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CANADA



Canada

# CYCLING CARDING CRITERIA

FOR NOMINATING ATHLETES  
TO THE SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
FOR THE 2024 CARDING CYCLE

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*Reviewed by Sport Canada,  
the Cycling Canada Athletes Council  
and the Cycling Canada High Performance Committee*



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Note: In case of any wording discrepancies between the English and French versions of these criteria, the English wording takes precedence.



### NOTES ON CYCLING CANADA'S CARDING CRITERIA

The carding criteria in this document are the result of collaboration between Cycling Canada coaches and staff, the members of Cycling Canada's Athletes Council, Sport Canada and the members of Cycling Canada's High Performance Committee (HPC).

Any questions regarding these criteria can be addressed to High Performance Director (HPD) Kris Westwood at [kris.westwood@cyclingcanada.ca](mailto:kris.westwood@cyclingcanada.ca).

### SCHEDULE A: GENERAL CARDING CRITERIA

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#### 1. Introduction

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##### **Purpose of carding**

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), also known as carding, is a Sport Canada 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.

Cycling Canada uses the process described in this document to nominate athletes for carding. Once these nominations are approved by Sport Canada, the funding flows directly from Sport Canada to the athletes.

Cycling Canada intends to use carding to identify and support Canadian athletes with the greatest potential to win medals at the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Elite World Championships.

Carding is also intended to:

- help Canada's international-calibre athletes excel at the highest level of competition while assisting them to prepare for a future career or engage in full- or part-time career activities; and
- allow athletes to maintain a long-term commitment to training and competition to further their high-performance athletic goals.

While carding is based primarily on performances achieved in the preceding 12 months, it is important to note that carding is not intended as a reward for past results; it is a resource to help athletes achieve results in the future.

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#### 2. Eligibility

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To be eligible for carding an athlete must:

- Be a Canadian citizen;
- Hold a valid UCI cycling licence listing his or her nationality as Canadian;
- Be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, including World Championships, Olympic and Paralympic Games, as per the eligibility requirements of the UCI;
- Meet the carding prerequisites, minimum performance standards and criteria outlined in Schedule B of this document;
- Sign the Cycling Canada Athlete Agreement, including committing to the 2024 Individual Performance Plan (IPP) developed in collaboration with the relevant National Program Coach.

Athletes are not eligible for carding if they:



- Do not meet the published NSO approved and AAP compliant carding criteria;
- Have made a false application and have been declared ineligible for AAP benefits by Sport Canada;
- Do not meet the eligibility requirements set out above;
- Have been ruled ineligible to participate in sport for two years or more as a result of an anti-doping rule violation and who have not, in the case of pre-2004 violations, subsequently been reinstated;
- Are serving an anti-doping rule violation sanction of less than two years of sport ineligibility at the start of the carding cycle; and
- Meet the carding criteria as members of the national team of another nation.

Athletes will only be nominated if they commit to an Individual Performance Plan developed in collaboration with the relevant Cycling Canada National Coach. Each athlete's IPP will be included in the Athlete Agreement they must sign before carding can begin.

### 3. Income Testing (Olympic disciplines only – does not apply to para-cyclists)

Athletes nominated for carding must submit their Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment for the most recent taxation year. Due to their unique circumstances, para-cycling athletes are not subject to income testing.

Athletes with an annual taxable income up to \$60,000 CAD will be entitled to the full amount of carding. Athletes with a greater income will receive reduced AAP support, as follows:

#### Income testing for SR cards

Lower income	Upper income	Carding months	Carding amount
\$0	\$60,000	12	\$21,180
\$60,001	\$63,000	11	\$19,415
\$63,001	\$66,000	10	\$17,650
\$66,001	\$69,000	9	\$15,885
\$69,001	\$72,000	8	\$14,120
\$72,001	\$75,000	7	\$12,355
\$75,001	\$78,000	6	\$10,590
\$78,001	\$81,000	5	\$8,825
\$81,001	\$90,000	4	\$7,060
\$90,001	Unlimited	0	\$0

#### Income testing for D cards

Lower income	Upper income	Carding months	Carding amount
\$0	\$60,000	12	\$12,720
\$60,001	\$63,000	11	\$11,660
\$63,001	\$66,000	10	\$10,600
\$66,001	\$69,000	9	\$9,540
\$69,001	\$72,000	8	\$8,480
\$72,001	\$75,000	7	\$7,420
\$75,001	\$78,000	6	\$6,360
\$78,001	\$81,000	5	\$5,300
\$81,001	\$90,000	4	\$4,240
\$90,001	Unlimited	0	\$0

Note that per Sport Canada policy an athlete may not be nominated for less than four months of carding.



This policy is intended to ensure that carding goes to athletes who need it to pursue international performances. Many professional cyclists earn significant income and receive equipment and logistical support from their teams or sponsors; as a result, they may not depend on carding to compete.

Cycling Canada is aware that each athlete has unique circumstances. Athletes may request an exemption to the income limits above in exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to the following:

- All or some of their income is from activities unrelated to cycling;
- They have had a drastic change of income since the most recent CRA assessment (eg. losing a professional contract).

An exemption request with supporting documentation must be made in writing to the HPD at the time of submitting the CRA assessment. Cycling Canada reserves the right to refuse the request if, in its view, there is insufficient justification for the exemption.

Athletes who do not wish to submit their Notice of Assessment may simply decline the living and training allowance. These athletes will still be included in the AAP list, and remain eligible for enhanced funding, CSI access and any other benefits available to carded athletes. Declining carding allows the living and training allowance to be allocated to other athletes.

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#### 4. Carding levels

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Athletes approved by Sport Canada for the AAP may be eligible for a living and training allowance, tuition support (in a Sport Canada approved University or College program), deferred tuition support, and supplementary AAP support. Please refer to Sport Canada AAP Policy for further information. Athletes funded by AAP receive a monthly financial stipend as follows:

Card type	Monthly stipend	Annual value
Senior International Card (SR1/SR2)	\$1,765	\$21,180
Senior National Card (SR)	\$1,765	\$21,180
Development Card (D)	\$1,060	\$12,720

*These amounts may change at the discretion of Sport Canada. Further information on the AAP can be obtained through the Sport Canada web site at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance.html>*

The carding levels are as follows:

##### a. International (SR1/SR2)

Per section 5.2.1 of the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures:

International Criteria are based on outstanding performances at World Championships or the Olympic/Paralympic Games. In Olympic and Paralympic sports, only results from events that are on the program of the upcoming Olympic/Paralympic Games will be considered for carding under the International Criteria.

Athletes who meet the International Criteria are eligible to be nominated for two consecutive years; the first-year card is referred to as SR1; the second, SR2. Eligibility for an SR2 card is contingent on the athlete maintaining a training and competitive program approved by CC, on being re-nominated by CC on signing the CC Athlete Agreement, and on completing an AAP Application form for that year.

Sport Canada establishes the performance standards for International Criteria used to determine eligibility to be nominated for Senior Cards. The following are the current standards for international criteria:



- Finish in the top 8 counting a maximum of 3 entries per country; and
- Finish in the top half of the field

In Olympic/Paralympic years, new Senior Cards based on the International Criteria will be awarded in Olympic/Paralympic sports only based on results achieved in the Olympic/Paralympic Games. Results achieved at World Championships in Olympic/Paralympic Games years will not be used for awarding SR1 cards, or for awarding Supplementary Excellence Assistance.

**CC may adjust a criterion or include sport-specific requirements to the Senior International Criteria to strengthen the criteria.** Any such additional requirements imposed by CC must be consistent with Sport Canada policies and approved by Sport Canada.

In cases where the Olympic or Paralympic Games, or the World Championship field is restricted as a result of qualification processes or other types of entry restrictions, the number of entries and countries in the qualification process may be taken into consideration.

In team events, athletes who competed in the event may be awarded Senior International Cards if they directly contributed to the result.

### **b. National (SR)**

National Criteria identify athletes who have the potential to achieve International Criteria. Senior cards based on National Criteria are normally awarded for one year and are referred to as SR Cards.

National Criteria for Senior Cards are established by CC and reviewed every year by Sport Canada to ensure they meet AAP policy requirements. The results, should, where possible, be based on objective results achieved in designated competitions. The criteria may include elements of CC's Podium Pathway and/or Gold Medal Profiles or equivalent, where appropriate and applicable.

An athlete is normally expected to improve each year to maintain a Senior Card based on the National Criteria. Therefore, CC's Senior Card National Criteria must either include incremental performance criteria, or stipulate a maximum number of years an athlete will be supported at this card level.

### **c. Development (D)**

Development cards are intended to support the development needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior Card International Criteria but are not yet able to meet the Senior Card criteria. Development Cards are normally awarded for one year and are referred to as D Cards.

The allocation of Development Cards is intended to ensure that financial support is provided to the athletes with the greatest potential.

As program funding may not always be available to cover the cost of athletes holding Development Cards, athletes may be asked to contribute to program costs from their Development Card funding.

Criteria for Development Cards are established by CC and are reviewed each year by Sport Canada for compliance with the AAP.

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## **5. How to become a carded athlete**

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Athletes who achieve all the following may be recommended for AAP support, subject to the limitations on the number of cards and the total AAP funds available:



1. Meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Clause 2;
2. Meet the performance criteria outlined in Schedule B, including the prerequisites for carding and the minimum performance standards;
3. **IMPORTANT: Complete the online application form by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Oct. 31, 2023; this form can be found on the Cycling Canada website: <https://cyclingcanada.ca/resources/athlete-resources/athlete-assistance-program/>**
4. Be nominated by the National Coach Panel to a Cycling Canada National Performance Pool (see Clause 7), and be among the athletes in that Pool recommended for carding. These recommendations must be approved by the Cycling Canada Head Coach, HPD, Coach Panel, HPC and Sport Canada;
5. Collaborate with a National Coach in developing an Individualized Performance Plan (IPP);
6. **IMPORTANT: Submit the following by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Jan. 31, 2024:**
  - The signed National Team Athlete Agreement, including the IPP;
  - The completed Sport Canada AAP Application;
  - The Canada Revenue Agency Notice of Assessment for the most recent taxation year (this does not apply to Para-cycling athletes);
  - Complete the AAP module of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport's online anti-doping education.
7. All carded athletes are also subject to a mid-year review against the performance targets set out in their IPP. This will be conducted by the National Coach in May and submitted to the Head Coach and HPD as laid out in Clause 17.

It is the athlete's responsibility to understand this policy and to submit all relevant information prior to the deadlines. Cycling Canada is not obliged to remind athletes of any deadlines. Any documentation filed after the deadlines may be rejected. Athletes are encouraged to create calendar reminders for the deadlines, and to contact Cycling Canada if they have any questions regarding the carding nomination process.

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### 6. Carding nomination process

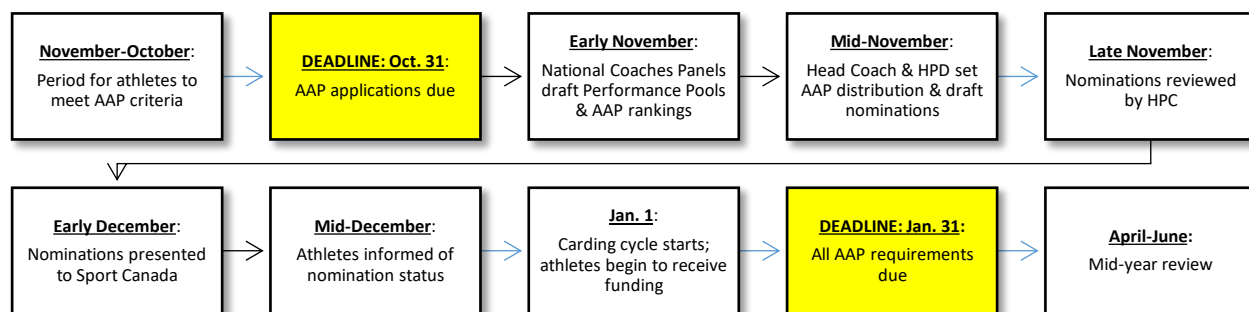
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1. Nov. 1, 2022 to Oct. 31, 2023: Athletes achieve performances to become eligible for carding.
2. **IMPORTANT:** Oct. 31, 2023: Deadline for athletes to apply for carding.
3. Early November: National Coaches name athletes to Performance Pools and rank athletes for AAP nominations; nominations and rankings peer-reviewed by Coach Panel.
4. Mid-November: Head Coach and HPD determine AAP distribution by discipline and draft carding nomination recommendations based on coach rankings.
5. Late November: HPC reviews AAP nomination recommendations.
6. Early December: Nominations submitted to Sport Canada for review and final approval.
7. Mid-December: Eligible athletes informed of AAP nomination status; athletes who wish to appeal have one week to notify CC.
8. Late December: List of carded athletes made public.
9. Jan. 1, 2024: Carding cycle starts and carded athletes begin to receive funding once they have completed all requirements.
10. **IMPORTANT:** Jan 31, 2024: Deadline for athletes to complete all AAP requirements.
11. May: Mid-year reviews (see Clause 17)

#### Carding nomination process:



## CYCLING CRITERIA for the 2024 Carding Cycle



### 7. Cycling Canada Performance Pools

Cycling Canada's Performance Pools are aligned with the AAP on the principle that athletes targeted for podium performances at the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games (within 1-4 years) are eligible for nomination to SR1/2 or SR cards, and athletes targeted for podium performances at the following Olympic and Paralympic Games (within 5-8 years) are eligible for nomination for SR or D cards. However, given the limited amount of AAP funds available, being named to an Athlete Pool is not a guarantee of nomination for carding.

Each year, the National Coach Panels will recommend athletes to be nominated to the Athlete Pools based on their performance potential. This is assessed on results achieved at international events; projections using the Cycling Canada podium pathway; physiological data; and other appropriate factors specific to each cycling discipline.

Further information on the Performance Pool nomination process can be found in Cycling Canada's National Team Performance Pools Policy.

### 8. Priority of Nominations

AAP nominations are made in the following order of priority:

1. Athletes meeting SR1 criteria
2. Athletes meeting SR2 criteria
3. Athletes meeting Injury Card criteria
4. Athletes meeting SR criteria, ranked by the Coach Panel
5. Athletes meeting D criteria, ranked by the Coach Panel
6. Athletes nominated for SR and D cards using the Exceptional Circumstances or Past Olympian/Paralympian clause

### 9. AAP funding allocation across disciplines

For the 2024 Carding Cycle, Sport Canada has allocated the equivalent of 46 SR cards for Olympic athletes (\$974,280), and 16 SR cards for Paralympic athletes (\$338,880). Note that this allocation may change at the discretion of Sport Canada.

These funds will be allocated among the cycling disciplines based on the following considerations, in no particular order:

- The number of athletes who are internationally competitive within each discipline;





- The number of athletes required to qualify and enter a team capable of a top-8 performance at the World Championships and/or Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- Cycling Canada's strategic priorities;
- External support available to athletes in each discipline;
- Canada's international performances in each discipline; and
- Canada's international performance potential in each discipline.

The decision on card distribution will be made by the Head Coach and HPD based on the following principles:

- There will be a greater emphasis on D cards early in the quadrennial, with a shift to more SR cards later in the quadrennial;
- Funding may be distributed between SR and D cards at the discretion of Cycling Canada as long as the final amount is within the total allocated by Sport Canada;
- SR1 and SR2 carded athletes will be nominated first;
- The number of SR and D cards will be based on the amount of funding remaining;
- Due to the limited funds available, meeting carding criteria does NOT automatically result in AAP nomination;
- The overall allocation and accompanying rationale will be part of Cycling Canada's carding submission that must be reviewed by the HPC, then reviewed and approved by Sport Canada.

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### 10. Athletes moving from SR carding to D carding

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An athlete who has been carded at the SR1, SR2, SR or C1<sup>1</sup> level for two carding cycles or less may be nominated for a D card.

In exceptional circumstances (eg. a significant change in the carding criteria), Cycling Canada may ask Sport Canada for an exemption to nominate an athlete for a D card who has been carded at the SR level for more than two carding cycles. In this case the National Coach Panel must present evidence that the athlete is continuing to progress and has the potential to meet the SR1 criteria within 4 years. The nomination must be approved by the Head Coach, HPD, HPC and Sport Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> Sport Canada has discontinued C1 cards for the 2024 carding cycle. However, past C1 cards will still count towards the totals cited in this clause.



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### 11. Maximum number of years of carding

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Carding is intended to support athletes who are progressing towards the SR1 level. As such, there is a maximum number of carding cycles athletes may be carded at the D or SR level.

The maximum number of carding cycles at each carding level is as follows:

- **SR1/2:** no maximum.
- **SR/C1:** A maximum of 4 non-consecutive carding cycles. An athlete may be nominated for additional years of SR carding on a year-by-year basis on the recommendation of the Coach Panel accompanied by evidence the athlete is progressing to the SR1 level. The nomination must be approved by the Head Coach, HPD, HPC and Sport Canada and may require specific performance benchmarks for that athlete.
- **D:** A maximum of 6 non-consecutive carding cycles. An athlete may be nominated for additional carding cycles at the D level on a year-by-year basis on the recommendation of a National Coach accompanied by evidence the athlete is progressing to the SR1 level. The nomination must be approved by the Coach Panel, Head Coach, HPD, HPC and Sport Canada and may require specific performance benchmarks for that athlete to maintain their card for the full carding cycle.

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### 12. Past Olympians and Paralympians

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An athlete who has represented Canada at the Olympic or Paralympic Games in the past, whether in cycling or in another sport, may be nominated for SR carding based on the recommendation of a National Coach providing:

- There is rationale, based on data from training and/or competitions, that the athlete can be a podium contender in cycling at the upcoming Olympic or Paralympic Games (ie within 1-5 years);
- The athlete has committed to the IPP designed in collaboration with a National Coach;
- The athlete has been named to a Cycling Canada Performance Pool.

Any nomination of past Olympians and Paralympians and accompanying rationale must be evaluated by the Coach Panel and approved by the Head Coach, HPD, HPC and Sport Canada and may require specific performance benchmarks for that athlete to maintain their card for the full carding cycle.

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### 13. Exceptional Circumstances

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In exceptional circumstances, an athlete who is tracking towards performances that would make them eligible for an SR1 card may fall short of the criteria outlined in this document.

In this case, a National Coach Panel may recommend the athlete for AAP nomination based on evidence that the athlete is progressing towards the SR1 card level within the next four years. Such evidence may include:

- Significant improvement and progression in training performance and results
- Significant improvement and progression in racing performance and results
- Commitment to the National Team program

This evidence will be evaluated by the Head Coach, HPD and Coach Panel. If the athlete is recommended for nomination, the accompanying rationale must be submitted to and approved by the HPC and Sport Canada and may require specific performance benchmarks for that athlete to maintain their card for the full carding cycle.



An athlete who has not met carding criteria may not appeal their non-nomination for carding under this clause.

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### 14. Tandem (Para-cycling only)

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A tandem approved for nomination will normally result in two cards – one for the visually impaired athlete (stoker) and the other for the pilot. Throughout the carding nomination process, both members of a tandem pair will be assessed as a whole, and their ranking will be based on evaluation of the stoker, with the pilot ranked immediately after.

A pilot-stoker pairing may only be carded based on performances achieved by that pairing.

If there are insufficient AAP funds to award both athletes a full card, the card will be divided equally between the two athletes, as long as at least four months of carding is available for both athletes. If there is less than four months available for both athletes, all the funding will go to the stoker.

If two pilots meet the criteria with the same stoker, only the pilot who will race with the stoker for the following season will receive carding. Carding eligibility will be based on performances with the chosen pilot only.

#### Change of pilot

A carded stoker may change pilots for the following reasons:

- their pilot retires;
- their pilot is removed from the National Performance Pool;
- there is a significant decline in performance.

This change must be recommended by the National Coach and approved by the Head Coach and the HPD.

If this change occurs during the carding cycle, the former pilot will be removed from the AAP and the new pilot may be recommended for carding as follows:

- If the new pilot is currently carded, he or she will maintain the carding level (SR1/SR2, SR or D) he or she was nominated for;
- If the new pilot is not currently carded but has achieved the performance standard to be nominated, he or she will be nominated at the same level as the stoker providing there are sufficient AAP funds available;
- If the new pilot is not currently carded and has not achieved the performance standard to be nominated, he or she will not be nominated for carding.

In all cases, the pilot must meet all eligibility requirements to represent Canada in international Para-cycling competition.

If this change occurs between seasons and prior to the beginning of the carding cycle, the new pilot may be recommended for carding at the same level as the stoker if it can be demonstrated through performance analysis that the new pairing has equal or higher performance potential than the previous pairing. Any such nomination must be supported by written rationale, evaluated by the Coach Panel, and approved by the HPD and HPC.

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### 15. Health-Related Circumstances

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An athlete carded at the SR2 level who, at the end of the carding cycle has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of carding status because of strictly health related reasons, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:



- The carded athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high-performance training and competition during the period of their injury, illness, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance, or is continuing a rehabilitation program approved by Cycling Canada;
- In the view of the Cycling Canada, the carded athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to the injury, illness, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance;
- Cycling Canada, based on its technical judgement and that of a National Team physician or equivalent, indicates in writing the expectation that the carded athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period;
- The carded athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate their long-term commitment to high-performance training and competition goals, as well as their intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which they wish to be renewed despite not having met the carding criteria;
- Cycling Canada must provide evidence to Sport Canada that the above requirements are being met in order to nominate athletes for carding based on the above provisions.

The health-related circumstances policy is explained in Section 9 of the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures.

All documentation pertaining health-related circumstances must be submitted to CC no later than Oct. 31, 2023. Submitting documentation is not a guarantee the injury card will be awarded. Any injury card nominations must be approved by the Coach Panel, Head Coach, HPD, HPC and Sport Canada.

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### 16. Appeals

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Decisions by Cycling Canada on nominations for carding or de-carding may be appealed under Cycling Canada's appeals policy. Only athletes who have met the carding criteria set out in this document may appeal.

Decisions made by Sport Canada may be appealed under the relevant provisions of the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policy.

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### 17. Carding review

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Athletes are responsible for communicating with their respective National Coach throughout the carding cycle with updates on fitness, health, progress towards objectives and any injuries. The name of the coach will be confirmed in the letter notifying the athlete of their nomination for carding.

The frequency and detail of the communication will vary depending on the program and coach, but each athlete's IPP will outline those expectations and what metrics will be used to evaluate the athlete's progress.

Each athlete nominated for carding will be subject to a mid-year review by his or her National Coach, which will be normally done between April and June. This review will examine the athlete's progress against his or her IPP and the National Coach's ongoing Athlete Assessments. A significant decline in performance may result in collaborative adjustments to the IPP and any new objectives will be clearly communicated to the athlete. A continued decline in performance may result in removal from the National Performance Pool and from the AAP.

Athletes nominated for carding using the Exceptional Circumstances or Past Olympian/Paralympian clauses will be given a deadline to meet mid-year performance benchmarks in order for their carding to continue for the full year. Athletes will be asked to submit evidence of achieving the benchmarks. This will be reviewed by the Coach Panel,



Head Coach and HPD, and must be approved by the HPC and Sport Canada. These benchmarks will be detailed in the letter notifying the athlete of their nomination for carding.

An athlete who retires or resigns from the National Team program will be removed from the AAP (see Clause 18 below).

Any anti-doping rule violation that leads to a sanction of any kind will result in immediate removal from the AAP.

An athlete may also be removed from the AAP in cases that could include, but are not limited to, the athlete:

- Refusing to communicate with their National Coach;
- Misrepresenting his or her fitness, health or training to their National Coach;
- Failing to follow the training and competition requirements outlined in the IPP, except in case of illness, injury or pregnancy, without consulting their National Coach;
- Failing to comply with the Cycling Canada Athlete Agreement or Code of Conduct.

In the case of an athlete whose status in the program is in jeopardy for reasons other than athletic performance, the following steps will be taken:

- The athlete will be informed of his or her breach in writing;
- A remedy or remedies will be proposed in writing, and the athlete will be given a reasonable period of time to comply;
- If the athlete fails to comply within the stipulated time period, CC will initiate the process with Sport Canada to remove the athlete from the AAP.

Cycling Canada will document each step of this process. The final decision to remove an athlete from the AAP is subject to approval by the HPC.

Any funds that become available through athletes' removal from the AAP will be reallocated to other eligible athletes at the discretion of the HPD.

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### **18. Athletes not nominated to the AAP**

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The intent of the AAP is to help athletes achieve future Olympic and Paralympic results. Based on this principle, athletes who do are not expected to contribute to performances at the Olympic or Paralympic Games within 1-8 years will not be nominated for AAP funding.

An assessment of the athlete's performance potential and commitment to the upcoming Games will be made by the National Coach Panel at the time of the carding nominations. This assessment will be based on a balance of probabilities and will consider all relevant factors, which may include but are not limited to the following:

- The athlete's stated intention to continue competing at the Elite level
- The athlete's performance trends (physical, technical, tactical, and psychological)
- The athlete's suitability to the venue at the upcoming Games
- The athlete's potential to contribute to qualification for the upcoming Games

#### **Athletes transitioning to another sport:**

Cycling Canada will collaborate with athletes transitioning to another sport to minimize any disruption in support they receive. These situations will be assessed case-by-case.



### **Retiring athletes:**

Any AAP-eligible athlete who is contemplating retirement is encouraged to discuss this with Cycling Canada in a spirit of collaboration to ensure they have access to all available resources they are eligible to receive, which may include AAP retirement assistance, counselling, GamePlan, and assistance and mentoring if the athlete wishes to transition to a career in coaching.

If an eligible athlete retires before the beginning of the carding cycle, Cycling Canada will not nominate that athlete to the AAP. An athlete who chooses to retire during the carding cycle will be removed from the AAP at the earliest opportunity.



### SCHEDULE B: SPECIFIC CARDING CRITERIA

The specific criteria to nominate athletes for carding are detailed below, except in cases that fall under the Exceptional Circumstances and Past Olympian and Paralympian clauses.

To be considered for AAP nomination for the 2024 carding cycle, athletes must be named by the National Coach Panel to a National Performance Pool based on an assessment of performance potential at upcoming Olympic/Paralympic Games (see Schedule A, Clause 6).

The Coach Panel may choose not to nominate an athlete to a National Performance Pool even if the athlete has met the performance criteria. The rationale for this decision must be reviewed and approved by the HPD and the HPC.

Note that, due to the limited amount of AAP support available, nomination to a Performance Pool does not guarantee AAP nomination.

#### 1. Eligible results

Results achieved between Nov. 1, 2022, and Oct. 31, 2023, will be considered for 2024 carding nominations.

For results to be considered for carding, they must be achieved in events and classes on the Olympic or Paralympic program. The events listed below were correct at the time of publication; any changes to the list published by the UCI will take precedence over this one.

Cycling Discipline	Event	Classes
Track endurance	Team Pursuit	Elite, Junior
	Omnium	Elite, Junior
	Madison	Elite, Junior
Track Sprint	Team Sprint	Elite, Junior
	Keirin	Elite, Junior
	Sprint	Elite, Junior
Road	Road race	Elite, U23, Junior
	Individual Time Trial	Elite, U23, Junior
Mountain Bike	Olympic Cross-Country	Elite, U23, Junior
BMX	BMX Race	Elite, U23, Junior
	BMX Freestyle Park	Elite
Para-cycling Track	Time Trial	C1-5, B
	Individual Pursuit	C1-5, B
	Mixed Team Sprint	C1-5
Para-cycling Road	Time Trial	H1-5, C1-5, T1-2
	Road Race	H1-5, C1-5, T1-2
	Team Relay	H1-5

Note that certain Para-Cycling classes that race separately at World Cups or World Championships may be combined with or without factoring at the Paralympics. This means a World Championship medal-winning performance may not indicate Paralympic podium potential. Cycling Canada will take this into account during the athlete evaluation process.



## 2. Depth of Field

The cycling disciplines vary widely in international depth of field, from several thousand in men's road to fewer than three athletes in certain Para-Cycling classes. Cycling Canada has adjusted the Senior International (SR1) and Senior National (SR) criteria to account for this variation as provided for in Section 5.2.1 of the Sport Canada AAP policy.

These adjustments are based on three considerations: the number of athletes or teams on the UCI ranking in each discipline; the number of athletes or teams attending world championships in each discipline; and the number of entries per nation in each discipline.

These numbers are based on the averages from 2016 to 2019, prior to the pandemic (which dramatically reduced the number of athletes in many disciplines) and can be found in Appendix D.

## 3. Carding Criteria

### INTERNATIONAL CARDS (SR1, SR2) and NATIONAL CARDS (SR)

#### Prerequisites to be eligible for nomination:

- Achieving the results in the table below
- Nomination to the National Team Pool based
- Meeting all the other eligibility requirements outlined in Schedule A

Discipline and Class	SR1 criteria	SR2 maintenance criteria (for year 2 of SR1 carding)	SR criteria
BMX FS M MTB XCO W & M Road ITT W & M Road Race W & M	Top 8 at Elite Worlds	Ongoing collaboration with National Coach and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection to Elite Worlds; or</li> <li>• Top 12 in an Elite XCO World Cup in Europe; or</li> <li>• Top 5 in an Elite XCO World Cup outside Europe</li> <li>• Top 12 in a road WT/WWT event (excluding Team Time Trials); or</li> <li>• Top 12 in a BMX FS World Cup</li> </ul>	Top 16 at Elite Worlds or Twice achieve any of the following results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 12 in Elite XCO World Cups in Europe; or</li> <li>• Top-5 in Elite XCO World Cups outside Europe; or</li> <li>• Top 12 in Road WT/WWT events (excluding Team Time Trials); or</li> <li>• Top 12 in BMX FS World Cups</li> </ul>
BMX Race M	Top 8 at Elite Worlds	Ongoing collaboration with National Coach and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection to Elite Worlds; or</li> <li>• Top 16 in an Elite BMX Race World Cup</li> </ul>	Top 16 at Elite Worlds or Twice top 16 in Elite BMX Race World Cups
BMX Race W	Top 8 at Elite Worlds	Ongoing collaboration with National Coach and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection to Elite Worlds; or</li> <li>• Top 16 in an Elite BMX Race World Cup</li> </ul>	Top 8 in an Elite World Cup or Twice top 16 in Elite BMX Race World Cups





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Track Omnium W & M Track Madison W & M Track Sprint W & M Track Keirin W & M	Top 8 at Elite Worlds	Ongoing collaboration with National Coach and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection to Elite Worlds; or</li> <li>• Meet the Cycling Canada A track time standard (see Appendix B)</li> </ul>	Top 12 at Elite Worlds or Top 8 in an Elite Track Nations Cup
BMX FS W Para Road W B Para Road M B, C2-5, H2-5, T2 Para Track M B Track Team Pursuit W & M Track Team Sprint W & M	Top 6 at Elite Worlds	Ongoing collaboration with National Coach and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection to Elite Worlds; or</li> <li>• Top 6 in a Para Road World Cup; or</li> <li>• Top 6 in an Elite BMX FS World Cup; or</li> <li>• Meet the Cycling Canada A track time standard (see Appendix B)</li> </ul>	Top 8 at Elite Worlds or Twice top 6 in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Para Road World Cups</li> <li>• Elite BMX FS World Cups</li> </ul> or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 6 in an Elite Track Nations Cup</li> </ul>
Para Road M C1, H1, T1 Para Road W C1-5, H1-5, T1-2 Para Track M C1-5 Para Track W B, C1-5	Top 4 at Elite Worlds	Ongoing collaboration with National Coach and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection to Elite Worlds; or</li> <li>• Top 4 in a Para Road World Cup</li> </ul>	Top 6 & top half at Elite Worlds or Twice top 4 & top half in Para Road World Cups

### Notes:

- All results must be in the top half of the field. The field size includes athletes who did not start or did not finish providing they are listed in the official results.
- Results will only count up to three entries per nation (eg. if the top four finishers are from the same nation, the fifth place finisher will be considered to have finished fourth)
- Results in Para-Cycling events must meet the Cycling-Canada Para-Cycling time standard (see Appendix C).
- At the sole discretion of the Coach Panel, other results may be taken into consideration for SR carding nominations if the Coach Panel can demonstrate the level of competition was equivalent to the required carding result (eg. the number of participating nations; the number of entries; the number of athletes in the top 100 of the UCI ranking; the average speed; etc.). This rationale must be approved by the Head Coach, HPD, and the HPC.
- SR2 maintenance criteria can be met in a different discipline (eg. an athlete carded at the SR1 level in track can meet the SR2 maintenance criteria by being selected to the elite road Worlds).
- Athletes may meet SR criteria in multiple disciplines (eg. a top 12 in an XCO World Cup and a top 12 in a road WT event would be considered as meeting the SR criteria).
- In team events, the National Coach must provide evidence that the athlete directly contributed to the result.
- BMX race events are run in gates of eight riders, so target results are expressed in multiples of 8.
- In events where the size of the field is limited by a qualification process, the field size may be assessed on the number of athletes or teams in the qualification ranking.

### Discretionary SR nominations

- The Coach Panel may make additional discretionary nominations using the Past Olympians/Paralympians and Exceptional Circumstances clauses.
- Discretionary nominations and accompanying rationale must be approved by the Head Coach, HPD, HPC, and Sport Canada.



- These athletes will be given mid-season benchmarks they must meet to maintain carding for the full carding cycle. These benchmarks and related deadlines will be communicated to the athletes when they are nominated for carding.

### DEVELOPMENT CARDS (D)

#### **Prerequisites to be eligible for nomination:**

Athletes must achieve all of the following to be eligible for nomination for a D card:

- Nomination to the National Team Performance Pools; and
- Meet the minimum performance standard outlined in Appendix A; and
- Meet all the other eligibility requirements outlined in Schedule A

#### **Discretionary nominations**

All Development cards are discretionary.

The Coach Panel will make Development Card nominations from among eligible athletes based on the process outlined in Schedule A. This may include nominations using the Exceptional Circumstances clause.



### SCHEDULE C: COACH PANEL

The Coach Panels are responsible for nominating athletes to the National Performance Pools and ranking athletes for nomination to the AAP.

There is a Coach Panel for each discipline, composed of Cycling Canada National Coaches. The compositions of the Coach Panels are published on the Cycling Canada website.

The Head Coach will convene each Coach Panel to assess and rank athletes within their respective discipline, using objective evidence and subjective assessments of the athletes' performances and progression. These assessments may include but are not limited to any one or more of the following, in no particular order:

- Individual performances and/or results in international competition during the carding eligibility period;
- The rider's past performance history;
- The rider's potential to contribute to future World Championship, Olympic or Paralympic performances;
- The rider's technical ability;
- The rider's tactical ability;
- The rider's physical ability / fitness;
- The rider's suitability for the course / venue / environmental conditions of targeted events;
- The rider's attitude, composure and behavior in high-pressure competitive environments;
- The results of any of the rider's sport science tests conducted by CC, including biomechanical and physiological;
- The rider's consistency and reliability in competition;
- The ability of the rider to contribute to a team result;
- The rider's attendance, performance, attitude and conduct in training whilst a member of national team program (DTE, training camp or competition);
- The rider's level of communication with CC, including sharing training programs and reports with the relevant National Coach.

These assessments and rankings will then be peer reviewed by the other National Coaches, the Head Coach and the HPD. If the coaches cannot come to a consensus the Head Coach will have final say.

Once the assessments and rankings are complete, the Head Coach and HPD will use them to create the National Team Performance Pools and to determine the distribution of Cycling Canada's AAP nominations.

At its sole discretion, the Coach Panel may invite any other experts to offer information or opinions in person, by teleconference, or in writing. These experts will not participate in the panel's decisions.



## APPENDIX A: D CRITERIA MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Ages are based on an analysis of the results progression of athletes currently performing at the international level. All results must be top half of field (based on number of entrants). Ages are as of Dec. 31, 2023.

BMX RACE WOMEN										
Age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Junior World Championships	Top 3	Top 3								
U23 World Cups	Top 20	Top 20	Top 16	Top 16	Top 16	Top 8				
U23 World Championships			Top 24	Top 24	Top 16	Top 8				
Elite World Cups			Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 16
Elite World Championships			Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 32	Top 16
BMX RACE MEN										
Age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Junior World Championships	Top 3	Top 3								
U23 World Cups	Top 48	Top 48	Top 32	Top 24	Top 24	Top 16				
U23 World Championships			Top 32	Top 32	Top 16	Top 16				
Elite World Cups			Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 32
Elite World Championships			Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 64	Top 32

MTB XCO WOMEN										
Age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Junior World Championships	Top 3	Top 3								
European U23 World Cup or U23 World Championships			Top 25	Top 20	Top 15	Top 10				
Non-European U23 World Cup			Top 5	Top 5	Top 5	Top 5				
European Elite World Cup or Elite World Championships							Top 42	Top 35	Top 28	Top 22
Non-European Elite World Cup							Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10
MTB XCO MEN										
Age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Junior World Championships	Top 3	Top 3								
European U23 World Cup or U23 World Championships			Top 50	Top 35	Top 25	Top 15				
Non-European U23 World Cup			Top 5	Top 5	Top 5	Top 5				
European Elite World Cup or Elite World Championships							Top 42	Top 35	Top 28	Top 22
Non-European Elite World Cup							Top 10	Top 10	Top 10	Top 10



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### PARA-CYCLING

Meet the Cycling Canada National B Time Standard (see Cycling Canada website)

### ROAD – UCI points on Oct. 31, 2023 (not including points earned at Canadian Championships)

Age	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Women	5	10	20	40	60	100	140	180
Men	5	10	20	40	60	100	140	180

Athletes finishing top 3 at the 2023 Junior Road World Championships are also eligible for nomination.

The National Coach (Road Lead) has the sole discretion to make additional nominations based on exceptional performances in international competition. These nominations must be accompanied by evidence and rationale and must be approved by the Head Coach, HPD, Coach Panel, HPC and Sport Canada.

### TRACK

Athletes age 23 and over are eligible for nomination if they meet the Cycling Canada A Time Standard (see Appendix B).

Athletes under age 23 are eligible for nomination if they meet the Cycling Canada B Time Standard (see Cycling Canada website).

Junior athletes finishing top 3 at the 2023 UCI Junior Track World Championships are eligible for nomination providing they meet the Cycling Canada Junior time standard (see Cycling Canada website).

### BMX Freestyle – UCI points on Oct. 31, 2023

Age	15-18	19-22	26+
Women	150	300	600
Men	150	300	600



## APPENDIX B: CYCLING CANADA TRACK TIME STANDARDS

<b>Women Sprint</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Junior Development</b>
Flying 200m	10.75	11.35	11.56	11.90
500m TT	33.55	34.23	34.91	35.96
Standing 250m	19.16	19.54	19.93	20.53

<b>Women Endurance</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Junior Development</b>
Individual Pursuit	3:34.5	3:41.0	2:31.5	2:36.0

<b>Men Sprint</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Junior Development</b>
Flying 200m	9.97	10.17	10.37	10.68
1,000m TT	1:01.00	1:01.50	1:02.31	1:04.18
Standing 250m	17.60	17.96	18.31	18.86

<b>Men Endurance</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Junior Development</b>
Individual Pursuit	4:22.0	4:28.5	3:26.0	3:32.5



**APPENDIX C: CYCLING CANADA PARA-CYCLING TIME STANDARDS**

ROAD									
Class	A	B	D	Minimum Distance	Class	A	B	D	Minimum Distance
MB	48.99	47.52	44.30	<b>20 km</b>	WB	43.45	42.15	39.10	<b>17 km</b>
MC1	39.63	38.44	36.00	<b>15 km</b>	WC1	30.67	29.75	22.00	<b>12 km</b>
MC2	41.32	40.08	37.19	<b>15 km</b>	WC2	35.91	34.83	32.32	<b>12 km</b>
MC3	43.30	42.00	39.30	<b>17 km</b>	WC3	37.75	36.62	31.81	<b>12 km</b>
MC4	44.88	43.53	41.20	<b>17 km</b>	WC4	37.78	36.65	35.30	<b>15 km</b>
MC5	45.65	44.28	42.00	<b>17 km</b>	WC5	40.07	38.87	37.50	<b>15 km</b>
MT1	29.00	28.13	26.10	<b>12 km</b>	WT1	23.95	23.20	19.00	<b>12 km</b>
MT2	35.61	34.74	33.67	<b>12 km</b>	WT2	30.03	29.13	22.00	<b>12 km</b>
MH1	23.68	22.97	21.31	<b>12 km</b>	WH1	16.50	15.95	10.40	<b>10 km</b>
MH2	33.65	32.64	27.40	<b>12 km</b>	WH2	23.75	23.04	15.00	<b>10 km</b>
MH3	39.86	38.67	34.90	<b>17 km</b>	WH3	33.04	32.05	26.90	<b>10 km</b>
MH4	40.20	39.00	34.60	<b>17 km</b>	WH4	33.61	32.61	29.60	<b>15 km</b>
MH5	39.11	37.94	35.30	<b>17 km</b>	WH5	34.74	33.70	32.30	<b>15 km</b>

TRACK						
Men	Individual Pursuit			Time Trial		
	A	B	D	A	B	D
Tandem	04:18.7	04:25.2	04:31.6	01:01.8	01:03.3	01:04.9
C1	03:58.8	04:04.7	04:10.7	01:17.5	01:19.4	01:21.4
C2	03:46.7	03:52.3	03:58.0	01:14.9	01:16.8	01:18.7
C3	03:37.5	03:42.9	03:48.3	01:10.5	01:11.9	01:14.0
C4	04:45.6	04:52.6	04:59.9	01:08.2	01:09.4	01:11.7
C5	04:36.7	04:43.6	04:50.5	01:06.4	01:07.9	01:09.7

Women	Individual Pursuit			Time Trial		
	A	B	D	A	B	D
Tandem	03:34.1	03:39.4	03:44.2	01:08.3	01:10.0	01:15.1
C1	04:49.2	04:49.2	04:49.2	47.2	48.3	49.3
C2	04:25.9	04:32.5	04:39.2	42.9	44.0	45.1
C3	04:24.5	04:27.5	04:31.5	43.2	44.2	45.3
C4	04:00.6	04:06.6	04:12.6	39.9	40.9	41.9
C5	03:56.1	04:01.1	04:06.4	38.1	39.0	40.0

**APPENDIX D: INTERNATIONAL DEPTH OF FIELD COMPARISON**

The following data was used to assess the international depth of field across cycling disciplines and classes:

Discipline & Class	Athletes/Teams on UCI ranking (Avg. 2016-2019)	Entries at Worlds (Avg. 2016-2019)	Max. entries per nation at Worlds
Road Men RR	3125	197	8
Road Men ITT	3125	64	2
MTB Men	1704	90	7
MTB Women	1000	60	7
Road Women RR	813 <sup>A</sup>	151	7
Road Women ITT	813 <sup>A</sup>	50	2
Track Men Omnium	809	23	1
Track Men Madison <sup>B</sup>	752	16	1
Track Men sprint	661	34	2
Track Men keirin	616	28	2
Track Women Omnium	458	23	1
Track Women Madison	424 <sup>B</sup>	17 <sup>B</sup>	1 <sup>B</sup>
BMX Men	361	81	6
Track Women sprint	345	32	2
Track Women Keirin	345	26	2
BMX FS Men individual	220	59	6
BMX Women	165	42	5
Para Road Men H3	86	37	3
BMX FS Women individual	77	31	6
Para Road Men B	70	27	3
Para Road Men H4	67	20	3
Para Road Men C5	62	18	3
Para Road Men C3	52	24	3
Para Road Men C4	49	25	3
Track Men Team Sprint	46 <sup>C</sup>	15 <sup>C</sup>	1 <sup>C</sup>
Track Men Team Pursuit	46 <sup>C</sup>	17 <sup>C</sup>	1 <sup>C</sup>
Para Road Men C2	45	24	1
Para Track Men B	42	14	3
Track Women Team Sprint	38 <sup>C</sup>	14 <sup>C</sup>	1 <sup>C</sup>
Para Road Men T2	37	17	3
Para Road Men H2	36	14	3
Para Road Women tandem B	31	16	3
Track Women Team Pursuit	30 <sup>C</sup>	15 <sup>C</sup>	1 <sup>C</sup>
Para Road Men H5	30	18	3
Para Track Men C4	28	14	3
Para Track Women B	27	13	3
Para Track Men C5	26	14	3
Para Track Men C2	26	16	3
Para Road Men C1	25	23	3
Para Road Men H1	23	9	3
Para Track Men C3	23	11	3
Para Road Women H3	22	10	3
Para Road Women H4	21	8	3
Para Road Men T1	19	9	3
Para Road Women C5	18	12	3
Para Track Men C1	16	14	3
Para Road Women C4	14	8	3
Para Track Women C5	13	9	3
Para Road Women C2	12	9	3





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Para Track Women C4	12	11	3
Para Road Women T2	11	7	3
Para Road Women C3	11	8	3
Para Track Women C2	10	7	3
Para Track Women C3	9	8	3
Para Road Women H5	8	5	3
Para Road Women T1	6	6	3
Para Road Women H2	5	2	3
Para Road Women H1	3	1	3
Para Track Women C1	3	1	3
Para Road Women C1	3	3	3

<sup>A</sup> This number increased through the pandemic to more than 1,200

<sup>B</sup> The ranking shows individual athletes ranked; the Worlds shows number of teams entered

<sup>C</sup> The ranking shows the number of nations ranked; the Worlds shows the number of teams entered