



CANADIAN ATHLETICS PERFORMANCE PATHWAY (CAPP) SELECTION POLICY 2024-2025

Able-bodied and Para athletes

Athletics Canada (AC) runs a High Performance (HP) program whose purpose is: *To systematically guide and support Canadian athletes along a sustainable pathway to Olympic and Paralympic medals.*

A key part of the program is to identify and support named athletes who have the potential to contribute directly to our Olympic & Paralympic success. These athletes are supported through AC's Canadian Athletics Performance Pathway (CAPP) program.

In addition, Sport Canada (SC) provides direct support to athletes through its Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), which is also known as Carding.

This document outlines how AC selects athletes for CAPP and nominates athletes for AAP.

The document is structured as follows:

1. Introduction	High-level overview of CAPP.
2. CAPP Programs & Levels	Details of how CAPP is structured.
3. Selection Process	The mechanics of the selection process.
4. Athlete Progression	Expectations for CAPP athletes' progression over time.
5. Podium Program	The specifics of Podium Program selection.
6. Transition Program	The specifics of Transition Program selection.
7. Talent Confirmation Program	The specifics of Talent Confirmation Program selection.
8. AAP Nomination Process	The mechanics of the AAP (Carding) nomination process.
9. Membership Requirements	Requirements for program membership.
10. Membership types	Types of CAPP program members.
11. Eligible Performances	Requirements for eligible performances.
12. Top Lists	How world rankings are calculated.
13. Appeals	How to appeal a CAPP or AAP decision
14. Change History	Changes to this document

The following information is contained in appendices in a separate document (to allow for ease of updates).

Appendix 1: Able-bodied CAPP Consideration Standards

Appendix 2: Able-bodied Average Top Lists standards used for AAP rankings

Appendix 3: Para CAPP Consideration Standards & "top half" values.

Appendix 4: Para CAPP Average Top Lists standards used for AAP rankings

Appendix 5: Frequently Asked Questions

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1. PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

1.1 CAPP's Aims

CAPP is AC's implementation of its Strategic Plan initiative to "Systematically guide and support athletes along a sustainable pathway to Olympic and Paralympic medals".

The aim of AC's HP program is to: *Increase the number of Canadian athletes at major championships who:*

- *improve on their pre-event ranking,*
- *set new season's bests,*
- *set new personal bests,*
- *place in the top half of their field,*
- *place in the top eight, and*
- *win a medal.*

1.2 HP Philosophy

Membership of CAPP is offered as an investment in an athlete to help them reach and maintain the **Podium** level of the program. CAPP membership is not intended to be offered as a reward for past success.

CAPP is an integrated program for our Olympic and Paralympic athletes that recognizes the varying needs of the different event groups, different athletes and different coaches.

AC believes that the keys to a successful HP program in athletics are (in order):

1. Athletes
2. Coaches
3. Support services (e.g. medical services and the sports sciences)
4. Facilities & Equipment
5. Competition

AC believes that outstanding physical potential, world class processes and outstanding mental resilience are required for sustained success at the World and Olympic/Paralympic level.

1.3 Stakeholders and Partners

CAPP program is resourced by AC with the valued support of our partners including Own The Podium (OTP), Sport Canada (SC), the Canadian Olympic & Paralympic Sport Institute Network (COPSIN), the Canadian Olympic Committee (COC), the Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC), Commonwealth Sport Canada (CSC), 94Foward, Ontario High Performance Sport Initiative (OHPSI), B2Ten and AC's Branches, partners, sponsors and supporters.

1.4 Underlying Programs

CAPP consolidates and aligns a number of AC's previous support programs including "Enhanced Funding", "NextGen Funding" and AAP.

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1.5 **Limitations**

The benefits offered to members of the CAPP program are limited by AC's resources and may also be limited by additional rules of our supporting partners. Resourcing priorities may impact the number of athletes supported at the various program levels. Varying Provincial / Territorial priorities are also likely to impact resourcing; however every effort will be made to achieve full alignment of the program across Canada for the greatest level of consistency.

1.6 **Definition of Common Terms**

1.6.1 **CAPP Year**

The CAPP Year typically runs from October 1 to September 30. Occasionally the dates of the major championships mean that the CAPP year may be extended for all, or some, CAPP athletes. The precise dates are outlined in section 11.6.

1.6.2 **AAP Year**

The AAP (Sport Canada's "Athlete Assistance Program" or Carding) year typical starts one month after the CAPP Year for able-bodied athletes and two months after the CAPP Year for Para athletes. The exact dates are agreed with Sport Canada each year and published as early as possible.

1.6.3 **World Championships**

"World Championships" refers to the biennial senior outdoor championships organised by World Athletics (WA) and World Para Athletics (WPA). Unless specifically stated otherwise this phrase does not refer to other global championships organised by WA or WPA such as the World Indoor Championships, World Cross Country Championships, World Relay Championships, World U20 Championships, etc.

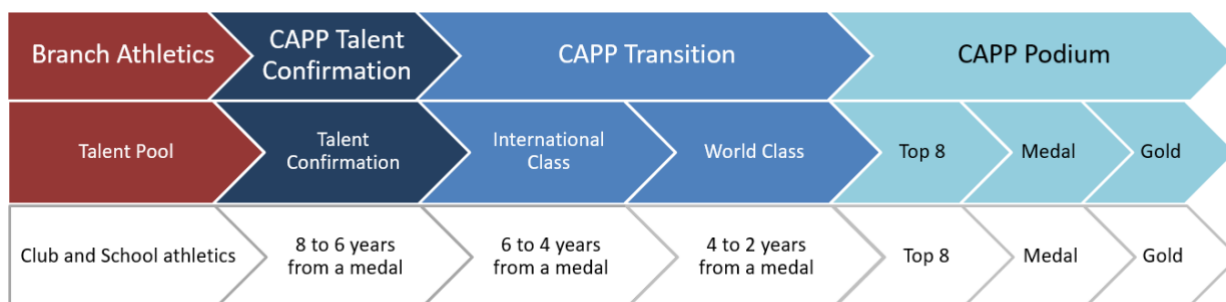
1.6.4 **Podium Benchmark Events**

The "Podium Benchmark Events" are the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games and the World Championships. In the 2022 to 2024 cycle, due to COVID-19, the Commonwealth Games were held in the same year as the World Championships and therefore were not considered a Podium Benchmark Event, that distinction may change in the 2025 to 2028 cycle. The 2024 Kobe WPA (Para) World Championships will be held in the same year as the 2024 Paralympic Games and we will not be sending a full team to Kobe, so this event will also not be considered a Podium Benchmark Event.

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2. PROGRAM STRUCTURE

2.1 CAPP Programs & Levels



Program	Level	Criteria
Podium	Gold	Gold medallist at a recent Podium Benchmark Event with the Realistic Capacity to sustain this level of performance at the next Podium Benchmark Event.
	Medal	Silver or Bronze medallist at a recent Podium Benchmark Event with the Realistic Capacity to sustain this level of performance at the next Podium Benchmark Event.
	Top 8	Fourth to eighth place at a recent Podium Benchmark Event, or an equivalent performance, with the Realistic Capacity to place in the top eight at the next Podium Benchmark Event.
Transition	World Class	Individual Athletes and Relay Teams with the Realistic Capacity to reach the Podium program within two years.
	International	Individual Athletes with the Realistic Capacity to reach the Podium program within four years.
Talent Confirmation	Talent Confirmation	Individual Athletes showing the potential eventually to perform at the Podium program level and with the Realistic Capacity to progress to the Transition program within two years.

Additional classification and depth of field criteria may also apply to Para athletes.

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2.2 Realistic Capacity

Throughout this document reference is made to an athlete's Realistic Capacity to progress within the sport and achieve extremely high levels of success. Judging an athlete's Realistic Capacity is a subjective exercise based on a combination of the available evidence, expert opinion, objective performance data and statistical modelling.

It is important that athletes and their coaches understand and accept that the CAPP program will constantly assess and re-assess these characteristics against the best in the world and not just the best in Canada.

Our expectations of an athlete are in three key areas: 1) physical potential; 2) processes; and 3) mental resilience and depend on an athlete's training age and experience within the sport. For example, we expect that **Podium** athletes will always have world class processes and demonstrate performance on demand. We do not expect **Talent Confirmation** program athletes to be perfect across all three areas – however, we do expect these athletes to improve quickly once they are in our program.

An athlete's chronological age will not be a deciding factor in retaining/selecting athletes for CAPP but an athlete's training and competition age will be considered and either may become a deciding factor.

1) Factors that provide evidence to an athlete's physical potential include:

- Training age.
- Year-on-year performance progression compared to their global peers.
- Technical and tactical skills.
- Physical resilience to stress, injury and illness.
- Physical attributes.

2) Factors that provide evidence to an athlete's processes include:

- Daily Training Environment (DTE) including:
 - o Coaching;
 - o Access to Facilities & Equipment; and
 - o Access to Sport Science & Sports Medicine support.
- Planning for the short, medium and long term.
- Engagement with CAPP / AC and the wider Canadian sporting network.
- Lifestyle management.
- Professionalism.

3) Factors that provide evidence to an athlete's mental resilience include:

- Competition history, especially their record at major championships.
- Approach to challenges, such as illness and injury.
- Training commitment.
- Sport commitment.

AC may require an athlete and/or their coach to complete documents such as an Athlete Capacity Template to help to assess the athlete's Realistic Capacity to progress and identify the key gaps in their current situation.

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3. SELECTION PROCESS

3.1 Selection Panel

3.1.1 The purpose of the Selection Panel is to, within the rules and guidelines laid out in this Selection Policy:

- a) Add athletes to CAPP, determining the appropriate CAPP level;
- b) Retain athletes on CAPP, determining the appropriate CAPP level;
- c) Exit athletes from CAPP; and
- d) Nominate athletes to SC for AAP support.

3.1.2 The Selection Panel will consist of voting members, non-voting experts and observers.

3.1.3 CAPP and AAP selection decisions will be made by the voting members of the Selection Panel. The voting members may request the non-voting experts for their expert advice/opinion at any time.

3.1.4 The voting members or Selectors of the Selection Panel will consist of the following (all AC employees):

- High Performance Director (HPD) (chair),
- Head Coach,
- Para Performance Lead,
- Para Performance Manager,
- NCAA Athlete Performance Advisor,
- Hub Lead (East), and
- Hub Lead (West).

3.1.5 The Selection Panel will also consist of non-voting experts, observers and note-takers as invited by the HPD as follows:

- a) **Non-voting experts:** The role of the non-voting experts will be to provide opinions on their specific field of expertise when asked. They will have no power to vote. They could include, but are not limited to:
 - AC's HP Operations Lead (to comment on logistical and financial matters) and
 - AC's Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or their representative (to comment on medical issues).
- b) **Observers:** The role is to observe and provide feedback on the selection process when asked. They will have no power to vote. They could include, but are not limited to:
 - A nominee of Own the Podium, and
 - A nominee of AC's Athlete Council.
- c) **Note takers:** The note takers will have no power to vote. Their role will be to act as secretariat to the Selection Panel.

3.1.6 To avoid conflicts of interest no member of the Selection Panel, voting or non-voting, may be seeking inclusion on any level of CAPP or Carding.

3.1.7 The HPD, in consultation with AC's CEO, may vary the voting members of the Selection Panel should circumstances require. For example, if one of the named Selectors is ill or otherwise unavailable.

3.2 Selection Dates

3.2.1 There will typically be two Selection Meetings per year for each program (two for the Olympic program and two for the Paralympic program) as follows:

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- a) An “End of Year Selection Meeting” for each program - as soon as practical after the Podium Benchmark event.
 - b) A “Mid-year Review” for each program - as soon as practical after March 31, given the National & International competition calendars.
- 3.2.2 The exact dates of the Selection Meetings will be published on the AC website as early as possible.
- 3.2.3 Athletes may only be added to the CAPP program or moved between levels at one of these Selection Meetings.
- 3.2.4 Athletes will only be Exited at a Selection Meeting or if their eligibility for CAPP changes (see section 9).
- 3.2.5 CAPP membership will start on October 1 (after the End of Year Selection Meeting) or April 1 (after the Mid-year Review) or when the athlete has successfully completed any required assessments and returned all of the requested paperwork, whichever is later.
- 3.2.6 In general, CAPP membership will run from the relevant Selection Meeting until the end of the CAPP Year. That is typically twelve months from the End of Year Selection Meeting or six months from the Mid-year Review. However, if deemed appropriate by the Selectors, CAPP membership may be offered for a reduced time period (typically not less than six months).
- 3.3 **Order of Selection Decisions**
- 3.3.1 Able-bodied and Para athlete selections will be considered separately.
- 3.3.2 At each stage the Selectors will only consider eligible athletes (see section 9) and eligible performances (see section 11).
- 3.3.3 The Selectors will consider athletes for CAPP levels in the order of **Gold, Medal, Top 8, World Class, International** and finally **Talent Confirmation**.
- 3.3.4 At each level, athletes will be allocated for Automatic Selection or Discretionary Selection as described in the “Program” sections (see sections 5, 6 and 77) and then:
- 3.3.5 Athletes eligible for Automatic Selection will be added or retained unless:
- a) The athlete failed a formal CAPP Target (see section 3.3.7); or
 - b) The selection would violate the rules for progression between CAPP program levels (see section 4);
or
 - c) The athlete was previously a CAPP Relay Team member (section 4.2).
- In these cases the athlete will be considered as eligible for Discretionary Selection.
- 3.3.6 Athletes eligible for Discretionary Selection will be considered as follows:
- a) The Selectors will prioritize athletes who they consider best to match the characteristics of the program level (see section 2).

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- b) The Selectors may use any factors that they consider relevant in making this decision. Factors may include, but not be limited to:
 - i. An AC Athlete Capacity Template (ACT) if the athlete has completed and returned one;
 - ii. The athlete's year-on-year progression compared to previously successful major championships athletes;
 - iii. Any medical information provided by AC's CMO; and
 - iv. Notes taken by the athlete's Athlete Performance Advisor (APA) where relevant.
- c) The Selectors will take account of the guidelines on athlete progression (see section 4) as well as any specific limitations on athlete numbers mentioned in the "Program" sections (see sections 5, 6 and 7).
- d) The Selectors will take into account any CAPP Targets set for the athlete (see section 3.3.7).
- e) For the avoidance of doubt, there is no guarantee of selection for Discretionary Selection athletes. In fact, the expectation is that many more athletes will be considered than will be selected.

3.3.7 CAPP Targets:

- a) Targets may be set for CAPP members in order for them to retain their program membership.
- b) An athlete who failed to meet their Targets may be exited from the program whether or not they achieved the Automatic or Discretionary selection criteria for any level of the program
- c) The Selectors may, at their own discretion, decide to set aside the fact that an athlete failed their Targets if they consider that mitigating circumstances apply and, in their opinion, the athlete is still showing the Realistic Capacity to meet the aims of the program.
- d) The Selectors may, at their own discretion, decide to set aside the fact that an athlete met their Target due to a change in circumstances since the Target was set. This clause is intended only to be used in exceptional circumstances. Examples of such as circumstances could include a change in the medal program at the next Olympic / Paralympic Games removing the athlete's main event, an anti-doping violation by the athlete, etc.
- e) Targets:
 - i. Will be set by the HPD in conjunction with the APAs. Targets may include outcomes (for example competition or physical testing results) or athlete processes (for example attendance at specified activities or a minimum level of communications regarding issues such as training and competition planning, physical and mental readiness to train and/or compete, rehabilitation plans and progress, etc).
 - ii. Will be communicated to the athlete concerned in writing (which may be by email) at least three months before the relevant CAPP Selection Meeting.

3.4 Para Athlete Guides

- 3.4.1 In specific Para events the WPA rules allow a visually impaired track athlete to use a guide runner. For these events we may also support a guide at the same CAPP level as the selected athlete. The guide must meet all of the same eligibility criteria as other athletes in the program and be approved by AC's

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Para Performance Lead.

- 3.4.2 An athlete's supported guide will be agreed upon with the Para Performance Lead each year. In exceptional circumstances AC's Para Performance Lead, in agreement with the HPD, may split the guide support across two athletes or decline to support a guide who we do not believe will help the athlete to reach and then maintain the Podium program level.
- 3.4.3 If an athlete who requires a Para Athlete Guide is exited from the program, then their guide is also exited from the program.
- 3.4.4 If, for any reason, an athlete changes their guide during the season – or decides that they no longer wish to have a guide – then the exiting guide may be immediately exited from the program and a new guide offered CAPP membership. This change will be at the sole discretion of the HPD who will consult with AC's Para Performance Lead.
- 3.4.5 Where limitations on athlete numbers are mentioned in this document (outside of AAP card allocations) an athlete and their guide will be considered as "using" one place. The reason for this clause is to ensure that visually impaired athletes with guides are not unintentionally excluded from the program to optimise quota numbers.

3.5 **Exit from the program**

Members of the previous year's CAPP program who are not retained on the new program will be formally "Exited" from CAPP. They will be informed of the decision to Exit them in writing. It is expected that the athletes will be informed of their Exit from the program verbally before receiving written notification if that is practical. Athletes have the right to a detailed explanation of the selection decision upon request.

3.6 **Non-selection to the program**

Athletes considered for, but not selected to the program will not be informed individually. Athletes have the right to an explanation of the selection decision upon request.

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4. ATHLETE PROGRESSION

4.1 Progression between CAPP levels

CAPP athletes are expected to show consistent progression, against the rest of the world, up through the program levels towards the podium. Once an athlete reaches a program level they are not expected to drop back to a lower level, the exception to this general rule is that it is possible for a **Podium** athlete to miss the top eight at any particular Podium Benchmark Event but retain their Realistic Capacity to return to the **Podium** program.

4.1.1 Athletes Retained on CAPP

If an athlete is retained on the CAPP program, the following transitions will be allowed:

Previous CAPP level	Allowed new CAPP levels
Podium program	World Class or higher
World Class level	World Class or higher
International level	International or higher
Talent Confirmation program	Talent Confirmation or higher

Exceptions may be made for:

- a. individual athletes changing their main event (see 4.3 below); or
- b. for relay members retained as individual athletes (see 4.2 below)

4.1.2 Athletes returning to CAPP, former individual members

If an athlete has previously been an individual member of CAPP, or on an equivalent previous AC program, then normally they must return to CAPP as follows:

Highest prior CAPP level	Allowed new CAPP levels
Podium program	World Class or higher
World Class level	World Class or higher
International level	World Class or higher
Talent Confirmation program	International or higher

Exceptions may be made for:

- a. individual athletes changing their main event (see 4.3 below);
- b. for relay members retained as individual athletes (see 4.2 below).

4.2 Former CAPP Relay Team members returning to CAPP as an Individual Athlete

Former CAPP Relay Team members may return to CAPP, or be retained on CAPP, as an Individual Athlete. In these cases:

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4.2.1 The athlete may return to CAPP as follows:

Highest prior Individual CAPP level	Allowed new CAPP levels		
	Years (or partial years) as a CAPP Relay squad member		
	Four or more	Two or three	One or less
Podium program	World Class or higher		
World Class	World Class or higher		
International	World Class or higher		International or higher
Talent Confirmation	World Class or higher	International or higher	Talent Confirmation or higher
Never previously on CAPP as an individual athlete.	International or higher		Talent Confirmation or higher

4.2.2 The athlete will be considered as if they had Discretionary Selection status (in other words any Automatic Qualification status will not apply).

4.3 Change of main event

4.3.1 Occasionally athletes may change their main event focus, in Para events change their sports class, or their main event may have been removed from the Olympic / Paralympic medal program. In these circumstances the Selectors, at their sole discretion, may waive the progression rules above as long as:

- a) the new event is expected to be on the next Olympic / Paralympic medal program and
- b) the athlete meets the criteria for addition to, or retention on, CAPP in their new event and
- c) the selectors believe that the athlete has the Realistic Capacity to meet the aims of the program in their new event.

For the avoidance of doubt, to be considered for this discretion, athletes must have an eligible result in their new event that merits, at least, consideration for the CAPP Talent Confirmation level – although more typically the minimum requirement will be a CAPP International level Consideration Standard.

4.3.2 Changes between the following events will not normally be considered a change of main event: 100m and 200m; 200m and 400m; 800m and 1,500m; 1,500m and 5,000m; 5,000m and 10,000m; 10,000m and Marathon.

4.4 Year-on-year Progression

4.4.1 Personal best progression: **Talent Confirmation** program athletes and **Transition** program athletes are expected to show progression in their personal best every year that they are on the CAPP program. Athletes who fail to progress their personal best for two consecutive years, regardless of injuries or other circumstances, should expect to be Exited from the program. However, at their own discretion, the Selectors may choose to retain an athlete if they have good reason to believe that the athlete still has the Realistic Capacity to reach and/or maintain the **Podium** program level. When considering year-on-year progressions, due to COVID-19:

- a) A failure to improve personal best during the 2020-2021 CAPP Year will not be considered when calculating year-on-year progression; but
- b) An improvement in personal best during the 2020-2021 CAPP Year will be considered when calculating year-on-year progression.

4.4.2 Podium Benchmark Event teams: **World Class** level and **Podium** program athletes are expected to be selected for the Podium Benchmark Event each year. Athletes at these levels who are not selected for two consecutive Podium Benchmark Events, regardless of injuries or other circumstances, should

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expect to be Exited from the program. However, at their own discretion, the Selectors may choose to retain an athlete if they have good reason to believe that the athlete still has the Realistic Capacity to reach and/or maintain the **Podium** program level.

- 4.4.3 CAPP progression: **Talent Confirmation** program athletes and **Transition** program athletes are expected to progress to the next level of CAPP within three consecutive years. Athletes that are not promoted within this timescale, regardless of injuries or other circumstances, should expect to be Exited from the program. However, at their own discretion, the Selectors may choose to retain an athlete if they have good reason to believe that the athlete still has the Realistic Capacity to reach and/or maintain the **Podium** program level. Due to COVID-19, a failure to progress CAPP levels during the 2020-2021 CAPP Year will not be considered when calculating progression.
- 4.4.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the comments in this section refer to the maximum time an athlete should normally expect to remain on any level of CAPP before being seriously considered to be Exited. The minimum time an athlete remains a member of CAPP could be as short as the time between consecutive Selection Meetings (approximately six months) but would typically not be less than one year.

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5. PODIUM PROGRAM

5.1 Overview

The **Podium** program consists of three levels: **Gold**, **Medal** and **Top 8**. These are the highest levels of the CAPP program. Selected athletes are expected to be capable of, and fully committed to, winning Podium Benchmark Event medals. Athletes, and their coaches, should be comfortable being measured directly against their peers – the very best in the world.

Selectors will consider Individual Athletes and Relay Teams for the **Podium** program based on the Program Structure (see section 2), the Selection Process (see section 3) and the selection requirements detailed below.

Able-bodied Consideration Standards are listed in Appendix 1.

Para “top half” values are listed in Appendix 3.

5.2 Gold:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	1 st at a Podium Benchmark Event since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.
Discretionary Selection	Remaining CAPP members of the most recent Gold level of the program.

5.3 Medal:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	2 nd or 3 rd at a Podium Benchmark Event since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.
Discretionary Selection	Remaining CAPP members of the most recent Medal level of the program.

5.4 Top 8:

5.4.1 Able-bodied athletes:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	4 th to 8 th at a Podium Benchmark Event since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.
Discretionary Selection	Top 8 Consideration Standard. Remaining CAPP members of the most recent Top 8 level of the program.

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5.4.2 Para athletes:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	4 th to 8 th & top half at a Podium Benchmark Event since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.
Discretionary Selection	<p>Top 8 Consideration Standard.</p> <p>Top 8 & top half in the Current Top List.</p> <p>Remaining CAPP members of the most recent Top 8 level of the program.</p>

5.5 Limitations

5.5.1 There are no limitations on the number of qualified Individual Athletes who can be selected onto the **Podium** program.

5.6 Exits

Members of the previous year's **Podium** program who are not retained will be either:

5.6.1 Moved to the **World Class** level if the Selectors believe that an Individual Athlete or Relay Team has the Realistic Capacity to finish in the top 8 at a future Podium Benchmark Event; or

5.6.2 Exited from the CAPP program.

5.7 Relay specific

5.7.1 A Relay Team (see section 10.2) will only be selected if the eligible athletes individually and collectively meets the criteria for the CAPP level.

5.7.2 If a Relay Team is selected then the "Strike-4" team members (see 10.2.1 for definition) who are eligible for CAPP must be included in the Squad Athletes of up to six athletes.

5.7.3 Individual members of a Relay Team may be selected to a higher level of CAPP than their Team (due to their results in individual events or another relay squad) however they cannot be selected to a lower level of CAPP than their Team.

5.8 Discretionary selections to the Podium program

5.8.1 For the avoidance of doubt, it is expected that Podium program athletes will repeat achieving the Automatic Selection criteria every year. The Discretionary Section options at this level are intended for the Selection Panel to manage circumstances such as years with no Podium Benchmark Events, athlete injuries, and similar. Simply achieving a Top-8 consideration standard or ranking in the top-8 and top-half is unlikely to be sufficient for selection to the Podium program, especially if an athlete had the opportunity to qualify for, and/or compete at, a Podium Benchmark Event but did not achieve the required finishing position. Even in cases of injury or illness an athlete failing to achieve the Automatic Selection criteria for their current CAPP level, should expect to be dropped *at least* one CAPP level.

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6. TRANSITION PROGRAM

6.1 Overview

The CAPP **Transition** program is intended to help athletes negotiate the changes from being a very promising athlete to a Podium Benchmark Event finalist in contention for medals.

The **World Class** level is the higher level of the Transition program. Members of this level of the program are expected regularly to finish at least in the top half of the field at Podium Benchmark Events.

The **International** level is the lower level of the Transition program. Members of this level of the program are expected regularly to gain selection to Podium Benchmark Events.

Selectors will consider Individual Athlete and Relay Teams for the **Transition** program based on the Program Structure (see Section 2), the Selection Process (see section 3) and the selection requirements detailed below.

Able-bodied Consideration Standards are listed in Appendix 1.

Para Consideration Standards and “top half” values are listed in Appendix 3.

6.2 World Class:

6.2.1 Able-bodied athletes:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	9 th to 12 th at a Podium Benchmark Event since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.
Discretionary Selection	<p>World Class Consideration Standard.</p> <p>Top 32 and top half of the field at a Podium Benchmark Event since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.</p> <p>Won an Individual athletics medal at one of the following events since the last CAPP Selection Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the Commonwealth Games (Senior)- Pan Am Games (Senior)- NACAC Athletics Championships (Senior)- the WA World Race Walking Team Championships (Senior, Individual medal)- the WA World Indoor Championships <p>Considered for the Podium program but not selected.</p> <p>Remaining members of the most recent World Class level of the program.</p>

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6.2.2 Para athletes:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	9 th to 12 th & top half at a Podium Benchmark Event since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.
Discretionary Selection	<p>World Class Consideration Standard.</p> <p>Top 16 & top half in the Current Top List.</p> <p>Top half of the field at a Podium Benchmark Event since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.</p> <p>Won an Individual athletics medal at the following events since the last CAPP selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Commonwealth Games - ParaPan Am Games <p>Considered for the Podium program but not selected.</p> <p>Remaining members of the most recent World Class level of the program.</p>

6.3 International:

6.3.1 Able-bodied athletes:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	N/A (no automatic route to selection).
Discretionary Selection	<p>International Consideration Standard.</p> <p>Selected to represent Canada in athletics at one of the following events since the last CAPP Selection Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Olympic Games - the WA World Championships (Senior) - the Commonwealth Games (Senior) - Pan Am Games (Senior) - the WA World Race Walking Team Championships (Senior) - the WA World Indoor Championships <p>Won an Individual athletics medal at one of the following events since the last CAPP Selection Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World University Games (FISU) - WA World Cross Country Championships (Senior, Individual medal) - WA World Road Running Championships (Senior, Individual medal) <p>Considered for the World Class level of the program but not selected.</p> <p>Remaining members of the most recent International level of the program.</p>

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6.3.2 Para athletes:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	N/A (no automatic route to selection).
Discretionary Selection	<p>International Consideration Standard.</p> <p>Selected to represent Canada in athletics at one of the following events since the last CAPP Selection Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Paralympic Games - the WPA World Championships (Senior) - ParaPan Am Championships - the Commonwealth Games <p>Considered for the World Class level of the program but not selected.</p> <p>Remaining members of the most recent International level of the program.</p>

6.4 Limitations

- 6.4.1 No more than three Individual Athletes will be selected onto any **Transition** program level in any one event. (For example, the able-bodied women's 400m counts as one event and so no more than three athletes can be selected as Individual Athletes onto the **International** level for the able-bodied women's 400m.) For the avoidance of doubt, Relay Team members do not count towards these totals.
- 6.4.2 The **World Class** level of the program will be limited to 22 able-bodied and 10 Para Individual Athletes and/or Relay Teams (a Relay Team will be counted as using one of these places, a Para Athlete Guide will not be counted as using one of these places).
- 6.4.3 The **International** level of the program will be limited to 21 able-bodied and 14 Para Individual Athletes.
- 6.4.4 The Selectors may select more athletes than the numbers indicated above – however to do so will impact resources across the entire program. For that reason, additional athletes will be only selected in exceptional circumstances, for example if it proves impossible for the Selectors to differentiate between the Realistic Capacity of a number of athletes.

6.5 Exits

Members of the previous year's **Transition** program who are not retained will be exited from the CAPP program.

6.6 Relay specific

- 6.6.1 Relay Teams (see section 10.2) can only be selected at the **World Class** level, not **International**.
- 6.6.2 A Relay Team will only be selected if the eligible athletes individually and collectively meet the criteria for the CAPP level.
- 6.6.3 Individual members of a Relay Team may be selected to a higher level of CAPP than their Team (due to their results in individual events or another relay squad) however they cannot be selected to a lower level of CAPP than their Team.

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7. TALENT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

7.1 Overview

The **Talent Confirmation** program is intended to give Athletics Canada time to gain a better understanding of an athlete and their DTE to determine if the athlete truly has the potential to make Podium Benchmark Event finals and challenge for medals.

The **Talent Confirmation** program is only for Individual Athletes and not Relay Teams.

We will not consider Marathon or any race walking event above 20k for the **Talent Confirmation** program.

The selection of athletes on the **Talent Confirmation** program is more subjective than the other program levels because they have had less time in the sport and less is known about them.

It is expected that **Talent Confirmation** athletes are improving quickly year-on-year and are relatively new to the sport and to their event.

Selectors will consider Individual Athletes for the **Talent Confirmation** program based on the Program Structure (see section 2), the Selection Process (see section 3) and the selection requirements detailed below.

Able-bodied Consideration Standards are listed in Appendix 1.

Para Consideration Standards and “top half” values are listed in Appendix 3.

7.2 Talent Confirmation:

7.2.1 Able-bodied:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	Medal at a WA World U20 Championships since the last CAPP Selection Meeting.
Discretionary Selection	<p>Talent Confirmation Consideration Standard.</p> <p>Selected to represent Canada in athletics at one of the following events since the last CAPP Selection Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the WA World U20 Championships- the NACAC Athletics Championships (U23)- the WA World Race Walking Team Championships (U20)- the Pan Am U20 Championships <p>Won an Individual athletics medal at one of the following events since the last CAPP Selection Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the WA World Cross Country Championships (U20, Individual medal) <p>Considered for the Transition program but not selected (and eligible for the Talent Confirmation program).</p> <p>Remaining members of the most recent Talent Confirmation level of the program.</p>

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7.2.2 The Head Coach can nominate additional able-bodied athletes to be considered for Discretionary Selection to the **Talent Confirmation** program. Note that these athletes will not be eligible for consideration for AAP (Carding).

7.2.3 Para athletes:

Consideration	Requirement
Automatic Selection	N/A (no automatic route to selection).
Discretionary Selection	<p>Talent Confirmation Consideration Standard.</p> <p>Selected to represent Canada in athletics at one of the following events since the last CAPP Selection Meeting: - the WPA World U20 Championships.</p> <p>Considered for the Transition program but not selected (and eligible for the Talent Confirmation program).</p> <p>Remaining members of the most recent Talent Confirmation level of the program.</p>

7.2.4 The Para Performance Lead can nominate additional Para athletes to be considered for Discretionary Selection to the **Talent Confirmation** program. Note that these athletes will not be eligible for consideration for AAP (Carding).

7.3 Limitations

7.3.1 No more than three Individual Athletes will be selected onto the **Talent Confirmation** program in any one event. (For example, the able-bodied men’s 100m counts as one event and so no more than three Individual Athletes can be selected onto the **Talent Confirmation** program for the able-bodied men’s 100m.)

7.3.2 The **Talent Confirmation** program will be limited to 27 able-bodied and 18 Para Individual Athletes (a Para Athlete Guide will not be counted as using one of these places).

7.3.3 The Selectors may select more athletes than the numbers indicated above – however to do so will impact resources across the entire program. For that reason additional athletes will be only selected in exceptional circumstances, for example if it proves impossible for the Selectors to differentiate between very strong candidates.

7.4 Exits

Members of the previous year’s **Talent Confirmation** program who are not retained will be exited from the CAPP program.

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8. AAP NOMINATION PROCESS

8.1 Overview and Eligibility

- 8.1.1 Sport Canada's (SC's) Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is a sport-funding program that contributes to an athlete's pursuit of excellence. For full details see SC's AAP – Policies, Procedures and Guidelines at <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance.html>
- 8.1.2 AAP is referred to as "carding" and athletes receiving AAP are referred to as being "carded".
- 8.1.3 The overview of the carding selection process is intended to help athletes and coaches understand the rules used to allocate cards. The Selectors will be guided by the detailed sections that follow.

Overview of Carding Nomination Process

STEP 1: Athletes must declare for carding on AC's website by the date published on the AC website.

When an athlete declares for carding they must also state if they are seeking Health Card status or NCAA card status.

STEP 2: Only athletes eligible for consideration for one of the CAPP levels will be eligible for consideration for a Card.

STEP 3: Athletes selected for CAPP will be ranked in order.

Within each CAPP level athletes are ranked by their "Athlete Score" (a number of World Athletics or WPA points from a pre-set target).

STEP 4: The Selectors will consider athletes, in ranking order, and allocate cards until there are no cards left.

The Selectors will decide which card to allocate to an athlete as follows:

First a Senior International Card (SR1 or SR2) if they are eligible; or
Next a Senior National Card (SR) if they are eligible; and
Finally a Development Card (D) if they are eligible.

STEP 5: If any cards remain then athletes considered for CAPP but not selected will be ranked in order based on their CAPP consideration level.

Note that typically there will be no cards remaining after Step 4. However, if cards do remain, athletes will be ranked within the CAPP consideration levels using their "Athlete Score" and then the remaining cards will be allocated as in Step 4.

STEP 6: The selectors will identify a list of athletes to be placed on a "Hold List".

This list is in case more Cards become available, for example due to appeals. The number of athletes placed on the Hold List will typically be equivalent to the value of 5 SR cards (see section 8.5).

STEP 7: The Selectors will nominate carded athletes to SC and publish the confirmed list on AC's website as soon as SC ratifies the nominations.

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8.1.4 In the event of a discrepancy between this document and the Sport Canada Policies, Procedures and Guidelines, Sport Canada will prevail.

8.1.5 To be eligible to be considered for support through AAP, an athlete must:

- a) Declare that they wish to be considered for carding on or before the date published on the AC website using the declaration form on the AC website. In the declaration process the athlete must state if they wish to be considered for Health Card status (see section 8.14) or NCAA Card status (see section 8.15).
- b) Be eligible for both the CAPP and AAP programs (see section 9).

8.1.6 AC nominates athletes to SC for carding; actual selection for carding is at SC's sole discretion.

8.2 AAP Consideration Pool

8.2.1 The AAP Consideration Pool will consist of all athletes eligible for consideration for the CAPP program except for athletes nominated by the Head Coach or Para Performance Lead for the **Talent Confirmation** program.

8.2.2 An athlete must be in the AAP Consideration Pool in order to be carded, but being in the AAP Consideration Pool does not guarantee a card.

8.3 Card types and tiers

8.3.1 There are three main types of AAP card for which AC can nominate athletes: Senior International, Senior National and Development.

8.3.2 The types of AAP cards are tiered as follows:

Type	Tier	Max Consecutive Years	Overview
Senior International	SR1	n/a	Athletes who finished top 8 and top half at the most recent Benchmark event
	SR2	One year	Allocated the year after an SR1 card (if not re-qualified for an SR1)
Senior National	SR	4 to 6 Years	Athletes who have been selected for a Benchmark Event, but not finished top 8 and top half in the last two years
Development	D	4 to 6 Years	Athletes who have never been selected to a Benchmark Event

8.3.3 In addition, SC may award special short-term cards to athletes selected to the Olympic & Paralympic Games.

8.3.4 There are also special card statuses that can be assigned to injured, ill or pregnant athletes (Health Card status) and for athletes at an international academic institution (generically called NCAA Card status even if the athlete is not on an NCAA scholarship at an USA college).

8.4 Card Quotas

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- 8.4.1 SC offers AC a dollar value that can be used for cards for able-bodied athletes (Able-bodied Quota) and a separate dollar value that can be used for cards for Para athletes (Para Quota).
- 8.4.2 If every eligible able-bodied CAPP athlete has been nominated for a card and there is remaining Able-bodied Quota then the remaining Able-bodied Quota will be used to card additional Para CAPP athletes. If and when all of the eligible Para CAPP athletes have been nominated, any remaining Able-bodied Quota will be used to nominate non-CAPP able-bodied athletes.
- 8.4.3 If every eligible Para CAPP athlete has been nominated for a card and there is remaining Para Quota then the remaining Para Quota will be used to card additional Able-bodied CAPP athletes. If and when all of the eligible able-bodied CAPP athletes have been nominated, any remaining Para Quota will be used to nominate non-CAPP Para athletes.

8.5 Maximizing the Allocation of cards and the Athlete “Hold List”

- 8.5.1 AC will endeavour to nominate sufficient athletes to utilise the entire Able-bodied Quota and Para Quota offered by SC.
- 8.5.2 There is an appeals process that can change card levels or who is allocated a card, this can change the total number of athletes who can be carded. Therefore, to account for this effect, the Selectors will place the last few athletes who could receive a card on a Hold List. These athletes must still complete the required SC paperwork.
- 8.5.3 The Selectors will ensure that there is sufficient card quota (dollar value) to card the athletes on the Hold List subject to the SC’s approval process and/or appeals processes. It is possible that, due to the mechanics of the SC’s approval process or the appeals process, some athletes on the Hold List will not receive a card despite completing all of the requested paperwork. AC will inform athletes on the Hold List whether or not they will receive a card as soon as practical.
- 8.5.4 The number of athletes on the Hold List will vary depending on circumstances and advice from SC. However the number will typically be around the equivalent of five Senior Cards per program (e.g. counting Para and able-bodied separately).
- 8.5.5 For the avoidance of doubt, being on the Hold List does not guarantee receiving a card.

8.5.6 Partial Card

To utilise all of the dollar value offered by SC it is possible that an athlete is offered a “partial card” which is worth a fixed fraction of a full “standard” card. As a guide typically there needs to be at least \$4,000 of nominal dollar value remaining for SC to award a partial card.

8.6 AAP Nomination Meeting and AAP Selection Meeting

- 8.6.1 Athletes will be nominated for cards by the Selectors at the AAP Nomination Meeting that will be held once per year as soon as practical after the CAPP End of Year Selection Meeting.
- 8.6.2 SC will set the date of the subsequent AAP Selection Meeting where they will confirm AC’s nominations.
- 8.6.3 The exact dates of the AAP Nomination Meeting and the AAP Selection Meeting will be published on the AC website as early as possible.

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8.7 Nomination Order

8.7.1 Able-bodied athletes and Para Athletes will be considered separately.

8.7.2 Athletes will be considered in steps as follows:

Step	Athletes in step	Ranking Target	
		Able-bodied	Para
1	Selected to the Podium program	Average World Top 8	Average World Top 8 & top half (“Podium Standard”)
2	Selected to the World Class level	Average World Top 12	95% of the Podium Standard
3	Selected to the International level	Average World Top 16	90% of the Podium Standard
4	Selected to the Talent Confirmation program	Senior: Average World Top 32 U20: Average U20 World Top 3	80% of the Podium Standard
5	Eligible for consideration for the Podium program but not selected	Average World Top 8	Podium Standard
6	Eligible for consideration for the World Class level but not selected	Average World Top 12	95% of the Podium Standard
7	Eligible for consideration for the International level but not selected	Average World Top 16	90% of the Podium Standard
8	Eligible for consideration for the Talent Confirmation program but not selected	Senior: Average World Top 32 U20: Average U20 World Top 3	80% of the Podium Standard

8.7.3 For able-bodied events the Average Top Lists will be calculated based on the previous four years and as set out in section 12.

8.7.4 For Para events the Average Top Lists will be calculated based on the previous four years and as set out in section 12.

8.7.5 Within each step athletes will be selected in ranking order of “Athlete’s Score” (see below) from the smallest score to the largest score.

8.7.6 Able-bodied athlete’s “Athlete’s Score” will be calculated as the difference between the World Athletics points (see section 8.15.3) for their best eligible performance (see section 11) and the World Athletics score for their Ranking Target (see section 8.7.2).

8.7.7 Para athlete’s “Athlete’s Score” will be calculated as the difference between the WPA points (see section 8.15.3) for their best eligible performance (see section 11) and the WPA score for their Ranking Target (see section 8.7.2). For combined classes the WPA score for the highest classification in the combination will be used (e.g. for a T53/54 combination the WPA score for T54 will be used.) For details of how classes or events not covered by the WPA scores will be managed see sections 8.7.8 and 8.7.9.

8.7.8 The WPA has published neither scoring tables nor historical rankings for some classes or events. In these cases the Selectors may use their expertise, and evidence from comparing world ranking lists, to make adjustments (up or down) to the rankings of effected athletes if appropriate.

8.7.9 The WPA has published ranking lists but not scoring tables for some classes or events (for example, at the time of writing, the Marathon events). In these cases the Selectors may use their expertise, and evidence from comparing world ranking lists, to rank athletes for carding.

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8.7.10 If an athlete is eligible for a Health Card status (see section 8.14) then for ranking purposes the athlete's best eligible performance in the previous AAP Year will be used to calculate their "Athlete Score" and to resolve any ties.

8.7.11 If there is a tie between athletes (e.g. they have the same CAPP level and "Athlete Score") the tie will be broken by the Selectors who will prioritize the athlete who has the most Realistic Capacity to win an Olympic/Paralympic/World Championships medal in the future. If that cannot be determined, then the Selectors will prioritize the athlete who has the most Realistic Capacity to progress to their next level of CAPP in the shortest time.

8.8 Nomination Card Level

The following process will be used to determine the card level and card status for which an athlete will be nominated. The process depends on previously awarded cards.

8.8.1 First, the athlete will be considered for a Senior International Card (see section 8.11) and, if eligible, they will be nominated for the appropriate card (SR1 or SR2).

8.8.2 Next, the athlete will be considered for a Senior National Card (see section 8.12) and, if eligible, they will be nominated for an SR card.

8.8.3 Finally, the athlete will be considered for a Development Card (see section 0) and, if eligible, they will be nominated for a D card.

8.9 Nomination Card Status

Nominated cards will be allocated "Health Card status" and/or "NCAA Card status" according to the guidelines in sections 8.14 and 8.15 below. For the avoidance of doubt only SC may award Olympic and Paralympic Senior Card status.

8.10 Para Athlete Guides

8.10.1 If a guide has been agreed for a Para athlete (see section 3.4) they will be nominated for a card at the same level as the athlete who they guide, provided they meet the eligibility requirements (see section 9), including completing the CAPP Declaration Process (within SC rules and assuming that sufficient cards remain).

8.10.2 If a Para athlete with an agreed guide is given Health Card status (see section 8.14) then their guide will be given the same status.

8.11 Senior International Cards

Athletes eligible under the following rules will be nominated for a Senior International card:

8.11.1 Able-bodied athletes who place in top 8 at a World Championships or at an Olympic Games are eligible for an SR1 card the following AAP Year.

8.11.2 Para athletes who place in top 8 and top half of the field at a WPA World Championships or at a Paralympic Games are eligible for an SR1 card the following AAP Year.

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8.11.3 In the case of relays, all relay team members who actually ran in the relevant relay at a World Championships, Olympic Games or Paralympic Games are eligible for an SR1 card the following AAP Year. For the avoidance of doubt travelling as a relay squad member to one of these events does not make an athlete eligible for a Senior International Card unless the athlete competed in the relay or another individual event.

8.11.4 An SR2 card will be allocated for the AAP Year after an athlete was awarded an SR1 card, assuming that they remain eligible and they have not requalified for a “new” SR1 card.

8.11.5 For the avoidance of doubt, there is no limit on how many consecutive years an athlete may be nominated for SR1 cards, if they continue to achieve eligible top 8 places.

8.12 Senior National Cards

Subject to the time limits in 8.12.2 athletes eligible under the following rules will be nominated for a Senior National card:

8.12.1 Athletes will be eligible for Senior National Cards if:

- a) They were selected to compete for Canada in athletics at one the following championships – the World Championships, Olympic Games, or Paralympic Games; and
- b) They were at least 18 years old in the year of that championship.

For the avoidance of doubt, an athlete selected to one of these championships but who does not compete, for example due to injury or relay squad selection decision, is eligible for a Senior National Card.

8.12.2 Athletes will only be eligible for a Senior National Card for a maximum of four years without achieving a Senior International Card or since they last held a Senior International Card.

- a) If requested by the Selectors and agreed by SC this period can be extended up to a maximum of six years, subject to the points below.
- b) If requested by the Selectors and agreed by SC, this period can be extended up to a maximum of seven years if and only if the athlete was carded in the previous year (being their sixth year of Senior National Cards) and the seventh year includes an Olympic or Paralympic Summer Games.
- c) Any years that an athlete received a Health Card (see section 8.14) will NOT be counted towards these time limits.
- d) Both NCAA and Partial cards (even though less than 12 months) count as a “year” of carding for the purpose of these calculations.
- e) Due to COVID-19, any athlete who received a Senior National Card for 2020-2021 cycle will NOT be counted towards these time limits.

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8.13 Development Cards

Subject to the time limits in 8.13.3 athletes eligible under the following rules will be nominated for a Development card:

8.13.1 Athletes aged 18 years old or older (in the year of the Selection Meeting) will be eligible for a Development Card if they have never previously been allocated a Senior card.

8.13.2 Athletes under 18 years old (in the year of the Selection Meeting) will be eligible for a Development Card if their only previous Senior card was an Olympic Senior Card or a Paralympic Senior Card.

8.13.3 Athletes will only be eligible for a Development Card for a maximum of four years.

- a) If requested by the Selectors and agreed by SC this period can be extended up to maximum of six years, subject to the points below.
- b) Any years that an athlete received a Health Card (see section 8.14) will NOT be counted towards these time limits.
- c) Due to COVID-19, any athlete who received a Development Card for 2020-2021 cycle will NOT be counted towards these time limits.

8.14 Health Card status

The purpose of Health Card status is for an athlete to “pause” the carding time limits for one year. Without a Health Card athletes have a standard of four years to progress from a Development Card to a Senior Card and a standard of four years to repeat their qualification for a Senior card. For the avoidance of doubt, in order to obtain a health card, athletes must still qualify for carding via the process described in Section 8.7. A Health Card is not a “pass” from one year to the next, its purpose is related to the carding time limits as described above.

8.14.1 Health Card status will only be considered for athletes who meet the following requirements:

- a) have declared that they want to be considered for a Health Card; and
- b) were carded in the previous AAP Year; and
- c) the previous year’s card was not their last eligible year to be carded, that is that they have not already received the maximum number of cards specified in 8.12.2 (for Senior National cards) or 8.1.3.3 (for Development cards); and
- d) either:
 - i. have a Performance Limiting Injury (see section 9.2); or
 - ii. are pregnant or have recently given birth.

8.14.2 Once an athlete has declared for a Health Card, AC’s CMO may request the athlete to provide the applicable medical information on a confidential basis (the “Medical Information”), and the athlete will consent to providing such Medical Information. Note that the CMO will only request additional information for athletes who may realistically be carded based on their position in the Athlete Rankings (not all athletes who declare for a Health Card will be contacted by the CMO). All Medical Information will be treated in accordance with all applicable privacy laws. In addition to the Medical Information, the Selectors, in consultation with AC’s CMO, may request any additional information necessary to assess an athlete’s return to training and return to competition plans.

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8.14.3 Injury and/or illness related Health Cards (including mental health issues):

- a) Athletes may be nominated for Health Card status due to injury, illness or a mental health issue only once (e.g. only once in their career).

Due to this restriction, even if an athlete has declared for a Health Card AC may discuss with an athlete if, given their individual circumstances, it is in their best interest to be allocated a Health Card, or whether the possibility of a Health Card should be reserved for a future year.

- b) A Health Card will be granted for injury/illness provided that the Selectors, based on their professional opinion and consultation with AC's CMO, deem it reasonable that the athlete will:
 - i. within one AAP year return to training; and
 - ii. within two AAP years return to competition at a performance level of at least equal to, or better than, the performance level that such athlete had achieved prior to their injury/illness.

8.14.4 Pregnancy related Health Cards:

- a) Athletes may only be nominated for a Health Card once per pregnancy.
- b) A Health Card will be granted for pregnancy provided that the Selectors, based on their professional opinion and consultation with AC's CMO, deem it reasonable that the athlete will:
 - i. within one AAP year return to training; and
 - ii. within two AAP years return to competition at a performance level of at least equal to, or better than, the performance level that such athlete had achieved prior to their pregnancy.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt an athlete nominated for one or more pregnancy related Health Cards does not lose their right to one injury/illness related Health Card as described in 8.14.3 above.

8.14.5 It is expected that an athlete requesting Health Card status will not raise new medical evidence in any subsequent appeals process. The reason for this clause is that each carding decision is likely to impact the choices that the Selectors have for other athletes later in the process (as carding "dollars" are used up). This clause is intended to ensure that the AC's CMO has enough information to make a medically informed decision at the original AAP Selection meeting.

8.14.6 If the Selectors do not grant Health Card status then the athlete will be deemed to have applied for a "standard card" and will be ranked and allocated a card (or not) on that basis.

8.15 **NCAA Card status**

The purpose of the NCAA Card status is for an athlete to benefit from carding status and support without risking their scholarship or academic eligibility. The level of the Card (Senior International, Senior National or Development) will be determined as described above. The NCAA Card status only effects the timing of Carding payments and the annual dollar value of the Card.

8.15.1 An athlete will be given NCAA Card status if they meet all of the following:

- a) They declared that they want to be considered for a NCAA Card (see section 8.15);
- b) Would otherwise have been nominated for a Senior International, Senior National or Development Card; and

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- c) They are attending any foreign post-secondary educational institution, including National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) institutions, and are receiving an athletic (sports) scholarship in any sport. This applies also in the rare case where an NCAA affiliated institution is located in Canada.

8.15.2 NCAA Card status athletes will only receive AAP support during the months that they are not attending the relevant institution.

8.15.3 If the Selectors do not grant NCAA Card status then the athlete will not be carded (this rule is to prevent the carding process inadvertently impacting an athlete's scholarship or academic eligibility).

8.16 **Calculation of World Athletics points and WPA points**

8.16.1 World Athletics points will be based on the latest "World Athletics Scoring Tables of Athletics - Outdoor" which can be found at <https://www.worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information>

8.16.2 WPA points will be based on the latest "World Para Athletics Points Scores" found at <https://www.paralympic.org/athletics/technical-information>

8.17 **De-Carding and Reallocation of Released Cards**

8.17.1 Athletes may be "de-carded" for a number of reasons including:

- a) Being exited from CAPP in the Mid-year CAPP Selection Meeting
- b) Being suspended from the sport, for example due to anti-doping issue.
- c) Retiring from the sport.
- d) Athletes may simply decide to de-card themselves without officially retiring from the sport.
- e) Not completing their AAP application paperwork before the start of the next CAPP Selection Meeting. Such athletes will be considered as if they have not been carded at all for that AAP year.

For the avoidance of doubt, athletes carded at the End of year CAPP Selection meeting must complete the AAP application paperwork before the start of the next Mid-year CAPP Selection meeting. Similarly, athletes carded at the Mid-year CAPP Selection meeting must complete the AAP application paperwork before the start of the next End of year CAPP Selection meeting.

8.17.2 Sport Canada will confirm how many months carding the de-carded athlete will receive and how much, if any, carding money will be released for carding other athletes.

8.17.3 When Carding money is released for other athletes, it will be reallocated as follows:

- a) Carding money will be allocated first to the same program (Able-bodied or Para) in which the athlete was de-carded. Any remaining funding will be allocated as per the process described in Section 8.4.2 and 8.4.3.
- b) If any athlete(s) are receiving Partial Cards (see 8.5.6) they will be made up to full Cards. Assuming that there is enough money released, they will be made up to the equivalent value of a full year of

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Carding at the appropriate level.

- c) Any remaining Carding money will be used to nominate additional athlete(s) for Card(s) using the same rules as the initial Nomination meeting. It is important to note that the Nomination order will change after the Mid-year CAPP Selection Meeting (see 11.7.2). The value of the Card will be calculated on a pro rata basis based on the appropriate Card level and the number of months left in the AAP year.

8.18 **Long Breaks from the Sport**

The following section is intended to cover athletes who have taken a long break from the sport and have subsequently returned at a high level. Typical reasons for a long break include raising a family, a career break, and/or a period in another sport.

8.18.1 If an athlete is:

- not currently carded, and
- has previously received a Senior or Senior International Card, and
- has not been allocated a card for at least four consecutive years, and
- was selected to the most recent Podium Benchmark Event,

then the Selectors may, at their sole discretion, request that SC allocate the athlete a Senior Card. If a Senior Card is allocated then the athlete's "year count" will be considered to have been reset to 1.

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9. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

9.1 Eligibility

9.1.1 In order to be eligible for membership of CAPP / AAP, athletes and guides must meet the following criteria:

- a) Declare that they wish to be considered for CAPP / AAP membership on or before the dates published on the AC website using the declaration form on the AC website. The Selection Panel may waive the requirement for current members of the CAPP program to declare.

For the avoidance of doubt, non-CAPP athletes who have not completed the declaration form within the deadlines will not be considered for CAPP or AAP.

- b) Signed the AC Athlete Agreement.
- c) Satisfy all relevant World Athletics, International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Paralympic Athletics (WPA), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) eligibility and nationality rules;
- d) Hold Canadian citizenship;
- e) Be a registered member of Athletics Canada through their Branch Association;
- f) In the case of Para athletes:
 - i. **Transition** and **Podium** program athletes must hold an international WPA classification which is of “review” or “confirmed” status;
 - ii. **Talent Confirmation** program athletes must hold at least a national classification.
- g) In the case of Para athletes, be in athletics event and classification combinations that are likely to be contested at the upcoming Paralympic Games;
- h) In the case of able-bodied athletes, be in athletics events that are likely to be contested at the upcoming Olympic Games;
- i) Complete and sign AC paperwork as required and on time. Such paperwork may include an Athlete Contract and/or an Athlete Agreement. The required paperwork will be made clear in the letter offering program membership;
- j) Complete CCES e-learning modules and updates as requested from time to time; and
- k) Maintain regular contact with the assigned APA providing updates on training status and training & competition plans. This is expected to include regular communication (phone, email, text message or similar) at least once every two weeks. In addition, the APA will look to hold two semi-formal meetings a year with the athlete and their personal coach.
- l) Inform the APA within a week of any injuries or illness that impact upon the athlete’s ability to compete or that cause, or will cause, training to be modified for at least seven days;
- m) Inform the APA of being pregnant, although women are not expected to notify AC until after they have completed their first trimester (about 12 weeks);
- n) Be and remain in ‘good standing’ with AC and at all times comply with AC’s Policies, Rules and Bylaws and conduct themselves in a way that does not bring themselves, their sport or the National Team into disrepute. AC may consider past and present behavioural conduct in determining whether an athlete is in ‘good standing’. The Selectors may, in exceptional circumstances and at their sole discretion, select an athlete not in ‘good standing’ with AC when they consider that the

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athlete can realistically return to 'good standing' within a reasonable time as determined by the Selectors; in such cases athletes may not receive services or benefits from the CAPP program nor use AC training facilities until they return to 'good standing'.

9.1.2 In addition, in order to be eligible for AAP (Carding), athletes must meet the following criteria:

- a) Have participated in the most recent Canadian Track and Field Championships (Nationals) prior to the AAP selection unless a request for an exemption due to injury, illness, or other exceptional circumstances is approved in advance, or none of the athlete's events were offered at these Championships;
- b) Participate in Podium Benchmark Events, representing Canada, if selected, unless specifically exempted; and
- c) Athletes must not have been ruled ineligible to participate in sport for two years or more as a result of an anti-doping rule violation and who have not, in the case of pre-2004 violations, subsequently been reinstated.
- d) Athletes must not have been serving an anti-doping rule violation sanction of less than two years of sport ineligibility at the start of the carding cycle (AC AAP Year).

9.2 **Injury, illness and planned absences from the sport**

9.2.1 There are some athletes whose performance during the new CAPP Year is likely to be affected by a "Performance Limiting Injury", "Performance Limiting Factor" or "Planned Absence" from the sport.

9.2.2 A Performance Limiting Injury is any medical issue that is likely to impact an athlete's Realistic Capacity to prepare and/or compete at the level required to progress through the CAPP levels. Each case will be judged on an individual's circumstances but as a rough guideline illness or injury having caused, or likely to cause, modified training for three months or more will be considered a Performance Limiting Injury. For the avoidance of doubt, the medical issue could be related to an athlete's physical or mental health.

9.2.3 A Performance Limiting Factor is any lifestyle issue that is likely to impact an athlete's Realistic Capacity to prepare and/or compete at the level required to progress through the CAPP levels. Examples include employment that does not allow for high performance preparation, etc.

9.2.4 A Planned Absence from the sport is any known and/or pre-planned extended period of time when an athlete is unable to prepare and/or compete at the level required to progress through the CAPP levels. Each case will be judged on an individual's circumstances but as a rough guideline breaks of three months or more will be considered a Planned Absence. Examples of Planned Absences include pregnancy, extended study or travel breaks, recovery from elective surgery unrelated to athletics performance, etc.

9.2.5 It is expected that athletes will proactively inform the Selectors, or their assigned APA if they have one, of Performance Limiting Injuries, Performance Limiting Factors or Planned Absences in advance of the published selection date along with appropriate supporting evidence. For guidance of timelines for informing AC see section 9.1.1. Any falsification or withholding of relevant information could lead to non-selection / removal from the CAPP program.

9.2.6 Athletes not on the previous year's CAPP program who have a known Performance Limiting Factor or Planned Absence will only be eligible for CAPP in exceptional circumstances (where the HPD considers that inclusion is in the best interests of the HP program).

9.2.7 Athletes on the previous year's CAPP program with a Performance Limiting Factor or Planned Absence may be retained on the program at the Selectors sole discretion. If they are retained their program level will also be at the Selectors sole discretion. In taking these decisions the Selectors will be guided by medical advice and the Program Structure (see section 2).

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9.2.8 Athletes retained on the program with a known Performance Limiting Factor or Planned Absence will be advised to declare for AAP Health Card status if appropriate (see section 8.14).

9.2.9 To assess their medical status and suitability for the program both potential and current CAPP members may also be required to complete a medical form and, if deemed necessary by AC's CMO, undergo further examination. Any falsification of the medical forms will lead to immediate removal from the CAPP program.

9.3 Change of eligibility

9.3.1 If an athlete's eligibility for the program changes, the Selectors may end the athlete's CAPP membership at their sole discretion either as soon as practical after the athlete's status has changed, or at one of the CAPP Selection Meetings.

9.3.2 Examples of how an athlete's eligibility might change include, but are not limited to, a change of nationality, a change to a Para athlete's classification or the classifications to be contested at the next Paralympic Games, a change of Para Athlete Guide (see section 3.4), an anti-doping violation, a violation of AC's Code of Conduct, etc.

9.4 Age restrictions

9.4.1 The following age restrictions will apply to all able-bodied athletes.

9.4.2 The same age restrictions will be used as guidelines (as opposed to rules) for selection of Para athletes. Younger Para athletes than suggested may be considered for the CAPP program when, in the opinion of the Selectors, CAPP membership at an earlier age is in the best interests of the athlete concerned and the program as a whole.

9.4.3 U20 athletes (eligible as a World Athletics U20 athlete [World Athletics Rule 141] at the time of the relevant Selection Meeting) may be members on any level of CAPP in any event except the Marathon or any Race Walking event above 20k.

9.4.4 U18 athletes (eligible as a World Athletics U18 athlete [World Athletics Rule 141] at the time of the relevant Selection Meeting) will only be included on the program in exceptional circumstances. They may only be included on the **Talent Confirmation** program and may not be selected for the 10,000m, Marathon or Walking events of 20k or further. Male U18 athletes may not be selected for the decathlon or throws.

9.4.5 U16 athletes (athlete too young to be a World Athletics U18 athlete [World Athletics Rule 141] at the time of the relevant Selection Meeting) will not be selected for CAPP.

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10. MEMBERSHIP TYPES

There are several types of CAPP program members as follows:

- 10.1 “Individual Athlete”: an athlete competing in an individual athletics event likely to be on the 2024 Olympic program or an individual athletics event and classification combination likely to be on the 2024 Paralympic program.
- 10.2 “Relay Team”: the squad of up to six athletes forming a team in a relay event likely to be on the 2024 Olympic or 2024 Paralympic athletics program.
 - 10.2.1 When a Relay Team qualifies for Automatic Selection the “Strike-4” are those four athletes who actually ran in the race that earned Automatic Selection (the team selected to run in the final unless they DNS, DNF or are DQ’s, in which case the team that ran in the last qualifying round are the “Strike-4”).
 - 10.2.2 If a particular Relay Team is not eligible for Automatic Selection then there is no “Strike-4”.
 - 10.2.3 The “Strike-4” only keep their status for one CAPP Year.
 - 10.2.4 The remainder of the Relay Team, to make the team up to maximum of six athletes, are referred to as “Squad Athletes”.
 - 10.2.5 “Squad Athletes” for a Mixed Relay must be selected to maintain a gender balance in the squad.
 - 10.2.6 There is no requirement for the Squad Athletes to have been selected for, or competed in, any specific competition or to have achieved any specific qualification time.
 - 10.2.7 Only one Relay Team may be selected per relay medal event on the Olympic / Paralympic program. The Selectors may only select Relay Teams that, individually and collectively, show the Realistic Capacity to meet the aims of the program.
 - 10.2.8 4x400m Relay Team members will be considered for, and counted towards, both mixed gender and single gender relay events.
- 10.3 “Para Athlete Guides”: means guide runners for visually impaired athletes (see section 3.4).

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11. ELIGIBLE PERFORMANCES

For a performance to be eligible for consideration for CAPP, retention on CAPP or for AAP ranking purposes the following must apply:

- 11.1 The athlete must be an Individual Associate Athlete member of Athletics Canada (e.g. a member of an AC Branch) in good standing with AC and their Branch at the time of the qualifying performance.
- 11.2 All of the technical conditions for setting a Canadian Record must be met (for example, including but not limited to, course certification, acceptable wind conditions, etc). AC's requirements can be found at <https://athletics.ca/about-ac/governance/> starting at rule 171.
- 11.3 Able-bodied athlete specific:
- 11.3.1 For the avoidance of doubt, performances do not need to be set in WA sanctioned events and thus may not necessarily appear on the official WA Top Lists. Note that future CAPP Selection Policies may add this requirement. Also note that performances may appear on the official WA Top Lists but *not* be eligible for CAPP / AAP (for example, World Athletics lists marathon performances that exceed the start / finish separation in their Top Lists, but they are ineligible for AC national records).
- 11.4 Para athlete specific:
- 11.4.1 For **Transition** and **Podium program** athletes: performance must be acceptable by WPA for inclusion in their official ranking lists (which includes, but may not be limited to, the requirements that the athlete is internationally classified, holds a current WPA licence, and the competition is itself is approved by the WPA).
- 11.4.2 For **Talent Confirmation** level athletes: athletes must be nationally classified.
- 11.5 For the avoidance of doubt, indoor performances will be allowed for consideration.
- 11.6 As early as practical prior to the Selection Meetings, AC will publish a list of "Eligible Performances" on our website. This list is published to give athletes an opportunity to review and ensure no eligible performances have been somehow missed. This eligibility list is subject to the review and validation of the Selection Panel during Selection Meetings, and therefore should be read as "draft".
- 11.7 Eligible Performance Dates:
- 11.7.1 The date range for CAPP selections for 2024-2025 will be:

Program	End of Year Selection Meeting		Mid Year Selection Meeting	
	First day of qualification period	Last day of qualification period	First day of qualification period	Last day of qualification period
Able Bodied	April 1, 2024	August 31, 2024	September 1, 2024	March 31, 2025
Para	April 1, 2024	September 8, 2024	September 9, 2024	March 31, 2025

For the avoidance of doubt, these are the dates between which athletes must qualify for CAPP consideration (or being automatically added). Results outside of these dates may be considered by the Selection Panel to decide if an athlete meets the aims of the program.

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11.7.2 The date range for AAP ranking purposes for 2024-2025 will be:

Program	End of Year Selection Meeting		Mid Year Selection Meeting	
	First day of qualification period	Last day of qualification period	First day of qualification period	Last day of qualification period
Able Bodied	September 1, 2023	August 31, 2024	September 1, 2024	March 31, 2025
Para	September 1, 2023	September 8, 2024	September 9, 2024	March 31, 2025

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12. TOP LISTS

- 12.1 In the notes below “Top List” means the ordered list of world’s best legal performances with the following conditions:
- 12.2 Unless otherwise stated the senior outdoor Top Lists will be used.
- 12.3 Only three athletes per nation per event will be counted when considering senior or U23 rankings.
- 12.4 Only two athletes per nation per event will be counted when considering U20 rankings.
- 12.5 The U20 rankings will be based on performances set with WA / WPA U20 implements, heights and/or spacing.
- 12.6 At the “End of Year Selection Meeting” an athlete’s “Current Top List” will be their best eligible performance compared to the Top Lists for January 1 to the last day of the qualification period in the current year (see 11.7).
- 12.7 At the “Mid-year Review” an athlete’s “Current Top List” will be their best eligible performance compared to the Top Lists for January 1 to December 31 in the previous year.
- 12.8 Able-bodied specific:
- 12.8.1 The website <https://www.worldathletics.org/records/toplists> will be used as the source of Top Lists data.
- 12.9 Para specific:
- 12.9.1 Classification combinations used at the next Paralympic Games will be used for ranking, if necessary combining individual classification ranking lists. In these cases, lists will be combined by absolute performances (and not converted to WPA points and then combined).
- 12.9.2 Only the “top half” of the published WPA ranking list will be considered, the “top half” will be calculated as follows:
- a) We will consider the relevant medal event WPA ranking list for the most recent complete year in which a WPA World Championships or Paralympic Games were held.
 - b) Up to three athletes per nation will be counted.
 - c) This number will be divided by two and any fraction will be rounded down.
- 12.9.3 The ranking website www.paralympic.org/world-rankings/athletics will be used as the source of Top Lists data.

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13. APPEALS

13.1.1 Who Can Appeal

Athletes who are directly affected by a selection decision have the right to appeal.

13.1.2 Filing a First Appeal

Athletes should refer to the Commissioner's Office – Terms of Reference for the full procedure for filing an appeal (see <https://athletics.ca/about-ac/governance/>).

In the first instance, Appeals must be sent to the AC Commissioners' Office via e-mail (to Commissioner@athleticscommissioner.ca) within the Appeals Period (Section 13.1.3, below).

All appeals must be accompanied by a fee of \$250 (payable to Athletics Canada). This amount will be returned if the appeal is successful. Contact appeals@athletics.ca for payment options.

13.1.3 Appeals Period

The Appeals Period starts when the CAPP and AAP List is published on AC's website and via High Performance Newsletter and ends fourteen (14) calendar days later.

13.1.4 Grounds for an Appeal

The Commissioners' Office will determine whether an appeal will be considered, based on the following factors:

- a) The Selection Panel failed to follow the processes outlined in this Selection Policy;
- b) The selection decision was based on an error of fact; or
- c) The selection decision was influenced by bias, bias being defined as a lack of neutrality to such an extent that the Selection Panel was unable to consider other views.

13.1.5 Affected Parties

If it is determined by the Commissioner that a first Appeal, if successful, would displace another athlete nominated to CAPP or AAP as per this Selection Criteria, then that athlete will be consulted as part of the Commissioner's deliberations, and will be bound by the Commissioner's decision.

13.1.6 Injury or illness

Where an Appeal relates to injury or illness, the athlete must supply documentation from a medical practitioner diagnosing the injury or illness. In deciding such appeals, AC's Commissioners' Office may obtain input from the AC Chief Medical Officer, or designate.

13.1.7 Right to a Second Appeal

If an athlete is not satisfied with the decision of the Commissioner, a formal second appeal shall be available, pursuant to The Commissioner's Office – Terms of Reference (see <http://athletics.ca/federation/governance/policies-rules-laws/>) to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). Appeals to the SDRCC must be submitted within 48 hours of the Commissioner communicating their decision to the athlete.

