



Athletics Canada 2017-2018 Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Policy Olympic Stream

1. General Program Description and Purpose

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is a sport 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.

This policy was developed by AC's National Team Committee (NTC) and was reviewed by Sport Canada before publication to ensure consistency with Sport Canada AAP Policies.

This policy applies to the carding cycle beginning November 1, 2017 and ending October 31, 2018. It sets out the process and criteria that will be used to recommend nominations for carding to Sport Canada. There are four appendices associated with this policy, all of which form an integral part of this policy:

Appendix 1 – Categories of Cards

Appendix 2 – Yearly Training Plan (YTP) requirements

Appendix 3 – Performance Standards and Qualification Periods

Appendix 4 – Application form

DEADLINE: September 30, 2017

2. Eligibility for AAP

To be eligible to be considered for carding nomination, an athlete must meet the following requirements:

- Must be a registered member in good standing of a provincial branch of Athletics Canada at the time of qualification and throughout the carding cycle;
- Must have participated in the 2017 Canadian Track and Field Championships unless a request for an exemption due to injury, illness, or other exceptional circumstances is approved in advance by the NTC, or the event is not offered at these Championships;
- Must possess Canadian citizenship by November 1, 2017 and must submit supporting documentation indicating that he/she will be eligible to compete for Canada in IAAF events within the 2017-2018 carding cycle;
- Must not be under suspension or other sanction for any doping or doping-related offense. Athletes who have been sanctioned for anti-doping rule violations for a period of two years or more, are not eligible for AAP support;
- Must sign an Athlete Agreement approved by Athletics Canada and the Athlete Directors. This agreement can be modified as required to accommodate individual needs or situations;



- Must have a 2017-18 Yearly Training Plan (YTP) approved by AC staff before any funds will be released. Failure to submit an approved plan may result in AC withdrawing the nomination to Sport Canada. See Appendix 2 for YTP requirements;
- Must otherwise comply with all eligibility requirements set out by Sport Canada in the [Athlete Assistance Program \(AAP\) Policies and Procedures](#);
- Must not currently be pregnant, injured or have a medical condition that prevents full training for longer than 3 months into the carding cycle, unless applying for a Medical Card; and
- Must participate in major championship events (Olympic Games, World Championships, Commonwealth Games) if selected, unless exempted by the NTC.

3. Authority for Carding Decisions

The NTC will apply the criteria contained within this document to nominate athletes for carding to Sport Canada. Ultimately, the final decision on granting AAP carding is made by Sport Canada.

Composition of the NTC is outlined in Rule 126.04 of [Athletics Canada's Rules and By-laws](#)

4. Allocation of Cards

AC's Olympic Program has been allocated funds for the 2017-2018 carding cycle. The breakdown of these funds into Senior Cards, Development Cards, NCAA Cards and Medical Cards, is at the sole discretion of the NTC in consultation with AC technical staff. Appendix 1 provides additional details about these different categories of cards, and specifies further requirements that must be fulfilled by athletes nominated in these categories, in addition to those eligibility requirements in Section 2. In the event that there are remaining funds once all eligible Paralympic or Olympic athletes are exhausted, the remaining funds may be transferred between programs to ensure funding is provided to the most eligible athletes from either the Paralympic or Olympic program.

5. The Carding Process

Nominations for carding will be made using a two-phase approach, as follows:

Phase 1 – General Carding Pool

An athlete must be in the General Carding Pool to be considered for carding, but this does not guarantee nomination. Phase 1 is simply a list of the athletes who will be considered in the process outlined in Phase 2.

The following athletes will be admitted to the General Carding Pool provided they submit a completed and signed Application Form (Appendix 4) by the deadline date:

- Current SR1 or SR2 carded athletes; or
- Athletes who have achieved the performance standard outdoors for their event within the Qualification Period (see Performance Standards and Qualification Periods noted in Appendix 3); or



- Athletes who are currently carded and who have submitted a “Notification of Injury, Illness or Pregnancy” form to maintain their carding status during the carding cycle, and who have otherwise fulfilled all requirements to be considered for a Medical Card.

Phase 2 – Nomination to Sport Canada

In October of 2017, the NTC will review the athletes in the General Carding Pool and select athletes to be nominated for carding. The NTC will consider athletes by proceeding through the following six steps in sequential order until either the funds are exhausted, or there are no remaining athletes for consideration:

Step 1

- Athletes who won an individual medal at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in Athletics in London will be selected; or
- Athletes who ran in the final and who won a relay medal at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in Athletics in London will be selected.

Step 2

- Athletes who finished in the Top 8 in an individual event at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in Athletics in London will be selected; or
- Athletes who ran in the final and finished in the Top 8 in a relay at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in Athletics in London will be selected; or
- Current SR1 athletes will be selected provided they adhere to an approved training plan.

Step 3

- Athletes who finished in the Top 16 in an individual event at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in Athletics in London will be selected; or
- Athletes who are not eligible under Steps 1 or 2, that ran in the qualifying round on a relay that qualified for the final at the 2017 IAAF World Championships in Athletics in London will be selected.

Step 4

- Athletes currently carded at the Senior levels applying for a Medical Card will be considered at the sole discretion of the NTC based on details of the diagnosis and prognosis, the documentation provided, the quality of the athlete’s rehabilitation and training plan, and the advice of medical experts.

Step 5

- Athletes currently carded at the Development level applying for a Medical Card will be considered at the sole discretion of the NTC based on details of the diagnosis and prognosis, the documentation provided, the quality of the athlete’s rehabilitation and training plan, and the advice of medical experts.



Step 6

- All remaining athletes in the Carding Pool who have not been nominated through any of the above 5 steps will be considered for nomination by the NTC.
- The NTC will nominate athletes in priority order based on the score of their seasonal best performance on the IAAF Scoring Tables.

All NTC members will participate in this process unless a NTC member has a conflict of interest, or a perceived conflict of interest, in relation to any athlete being considered, in which case he or she must declare the conflict. The Chair of the NTC will decide if that NTC member can participate in the deliberations of the NTC in relation to that particular athlete.

All members of the NTC will vote on carding nominations decisions. A member will abstain from voting if the member has declared a conflict of interest. The Chair will have a tie-breaking vote in the event of a tie.

In determining carding nominations, the NTC will also have the discretion to determine the relative allocation of cards among the different categories of cards (Senior, NCAA, Medical, and Development).

Funding Opt-Out

AAP funding is intended to contribute to an athlete's living and training costs. An athlete who expects to earn in excess of \$100,000 in the 2017-18 cycle may choose to decline / opt-out of receiving AAP funding; however, those athletes will still be listed on the AAP Carding list and will remain eligible for enhanced funding, CSI access, COC services and the Bell Athlete's Connect program. The opt-out carding funds would then create another position for an athlete to be nominated to the carding list.

Results

AC makes every effort to track athletes' results that may qualify them for carding; however, a large portion of results may be achieved at events outside the National Team program so it is impossible for AC to be aware of all relevant performances. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each athlete to ensure that AC is aware that they are eligible for carding support by checking that the AC Ranking page has the most up-to-date performance recorded. Only performances listed on the AC Ranking page will be considered. To submit eligible performances, please email results@athletics.ca.

Coaching

For a carded athlete's coach to be listed on the AAP Carding list, they must complete the following:

- Write and submit a completed YTP (Yearly Training Plan)
- Be consistently present in the DTE (daily training environment) for that athlete
- Submit quarterly reports with training and competition/camp benchmarks

6. Requirements to Remain Carded

All athletes approved by Sport Canada for carding must sign a final Athlete Agreement that stipulates obligations that the athlete must fulfill to remain carded. All carded athletes are expected to remain fully engaged with AC's



high performance programming, including ongoing communication with AC staff which may include signing any written agreements required by the NTC.

On a case by case basis, the NTC may discuss additional criteria with the athlete and their personal coach to maintain his or her carding in the subsequent year if they have not recorded a personal best within a 3 year period. These criteria will be clearly communicated to the athlete in writing at the beginning of the carding cycle.

7. Appeals

Athletes who are not nominated for carding may appeal, which will be heard in accordance with AC's Rules and Bylaws outlined in [Rule 140](#) – Commissioner's Office – Terms of Reference. Appeals are restricted to those athletes who were eligible to be considered for carding by virtue of meeting the requirements set out in Section 2, who met the requirements to be admitted to the General Carding Pool as described in Section 5 and who fulfilled any additional requirements for the different categories of cards as specified in Appendix 1. Appeals need to be submitted to athleticscanadacommissioner@gmail.com. Contact Chief Financial Officer Sylvie King (sylvie.king@athletics.ca) for payment option of the \$250 appeal fee. Appeals will not be heard until the fee has been paid.

8. Amendments to this Document

The NTC reserves the right to amend this document prior to the Selection Date. The NTC in consultation with the Athletes Council may amend the Criteria under the following circumstances:

1. When additional (or altered) information that is deemed relevant by the NTC to the Criteria is provided by external parties, such as (but not limited to) an event organizing committee, Sport Canada, The Canadian Olympic Committee, IAAF, or any other relevant organization; and
2. To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors or omissions in the Criteria.

Any amendments made by the NTC are deemed to come into effect immediately upon publication on the AC website. The NTC will publish the amended Criteria by whatever means and wherever the original Criteria were published.



Appendix 1 – Categories of Cards

Senior Cards

- Senior Cards are the top level of cards and are valued at \$1,500 per month (subject to change), except the first year of a Senior Card that is referred to as a C-1 Card and is valued at \$900 per month (subject to change).
- SR1 and SR2 Cards are International cards granted to those athletes who finish in the Top 8 at the IAAF World Championships in Athletics or the Olympic Games. Alternates in relays who do not compete are not eligible for this card.
- SR1 Cards are typically awarded for two years (with the second year of the card termed SR2), provided the athlete adheres to an approved training plan, and continue to improve and progress within Athletics Canada's High Performance Pathways and benchmarks over the course of the two years.
- SR and C-1 Cards are Senior level cards for those athletes who have qualified to be nominated for carding at the Senior level but not as a SR1 or SR2 card.
 - The NTC may impose additional criteria on SR athletes who have not recorded a personal best within 3 years.
 - Athletes may only be carded at the C-1/SR level over a 5 year period without having advanced to World Top 16.

Medical Cards

- Athletes who are currently carded and who become ill, injured or pregnant must submit a [“Notification of Injury, Illness or Pregnancy” form](#) within 30 calendar days to maintain their carding status during the carding cycle and must report pregnancy within 30 days into the second trimester.
- To renew carding, the athlete must submit a medical doctor's diagnosis and prognosis for the athlete's return to high performance training and competition, and must include a rehabilitation and training program prepared by the athlete, coach and coordinating therapist which is acceptable to AC's medical personnel.
- A request for a Medical Card does not guarantee nomination. Athletes may be nominated for Medical Cards at the sole discretion of the NTC based on the number of cards available, the nature and details of the diagnosis and prognosis, the documentation provided, the quality of the athlete's rehabilitation and training plan, the advice of medical experts, and the realistic expectation that the athlete can continue to progress towards becoming a finalist.
- Athletes may only receive a Medical Card for an injury or illness once (without having earned an SR1 card). Athletes who have received an SR1 card since having last received a Medical Card, are eligible to re-apply for one further Medical Card.
- Athletes may only receive a Medical Card for a pregnancy once in their athletic career. The NTC will consider an additional 12 months of AAP funding on a case-by-case basis during the following year (eg. for complications during pregnancy or birth that would prolong adequate recovery time, or if timing of birth puts the athlete at a disadvantage for adequate recovery time and return to high performance training and competition before the next carding cycle). Special considerations may be given for a 2nd pregnancy at the discretion of the NTC.
- NCAA athletes are not eligible for a Medical Card while they are competing in the NCAA.



NCAA Cards

- NCAA Cards are Senior Cards that are allocated on a pro-rated basis to athletes who have NCAA or other foreign collegiate obligations. Such athletes may obtain a seasonal NCAA Card for four months of the year (May, June, July, and August).
- Prior to receiving a NCAA Card, an athlete must receive written permission from their educational institution and must commit to a mutually agreed upon training and competition plan with AC staff for the duration of the card (May, June, July, and August), and must compete at the 2017 Canadian Track and Field Championships.
- Medical Cards will not be considered for NCAA athletes while competing in the NCAA.

Development Cards

- Development Cards are valued at \$900 per month (subject to change). The purpose of Development Cards are to support developing athletes who have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the NTC that they are on the Athletics Canada's High Performance Pathway to become a finalist in future World Championships and Olympic Games.
- Development Cards may only be awarded to athletes competing at the Junior level, or who are in their first five years of eligibility as a Senior competitor. However, athletes may only receive a Development Card for a maximum of three years post-Junior before progressing to a Senior Card.
- Athletes who have previously received Senior Cards (including C1 Card) are not eligible for Development Cards. *EXCEPTION – Any Development Carded athlete who is upgraded to Senior Card based on being selected to the Olympic Team.
- NCAA Cards may receive a Development Card for one transitional year only, provided they meet all other requirements for Development Cards.



Appendix 2 – Yearly Training Plan (YTP) requirements

Athletes must have a 2017-18 Yearly Training Plan (YTP) approved by AC staff before any funds will be released. Failure to submit an approved plan may result in AC withdrawing the nomination to Sport Canada.

The YTP is generally be completed by the coach. It should clearly map out the athlete’s training, planned competitions and other necessary activities to achieve expected performances (competition, training camps, testing, medical screening, etc.).

Plans may be submitted in multiple different forms or templates as long as they include these key planning elements within the YTP:

- Phases of yearly training
- Prescribed emphasis training loads within the different phases
- Training elements specific to their event
- Training camp dates (if there are camps)
- Competition dates
- Testing dates

Should you require a YTP template – [click here](#)



Appendix 3 – Performance Standards and Qualification Periods

MEN	EVENT	WOMEN
10.32	100m	11.35
20.85	200m	23.28
46.22	400m	52.75
1:46.92	800m	2:02.64
3:39.28	1500m	4:12.61
13:34.78	5000m	15:37.59
28:25.86	10000m	33:10.17
8:30.00	3000m SC	9:52.48
13.80	110mH/100mH	13.32
50.14	400mH	56.65
1:25:24	20KW	1:34:55
4:02:06	50KW	
2:13:59	Marathon	2:34:13
2.22	High Jump	1.90
7.71	Long Jump	6.50
16.43	Triple Jump	13.72
5.47	Pole Vault	4.35
19.30	Shot Put	16.86
60.50	Discus	57.98
76.34	Javelin	55.55
73.11	Hammer	65.97
7760	CE	5738

Qualification Periods

Performances must be achieved outdoors within the following Qualification Periods and appear on the AC Rankings:

Marathon, Race Walks and 10,000m	November 1 st , 2016 – October 22 nd , 2017
All other Events	January 1 st , 2017 – September 30 th , 2017



Appendix 4 – Application Form

The [online application form](#) must be completed in its entirety and submitted on or before **September 30th, 2017**. Should you have any questions please email carding@athletics.ca.