

CROSS COUNTRY CANADA

PARA-NORDIC PROGRAM

ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CARDING CRITERIA 2016-17

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 Canada (CCC) for nominating Para-Nordic athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2016-17 carding year.
- 2) This document is published under the authority of CCC's Director of High Performance.
- 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:
<http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1414514343755/1414514385181>

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

- 1) In order to qualify for AAP cards, an athlete must meet the following criteria set out 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 NSO-sanctioned programs during that time period; the athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships and Paralympic 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) Athletes who have been permanent resident 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 Paralympic 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;
 - 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. Additional guides must be approved for AAP support by Sport Canada.
- 3) CCC has established the additional criteria that to be eligible for AAP support, an athlete or guide must be:
- a) A member of the Para-Nordic National Ski Team (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

- 1) There are two types of cards: Senior cards and Development cards.
- 2) Senior cards. Senior cards are awarded on the basis of two different 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 IPC World Championships or Paralympic 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 2.0 Eligibility, completing the online anti-doping courses and signing an Athlete/NSO agreement. Note: In years when a World Championship or Paralympic Winter Games are not held, SR cards will be awarded for international criteria based on World Cup results and will be for one year only.
 - 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.
- 3) Development cards (D). Development cards 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 Development 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 National Sport Organizations (NSO) to utilize the full financial value of their quotas. The carding quota for Cross Country Canada's Para-Nordic program is eight Senior cards or equivalent to \$144,000. Senior cards will be valued at \$18,000 (\$1,500 / month x 12). C1 cards will be valued at \$10,800 (\$900 / month x 12). Development cards will be valued at \$10,800 (\$900 / month x 12).
- 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 he/she 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

5.0 SENIOR CARDS

5.1 INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

- 1) For the 2016-17 carding year, carded athletes who held a SR1 card in 2015-16, may be eligible for nomination for a SR2 card.
- 2) For the 2016-17 carding year SR1 cards are not awarded because it is a non-World Championship and non-Paralympic year.

5.2 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 Para-Nordic National Ski Team will be eligible for SR cards. The Para-Nordic National Ski Team is comprised of the Para-Nordic World Cup Team and the Para-Nordic Development Team. Selection to the Para-Nordic National Ski Team will be determined by the High Performance Committee (HPC) in April 2016, through application of the Para-Nordic National Ski Team (PNST) 2016-17 Team Selection Criteria. Therefore, the performance standards and ranking mechanisms contained in the PNST 2016-17 Team Selection Criteria also function as the entry standard for AAP carding. The web link to the 2015-16 PNST Selection Criteria is as follows:
[http://www.cccski.com/getmedia/b890c9a1-a935-4c6f-b46e-75cc13ba346a/2016-17-NST-PNST-Team-Selection-Criteria-\(10-Sept-15\).pdf.aspx](http://www.cccski.com/getmedia/b890c9a1-a935-4c6f-b46e-75cc13ba346a/2016-17-NST-PNST-Team-Selection-Criteria-(10-Sept-15).pdf.aspx)

- 3) Nomination. Nomination of athletes for SR cards will be made in the following order of priority:
- a. Nomination SR Priority 1 – IPCNS World Cup Athletes placing 1st to 8th and top half of the field individual result at the 2015-16 IPCNS World Cup. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing at any 2015-16 IPCNS World Cup.
 - b. Nomination SR Priority 2 – IPCNS World Cup. Athletes placing 9th to 16th and top half of the field individual result at the 2015-16 IPCNS World Cup. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing at any 2015-16 IPCNS World Cup.
 - c. Nomination SR Priority 3. Nomination of athletes for SR Priority 3 cards will be made in the following order priority:
 - i. First – athletes who held SR2 cards in 2015-16 and who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”;
 - ii. Second – athletes selected to the Para-Nordic World Cup Team in accordance with the 2015-16 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 IPCNS Points) individual result in any IPCNS World Cup race during the 2015-16 season;
 - iii. Third – athletes holding SR/C1 cards in 2015-16 who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”.

6.0 DEVELOPMENT CARDS

- 1) 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 IPCNS World Championships or Paralympic Winter Games, 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 Para-Nordic World Cup Team or Para-Nordic 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 IPCNS Points at any “distance” IPCNS sanctioned Continental Cup (COC) or World Cup event during the 2015-16 season. This assessment will consider depth of field.

- 3) Nomination. Nomination of athletes for Development cards will be made in the following order or priority:
- a) First priority – Athletes on the Para-Nordic World Cup Team ranked in accordance with their best (lowest IPCNS Points) individual result at any IPCNS World Cup or COC race during the 2015-16 season.
 - b) Second priority – Athletes on the Para-Nordic Development Team ranked in accordance with their best (lowest IPCNS Points) individual result at any IPCNS World Cup or COC race during the 2015-16 season.
 - c) Third priority – Club program athletes ranked in accordance with their best (lowest IPCNS Points) individual result at any IPCNS World Cup or COC race during the 2015-16 season.
 - d) Fourth priority – athletes holding Development Cards in 2015-16 who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”.

7.0 APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals of 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. 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.