



CYCLING CARDING CRITERIA

FOR NOMINATING ATHLETES TO THE SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE 2026 CARDING CYCLE

*Draft published on April 14, 2025
Final version published April 25, 2025*

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



NOTES ON CYCLING CANADA’S CARDING CRITERIA	3
SCHEDULE A: GENERAL CARDING CRITERIA	3
1. <i>Introduction</i>	3
2. <i>Eligibility</i>	3
3. <i>Income Testing (Olympic disciplines only – does not apply to Paralympic disciplines)</i>	4
4. <i>Carding Levels</i>	5
5. <i>Additional AAP Support</i>	6
6. <i>How to Become a Carded Athlete</i>	6
7. <i>Carding Nomination Process</i>	7
8. <i>Cycling Canada Performance Pools</i>	7
9. <i>Priority of Nominations</i>	8
10. <i>AAP Funding Allocation Across Disciplines</i>	8
11. <i>Athletes Moving from SR Carding to D Carding</i>	9
12. <i>Maximum Number of Years of Carding</i>	9
13. <i>Discretionary Nominations</i>	9
14. <i>Tandem (Para-Cycling only)</i>	10
15. <i>Health-Related Circumstances</i>	11
16. <i>Appeals</i>	12
17. <i>Withdrawal of Carded Status</i>	12
18. <i>Competition and Training Requirements</i>	12
19. <i>Athletes Not Nominated to the AAP</i>	13
SCHEDULE B: SPECIFIC CARDING CRITERIA	14
1. <i>Eligible Results</i>	14
2. <i>Depth of Field</i>	15
3. <i>Prerequisites to be Eligible for Nomination</i>	15
4. <i>Discretionary nominations</i>	15
5. <i>Specific Criteria by Discipline</i>	15
SCHEDULE C: COACH PANELS	21
APPENDIX A: COMPETITION AND TRAINING COMMITMENTS	22

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



NOTES ON CYCLING CANADA'S CARDING CRITERIA

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

The definitions for the terms used in these criteria can be found on the CC website.

Any questions regarding these criteria can be addressed to Director of High Performance Services (DHPS) Kris Westwood at kris.westwood@cyclingcanada.ca.

SCHEDULE A: GENERAL CARDING CRITERIA

1. Introduction

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.

More information on the AAP can be found on the Government of Canada website [here](#).

CC 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.

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

2. Eligibility

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 and the Olympic or Paralympic Games, as per the eligibility requirements of the UCI;
- Meet the carding prerequisites, minimum performance standards and criteria outlined in this document and in other CC policies including but not limited to the National Championships Attendance Policy; and
- Sign the CC Athlete Agreement, including committing to the 2026 Individualized Performance Plan (IPP) developed in collaboration with the relevant National Program Coach.

Athletes are not eligible for the AAP if they:

- Do not meet the published CC-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; or
- 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 (IPP) developed in collaboration with the relevant CC 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 Paralympic disciplines)

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

Income range	Carding months	Carding amount
\$60,000 or less	12	\$26,100
\$60,001 to \$63,000	11	\$23,925
\$63,001 to \$66,000	10	\$21,750
\$66,001 to \$69,000	9	\$19,575
\$69,001 to \$72,000	8	\$17,400
\$72,001 to \$75,000	7	\$15,225
\$75,001 to \$78,000	6	\$13,050
\$78,001 to \$81,000	5	\$10,875
\$81,001 to \$90,000	4	\$8,700
\$90,001 or more	0	\$0

Income testing for D cards

Income range	Carding months	Carding amount
\$60,000 or less	12	\$15,660
\$60,001 to \$63,000	11	\$14,355
\$63,001 to \$66,000	10	\$13,050
\$66,001 to \$69,000	9	\$11,745
\$69,001 to \$72,000	8	\$10,440
\$72,001 to \$75,000	7	\$9,135
\$75,001 to \$78,000	6	\$7,830
\$78,001 to \$81,000	5	\$6,525
\$81,001 to \$90,000	4	\$5,220
\$90,001 or more	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 a significant income and receive equipment and logistical support from their teams or sponsors; as a result, they may not depend on carding to compete.

CC 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; or
- They have had a drastic change of income since the most recent CRA assessment (e.g. losing a professional contract).

An exemption request with supporting documentation must be made in writing at the time of submitting the CRA assessment, and it must be approved by the HPC. CC 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 many of the other benefits available to carded athletes. Declining carding allows the living and training allowance to be allocated to other athletes.

4. Carding Levels

Athletes approved by Sport Canada for the AAP may be eligible for a monthly financial stipend as follows:

Card type	Monthly stipend	Annual value
Senior International Card (SR1/SR2)	\$2,175	\$26,100
Senior National Card (SR)	\$2,175	\$26,100
Development Card (D)	\$1,305	\$15,660

These amounts may change at the discretion of Sport Canada.

The carding levels are as follows:

a. International (SR1/SR2)

Per Section 5.2.1 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy, international Cards are awarded to athletes who achieve outstanding performance at elite World Championships or the Olympic/Paralympic Games. Only results from events that are on the program of the upcoming Olympic or 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 a SR2 card is contingent meeting the SR2 maintenance criteria.

b. National (SR)

Per Section 5.2.2 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy, National cards are intended for athletes who have the potential to achieve International Criteria. Cards based on National Criteria are awarded for one year and are referred to as SR Cards.

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

c. Development (D)

Per Section 5.3 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy, 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 them. Development Cards are awarded for one year and are referred to as D Cards.



5. Additional AAP Support

Carded athletes may also be eligible to receive additional support in addition to the Living and Training Allowance.

This can include:

- Tuition and deferred tuition support.
- Excellence living and training allowance.
- Child dependent allowance.
- Training and competition allowance for Paralympic athletes with high support needs.
- Relocation assistance.
- Support for new parents.

Please refer to sections 8.3 and 8.4 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy for further information.

6. How to Become a Carded Athlete

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 described in Schedule B;
2. Meet the performance criteria described in Schedule B, including prerequisites for carding and any minimum performance standards;
3. **IMPORTANT: Complete the online application form by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Oct. 31, 2025; this form will be found on the CC website: <https://cyclingcanada.ca/resources/athlete-resources/athlete-assistance-program/>**
4. Be nominated by the Coach Panel to a CC Performance Pool (see Schedule B, Clause 7), and be among the athletes in that Pool recommended for carding. These recommendations must be approved by the CC CSO, DHPS, Coach Panel, HPC and Sport Canada;
5. Collaborate with a National Coach in developing an IPP;
6. **IMPORTANT: Submit the following by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Jan. 31, 2026:**
 - 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 a National Coach in May and submitted to the CSO and DHPS as laid out in Schedule A, Clause 18.

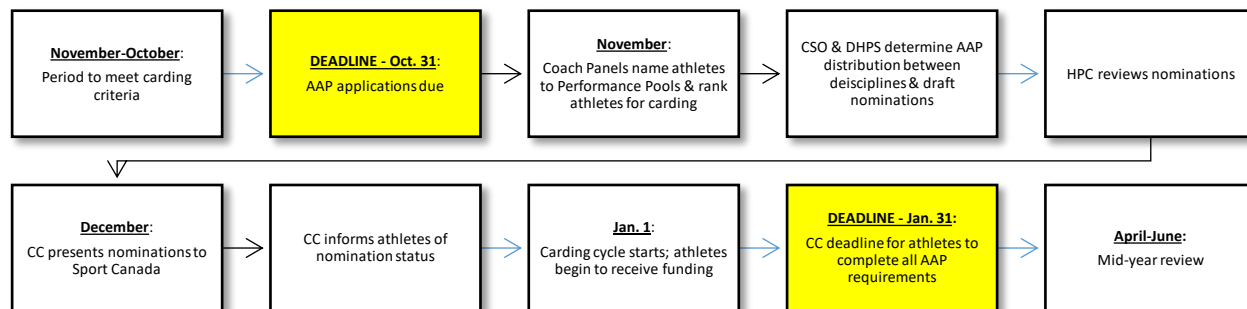
It is the athlete's responsibility to understand this policy and to submit all relevant information prior to the deadlines. CC is not obliged to remind athletes of any deadlines. Any documentation filed after the deadlines may be rejected. Athletes are encouraged to create calendar reminders for the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



7. Carding Nomination Process

1. Nov. 1, 2024, to Oct. 31, 2025: Time window for athletes to achieve carding-eligible performances.
2. **IMPORTANT** – Oct. 31, 2025: Deadline for athletes to apply for carding.
3. November:
 - o Coach Panels name athletes to Performance Pools and rank athletes for AAP nominations; nominations and rankings peer-reviewed (see Schedule A, Clause 8; Schedule B; and Schedule C).
 - o CSO and DHPS determine AAP distribution by discipline and draft carding nomination recommendations based on the priority order in Schedule A, Clause 9 and the coach rankings.
 - o CSO and DHPS present AAP nominations to HPC for review and approval.
4. December
 - o CC submits nominations to Sport Canada for review and final approval.
 - o CC informs eligible athletes of AAP nomination status; athletes who wish to appeal have one week to notify CC.
 - o CC publishes list of carded athletes.
5. Jan. 1, 2026: Carding cycle starts, and carded athletes begin to receive funding once they have completed all requirements.
6. **IMPORTANT**: Jan 31, 2026: CC deadline for athletes to complete all AAP requirements.
7. April-June: Mid-year reviews (see Clause 18)

Carding nomination process:



8. Cycling Canada Performance Pools

CC's Performance Pools are aligned with carding 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 a Performance Pool is not a guarantee of nomination for carding.

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

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



9. Priority of Nominations

AAP nominations in Olympic disciplines are made in the following order of priority:

1. Athletes meeting SR1 criteria
2. Athletes meeting SR2 criteria
3. Athletes meeting Health Related Circumstances Card (SRI) criteria (see Section 9.1.3 of AAP policy)
4. Athletes meeting SR and D criteria, in the following order of priority:
 - i. SR criteria achieved at the Olympic Games.
 - ii. SR criteria achieved at Elite World Championships.
 - iii. SR criteria achieved by U23 athletes (age 19-22).
 - iv. D criteria achieved by Junior or U23 athletes (age 17-22, or 15-22 in BMX Freestyle).
 - v. SR criteria achieved by Elite athletes (age 23 and older).
 - vi. D criteria achieved by Elite athletes (age 23 and older).
 - vii. Discretionary SR card nominations.
 - viii. Discretionary D card nominations.

AAP nominations in the Paralympic disciplines are made in the following order of priority:

1. Athletes meeting SR1 criteria
2. Athletes meeting SR2 criteria
3. Athletes meeting Health Related Circumstances Card (SRI) criteria (see Section 9.1.3 of AAP policy)
4. Athletes meeting SR and D criteria, in the following order of priority:
 - i. SR criteria achieved at the Paralympic Games.
 - ii. SR criteria achieved at Elite World Championships.
 - iii. SR criteria achieved at World Cups.
 - iv. Athletes meeting D criteria.
 - v. Discretionary SR card nominations.
 - vi. Discretionary D card nominations.

Any ties will be broken based on the Coach Panel ranking of the athletes.

10. AAP Funding Allocation Across Disciplines

For the 2026 Carding Cycle, Sport Canada has allocated to cycling the equivalent of 46 SR cards for Olympic athletes (\$1,200,600), and 15 SR cards for Paralympic athletes (\$391,500). 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 Canadian 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;
- CC's strategic priorities;
- External support available to athletes in each discipline;
- Canada's international performances and rankings in each discipline; and
- Canada's international performance potential in each discipline.

The decision on card distribution will be made by the CSO and DHPS 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 CC 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 CC's carding submission that must be reviewed by the HPC, then reviewed and approved by Sport Canada.
- Funds allocated for Paralympic cards cannot be given to Olympic athletes unless there are no more eligible Paralympic athletes to nominate for carding, and vice versa.

11. Athletes Moving from SR Carding to D Carding

Per Clause 5.3 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy, an athlete who has been carded at the SR1, SR2, SR or C1* level for two carding cycles or fewer may be nominated for a D card.

In exceptional circumstances CC 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. Prior to requesting the exemption, the Coach Panel must present evidence that the athlete is continuing to progress and has the potential to meet the SR1 criteria within 4 years. Any such exemptions must be approved by the CSO, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada.

** Sport Canada discontinued C1 cards after the 2023 carding cycle; however, C1 cards are still considered among these totals.*

12. Maximum Number of Years of Carding

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 and SR levels.

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

- **SR1/2 or SRI:** no maximum.
- **SR, C1* or D:** A maximum of 8 non-consecutive carding cycles. An athlete may be nominated for additional years 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 CSO, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada and will require specific performance benchmarks for that athlete to maintain their card for the full carding cycle.

** Sport Canada discontinued C1 cards after the 2023 carding cycle; however, C1 cards are still considered among these totals.*

13. Discretionary Nominations

In addition to athletes who have met the criteria in Schedule B, athletes may be nominated at the discretion of the Coach Panel based on equivalent performances, exceptional circumstances, or the athletes' status as past Olympians/Paralympians.



a. Equivalent Performances

At the sole discretion of the Coach Panel, results other than those listed in Schedule B may be taken into consideration for carding nominations if the Coach Panel can demonstrate the level of competition was equivalent to the required carding result (e.g. 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.).

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

b. Exceptional Circumstances

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, the 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 must include:

- Significant improvement and progression in training or competition performance and results; and
- Commitment to the National Team program.

This evidence will be evaluated by the CSO, DHPS 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 will 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.

c. Past Olympian/Paralympian

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 the Coach Panel 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 (i.e. within 1-4 years);
- The athlete has committed to an IPP designed in collaboration with a National Coach; and
- The athlete has been named to a CC Performance Pool.

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

14. Tandem (Para-Cycling only)

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 of funding 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 or stops competing in Para-Cycling;
- their pilot becomes ineligible for Para-Cycling competition;
- their pilot is removed from the Performance Pool;
- there is a significant decline in the pilot's performance.

This change must be recommended by the National Coach and approved by the CSO and the DHPS.

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, in particular UCI rules 16.3.003-16.3.005.

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 CSO, the DHPS, the HPC and Sport Canada.

15. Health-Related Circumstances

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 CC;
- In the view of CC, the carded athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to the injury, illness, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance;
- CC, 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; and
- 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.



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

All documentation pertaining health-related circumstances must be submitted to CC no later than Oct. 31, 2025. Submitting documentation is not a guarantee the injury card will be awarded. Injury card nominations must be approved by the Coach Panel, CSO, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada.

16. Appeals

Decisions by CC on nominations for carding or de-carding may be appealed under CC'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 AAP Policy.

17. Withdrawal of Carded Status

Athletes may have their carded status suspended or withdrawn under the following conditions:

- Failure to meet competition and training requirements;
- Violation of the Athlete Agreement;
- Failure to meet athlete responsibilities outlined in the AAP Policies and Procedures;
- Gross breach of discipline, including assertion of, or prosecution of, a criminal offence;
- Investigation for cause; and/or
- Violations of anti-doping rules.

More information on competition and training requirements can be found in Clause 18 below.

The procedure for withdrawing carded status is outlined in Section 11.2 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy.

An athlete who retires or resigns from the National Team program will be removed from the AAP. CC considers retirement announcements made by the athlete to the media or on social media as formal notice and will proceed accordingly.

Any AAP-eligible athlete who is contemplating retirement is encouraged to discuss this with CC 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, the Game Plan program, and assistance and mentoring if the athlete wishes to transition to a career in coaching.

Any funds that become available through athletes' removal from the AAP will first be reallocated to any athletes receiving a partial card, then to the nominated alternates in their order of nomination.

18. Competition and Training Requirements

Each athlete nominated for carding will be subject to a mid-year review.

This review will examine the athlete's progress against the benchmarks in the Training and Competition Commitments in Appendix A. Athletes will be asked to declare the benchmarks they have met or provide medical or other rationale for benchmarks that were not met. Failure to meet benchmarks may result in removal from the Performance Pools and the AAP.

Athletes nominated for discretionary cards, who have exceeded the maximum number of years of SR or D carding, or who were nominated through the Exceptional Circumstances or Past Olympian/Paralympian clauses, will be given additional, individualized performance benchmarks that must be met by a specified date for their carding to



continue for the full year. These benchmarks and the deadline to meet them will be detailed in the letter notifying the athlete of their nomination for carding.

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 relevant 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. Each athlete's IPP will outline those expectations and what metrics will be used to evaluate the athlete's progress.

19. Athletes Not Nominated to the AAP

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

An assessment of the athlete's performance potential and commitment to the upcoming Games will be made by the 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

CC 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

If an eligible athlete retires before the beginning of the carding cycle, CC will not nominate that athlete to the AAP.



SCHEDULE B: SPECIFIC CARDING CRITERIA

The specific criteria to nominate athletes for carding are detailed below.

To be considered for AAP nomination for the 2026 carding cycle, athletes must be named by the Coach Panel to a 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 Performance Pool even if the athlete has met the performance criteria. The rationale for this decision must be reviewed and approved by the CSO, the DHPS 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, 2024, and Oct. 31, 2025, will be considered for 2026 carding nominations.

To be considered for carding, results must be achieved in events and classes on the Olympic or Paralympic program unless stated otherwise in the specific criteria. 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
BMX	BMX Freestyle Park	Elite
	BMX Race	Elite, U23, Junior
Mountain Bike	Olympic Cross-Country (XCO)	Elite, U23, Junior
Para-cycling Road	Individual Time Trial (ITT)	B, C1-5, H1-5, T1-2
	Road Race (RR)	B, C1-5, H1-5, T1-2
	Team Relay (TR)	Mixed H1-5
Para-cycling Track	Time Trial (TT)	B, C1-5
	Individual Pursuit (IP)	B, C1-5
	Team Sprint (TS)	C1-5
Road	Individual Time Trial (ITT)	Elite, U23, Junior
	Road race (RR)	Elite, U23, Junior
Track endurance	Madison (MA)	Elite, Junior
	Omnium (OM)	Elite, Junior
	Team Pursuit (TP)	Elite, Junior
Track Sprint	Keirin (KE)	Elite, Junior
	Sprint (SP)	Elite, Junior
	Team Sprint (TS)	Elite, Junior

Note: 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 podium performance may not indicate Paralympic podium potential. CC 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. CC 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.

3. Prerequisites to be Eligible for Nomination

Athletes must achieve all the following to be eligible for nomination to the AAP:

- Achieve the results to be eligible for a card nomination outlined below;
- Be nominated to a Performance Pool;
- Maintain ongoing collaboration with a National Coach;
- Attend the Canadian Championships in their discipline (or receive an exemption from CC; see the National Championship Attendance Policy on the CC website); and
- Meet all the other eligibility requirements outlined in Schedule A.

4. Discretionary nominations

The Coach Panel may make additional discretionary nominations from among athletes who have not met the results below based on equivalent performances, exceptional circumstances, or the athletes' status as past Olympians/Paralympians (see Schedule A, Clause 13).

5. Specific Criteria by Discipline

BMX Freestyle Park

SR1 Criteria: Finish Top 8 at the Elite BMX Freestyle Park World Championships

SR2 maintenance criteria (only for athletes who were carded at the SR1 level the previous year):

- Meet the SR criteria; or
- Be selected to and attend the Elite BMX Freestyle Park World Championships.

SR Criteria:

- Finish top 12 at the Elite BMX Freestyle Park World Championships; or
- Finish top 10 at an Elite BMX Freestyle Park World Cup; or
- Finish top 6 at the Elite BMX Freestyle Park Pan American Championships

D Criteria: Achieve the following minimum placing at least once

Event	Age 15-18	Age 19-22	Age 23+
World Championships	Top 24	Top 20	Top 16
World Cups	Top 20	Top 16	Top 12
HC	Top 10	Top 6	Winner
C1	Top 3	Winner	--

All results must be top half of field as listed in the official results, including DNS, DNF and DSQ. In cases where the 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.



BMX Race

SR1 Criteria: Finish Top 8 at the Elite BMX Race World Championships

SR2 maintenance criteria (only for athletes who were carded at the SR1 level the previous year):

- Meet the SR criteria; or
- Be selected to and attend the Elite BMX Race World Championships; or
- Finish top 16 at an Elite BMX Race World Cup

SR Criteria (Women):

- Finish Top 8 in an Elite BMX Race World Cup; or
- Twice achieve the following:
 - Finish top 16 at an Elite BMX Race World Cup and/or the Elite BMX Race World Championships.

SR Criteria (Men):

- Finish top 16 at the Elite BMX Race World Championships or in an Elite BMX Race World Cup; or
- Twice finish top 24 at Elite BMX Race World Cups.

D Criteria: Achieve the following minimum placing at least once

Women: results by age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Junior World Championships	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
U23 World Cups	24	24	24	24	16	8	--	--	--	--
U23 World Championships	--	--	24	24	16	8	--	--	--	--
Elite World Cups	--	--	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	16
Elite World Championships	--	--	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	16
Men: results by age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Junior World Championships	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
U23 World Cups	48	48	32	32	24	16	--	--	--	--
U23 World Championships	--	--	32	32	24	16	--	--	--	--
Elite World Cups	--	--	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	32
Elite World Championships	--	--	64	64	64	64	64	64	64	32

All results must be top half of field as listed in the official results, including DNS, DNF and DSQ. In cases where the 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.

Mountain Bike XCO

SR1 Criteria: Finish Top 8 at the Elite XCO World Championships

SR2 maintenance criteria (only for athletes who were carded at the SR1 level the previous year):

- Meet the SR criteria; or
- Be selected to and attend the Elite XCO World Championships; or
- Finish top 12 at an Elite XCO World Cup.

SR Criteria:

- Finish Top 16 in the Elite XCO World Championships; or
- Twice finish Top 12 at Elite XCO World Cups.

D Criteria: Achieve the following minimum XCO placing at least once

Women: results by age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Junior World Championships	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--



CYCLING CRITERIA for the 2026 Carding Cycle

U23 World Championships or U23 World Cup May 1- Sept. 21	--	--	25	20	15	10	--	--	--	--
Other U23 World Cup	--	--	12	10	7	5	--	--	--	--
Elite World Championships* or Elite World Cup May 1-Sept. 21	--	--	--	--	--	--	42	35	28	22
Other Elite World Cups	--	--	--	--	--	--	21	17	14	11
Men: results by age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26+
Junior World Championships	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
U23 World Championships or U23 World Cup May 1- Sept. 21	--	--	45	35	25	15	--	--	--	--
Other U23 World Cup	--	--	22	17	12	7	--	--	--	--
Elite World Championships* or Elite World Cup May 1- Sept. 21	--	--	--	--	--	--	42	35	28	22
Other Elite World Cups	--	--	--	--	--	--	21	17	14	11
All results must be top half of field as listed in the official results, including DNS, DNF and DSQ. In cases where the 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. * U23 athletes racing elite are eligible for nomination if they meet the criteria for athletes age 23										

Para-Cycling

SR1 Criteria:

- **Road WB, MB, MC2-5, MH2-5, MT2, Track MB:** Finish top 6 at the World Championships
- **Road WC1-5, WH1-5, WT1-2, MC1, MH1, MT1, Track WB, WC1-5, MC1-5:** Finish top 4 at the World Championships

SR2 maintenance criteria (only for athletes who were carded at the SR1 level the previous year):

- **Road WB, MB, MC2-5, MH2-5, MT2, Track MB:**
 - Finish top 6 in a Road World Cup; or
 - Be selected to and attend the World Championships.
- **Road WC1-5, WH1-5, WT1-2, MC1, MH1, MT1, Track WB, WC1-5, MC1-5:**
 - Finish top 4 in a Road World Cup; or
 - Be selected to and attend the World Championships.

SR Criteria:

- **Road WB, MB, MC2-5, MH2-5, MT2, Track MB:**
 - Finish top 8 at the World Championships; or
 - Twice finish top 6 in Road World Cups
- **Road WC1-5, WH1-5, WT1-2, MC1, MH1, MT1, Track WB, WC1-5, MC1-5:**
 - Finish top 6 at the World Championships; or
 - Twice finish top 4 in Road World Cups

D Criteria: Achieve the following:

- Attend the 2025 Canadian Para-Cycling Track Championships or 2025 Canadian Para-Cycling Road Championships; and
- Be classified at least at the National level in a Para-Cycling class, or, for tandem pilots, meet the UCI eligibility rules for tandem pilots (rules 16.3.003-16.3.005); and
- Be nominated at the discretion of the Coach Panel taking into consideration one or more additional factors, as follows:
 - Factors that can be objectively measured are preferred.
 - The Coach Panel may only consider factors that are relevant to the events and classes the athlete is competing in, and that that can be applied to all athletes being considered for nomination.
 - The assessment must be fully documented by the Coach Panel, with supporting evidence. In the event of an appeal, this information will be shared with all parties to that appeal.



CYCLING CRITERIA for the 2026 Carding Cycle

All results must be top half of field as listed in the official results, including DNS, DNF and DSQ. In cases where the 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.

Road

SR1 Criteria: Finish Top 8 at the Elite Road World Championships

SR2 maintenance criteria (only for athletes who were carded at the SR1 level the previous year):

- Meet the SR criteria; or
- Be selected to and attend the Elite Road World Championships; or
- Finish top 12 in a road WWT/UWT event.

SR Criteria:

- Finish top 16 at the Elite Road World Championships; or
- Twice finish top 12 in Road WWT/UWT events.

D Criteria: Achieve the following minimum placing at least once

Results by age	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Junior World Championships	8	8	--	--	--	--	--	--
U23 World Championships	--	--	16	12	10	8	--	--
Elite World Championships*	--	--	--	--	--	--	24	20
WWT/UWT GC	--	--	24	20	16	14	12	10
WWT/UWT stage	--	--	8	6	4	3	2	1
.Pro GC	--	--	16	14	12	10	8	6
.Pro stage	--	--	5	3	1	1	1	1
.1 GC	--	--	12	10	8	6	4	3
.1 stage	--	--	3	2	1	1	2 wins	2 wins
.2 GC	--	--	8	6	3	2	1	--
.2 stage	--	--	1	1	1	2 wins	2 wins	--
U23 NCup GC	--	--	12	10	8	6	--	--
U23 NCup stage	--	--	3	2	1	1	--	--
.U GC	--	--	6	4	2	1	--	--
.U Stage	--	--	1	1	2 wins	2 wins	--	--

Athletes with 500 UCI points or more are eligible for D card nomination regardless of their age.

* U23 athletes racing elite are eligible for nomination if they meet the criteria for athletes age 23

Notes:

- All results must be top 25% of the field as listed in the official results, including DNS, DNF and DSQ, and must be achieved in individual road races, the general classification of road stage races, or individual time trials.
- Results from team time trials, criteriums, prologues, or stage race jersey classifications other than the general classification will not be considered for AAP nominations.
- Results from events that do not meet the UCI requirements to award points will not be considered for carding nominations.
- The Coach Panel 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 CSO, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada.

Track Endurance

SR1 Criteria:



- **Omnium, Madison:** Finish Top 8 at the Elite Track World Championships.
- **Team Pursuit:** Finish Top 6 at the Elite Track World Championships; and meet CC time standards in the IP and TT (minimum A standard in one and B standard in the other).

SR2 maintenance criteria (only for athletes who were carded at the SR1 level the previous year):

- **Omnium, Madison:** Meet the SR criteria; or both of the following:
 - Be selected to and attend the Elite Track World Championships; and
 - Have 1,000 points in the UCI Endurance ranking, or 500 points in the UCI Madison ranking.
- **Team Pursuit:** Meet the SR criteria; or both of the following:
 - Be selected to and attend the Elite Track World Championships; and
 - Meet CC time standards in the IP and TT (minimum A standard in one and B standard in the other).

SR Criteria:

- **Omnium, Madison:** Have 500 points in the UCI Endurance ranking, or 250 points in the UCI Madison ranking; and achieve one of the following:
 - Finish top 12 at Elite Track Worlds; or
 - Finish top 8 in a Track Nations Cup.
- **Team Pursuit:** Meet CC time standards in the IP and TT (minimum A standard in one and B standard in the other); and achieve one of the following:
 - Finish top 8 at the Elite Track World Championships; or
 - Finish top 6 in a Track Nations Cup.

D Criteria:

- **Junior** (born 2007-2008):
 - Finish top 8 and top 25% of the field (OM, MA, ER, SR, PR, IP) or top 3 and top 25% of the field CC (TP) at the Junior Track World Championships; and
 - Meet the CC Junior A time standard in the IP.
- **U23** (born 2003-2006):
 - Have 250 UCI Endurance points, or 125 UCI Madison points; and
 - Meet the CC B time standard in either the IP or the TT.
- **Elite** (born 2002 and earlier):
 - Have 500 UCI Endurance points, or 250 UCI Madison points; and
 - Met the CC time standards in the IP and TT (minimum A standard in one and B standard in the other).

Unless specified otherwise, all results must be top half of field as listed in the official results, including DNS, DNF and DSQ. In cases where the 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.

Track Sprint

SR1 Criteria:

- **Sprint, Keirin:** Finish Top 8 at the Elite Track World Championships
- **Team Sprint:** Finish Top 6 at the Elite Track World Championships

SR2 maintenance criteria (only for athletes who were carded at the SR1 level the previous year):

- **Sprint, Keirin:** Meet the SR criteria; or both of the following:
 - Be selected to and attend the Elite Track World Championships; and
 - Have 1,000 points in the UCI Sprint ranking.
- **Team Sprint:** Meet the SR criteria; or both of the following:
 - Be selected to and attend the Elite Track World Championships; and
 - Meet the CC A Time Standard in the Flying 200 or TT.

SR Criteria:

- **Sprint, Keirin:** Have 500 points in the UCI Sprint ranking; and achieve one of the following:
 - Finish top 12 at Elite Track Worlds; or
 - Finish top 8 in a Track Nations Cup.



- **Team Sprint:** Meet the CC A time standard; and achieve one of the following:
 - Finish top 8 at the Elite Track World Championships; or
 - Finish top 6 in a Track Nations Cup.

D Criteria: Achieve the following:

- **Junior** (born 2007-2008):
 - Finish top 8 and top 25% of the field (SP, KE, TT) or top 6 and top 25% of the field (TS) at the Junior Track World Championships; and
 - Meet the CC Junior A time standard in the Flying 200 or TT.
- **U23** (born 2003-2006):
 - Have 250 UCI Sprint points; and
 - Meet the CC B time standard in the Flying 200 or TT.
- **Elite** (born 2002 and earlier):
 - Have 500 UCI Sprint points; and
 - Met the CC A time standards in the Flying 200 or TT.

Unless specified otherwise, all results must be top half of field as listed in the official results, including DNS, DNF and DSQ. In cases where the 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.

Notes:

- The Coach Panel will make AAP nominations based on the process and priorities outlined in Schedule A. This may include discretionary nominations as described in Clause 13.
- Per Sport Canada policy, SR1 criteria must be achieved at Elite World Championships or, in an Olympic/Paralympic year, at the Olympic or Paralympic Games, counting a maximum of 3 entries per country (e.g. if the top four finishers are from the same country, the fifth place finisher will be considered to have finished fourth).
- SR2 maintenance criteria may be met in multiple disciplines (e.g. an athlete carded at the SR1 level in track can meet the SR2 maintenance criteria by being selected to and attending elite road Worlds).
- Athletes may meet SR criteria in multiple disciplines (e.g. a top 12 in an XCO World Cup and a top 12 in a road WWT event would be considered as meeting the SR criteria).
- All results must be in the top half of the field unless otherwise specified. The field size includes athletes who did not start or did not finish providing they are listed in the official results found on the UCI website. 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.
- Athletes achieving criteria intended for older athletes are eligible for nomination for that level of carding (e.g. a U23 athlete racing Elite World Championships who achieves the D criteria for athletes age 23 or older may be nominated for a D card).
- Results in timed Para-Cycling events must meet the Cycling-Canada Para-Cycling time standard published on the CC website.
- Para-Cycling athletes must have Confirmed, Review or FRD international classification status.
- In team events, the Coach Panel must provide evidence that the athlete made a positive contribution to the result.



SCHEDULE C: COACH PANELS

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

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

The CSO 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. The subjective assessment will consider one or more additional factors at the discretion of the Coach Panel. Factors that can be objectively measured are preferred, and each Coach Panel may only consider factors that are relevant to the cycling discipline athletes are competing in and that can be applied to all athletes being considered for nomination in that discipline.

These assessments will be fully documented by the Coach Panel, with supporting evidence, and will then be peer reviewed by other National Coaches, the CSO and the DHPS. If the coaches cannot come to a consensus the CSO will have final say. In the event of an appeal, all information used to rank and assess the athletes will be shared with all parties to that appeal.

Once the Coach Panels' assessments and rankings are complete, the CSO and DHPS will use them to determine the distribution of CC's AAP nominations based on carding priority (see Clause 9) and distribution by discipline (see Clause 10).

At its sole discretion, a 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: COMPETITION AND TRAINING COMMITMENTS

To maintain carding for the full year, all athletes must at a minimum achieve the following between Jan. 1 and June 30, 2026:

- **BMX Freestyle:**
 - Athletes must compete in at least 1 UCI BMX Freestyle event (OQS, World Cup, Continental Championship, or C1)
- **BMX Race:**
 - Elite, U23 and Junior athletes must start at least 2 of the following events:
 - Pan American BMX Race Championships
 - UCI BMX Race World Cups
 - UCI BMX Race World Championships
- **Mountain Bike:**
 - Elite and U23 athletes must start at least 2 UCI XCO World Cups
 - Junior athletes must start at least 2 UCI Junior Series events
- **Para-Cycling:**
 - Athletes must start at least one UCI Para-Cycling Road World Cup or the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships
- **Road:**
 - Junior: attend the 2026 Canadian road championships
 - U23: start at least 2 events on the UCI calendar (class .U, .2, or higher)
 - Elite: start at least 2 UCI events class .1 or higher
- **Track Endurance:**
 - If selected, participate in at least one Nations Cup or Pan American Championship; or
 - Have a minimum number of UCI ranking points:
 - 500 points in the UCI Endurance individual ranking; or
 - 250 points in the UCI Madison individual ranking; or
 - Meet the following CC time standards in the IP or the TT:
 - Junior: Junior A or Elite B.
 - U23: Elite B.
 - Elite: Elite A.
- **Track Sprint:**
 - If selected, participate in at least one Nations Cup or Pan American Championship; or
 - Have 500 UCI ranking points in the UCI Sprint ranking; or
 - Meet the following CC time standards in the Flying 200 or the TT:
 - Junior: Junior A or Elite B.
 - U23: Elite B.
 - Elite: Elite A.

Athletes may request an exemption to these benchmarks based on extenuating circumstances.

Any exemption must be requested in writing, with supporting documentation, to the CSO and DHPS no later than June 30, 2026, and must be approved by the CC HPC.

Athletes may be required to meet additional, individual benchmarks to maintain their carding. These benchmarks will be communicated to the athlete when they are informed of their nomination.