



Canada

CYCLING CARDING CRITERIA

FOR NOMINATING ATHLETES

TO THE SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

FOR THE 2027 CARDING CYCLE

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



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Note: This policy was drafted in English and translated to French. In case of any discrepancies between the English and French versions, the interpretation of 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 2027 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;
- Have completed all relevant UCI, WADA and Sport Integrity Canada anti-doping requirements;
- Have signed the consent form agreeing to be bound by the Universal Code of Conduct to prevent and address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS);
- 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 individualized benchmarks 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.

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 \$70,000 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
\$70,000 or less	12	\$26,100
\$70,001 to \$73,000	11	\$23,925
\$73,001 to \$76,000	10	\$21,750
\$76,001 to \$79,000	9	\$19,575
\$79,001 to \$82,000	8	\$17,400
\$82,001 to \$85,000	7	\$15,225
\$85,001 to \$88,000	6	\$13,050
\$88,001 to \$91,000	5	\$10,875
\$91,001 to \$95,000	4	\$8,700
\$95,001 or more	0	\$0

Income testing for D cards

Income range	Carding months	Carding amount
\$70,000 or less	12	\$15,660
\$70,001 to \$73,000	11	\$14,355
\$73,001 to \$76,000	10	\$13,050
\$76,001 to \$79,000	9	\$11,745
\$79,001 to \$82,000	8	\$10,440
\$82,001 to \$85,000	7	\$9,135
\$85,001 to \$88,000	6	\$7,830
\$88,001 to \$91,000	5	\$6,525
\$91,001 to \$95,000	4	\$5,220
\$95,001 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 in that discipline.

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 the cycling discipline they are carded in; 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 Chief – High Performance Sport (CHPS) and DHPS. 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 Living and Training Allowance as follows:

Card type	Monthly Allowance	Annual Total
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. An athlete must meet the SR2 maintenance criteria to be eligible for an SR2 card.

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.

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 be eligible to receive other 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.
- Retirement assistance.

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 A;
2. Meet the performance criteria described in Schedule B, including prerequisites for carding and any minimum performance standards, or be eligible for nomination to a discretionary card;
3. **IMPORTANT: Complete the online application form by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Nov. 7, 2026; 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.
5. Be approved for AAP support by the CHPS, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada;
6. Collaborate with a National Coach in developing individualized benchmarks;
7. **IMPORTANT: Submit the following by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Jan. 31, 2027:**
 - The signed National Team Athlete Agreement, including individualized benchmarks;
 - 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 Sport Integrity Canada's online anti-doping education.
8. All carded athletes are also subject to a mid-year review against their individualized benchmarks. This will be conducted by a National Coach and submitted to the CHPS and DHPS as laid out in Schedule A, Clause 18.

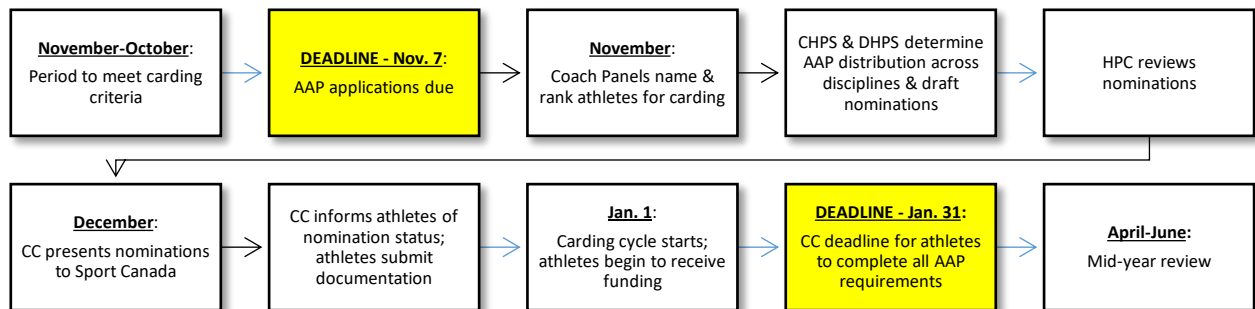
It is the athlete's responsibility to understand this policy and to submit all relevant information prior to the deadlines. CC is not obliged to remind athletes of any deadlines. Any documentation filed after the deadlines may be rejected. Athletes are encouraged to create calendar reminders for the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



7. Carding Nomination Process

1. Nov. 1, 2025, to Nov. 7, 2026: Time window for athletes to achieve carding-eligible performances.
2. **IMPORTANT** – Nov. 7, 2026: Deadline for athletes to apply for carding.
3. November:
 - o Coach Panels name and rank athletes for AAP nominations; nominations and rankings peer-reviewed (see Schedule A, Clause 8; Schedule B; and Schedule C).
 - o CHPS 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 CHPS 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, 2027: Carding cycle starts, and carded athletes begin to receive funding once they have completed all requirements.
6. **IMPORTANT:** Jan 31, 2027: CC deadline for athletes to complete all AAP requirements including individualized benchmarks.
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 currently performing at or close to the podium level are eligible for SR1/2 cards and nomination to the Podium Pool; athletes targeted for podium performances at the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games (within 1-4 years) are eligible for SR cards and nomination to the Core Pool, and athletes targeted for podium performances at the following Olympic and Paralympic Games (within 5-8 years) are eligible for D cards and nomination to the Development Pool. However, given the limited amount of AAP funds available, being eligible for a card or being named to a Pool does not guarantee nomination for carding.

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. SR2 athletes nominated for health-related circumstances (SRH cards)
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. SR criteria achieved by Elite athletes (age 23 and older).
 - v. SR athletes nominated for health-related circumstances (SRH cards)
 - vi. Discretionary SR card nominations.
 - vii. D criteria achieved by Junior or U23 athletes (age 17-22, or 15-22 in BMX Freestyle).
 - viii. D criteria achieved by Elite athletes (age 23 and older).
 - ix. D athletes nominated for health-related circumstances (DH cards)
 - x. 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. SR2 athletes nominated for health-related circumstances (SRH cards).
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. SR athletes nominated for health-related circumstances (SRH cards)
 - v. Discretionary SR card nominations.
 - vi. Athletes meeting D criteria.
 - vii. D athletes nominated for health-related circumstances (DH cards)
 - viii. Discretionary D card nominations.

Athletes at the same priority of carding will be ranked as follows, considering the depth of field in each event or ranking:

1. Best World Championship result.
2. Best World Cup result or equivalent level of competition (eg. UWT/WWT in elite road cycling).
3. Best UCI result.
4. UCI ranking.

Athletes nominated for a health-related card will be ranked based on their performances during the season they met carding criteria.

Any ties will be broken based on the Coach Panel ranking of the athletes (see Schedule C).

10. AAP Funding Allocation Across Disciplines

For the 2027 Carding Cycle, Sport Canada has allocated to cycling the equivalent of 45 SR cards for Olympic athletes (\$1,174,500), and 12 SR cards for Paralympic athletes (\$313,200). Note that this allocation may change at the discretion of Sport Canada.

Note: Per Sport Canada policy, SRH cards awarded for pregnancy do not count towards these totals.



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;
- The impact of AAP support to athletes in each discipline;
- 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 CHPS 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 providing 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;
- Funds allocated for Paralympic cards cannot be given to Olympic athletes and vice versa.

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.

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 more than two carding cycles cannot be nominated for a D card.

An exception may be made, at Sport Canada's sole discretion, for an athlete carded at the Senior Card level for more than two years. For example, an athlete carded as a Senior Card for two or more years while still competing at the Junior international level may be eligible for a development card.

Prior to requesting the exception, 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 CHPS, 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:** 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 CHPS, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada and will require specific performance benchmarks for that athlete to maintain their card for the full carding cycle. SRH and DH cards do not count towards this total.

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

13. Discretionary Nominations

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. These criteria for these nominations are outlined below. In addition, athletes may be nominated at the discretion of the Coach Panel in circumstances outlined in the specific criteria in Schedule B.

The accompanying rationale for discretionary nominations must be submitted to and approved by the CHPS, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada. The last six months of any discretionary card will be on hold pending the athlete meeting individualized performance benchmarks.

Athletes who have not met carding criteria may not appeal their non-nomination for a discretionary card.

Discretionary nominations will be ranked based on the following factors, in no particular order:

- Strategic considerations related to qualification and performance at the 2028 Olympics/Paralympics;
- The athlete's demonstrated result, performance and contribution to the National Team;
- The athlete's historical results;
- The athlete's participation in the most recent World Championships;
- The athlete's UCI ranking relative to the total number of athletes ranked in their discipline.

a. Equivalent Performances

At the 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 course; the average speed; etc.).

b. Exceptional Circumstances

It is possible, in exceptional circumstances, that an athlete whose performance trajectory indicates the potential of achieving 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.

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 an SR card 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); and



- The athlete has committed to individualized benchmarks established in collaboration with a National Coach.

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 stoker-pilot 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 providing 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. The stoker's 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 Coach Panel and approved by the CHPS 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 by the Coach Panel, and approved by the CHPS, the DHPS, the HPC and Sport Canada.

15. Health-Related Circumstances and Pregnancy



CC recognizes that athletes' ability to train or compete may be curtailed by illness, injury or pregnancy. In these circumstances, athletes' AAP status will be managed per Clause 9.1 of the Sport Canada AAP policy as follows.

a. Short-term curtailment

Health-related circumstances that limit a carded athlete's training and competition for less than four months will not affect the athlete's AAP status. Nevertheless, the athlete is expected to keep CC informed of their health-related circumstances so CC can provide assistance, if applicable, and anticipate longer-term consequences such as missed benchmarks.

b. Long-term curtailment

Carded athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for longer than four months because of injury, illness, pregnancy or other health-related circumstances will continue to receive full AAP support providing the following conditions are met:

- The carded athlete undertakes in writing, to train or rehabilitate, or both, under the supervision of CC, or its designate (e.g. professional team staff), for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfil the training and competition commitments included in the CC Athlete Agreement, and at a level that minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures optimal return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date
- The carded athlete signifies in writing, their intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness, injury, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance.
- The affected athlete provides a positive prognosis from physician for their return to training and competition at the carded-athlete level in their sport normally within 8 to 12 months.

c. Failure to meet criteria for health-related reasons

A carded athlete 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, including pregnancy, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:

- 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;
- The carded athlete notified CC in a timely manner, including a medical note indicating the date the athlete was advised to reduce or stop training or competition;
- The carded athlete commits to regular check-ins with CC and fulfills all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to training and competition;
- CC, based on its technical judgement and that of a CC 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 commits to a) regular check-ins with CC to discuss any additional supports they want to explore through sport partner programs or CC's integrated support team, that their medical support may deem necessary during the recovery from their health-related circumstance, and b) fulfilling 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 will continue a rehabilitation program approved by CC (for pregnant athletes, this may or may not be prescribed by a medical or other practitioner based on the individual's pregnancy and birth circumstances)
- The carded athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate their long-term commitment to high-performance training and competition goals, as well as signifying their intention to return to full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which they wish to be renewed or at the earliest date possible despite not having met the carding criteria.

Nominations based on health-related circumstances are designated SRH or DH. SR1 athletes who do not achieve SR2 maintenance criteria because of health-related circumstances will be nominated for an SR2 card.



d. Pregnancy

In certain circumstances, Sport Canada may consider the nomination of an athlete who was previously carded at the SR level whose training and competition was curtailed by pregnancy even if CC does not have sufficient AAP funds available. This will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. An athlete may be nominated under this clause for a maximum of two AAP cycles.

Athletes who are nominated for a pregnancy-related SRH card will not count towards CC's AAP quota. The athlete remains subject to the same conditions as other health-related cards listed above.

e. Voluntary Withdrawal for Health-Related Circumstances

The procedures for temporary or permanent voluntary withdrawal from the AAP for health-related circumstances are covered in Clause 16 below. Athletes who withdraw will no longer be eligible for the Living and Training Allowance but will be eligible, if qualified, for deferred tuition and/or Supplementary AAP Retirement Allowance.

All documentation pertaining health-related circumstances must be submitted to CC no later than Nov. 7, 2026. Submitting documentation is not a guarantee the athlete will be nominated. Nominations must be approved by the Coach Panel, CHPS, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada.

16. Voluntary Withdrawal or Declining AAP Support

Athletes may withdraw voluntarily from the AAP, either permanently or temporarily, by informing CC. Athletes may also choose to decline AAP support. Any funds that become available through athletes' removal from the AAP, or declining AAP support, will first be reallocated to any athletes nominated for a partial card, then to the nominated alternates in their order of nomination.

a. Voluntary Withdrawal

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.

Per Clause 10.1.1 of the AAP Policy, carded athletes who retire permanently mid-carding cycle will be entitled to up to two months of the Living and Training allowance past their retirement date.

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.

b. Declining AAP Support

Eligible athletes who are approved for funding may decline AAP support. In this case, the athlete would not receive a Living and Training Allowance, Tuition Support or Supplementary AAP Support but would continue to be eligible to receive services from the Canadian Sport Institute Network (COPSIN).

Declining AAP Support does not limit the athlete from being nominated for funding in the future, and does not count towards the athlete's total number of years of carding.

17. Withdrawal of Carded Status

Athletes may have their carded status suspended or withdrawn under the conditions listed in Clause 11.2 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy. These include:



- 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;
- Provisional Measures or Sanction under the Canadian Safe Sport Program that suspend or prohibit the athlete from participation in sport;
- Investigation for cause; and/or
- Violations of anti-doping rules.

CC may recommend withdrawal of the athlete from the AAP, or Sport Canada may withdraw the athlete without a recommendation.

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

18. Competition and Training Requirements

Each athlete nominated for carding will be subject to a mid-year review based on individualized benchmarks that will be determined in collaboration between the athlete, the National Coach and, if applicable, the athlete's personal coach.

The athlete's benchmarks will be included in the Athlete Agreement, which must be signed before carding can begin.

During the mid-year review, athletes will be asked to provide medical or other rationale for any benchmarks that were not met. Failure to meet benchmarks may result in removal from the AAP.

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 individualized benchmarks 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.

20. 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.

**SCHEDULE B: SPECIFIC CARDING CRITERIA**

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

To be considered for AAP nomination for the 2027 carding cycle, athletes must be named by the Coach Panel based on an assessment of performance potential at upcoming Olympic/Paralympic Games (see Schedule A, Clause 6).

Note that, due to the limited amount of AAP support available, meeting the criteria does not guarantee AAP nomination. The Coach Panel may choose not to nominate an athlete even if the athlete has met the specific criteria in Schedule B. The rationale for this decision must be reviewed and approved by the CHPS, the DHPS and the HPC.

1. Eligible Results

Results achieved between Nov. 1, 2025, and Nov. 7, 2026, will be considered for 2027 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	Elimination Race	C1-5
	Individual Pursuit (IP)	B
	Scratch Race	C1-5
	Sprint	B
	Team Sprint (TS)	C1-5
	Time Trial (TT)	B, 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 an analysis of 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, or be eligible for a discretionary nomination;
- Maintain ongoing collaboration with a National Coach, including establishing individualized benchmarks;
- Attend the most recent 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. Specific Criteria by Discipline

BMX Freestyle Park

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

SR Criteria:

- Finish top 12 at the Elite UCI BMX Freestyle Park World Championships; or
- Finish top 10 at an Elite UCI BMX Freestyle Park World Cup.

D Criteria: Achieve the following minimum performances:

Age*	Minimum performance
15-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach the final twice in UCI events with 16 entrants or more.
19-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach the final in the UCI BMX Freestyle Park World Championships or a UCI BMX Freestyle World Cup; or • Reach the semi-final in the UCI BMX Freestyle World Championships or a UCI BMX Freestyle World Cup with 48 entrants or more; or • Reach the final twice in UCI C1 or higher BMX Freestyle Park events with 16 entrants or more.
23 and over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish top 16 in the UCI BMX Freestyle Park World Championships; or • Finish top 12 in a UCI BMX Freestyle Park World Cup; or • Finish top 6 at the Elite UCI BMX Freestyle Park Pan American Championships; or • Finish top 6 in a UCI HC UCI BMX Freestyle Park or higher event; or • Finish top 3 in a C1 UCI BMX Freestyle Park event.

* Age on Dec. 31, 2026

**BMX Race**

SR1 Criteria: Finish Top 8 at the Elite UCI 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 UCI BMX Race World Championships; or
- Finish top 16 at an Elite UCI BMX Race World Cup.

SR Criteria (Women):

- Finish Top 8 in an Elite UCI BMX Race World Cup; or
- Twice finish top 16 in the Elite UCI BMX Race World Championships and/or an Elite UCI BMX Race World Cup.

SR Criteria (Men):

- Finish top 16 at the Elite UCI BMX Race World Championships or in an Elite UCI BMX Race World Cup; or
- Twice finish top 24 in the Elite UCI BMX Race World Championships and/or in an Elite UCI BMX Race World Cup

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

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

In addition to athletes meeting the criteria above, athletes of any age are eligible for nomination for a D card if they have 600 UCI BMX Race ranking points on the application deadline.

* Age on Dec. 31, 2026

Mountain Bike XCO

SR1 Criteria: Finish Top 8 at the UCI 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 UCI Elite XCO World Championships; or
- Finish top 12 at an UCI Elite XCO World Cup.

SR Criteria:

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

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

Women: XCO results by age*	17-18	19	20-22	23	24-26
UCI Junior World Championships	8	--	--	--	--
UCI U23 World Championships or U23 World Cup	--	18	12	--	--
UCI Elite World Championships or Elite World Cup	--	--	35	28	22
Men: XCO results by age*	17-18	19	20-22	23	24-26
UCI Junior World Championships	8	--	--	--	--



UCI U23 World Championships or U23 World Cup	--	30	24	--	--
UCI Elite World Championships or Elite World Cup	--	--	50	38	26
In addition to athletes meeting the criteria above, athletes of any age are eligible for nomination for a D card if they have 600 UCI XCO ranking points on the application deadline.					

* Age on Dec. 31, 2026

Para-Cycling

SR1 Criteria:

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

SR Criteria:

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

D Criteria: Achieve the following:

- Attend the 2026 Canadian Para-Cycling Track Championships or 2026 Canadian Para-Cycling Road Championships; and
- Meet the CC Road Dev or Track Dev time standard; 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.

Road

SR1 Criteria: Finish Top 8 at the UCI 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 UCI Elite Road World Championships; or
- Finish top 12 in a UCI Road WWT/UWT event.

SR Criteria:

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



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

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

In addition to athletes meeting the criteria above, athletes of any age are eligible for nomination for a D card they have 500 UCI Road ranking points on the application deadline.

* Age on Dec. 31, 2026

** 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.
- At the discretion of the Coach Panel, additional nominations may be based on exceptional performances in international competition. These nominations must be accompanied by evidence and rationale and must be approved by the CHPS, DHPS, HPC and Sport Canada.

Track Endurance

SR1 Criteria:

- **Omnium, Madison:** Finish Top 8 at the UCI Elite Track World Championships.
- **Team Pursuit:** Finish Top 6 at the UCI Elite Track World Championships; and meet CC Elite endurance 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 UCI Elite Track World Championships; and
 - Have 1,000 points in the UCI Endurance ranking, or 500 points in the UCI Madison ranking, on the application deadline.
- **Team Pursuit:** Meet the SR criteria; or both of the following:
 - Be selected to and attend the UCI Elite Track World Championships; and
 - Meet the CC Elite endurance 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, on the application deadline; and achieve one of the following:



- Finish top 12 at the UCI Elite Track Worlds; or
- Finish top 8 in a UCI Track World Cup.
- **Team Pursuit:** Meet the CC Elite endurance 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 UCI Elite Track World Championships; or
 - Finish top 6 in a UCI Track World Cup.

D Criteria:

- **Junior** (17-18 on Dec. 31, 2026):
 - Finish top 8 in the Omnium or Madison, or top 3 in the Scratch, Points, Elimination, Individual Pursuit or Team Pursuit at the UCI Junior Track World Championships; and
 - Meet the CC Junior A endurance time standard in the Individual Pursuit or the TT.
- **U23** (19-22 on Dec. 31, 2026):
 - Have 250 UCI Endurance points, or 125 UCI Madison points, on the application deadline; and achieve one of the following:
 - Meet the CC Elite B endurance time standard in the IP and the TT; or
 - Achieve the following minimum placings:

Event	Result		
	Omnium, Madison	Scratch, Points, Elimination, Individual Pursuit	Team Pursuit
World Championships	Top 16	Top 12	Top 12*
World Cup	Top 14	Top 10	Top 10*
Pan Am Championships	Top 5	Top 3	--
UCI C1**	Top 3 or Twice Top 5	Twice Top 3	--
UCI C2**	Win or Twice Top 3	Twice Win	--
* Athletes must also meet the CC Elite B endurance time standard in the IP or TT			
** Includes all UCI events awarding points at that level (e.g. if Commonwealth Games award the same points as a C1, results achieved there will be considered equivalent to a C1)			

- **Elite** (23 and over on Dec. 31, 2026):
 - Have 500 UCI Endurance points, or 250 UCI Madison points on the application deadline; and achieve one of the following:
 - Meet the CC Elite endurance time standards in the Individual Pursuit and the TT (minimum A standard in one and B standard in the other); or
 - Achieve the following minimum placings:

Event	Result		
	Omnium, Madison	Scratch, Points, Elimination, Individual Pursuit	Team Pursuit
World Championships	Top 14	Top 10	Top 10*
World Cup	Top 12	Top 8	Top 8*
Pan Am Championships	Top 3	Win	--
UCI C1**	Twice Top 3	Twice win	--
UCI C2**	Twice win	--	--
* Athletes must also meet the CC Elite A endurance time standard in the Individual Pursuit or TT			
** Includes all UCI events awarding points at that level (e.g. if Commonwealth Games award the same points as a C1, results achieved there will be considered equivalent to a C1)			

Cycling Canada may, at the discretion of the Track Endurance Coach Panel, nominate a maximum of 4 athletes (up to 2 women and 2 men) for SR or D cards based on an assessment of their potential to directly contribute to 2028 Olympic qualification and results in Team Pursuit, Madison, or Omnium. Any such nomination will be based on a detailed assessment, with supporting evidence, of the athlete by the Coach Panel and CC staff including, but not limited to, physiological capacity; CdA; suitability to specific positions; and technical and tactical ability. All such nominations must be approved by the DHPS, the CHPS and the HPC.



Track Sprint

SR1 Criteria:

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

D Criteria: Achieve the following:

- **Junior** (17-18 on Dec. 31, 2026):
 - Finish top 8 and top 25% of the field (SP, KE, TT) or top 6 and top 25% of the field (TS) at the UCI Junior Track World Championships; and
 - Meet the CC Junior A sprint time standard in the Flying 200 or TT.
- **U23** (19-22 on Dec. 31, 2026):
 - Have 250 UCI Sprint points on the application deadline; and
 - Meet the CC Elite B sprint time standard in the Flying 200 or TT.
- **Elite** (23 and older on Dec. 31, 2026):
 - Have 500 UCI Sprint points on the application deadline; and
 - Meet the CC Elite A sprint time standards in the Flying 200 or TT.

5. Notes on Nominations

- 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 Schedule A, Clause 13.
- 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.
- 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 Elite XCO World Cup and a top 12 in a road WWT event would be considered as meeting the SR criteria).
- Athletes achieving criteria intended for older athletes are eligible for nomination for the level of carding they achieved criteria at (e.g. a U23 athlete racing Elite World Championships who achieves the SR criteria for athletes age 23 or older may be nominated for an SR 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 CHPS 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.

Any 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 that 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 CHPS and the DHPS. If the coaches cannot come to a consensus the CHPS 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 CHPS 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.