



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

### **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: [Athlete Assistance Program - Canada.ca](https://www.sportcanada.ca/athlete-assistance-program)*

### **ELIGIBILITY**

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

- Be named to the Canadian Ski Cross A, B, or Next Gen Teams, or a Regional Development athlete specifically identified by Canadian Ski Cross Team (CSCT) 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.
- Under the eligibility requirements of the sport's International Federation (IF) as it pertains to citizenship or residency status, the athlete must be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, including World Championships, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated.

- The athlete must participate in national team preparatory and annual training programs during the time period in which they are qualifying for AAP support.
- The athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.
- For athletes in Olympic or Paralympic sport who have been permanent residents of Canada for three years or more, continued eligibility to receive AAP support is contingent on the athlete becoming eligible to represent Canada at the Olympic or Paralympic Games.
- The athlete must meet published NSO approved, AAP compliant sport specific carding criteria.

## **DEFINITIONS**

“World Cup Ranking” (“WCR”) refers to the final FIS Freestyle Overall World Cup ranking in Ski Cross prior to the World Cup Finals. Results from the Ski Cross World Cup Finals will not be used for FIS Freestyle Overall World Cup ranking. Only Top 4 results for women and Top 8 results for men, from the Ski Cross World Cup Finals may be used for team selection.

“FIS Rankings” means the rankings set out in the FIS Ranking List, which is produced by the FIS exclusively for the National Sport Organizations (“NSO”) for their use in making team selections for their national and developmental teams. The FIS Ranking List contains rankings for each discipline and is provided to the NSO by the end of April each year

“CSCT” means the Canadian Ski Cross Team, including Athletes active on the “A” and “B” teams.

“CSCT Leadership” means the World Cup Head Coach, NextGen Head Coach, IST Lead, Team Operations Manager – Ski Cross and ACA High Performance Director – Ski Cross.

“2025/26 CSCT Selection” means the tiered and ranking of athletes outlined inside section 5 of the 2025/26 Nomination Guidelines for Selection to the Canadian Ski Cross Team

## **QUOTA**

Canada Ski Cross currently has a maximum card quota of \$417,600 or equivalent to 16 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.

## **PRIORITY OF NOMINATIONS**

Cards will be allocated in the following Priority order to eligible athletes named to the Canadian Ski Cross 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 Circumstance requirements and were carded at the SR1/SR2 level the previous year, ranked based on FIS Rankings;
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 Rankings.

If a card quota is remaining after all CSCT A and B 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 Priority 1 criteria;
2. Athletes who meet Health Related Circumstance requirements, were carded at the D level the previous year and named to the CSCT Next Gen Training Group. These athletes will be ranked based on FIS Rankings;
3. Athletes who meet the D Priority 2 criteria;

### **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 Olympic events at the World Championships and at the Olympic 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 an Olympic event at World Freestyle Ski Championships and Olympic 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:**

- 1) The next opportunity to qualify for a SR1 Card will be at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.

**2. 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.

CSCT's athletes must meet the one of following criteria to be eligible for SR Carding:

**Priority 1 – CSCT “A” Team selected athletes**

- Athletes will be ranked according to the 2025/26 CSCT Selection

**Priority 2 – CSCT “B” Team selected athletes**

- Athletes will be ranked according to the 2025/26 CSCT Selection

**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 five (5). Years carded at the SR Health Related Circumstance, SR1, SR2 and when the athlete was still FIS junior age will not count toward this maximum.

In order to be nominated for carding for 6 or more years the athlete must demonstrate progression toward International Senior Card status (SR1 and SR2) and be recommended by Alpine Canada Alpin. Proof of progression will be determined by CSCT Leadership and assessment of athlete's on-snow results, fitness testing and subjective evaluation of the athlete's commitment to reaching International Senior Card status.

**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.

Normally, a Development Card cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level (SR, SR1, SR2) for more than two years, except for an athlete carded as a senior card while still eligible to compete at the Junior international age level.

CSCT reserves the right to provide partial carding to development level athletes, with the number of months of carding directly related to an athlete's commitment to pursuing post-secondary education while competing.

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

**Priority 1:** CSCT “Next Gen Training Group” selected athletes

- Athletes will be ranked based on meeting Next Gen Training group hard criteria and ranked based on FIS point World Ranking
- Priority 1 D Cards nominations will be submitted to Sport Canada AAP office following a review of the 2024-2025 FIS SX results and confirmed during the AAP review meeting (June/July)

**Priority 2:** Regional Development program athletes as identified by CSCT Leadership.

- Athletes will be ranked according to the NorAM Cup standings and then by FIS SX points as well as the expert evaluation of CSCT Leadership regarding the athlete's potential to meet CSCT team status.
- Priority 2 D card nominations will be submitted to Sport Canada AAP office following a review of the 2024-25 FIS results, summer training camps, and ACA Fitness Combine. By August 1, 2025

**Maximum number of years at Development level**

Normally, the maximum number of years an athlete may remain at the Development Card (D) status is five (5). In the event an athlete is nominated under a DI (health related circumstances) carding may be approved for additional years past 5 years.

Years carded at D Health Related Circumstance will be taken into consideration during this 5 year period.

In order to be carded for more years the athlete must demonstrate progression toward Senior Card status and be recommended by Alpine Canada Alpin. Progression will be determined by athlete's on-snow results, fitness testing and ARS/PRC scores each year carded on D card and the expert opinion of CSCT leadership.

**HEALTH RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES STATUS**

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)

[www.alpinecanada.org](http://www.alpinecanada.org)

For the purpose of creating a priority listing of candidates meeting the criteria, athletes will be ranked based on their lowest FIS points from the annual FIS list May 2nd, 2025 list.

For exceptions to the SR, and D card criteria made based on Athlete health related circumstance, 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 provision 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.

## **APPEALS**

Appeals of Alpine Canada Alpin's AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of an Alpine Canada Alpin's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through the Alpine Canada Alpin's review process, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) . Appeals of AAP Decision made under Section 6 (Application for and Approval of Cards or Section 11 (Withdrawal of Carding Status) may be pursued through Section 13 of the AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.