next ranked male and female distance athletes until the limit of CCC's Development card allocation is reached.

## **7.0 APPROVAL AND APPEAL PROCESS**

- 1) Nominees for AAP carding will be presented and reviewed at the annual HPC meeting. HPC members with a conflict of interest must remove themselves from the review process. As per the *High Performance Committee Terms of Reference*, "the Committee's role is limited to providing advice and support to the High Performance Director and the CEO. For greater clarity, the High Performance Director and the CEO shall not be bound by advice from the Committee. The Committee shall endeavour to make recommendations by consensus."
- 2) Appeals of Cross Country Ski de fond Canada (CCC) AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of a CCC's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through the CCC'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. The deadline for appeal submissions is May 10, 2019.

**Appendix A – International Performance Benchmarks**

Age groups	Female		Male	
	Sprint	Distance	Sprint	Distance
<b>Born in 1993 and before</b>	97.0	95.0	96.5	96.5
<b>Born in 1994</b>	96.5	94.5	96.5	96.0
<b>Born in 1995</b>	96.0	94.0	96.5	95.5
<b>Born in 1996</b>	95.0	93.0	96.0	95.0
<b>Born in 1997</b>	94.0	92.0	95.0	94.5
<b>Born in 1998</b>	93.0	90.50	94.0	93.5
<b>Born in 1999 and after</b>	91.0	88.5	92.0	91.5

Refer to [2019-20 NST -PNST Team Selection Criteria](#) for more information regarding IPB's.