



2025-2026 Carding Criteria Nominations Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is to contribute to improved Canadian performances at major international sporting competitions such as the Olympic/Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Pan Am Games and World Championships. To this end, the AAP identifies and supports athletes already among, or having the potential to be among, the top 16 in the world.

Athletes approved by Sport Canada for the AAP may be eligible for a living and training allowance, tuition support, deferred tuition support, and special needs assistance. Athletes funded by AAP receive monthly financial compensation as follows:

Card Type	Monthly Compensation	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

Further information on the Sport Canada AAP can be obtained through the Sport Canada website at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance.html>

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. "AAP" refers to Athlete Assistance Program.
- 2.2. "AAP Policies" refers to published Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures.
- 2.3. "ACA" refers to Alpine Canada Alpin.
- 2.4. "Carding Cycle" refers to July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026
- 2.5. "CAST" refers to Canadian Alpine Ski Team.
- 2.6. "CAST Alpine Staff" refers to any one of the following: High Performance Director, Alpine, discipline HeadCoaches or any other coach that is designated as a CAST Coach, from time to time by ACA.
- 2.7. "D Card" refers to a Development Card.
- 2.8. "FIS" refers to International Ski Federation.
- 2.9. "SDRCC" refers to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.
- 2.10. "SR1/SR2 Card" refers to a Senior International Card.
- 2.11. "SR Card" refers to a Senior National Card.
- 2.12. "WCSL" refers to the final standings for each discipline at the completion of all World Cup races for the 2024-2025 season (April). ** Exception for Alpine Combined. Combined ranking will only apply if the athlete is ranked in the top 50% of all athletes ranked on the WCSL.
- 2.13. "World Ranking" or "WR" refers to an athlete's FIS world ranking in a discipline according to the first FIS Points list publication (expected publication date July 1, 2025).
- 2.14. "World Age Ranking" refers to an athlete's FIS World Age rank within their age and all younger age categories.



2.15. "2025-2026 CAST Nomination Guidelines" refers to the document outlining nomination criteria to support athlete nomination to the 2025-2026 CAST.

3. QUOTA

3.1. CAST currently has a maximum card quota of **\$574,200 or 22 Senior cards**. The card quota is subject to change based on Sport Canada's AAP review that normally takes place after every Olympic/Paralympic Games.

4. ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered for nomination for AAP support, athletes must:

- 4.1. Be named to CAST or identified by ACA Alpine Domestic Development or any other athlete specifically identified by CAST Alpine Staff.
- 4.2. The athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated. Permanent residents must live in Canada for the full year preceding the carding cycle for which the athlete is being considered for AAP support; The athlete would normally have been expected to participate in ACA sanctioned activities during that period.
- 4.3. Must be eligible to represent Canada at major international events (FIS World Ski Championships and Winter Olympic Games), at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated per eligibility requirements of Federation International de Ski (FIS).
- 4.4. Achieve results meeting the published ACA Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Carding Criteria.
- 4.5. Participate in national team preparatory and annual training programs unless a request for an exemption due to injury, illness or other legitimate circumstance is approved in advance in writing by the High Performance Director, Alpine. Athletes not participating in CAST national team preparatory and annual training programs will be required to provide the following information: a yearly training plan, dryland testing results, medical history and athlete tracking each month during the carding cycle year to High Performance Director, Alpine.
- 4.6. Must sign and adhere to the terms of an Athlete Agreement, as required by ACA and Sport Canada.
- 4.7. Must be a member in good standing of Alpine Canada Alpin.
- 4.8. Must not be under suspension or other sanction for any doping or doping-related offense.

5. PRIORITY OF NOMINATIONS

- 5.1. Cards will be first allocated to athletes named to CAST and CAST D. After the nominations of CAST/CAST D athletes are completed, any remaining amount will be available for FIS carded athletes that meet eligibility and carding criteria requirements.
- 5.2. Carding will only be available provided athletes meet the following criteria, to be prioritized as follows:
 1. Athletes who meet SR1 criteria*; The next chance to qualify will be the 2025 World Ski Championships.
 2. Athletes who meet SR2 criteria.
 3. Athletes who meet health-related circumstances and were carded at the SR2 level the previous year;
 4. Athletes who meet the SR criteria;



5. Athletes who meet health-related circumstances and were carded at the SR level the previous year.
6. Athletes who meet D criteria;
7. Athletes who meet health-related circumstances and were carded at the D level the previous year.

**Per AAP Policies point 5.2:* In individual sports with team type or relay events, athletes who compete in the event may be awarded a Senior International Card (SR1/SR2) if they directly contributed to the top 8/top-half result.

- 5.3. Nominations will be made at each Carding level in the order of priority until there are no remaining eligible athletes in the Carding level before allocating cards to the next Carding level and so on, until there are no remaining cards, or there are no remaining eligible athletes. Note: a minimum of 4 months of carding support must be available for an athlete to be nominated.

6. CARDING CRITERIA

The Athlete Assistance Program qualification criteria are as follows:

International Senior Criteria (SR1/SR2)

Athletes must meet the following criteria to be eligible for SR1/SR2 cards:

- Finish in the top 8 and in top ½ of the field either in the Olympic Games or the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships. A maximum of 3 entries per nation will count toward this result.
- In the Alpine Team Event, the athlete must compete in the event to be eligible for nomination*

Athletes who meet the international criteria are eligible to be nominated for two consecutive years; the card for the first year is referred to as an SR1 card, while the second-year card is known as an SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the athlete being re-nominated by ACA and maintaining a training and competitive program approved by ACA.

Senior National Carding Criteria (SR)

The criteria for Senior national cards have been designed to identify athletes with the potential to achieve the international criteria.

Athletes will be prioritized in order based on their best ranking on the WCSL. If two athletes are equal based on the WCSL, each athlete's best World Rankings from the first FIS list will be used to break the tie.

Athletes who were born from 1999 through 2007 without WCSL ranking can qualify for an SR/~~C1~~ card based on their best World Ranking from the FIS list, provided that they have at least one ranking in the top-100 in DH, SG, GS, or SL. These athletes will be listed after those who meet the criteria based on their WCSL ranking, and they will be prioritized in order based on their best ranking on the FIS list (First FIS list for the 2025/2026 season, which is published in July 2025).



Maximum number of years at Senior National Card Level

Normally, the maximum number of years an athlete may remain at the Senior National Card (SR) status is eight (8). Years carded at SR health related circumstances (SRI), SR1, SR2 and when the athletes were still FIS junior age will not count toward this maximum.

In order to be nominated for carding for nine (9) or more years the athlete must demonstrate improvement toward International Senior Card status (SR1 and SR2) and be recommended by ACA. Proof of progression will be determined by the High Performance Director, Alpine with input from the CAST Alpine Staff, taking into consideration the athlete's on-snow results, fitness testing and evaluation of the athlete's commitment to reaching International Senior Card status.

Development Carding Criteria (D)

Development cards are intended to support the developmental needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior Card International Criteria but are not yet able to meet the Senior Card criteria.

The maximum age for a Development Card is 23 years of age (athlete's born between 2002-2009). Criteria is Top 300 World Rank in one discipline (SL, GS, SG, DH). Athletes will be prioritized in order based on their best World Rank.

Normally, an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level (~~G1~~, SR, SR1, SR2) for more than two years cannot be nominated for a Development 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. D cards can be used for athletes born between 2002-2009 which meet criteria listed above.

Maximum number of years at Development level

Normally, the maximum number of years an athlete may remain at the Development Card (D) status is four (4). Years carded at D health related circumstances (DI) will not count toward this maximum. In order to be carded for more years (5) the athlete must demonstrate improvement toward Senior Card status and be recommended by ACA. Proof of progression will be determined by the High Performance Director, Alpine with input from the CAST Alpine Staff, taking into consideration the athlete's on-snow results, fitness testing and evaluation of the athlete's commitment to reaching International Senior Card status. The carding criteria starts with the first year an athlete becomes carded at the D level.

7.0 NOMINATION PROCESS

- 7.1 The CAST Alpine staff shall meet to evaluate all eligible athletes and make recommendations for nomination to Sport Canada for AAP.
- 7.2 Sport Canada reviews all nominations put forward by ACA and approves nomination in accordance with AAP Policies and the published and approved ACA AAP Carding Criteria.

8.0 NCAA ATHLETES



- 8.1 The following shall apply to any athlete who meets the carding criteria as noted above and who are attending an NCAA institution during the carding cycle:
- 8.1.1 Sport Canada policy states that athletes attending a foreign post-secondary educational institution and who are receiving an athletic scholarship are not eligible to receive AAP support in the months in which they are attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution.
 - 8.1.2 It is the responsibility of the NCAA-based athlete who is nominated by ACA for AAP support to notify ACA and Sport Canada of the time period that the athlete will not be attending the foreign postsecondary educational institution. Sport Canada will review and approve all NCAA-based athlete schedules.
 - 8.1.3 It is the responsibility of the NCAA-based athlete to notify their institution's compliance department to confirm that they are eligible to receive AAP support. It is also the NCAA-based athlete's responsibility to determine any procedures that they must follow in order to meet the requirements of the institution's compliance department.

9.0 HEALTH-RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES

- 9.1 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, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year provided the athlete met the requirements set out by AAP Policies (section 9.1.3)
https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/services/sport-policies-acts-regulations/app_policy_procedures_eng.pdf
- 9.2 For exceptions to the SR, and D card criteria made on the basis of Athlete health-related circumstances, a specific criterion for the continuation of carding for future years shall be determined on a case by case basis considering details of the injury and expected recovery requirements.
- 9.3 When an athlete is carded on a health-related circumstance in any given year, that year is not counted as a year for AAP qualification criteria toward the national senior card priority 2 criteria (see priority of nominations section 5.2) or development criteria.

10.0 TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL

- 10.1 If an athlete wishes, for health-related reasons, to voluntarily withdraw temporarily or permanently from normal carded athlete training and competition activities, the normal rules for withdrawal from the AAP shall apply. The athlete will no longer be eligible for monthly training and living support, but may be eligible for Deferred Tuition and/or Supplementary AAP Retirement Allowance.

11.0 APPEALS

- 11.1 Any dispute in relation to ACA, AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of ACA's recommendation to withdraw carding, must be brought directly to the SDRCC to be heard pursuant to the Canadian Sport Dispute Resolution Code.



11.2 An athlete who wishes to appeal shall, within 3 business days commencing from the day they are advised on their AAP nomination or withdrawal of carding, file an appeal with the SDRCC.

Appeals will not be accepted after this date.