



Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team – Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Carding Criteria for 2025 - 2026 Nominations

November 15, 2024

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, 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 a 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: [Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program - Canada.ca](#)

DEFINITIONS

- “AAP” refers to Athlete Assistance Program.
- “AAP Policies” refers to published Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures.
- “ACA” refers to Alpine Canada Alpin.
- “Carding Cycle” refers to July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026
- “CPAST” refers to Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team.
- “CPAST Staff” refers to any one of the following: Para-Alpine High Performance Director, Head Coach or any other coach that is designated as a CPAST Coach, from time to time by ACA.
- “D Card” refers to a Development Card.
- “FIS” refers to International Ski Federation.
- “IPC” refers to International Paralympic Committee
- “SDRCC” refers to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.
- “SR1/SR2 Card” refers to a Senior International Card.
- “SR Card” refers to a Senior National Card.
- “2025-2026 CPAST Nomination Guidelines” refers to the document outlining nomination criteria to support athlete nomination to the 2025-2026 CPAST.

QUOTA

Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team currently has a maximum card quota of \$391,500 or the equivalent to 15 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. Athletes will be informed of any changes to the quota and the anticipated impact of those changes.

ELIGIBILITY

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

- Be named to the Canadian Para-Alpine Team (CPAST), CPAST NextGen or a Prospect Program athlete specifically identified by Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team (CPAST) Staff
- 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 a full year preceding the carding cycle for which the athlete is being considered for AAP support.
- Must be eligible to represent Canada at major international events (FIS Para Alpine World Ski Championships and Winter Paralympic Games), at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated per eligibility requirements of Federation International de Ski (FIS).
- Achieve results meeting the published ACA Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Carding Criteria.
- Participate in national team preparatory and annual training programs unless a request for an exemption due to health-related circumstance, illness or other legitimate circumstance is approved in advance in writing by the Para Alpine High Performance Director. Athletes not participating in CPAST 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 Para Alpine High Performance Director.
- Must sign and adhere to the terms of an Athlete Agreement, as required by ACA and Sport Canada.
- Must be a member in good standing of Alpine Canada Alpin.
- Must not be under suspension or other sanction for any doping or doping-related offense.

PRIORITY OF NOMINATIONS

Cards will be allocated in the following Priority order to eligible athletes named to the Canadian Para-Alpine Team:

Senior Cards will be allocated in the following priority order:

1. Athletes who meet SR1 Criteria;
2. Athletes who meet SR2 Criteria;
3. Athletes who meet health-related circumstances requirements and were carded at the SR2 level the previous year, ranked based on FIS Para-Alpine April 19th, 2025 points list;
4. Athletes who meet the SR Priority 1 criteria;
5. Athletes who meet the SR Priority 2 criteria;
6. Athletes who meet health-related circumstance requirements and were carded at the SR level the previous year, ranked based on FIS Para-Alpine lists points (annual FIS Para-Alpine April 19th, 2025 points list);

If a card quota is remaining after all CPAST athletes, who have met the above senior criteria have been approved, it will be available to nominate athletes that meet the Development (D) card criteria.

D Cards will be allocated in the following priority order:

1. Athletes who meet the D card criteria;
2. Athletes who meet health-related circumstance requirements, were carded at the D level the previous year, ranked based on FIS Para-Alpine list points (annual FIS Para-Alpine April 19th, 2025 points list).

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.

CARDING LEVEL CRITERIA

The Athlete Assistance Program qualification criteria are as follows:

1. INTERNATIONAL SENIOR CARDING CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

Sport Canada establishes the international criteria used to award the SR1 and SR2 cards. These criteria are based on results in Paralympic events at the FIS Para Alpine World Championships and at the Paralympic Games.

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 in a Paralympic event at FIS Para Alpine World Championships or Paralympic Games, counting a maximum of 3 entries per nation.

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.

Notes:

The next opportunity to qualify for a SR1 Card will be at the 2025 FIS Para-Alpine World Championships, in Maribor Slovenia, from February 4-11, 2025.

2. SENIOR NATIONAL CARDING CRITERIA (SR)

Athletes must be selected to the Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Team in order to be eligible for SR cards and meet one of the following criteria:

1st Priority: Athletes placing in the top 15 and top ½ of the annual FIS Para-Alpine April 19th, 2025 point list in any discipline with a minimum of 10 countries represented on the list.

2nd Priority: Athletes that have accumulated the following points, based on the number of years carded at the Senior National Card levels. Health-related circumstance cards do not count toward this progression.

Number of years of a Senior National Card (SR). Entering:	Criteria
4 th year or more of carding	Less than 80 FIS Para-Alpine points in at least two disciplines.
3 rd year of carding	Less than 100 FIS Para-Alpine points in at least two disciplines and less than 120 FIS Para-Alpine points in at least 3 disciplines.
2 nd year of carding	Less than 120 FIS Para-Alpine points in at least two disciplines and less than 100 FIS Para-Alpine points in one discipline.
1 st year of carding	No restriction to athletes nominated to the Canadian Para-Alpine Senior Ski Team.

Example: If an athlete was carded SR in 2023-24, and SR in 2024-25, to be eligible for nomination for 2025-26, the athlete would need to have met criteria for entering 3rd year of carding: Less than 100 FIS Para-Alpine points in at least two disciplines and less than 120 FIS Para-Alpine points in at least 3 disciplines.

Generally

1. Normally, the maximum number of years an athlete may remain at the Senior National Card (SR) status is five (5), excluding years at Senior International Card (SR1/SR2).

In order to be nominated for a card six (6) or more years the athlete must demonstrate improvement toward International Senior Card status (SR1/SR2) and be recommended by Alpine Canada, or qualify for the Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Teams "A Team" as set forth in the CFAST Selection Criteria ([Alpine Canada | Community | Criteria & Publications](#)) and be recommended by Alpine Canada.

3. For the purpose of creating a priority listing of candidates meeting the criteria, athletes will be ranked based on their lowest FIS Para-Alpine points from the annual FIS Para-Alpine April 19th, 2025 list.
4. Paralympic cards awarded mid carding cycle (i.e. during a Paralympic season) will not count towards an athlete's number of years at a National Senior (SR) card level.

3. 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.

Athletes must be selected to the CFAST NextGen Team or Prospect Program in order to be eligible for D cards and must have accumulated the following point's base on the number of years carded at the Development Card levels. Health-related circumstance card(s) do not count toward this progression:

Number of years with Development Card Entering:	Criteria
3 rd year or more carding	Six (6) FIS Para-Alpine sanctioned race starts and less than 140 points for Speed Events, or 140 points for Technical Events in 2 disciplines
2 nd year of carding	Minimum of three (3) FIS Para-Alpine sanctioned race starts and less than 280 points for Speed Events, or 200 points for Technical Events, points in 1 discipline
1 st year of carding	No restrictions to athletes nominated CFAST NextGen Team or Prospect Program.

Maximum number of years at Development level

1. Normally, the maximum number of years an athlete may remain at the Development Card (D) status is three (3).

In order to be carded for four (4) or more years the athlete must demonstrate improvement toward Senior Card status and be recommended by Alpine Canada.
2. Athlete who has been previously carded at the SR1 or SR2 levels are not eligible for D cards.

Normally, an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level (C1, 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

3. For the purpose of creating a priority listing of candidates meeting the criteria, number of FIS Para-Alpine points in the athlete's lowest discipline will be used from the annual FIS Para-Alpine April 19th, 2025 list.

Guides of Visually Impaired Athletes

A visually impaired Athlete approved for nomination will normally result in two cards – one for the visually impaired athlete, the other for a Guide. Both Athlete and Guide will be put forward based on the ranking of the visually impaired Athlete, with the Guide ranked immediately behind the Athlete. In the event there is not enough funding to give both Athlete and Guide, the funding will be pooled, and the Athletes and Guide will

receive equal amounts, as long as four months of carding is available for both Athlete and Guide. If there is less than four month of funding available for everyone, all funding will go to the visually impaired athlete. If an odd number of months are available for carding which cannot be divided equally, the visually impaired athlete will receive the extra month of carding.

For example if 9 months of carding is available, the Athlete will receive 5 months of carding, and the Guide will received 4 months.

1. The Guide must be named to the Canadian Para-Alpine Senior Ski Team, CPAST NextGen Team or Prospect Program and guide the visually impaired Athlete.
2. A visually impaired Athlete may change Guides during the carding cycle if, in the opinion of the Para-Alpine High Performance Director or Head Coach, it is necessary for performance-based reason. In this case it may be possible to reallocate the remaining carding support to the new Guide.
3. Visually impaired Athletes may change Guides when the Guides retires at the end of the season, before carding nominations are made.
4. If a Guide changes for any reason the new Guide will be carded at the same level as the Visually Impaired Athlete.
5. More than one Guide per visually impaired athlete may be nominated for Sport Canada AAP support. Each Guide must have a full training and competition schedule and be fully integrated with the visually impaired Athlete's program. Additional Guides must be approved for AAP support by Sport Canada.
6. The Guide is eligible for health-related circumstances status if he/she or his/her visually impaired Athlete becomes injured and meets Health-Related Circumstances Status Criteria.

HEALTH-RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES

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 meet the requirements set out by Sport Canada's "Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related Reasons" AAP policy (section 9.1.3) [Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program - Canada.ca](#)

For the purpose of creating a priority listing of candidates meeting the criteria, athletes will be ranked based on their lowest FIS Para-Alpine points from the annual FIS Para-Alpine April 19th, 2025 list.

For exceptions to the SR and D card criteria made based on 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 health-related circumstance and expected recovery requirements.

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 or development criteria.

TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT WITHDRAWAL

If an athlete wishes, for health-related reasons or other 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.

UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES & REVISIONS

In situations where unforeseen circumstances do not allow the selection process to be applied in the manner set out in this policy, the Para-Alpine High Performance Director, reserves the right to determine an appropriate course of action.

The Para-Alpine High Performance Director, may exercise discretion to revise this agreement prior to the end of the qualifying period with any revisions as may be reasonably necessary to avoid disputes over the interpretation of the Selection Process. This clause shall not be used to justify changes after a competition or trials which formed part of these Team Nomination Guidelines unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance. This is to allow for changes to this document that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording.

APPEALS

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.

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.