

CROSS COUNTRY CANADA

ABLE-BODIED 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 for nominating 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 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:
<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 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 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 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 that to be eligible for AAP support, an athlete must be:

- a) A member of the National Ski Team (World Cup A or B Teams, Under 25 Development Team and Junior Team); or
- b) A member of a National Team Development Centre (NTDC), National Development Centre (NDC), or a CCC club program (refer to 6.2.ii).

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 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 2.0 Eligibility, completing the online anti-doping courses, signing an Athlete/NSO agreement and selection to the World Cup Team. Note: In years when a World Championships or Olympics are not held, e.g. 2015/16, 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 development needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior cards 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

Sport Canada allows National Sport Organizations (NSO) to utilize the full financial value of their quotas. The carding quota for Cross Country Canada is 20 Senior cards or equivalent to \$360,000. 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.

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-Olympic year.

5.2 NATIONAL CRITERIA (SR)

- 1) Expectations. Athletes are expected to make progress in their results in order to maintain SR cards 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 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 Senior National Ski Team will be eligible for SR cards. The Senior National Ski Team is comprised of the Senior World Cup Team A & B and the U25 Team. Selection to these teams will be determined by the High Performance Committee (HPC) in April 2016; through application of the NST 2016 -17 Team Selection Criteria (approved September 15, 2015). Therefore, the performance standards and ranking mechanisms contained in the 2015-16 NST Team Selection Criteria also function as the entry standard for AAP carding. The web link to the 2015-16 NST 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) Selection Lists.
 - a) World Cup. Athletes achieving an average World Cup ranking of top-16 may be nominated. This average is based on their best two World Cup rankings in the modified final result lists (three to count per Nation) from the 2015-16 World Cups. An athlete must enter a minimum of two races in order to be eligible. The average result must be based on individual Olympic events in either sprint races or distance races, or a combination of both. This includes individual stage events in multi-stage events.
 - b) 2015-16 NST Selection Points Lists: Gender Integrated Selection Lists (sprint and distance) will be established using the 2015-16 Selection Points Lists. The final 2015-16 NST Selection Points List which will be comprised of Tier 1 Selection Events (refer to the 2015-16 Team Selection Criteria 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 athletes' 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 2015-16 NST Selection Points List (Distance or Sprint). The lists will be the responsibility of the High Performance Director.

- 4) Nomination. Nomination of athletes for SR cards will be made in the following order of priority:
- a) First – athletes who held SR2 cards in 2015-16 who fall under the AAP Policy for “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons”.
 - b) Second – athletes selected to the Senior World Cup A and B Teams in accordance with the 2015-16 NST Selection Criteria, but not already nominated for international or national criteria will be ranked in accordance with selection list 5.2.3.a in the order of their single best individual placing in a 2015-16 World Cup event; this will include individual stages in multi-stage races. In the event of a tie, the second best individual placing will be used to break the tie.
 - c) Third – athletes selected to the U25 Development Team in accordance with the 2015-16 NST Selection criteria will be ranked in the following order of priorities:
 - i. Athletes placing in the top 30 final individual result at a 2015-16 World Cup event. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result;
 - ii. Athletes placing in the top 12 distance or the top 12 individual final sprint result at the 2016 U23 Championships. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result;
 - 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, until the limit of CCC’s SR card allocation is reached.
 - d) Fourth – 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 (D)

- 1) Expectations. Athletes are expected to make progress in their results in order to be eligible for nomination for a D card. Normally, three years is the maximum that an athlete will be carded at the development level (this criteria 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 warrants nomination of “Development” card status for an additional year at this level.

CCC’s expectation of this performance progress standard is that athletes receiving carding in the post U23 age category should have achieved a top 30 on the World Cup or an equivalent result. CCC will require a comprehensive document review of all post U23 athletes each season to assess this progress.

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.

- 2) Eligibility. To be eligible for a Development card, athletes must meet the following criteria:
- a) Athletes must be a member of the NST, the Junior Team, a National Team Development Centre (NTDC) or National Development Centre (NDC); 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's 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 approved and monitored by CCC's HPD or designate.
- 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 2016-17 NST Team Selection Criteria will function as the ranking priorities for Development carding. The web link to the 2016-17 Selection Criteria is [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)
- 4) Ranking Process. Nomination of D cards will be ranked in the following order of priority:
- a) Athletes with a top 30 World Cup final finish result. Athletes will be ranked according to their best final finish result.
- b) Athletes with either a top 12 distance or sprint result at the World U23 Championship and top 20 individual distance or sprint result at the World Junior Championship. 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 holding D cards in 2015-16 who fall under the AAP Policy for "Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons" and additionally met the International Performance Benchmarks, referenced in 4.d for their Year of Birth, at least once in the 2014-15 season. 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).
- d) The combined NDC ranking list referenced in 12.1 in the 2015-16 NST Team Selection Criteria will be used to select the remaining Development cards. This ranking list combines the NDC ranking lists referenced in the 12.1.a and b of the 2015-16 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:

Age groups	Female		Male	
	Sprint	Distance	Sprint	Distance
Born in 1990 and before	97.0	95.0	96.5	96.5
Born in 1991	96.5	94.5	96.5	96.0
Born in 1992	96.0	94.0	96.5	95.5
Born in 1993	95.0	93.0	96.0	95.0
Born in 1994	94.0	92.0	95.0	94.5
Born in 1995	93.0	90.50	94.0	93.5
Born in 1996	91.0	88.5	92.0	91.5

Athletes will be ranked from this NDC combined ranking list in the following order 4.d.i-iii. If an athlete is selected in more than one quartet ranked i.e. 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, referred to as the top ranking quartet. This does not include athletes named under other criteria. These athletes within the quartet will then be ranked in the following order of priorities based on the 2015-16 race results:
 1. Athletes with a top 30 World Cup finish result. Athletes will be ranked according to their best result;
 2. 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;
 3. Ranked according to the NDC combined ranking list (refer to 6.4.d)
- 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 2015-16 race results as outlined in 6.4.d.i.
- iii. If there are still Development cards available, the process in 6.4.c.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 APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals of Cross Country 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.