



2026 Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Criteria

Approved by HPC: November 26, 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to present the criteria for the determination of the Shooting Federation of Canada (SFC) / Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP). The target audiences for this document are athletes and the coaches of such athletes who now access or wish to access the program. In general, the AAP (carding) recognizes the commitment an athlete makes to long-term training and competitive programs and seeks to relieve some of the pressures associated with participation in international sport. In particular, the AAP provides financial assistance to Canadian high-performance athletes to assist them in seeking enhanced training opportunities intended to progress their performances. To this end, the assistance helps athletes with their training and competition needs and is paid directly to the athlete. The AAP is the only Sport Canada program to provide direct financial support to athletes.

2. PREREQUISITES

The athlete must:

- 2.1. Comply with International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), International Olympic Committee (IOC) or World Shooting Para Sport (WSPS) eligibility regulations as applicable, the Shooting Federation of Canada (SFC) Athlete Agreement and Anti-Doping Policy, and the Canadian Policy on Doping in Sport.
- 2.2. Be on the National or Development Team in the year of carding.
- 2.3. Have been a member of the High Performance Program (National, Development, or Junior Team) in the year preceding carding.
- 2.4. Be a member in good standing with SFC.
- 2.5. If qualified, participate in the All Event World Championships in the event for which carding support is received. Exceptions may be made in the case of an athlete who is unable to compete in or complete the Championships for good reason, as approved in advance of the event by the SFC High Performance Committee. The athlete must provide any required supporting documentation upon request.
- 2.6. Carded athletes must be currently eligible to represent Canada at major international events, including All Event World Championships under the eligibility requirements of the sport's International Federation (the ISSF and WSPS). 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.
- 2.7. Compete in an event that is currently included in the Olympic/Paralympic program. (Mixed Team events are excluded from this process.)
- 2.8. Follow an SFC National Team Coach approved training plan that meets the minimum requirements as laid out in the "YTP minimum requirements" [document](#).
- 2.9. Compete 'for score' to be considered for AAP carding.
- 2.10. Indicate if they are current or former federal government employees, and if so, confirm that they are in compliance with the Values and Ethics Code for the Public Service or the Conflict of Interest and Post-employment Code for Public Office Holders.
- 2.11. Provide true statements in their application and supporting documentation and verify these statements if requested by Sport Canada.

3. NOMINATION PROCEDURE

- 3.1. All athletes achieving 2026 SFC National or Development Team status may be eligible for nomination by the SFC High Performance Committee (HPC) to the AAP for carding consideration.
- 3.2. The SFC will inform currently carded athletes whether or not they are being recommended for a continuation of carding.
- 3.3. The SFC reserves the right to request the submission of a written report of personal sport activities and performance gains for carding.
- 3.4. SFC will nominate eligible athletes for AAP support and prepare a submission package for review by Sport Canada.
- 3.5. Sport Canada shall review and accept nominations based on the approved sport specific carding criteria and the policies and procedures of the AAP.



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- 3.6. SFC will inform Sport Canada approved athletes.
- 3.7. Athletes not recommended for carding by the SFC may apply for a review of their qualifications in writing to the SFC Technical Director at sverdier@sfc-ftc.ca within seven (7) days of being notified as per item 2.2 and must include performance records and/or other supporting documentation. The [Appeals Policy](#) can be found on the SFC website.
- 3.8. All cards allocated to Shooting Federation of Canada athletes are subject to change by Sport Canada.

4. **CARD ADMINISTRATION**

- 4.1. The Shooting Federation of Canada carding cycle correlates with the calendar year (January 1 to December 31).
- 4.2. The Sport Canada quota for the number of cards available to the SFC is the equivalent of five (5) Senior (SR1, SR2, and SR) Cards or \$130,500 for the Olympic shooting program and the equivalent of two (2) Senior (SR1, SR2, and SR) Cards or \$52,200 for the Paralympic program. The recipient of a Senior International or Senior National card is eligible to receive up to \$26,100 per year in training and living support.
- 4.3. All cards will be awarded by Sport Canada through a process of nomination by the SFC High Performance Committee to the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program which includes a review of each nominated athlete's training program and competition performance.
- 4.4. Performance standards and recognized competitions will be determined before the start of each year and agreed upon by the Athlete Assistance Program and the SFC High Performance Committee.
- 4.5. Performance standards will be recorded according to ISSF/WSPS courses of fire. When an event includes both full and partial courses, scores will be recorded in the order fired. Partial courses of fire will not be recorded.

5. **PRINCIPLES and CONDITIONS for CARDING CONSIDERATION**

SENIOR CARDS (SR1/SR2/SR)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Are intended to support athletes already at or having the potential to reach international criteria. Carding support allows athletes to maintain a long-term commitment to training and competition to further their athletic goals.● Are awarded to athletes actively participating in SFC High Performance Training Programs as measured by, but not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ scores and placing obtained in international competitions;○ adherence to ALL criteria of the YTP minimum requirements, Athlete Agreement, Behavioural Contract, Code of Conduct and Anti-doping agreements;○ Being a member of the SFC in good standing throughout the previous year and during the carding year.● Athletes must attend a minimum of one (1) High Performance training camp (if held) conducted by the National Coach in their respective discipline during the preceding and carded year.● Athletes who have been carded at the SR national level for more than 5 years (consecutively) are expected to demonstrate continuous improvement toward the achievement of a top 8 world performance and receive the recommendation of the SFC HPC for the renewal of card status. SR1/SR2 and Health Related cards do not count towards this total.*

* Determining improvement will begin using scores achieved in 2022. The need to determine improvement will not come into play until the 2027 carding year. Improvement will be determined by looking at the average of scores from the previous three years and / or placements at major international matches.



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6. PRIORITIZATION OF CARDING NOMINATIONS

The following constitutes the priority order for nominating athletes who have met the carding criteria. Cards will be awarded in a “top down” fashion until the total allocation of cards is exhausted:

PRIORITY 1: Senior International Card nominations (SR1/SR2)

PRIORITY 2: Athletes carded the previous year at the Senior International Card level (SR1/SR2) who have health-related circumstances * AND who meet the Sport Canada policy on Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related reasons, section 9.1.3 of the *Sport Canada AAP Policies, Procedures & Guidelines*. These cards will be prioritized based on the previous year’s ranking.

PRIORITY 3: Senior National Team (SR) Card nominations based on criteria outlined in this document.

PRIORITY 4: Athletes carded the previous year at the Senior National Team (SR) Card level who have health-related circumstances * AND who meet the Sport Canada policy on Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related reasons, section 9.1.3 of the *Sport Canada AAP Policies, Procedures & Guidelines*. These cards will be prioritized based on the previous year’s ranking.

PRIORITY 5: Development Card (D) nominations based on criteria outlined in item 7. below.

*See section **8. HEALTH-RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES**

7. DEVELOPMENT (D) CARD CRITERIA

Olympic Program Athletes

No Development card nomination criteria have been determined as the Shooting Federation of Canada is limited to five (5) Senior Cards for Olympic program athletes. As the SFC will have more than the number of athletes eligible for consideration at the Senior International or Senior National card levels, Development Card nomination criteria are not considered necessary.

Paralympic Program Athletes

A Paralympic athlete who has achieved the SFC Development (D) card score standard (listed in appendix A of this document) at an eligible qualification competition may be eligible for Development card nomination.

8. WITHDRAWAL OF CARDING STATUS

Card status may be withdrawn during the carding year according to the Athlete Assistance Program guidelines by:

- 3.1.1. the athlete, voluntarily, or
- 3.1.2. the SFC for failing to meet training or competition commitments; gross breach of discipline; or because of a breach of contract (SFC Athlete Agreement), or
- 3.1.3. Sport Canada because of false application, or
- 3.1.4. Sport Canada because of a doping infraction.

Card status may not be renewed at the end of a carding year if:

- 3.1.5. the athlete does not meet the approved carding criteria, or
- 3.1.6. the athlete is not high enough within the carding nomination priority.



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9. HEALTH-RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES

An athlete may be considered for nomination for a health-related circumstances card (SRI), if the following conditions are met:

- 1) An athlete may be considered for nomination for an SRI Card in 2026 if the athlete:
 - a) Was a carded athlete in 2025
 - b) Meets the 9.1.3 criteria (Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related Reasons) of Sport Canada's AAP Policies and Procedures and other Sport Canada regulations;
 - c) Files a written submission to the High Performance Committee in accordance with the timelines outlined in item 4.52 of the 2025 SFC Athlete Agreement. The HPC may provide forms or request additional documentation for completion by the athlete prior to consideration.
- 2) The decision whether or not to nominate the athlete will be made by the High Performance Committee provided that no one who has a conflict of interest may participate in the decision making.
- 3) In its deliberations, the HPC may consider whatever facts and matters it views as relevant including:
 - a) the criteria set out in either or both section 9.1.3 (Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related Reasons) of Sport Canada's AAP Policies and Procedures and other Sport Canada regulations;
 - b) training reports and the performance level of the athlete immediately prior to the occurrence of the health issue;
 - c) The circumstances that led to the athlete's health issue, including whether the athlete was injured while in training or in competition and if the athlete took reasonable precautions to avoid injury;
 - d) the likelihood that the athlete would have been able to meet any of the other carding criteria if the health issue had not arisen;
 - e) the likelihood of the athlete being able to return to the level at which they were performing prior to the occurrence of the health issue; and
 - f) the athlete who would be deprived of a carding nomination if the athlete with the health issue is nominated.
- 4) If the SFC nominates an athlete for renewal based on health-related circumstances:
 - a) The athlete will be nominated for a card at the same level (i.e.: Senior) at which they were carded in the previous year.
 - b) The athlete may not be nominated for renewal based on health-related circumstances in consecutive years.
- 5) Athletes who have had carding renewed based on health-related circumstances:
 - a) Must follow the conditions as outlined in Sport Canada AA Policy (sections 9.1.1 and 9.1.2) regarding curtailment of training and competition for health-related circumstances.
 - b) Must report as directed to SFC's Technical Director on their rehabilitation activity and progression.



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- c) Failure to report as directed may result in a recommendation to Sport Canada to withdraw carding at the sole discretion of SFC's High Performance Committee.

10. SENIOR CARD CONDITIONS FOR 2026 NOMINATIONS - OLYMPIC PROGRAM ATHLETES

Regardless of shooting discipline, an athlete confirmed to participate in the Olympic Games prior to the start of the Olympic carding year and cycle shall take precedence over any other athlete nominated for carding in the year of the Games.

A. INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA (SR1, SR2)

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The following standards must be obtained in an Olympic event at an ISSF recognized All Events World Championship or at the Olympic Games prior to consideration:

- 1.0 Top 8 counting a maximum of three entries per country;**

AND

- 2.0 Athletes must finish in the top half of the field.**

Athletes who meet the international criteria are eligible to be nominated by the NSO for two consecutive years, with the card for the first year referred to as SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the athlete being re-nominated by the NSO and a training and competitive program approved by the NSO and Sport Canada being maintained. The athlete must also sign an Athlete / NSO Agreement and complete an AAP Application for Financial Support for the year in question.

PRIORITIZATION of CARD ALLOCATION

Prioritization is based on the rank achieved by an athlete within the mandatory performance standards (mentioned above) at the All Events World Championships or Olympic Games. Regardless of shooting discipline, an athlete placing 4th for example would take precedence over an athlete placing lower in the ranking order of their respective discipline.

B. SENIOR (SR) CARD CRITERIA

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The Percentage Ranking List (PRL) is used to determine the best athletes competing in the shooting sports in Canada, regardless of discipline, and to select SFC High Performance Program Athletes. The PRL is based on scores achieved at eligible events conducted between November 1, 2024 and November 30, 2025 and is detailed on pages 5 and 6 of the SFC 2026 High Performance Program Selection Criteria.

PRIORITIZATION of CARD ALLOCATION

Following the distribution of SR1 and SR2 Cards, all remaining AAP SR cards will be allocated to National or Development team athletes in sequential order as determined by the **Percentage Ranking List**.

If two or more athletes have achieved the same **High Performance Percentage Ranking List** score and there are an insufficient number of cards to cover all similarly ranked athletes, the tie will be broken by the highest placing achieved at an **international** event based on the four (4) results submitted for 2026 High Performance Team selection.

For prioritization among athletes with the same Percentage Ranking List score, there is no distinction made between World Cup placing and World Championship placing. When applicable, rankings achieved in qualification rounds shall take precedence over rankings achieved in elimination rounds.



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There is no distinction between rankings amongst the various disciplines. Where an athlete qualifies for carding in more than one event, the second card shall be forfeited to the next ranked athlete.

11. SENIOR CARD CONDITIONS FOR 2026 NOMINATIONS - PARALYMPIC PROGRAM ATHLETES

Senior card status is available for events on the Paralympic program only. Senior Cards are awarded in the following priority:

- 1) Athlete(s) who have met the International Criteria;
- 2) Athlete(s) who have met the National Criteria.

Sport Canada assigns a limited number of AAP Cards. Cards are first allocated to athletes who have achieved the International Criteria with any remaining cards allocated to athletes based on the National Criteria.

Regardless of shooting discipline, an athlete confirmed to participate in the Paralympic Games prior to the start of that Paralympic carding year and cycle shall take precedence over any other athlete nominated for carding in the year of the Games.

A. INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Based on results achieved on the program of the Paralympic Games, the following standard must be obtained at the World Championships for consideration:

1.0 Top 8

AND

2.0 Athletes must finish in the top half of the field

AND

3.0 To be eligible for carding consideration, athletes must meet the SFC carding score standards as outlined in Appendix A.

Athletes who meet the international criteria are eligible to be nominated by the NSO for two consecutive years, with the card for the first year referred to as SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the athlete being re-nominated by the NSO and a training and competitive program approved by the NSO and Sport Canada being maintained. The athlete must also sign an Athlete / NSO Agreement and complete an AAP Application for Financial Support for the year in question.

B. NATIONAL CRITERIA (SR)

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Athletes must obtain the following standards prior to consideration:

- Equal or exceed SFC score standards as outlined in Appendix "A" in a WSPS sanctioned event between November 1, 2024 and November 5, 2025.

PRIORITIZATION of CARD ALLOCATION

Prioritization of athletes will be developed by comparing athlete percentile performances against the Paralympic Minimum Qualification Score (MQS). Results comparisons will be carried to four (4) decimal points. Athletes with the highest percentile in the Paralympic event score will be prioritized first.



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APPENDIX A

The score standards to be used for 2026 Senior (SR) and D card nominations for athletes with disabilities shall be:

EVENT	DISCIPLINE	CLASS	SR Card Qualification Scores	D card Qualification Scores
R1 Men	Air Rifle Standing	SH1	600.0	590.0
R2 Women	Air Rifle Standing	SH1	595.0	585.0
R3 Mixed	Air Rifle Prone	SH1	625.0	615.0
R4 Mixed	Air Rifle Standing	SH2	620.0	610.0
R5 Mixed	Air Rifle Prone	SH2	628.0	618.0
R6 Mixed	50m Rifle Prone	SH1	610.0	600.0
R7 Men	50m Rifle 3 Positions	SH1	555.0	550.0
R8 Women	50m Rifle 3 Positions	SH1	525.0	520.0
R9 Mixed	50m Rifle Prone	SH2	610.0	600.0
P1 Men	Air Pistol	SH1	547	537
P2 Women	Air Pistol	SH1	510	500
P3 Mixed	Sport Pistol .22	SH1	540	530
P4 Mixed	Free Pistol .22	SH1	510	500