



Athlete Assistant Program (AAP) Criteria for Nominations for the 2014-2015 carding cycle

Introduction

The purpose of this section is to present the criteria for the determination of the CFF / Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP). The target audiences are athletes and the coaches of such athletes who now access or wish to access the program.

The AAP (carding) recognizes the commitment a fencer makes to long-term training and competitive programs and seeks to relieve some of the pressures associated with the participation in international sport. In particular, the AAP provides financial assistance to Canadian high-performance fencers to assist them in seeking enhanced training opportunities intended to progress their performances. To this end, the assistance helps fencers with their training and competition needs and is paid directly to the fencer. The AAP objective is to support Canadian athletes identified and nominated by the CFF as performing at or having the greatest potential to achieve top 16 results at Olympic/Paralympic Games and World Championships.

The coach remains a critical component of the team and in conjunction with the CFF manages and directs the fencers' training plan. The AAP is the only Sport Canada program to provide direct financial support for athletes.

The AAP is not a reward for past performance. It is financial support to assist athletes to progress to the podium. Consequently, carding status cannot be awarded indefinitely. An athlete with a Development card must progress to the Senior National Team card level. Likewise, an athlete with a Senior National Team card must progress to the Senior International card level.

Each card section below outlines restrictions on its duration and progress.

The CFF's Authority for Decisions

All matters relating to the nomination of athletes for AAP are the sole authority of the Executive Director of the CFF. The ED makes decisions relating to AAP nominations on the basis of the approved CFF AAP Criteria and requirements.

Eligible Fencers

Only those fencers eligible to represent Canada at either the World Championships or the Olympic Games shall be eligible for AAP support. Fencers must hold validated licenses from the CFF for the current season, be members of the HP program and be Canadian citizens/permanent residents.

Fencers Training Outside of Canada

The following shall apply to fencers who meet the carding criteria as noted above and who are training abroad:



- i. All fencers training outside of Canada shall be expected to support the National program as outlined in this document.
- ii. Fencers who are attending NCAA institutions and are receiving an athletic scholarship are not eligible to receive AAP support in the months in which they are attending the NCAA institution. These fencers may be nominated for AAP support during the months they are involved in National Team training and competition activities and not attending the foreign post-secondary institution.
- iii. Fencers who have finished their NCAA eligibility but continue to attend school in the USA for the purpose of finishing their degree or to pursue a post-graduate degree are eligible to be nominated for AAP funding as long as they commit to support National Team Program activities.
- iv. Fencers of high school age (or younger) who achieve the carding criteria while living and training in Canada but are forced to move out of the country for reasons beyond their control will normally be eligible for AAP funding until they are of University age. At this time their circumstances will be reviewed by the CFF.
- v. Carded fencers must train in Canada during the carding period. Fencers electing to train outside of Canada must receive prior approval from the CFF.

Carding Opportunities – Fencing Athletes

- Sport Canada has reviewed the card quota for all sports. The quota for fencing is a total of **ten (10)** Senior level cards or its equivalent value of \$180,000.
- The Carding cycle for the 2014 - 2015 season shall be from October 1st, 2014 to September 30th, 2015.
- Of the CFF carding quota, a minimum of two (2) athletes will be recommended for D cards if eligible.

Prioritizing of Carding Nominations

Eligible athletes who met the carding criteria will be recommended in the following priority order:

- 1st Athletes that met the SR1 criteria
- 2nd Athletes that met the SR2 criteria
- 3rd Top 2 athletes that meet the Development card criteria;
- 4th Athletes carded at SR2 criteria the previous year and met the illness, injury and pregnancy condition
- 5th Athletes that met the SR/C1 priority 1 criteria
- 6th Athletes carded that met the SR/C1 priority 1 criteria the previous year and met the illness, injury and pregnancy condition
- 7th Athletes that met the SR/C1 priority 2 criteria
- 8th Athletes that met the SR/C1 priority 3 criteria
- 9th Other athletes that meet the D criteria in priority order.

NOTES: In the event of a tie, each criterion establishes a tie-breaking mechanism.



General Information and Definitions

- Where the term “World Ranked” or World Ranking” is used, these shall be the Official FIE Rankings of performances completed for the 2013-2014 international season and as published on the FIE web site (www.fie.ch).
- Where the term C1 is used, this is defined as a first year Senior National Team Card fencer who, regardless of the number of years at a Development card level, meets the Senior National Team criteria for the first time. The card support is at Development card level.
- The Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program funds fencers in Olympic/Paralympic events at two levels:

I. Senior Cards:

1. Senior International Card – SR1 & SR2 (\$1,500.00/month)
2. Senior National Team Card – SR (\$1,500.00/month)
3. C1 card (\$900.00/month)

II. Developmental Cards:

(\$900.00/month)

Eligible Performances

The qualifying period for the 2014-2015 carding cycle shall be October 1st 2013 to September 30th, 2014.

For the 2014-2015 carding cycle, carding shall be determined by:

a) performances at the following competitions only

- 2014 Senior World Championships
- 2014 Junior World Championships
- 2014 Cadet World Championships
- 2014 Senior Pan-Am Fencing Championships

b) The Official FIE Ranking (as of the close of the 2013-2014 international season)

c) The HP Selection Ranking (Senior, Junior and Cadet)

Senior Card

Senior International Card Criteria (SR1/SR2)

Eligibility for the 2014-2015 Senior International card shall be based solely on results from the 2014 World Championships as per the following criteria:

Individual: Athletes who placed in the top 8 and top ½ at the Senior World Championships: OR



Team: Athletes in a team that placed in the top 8 and top ½ at the World Championships. The athlete must have competed in a team win in direct elimination in this event OR at a senior world cup during the current season. Athletes will be ranked according to their team result, and then their Individual Official FIE Ranking. If still tied, the athlete with the most points in the HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup will be ranked higher.

Notes:

Athletes who meet the Senior International criteria are eligible to be nominated by the CFF for two consecutive years, with the card for the first year referred to as SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the athlete being recommended by the CFF. Athletes will be recommended for the SR2 card if they are maintaining an approved training and competitive program recognized by the CFF and Sport Canada. Athletes must also register for the 2014-2015 HPP.

Senior National Team Card Criteria (SR/C1)

Eligibility for a 2014-2015 Senior National Team card shall be based on the following two criteria and will be recommended in the following priority order:

Priority 1 - Individual: Athletes who placed in the top 16 at the 2014 Senior World Championships. If tied, the athlete with the best individual result in the event will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the best individual Official FIE Ranking will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the most points in the HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup will be ranked higher.

Priority 2 - Individual: Athletes ranked in the Top 32 in the Official FIE Individual Ranking. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 3 – Individual: Athletes who win Gold at the 2014 Senior Pan Am Championships. If tied, the athlete with the best individual Official FIE Ranking will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the most points in the HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup will be ranked higher.

Maximum number of years at the Senior National level:

- i. An athlete can be carded at the Senior National Team level for a maximum of 5 years in total, excluding injury cards. If the athlete does not advance to the Senior International level after the maximum time limit, the athlete will undergo a stringent review by the CFF. In



order to be carded at Senior National Team level for a sixth year and beyond, the CFF& Sport Canada must be satisfied that the athlete's performances are progressing and that the fencer has the potential to advance to the Senior International level.

- ii. Any year of carding at the Senior National level (SR/C1) when the athlete is less than 20 years of age will not count towards the maximum.
- iii. Athletes who have been carded at the Senior International Level (SR1 & SR2) for more than 4 years may be eligible for the Senior National Level card for one additional year (excluding injury card).

Developmental Card

Of the CFF carding quota, a minimum of two (2) athletes will be recommended for D cards if eligible. Additional Development cards are subject to the number of cards awarded in the Senior International and Senior National Team levels.

Development Cards are intended to support the developmental needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior Card international criteria but are not yet able to meet the Senior Card criteria.

The financial support provided through Development Cards helps enhance conditions for younger athletes who have not had the same training, coaching, and competitive experience as older athletes and are not yet able to meet the Senior Card criteria. The allocation of Development Cards is intended to ensure that financial support is provided to the athletes with the greatest potential.

A Development Card may not be awarded to an athlete older than 5 years past the IF junior age category.

Developmental Card Criteria

Athletes will be recommended in the following priority order:

Priority 1 - Individual: Athlete who placed in the top 8 at the 2014 Junior World Championships in an individual event. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the Junior HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 2 - Team: Athlete in a team that placed in the top 3 at the 2014 Junior World Championships in a team event. Athlete must have participated in a team win in the round of 8 or higher. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the Junior HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 3 – Individual: Athlete who is ranked top 8 in the FIE Official Junior World Rankings. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the Junior HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.



Priority 4 - Individual: Eligible athlete that placed in the top 3 at the 2014 Senior Pan-Am Championships in an individual event.

If tied, the athlete with the best individual result in the event will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the best individual Official FIE Ranking will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the most points in the HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup will be ranked higher.

Priority 5 - Team: Eligible athlete who won a gold medal at the 2014 Senior Pan-Am Championships in a team event. Athlete must have competed in the semi-finals or final. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the Senior HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 6 - Individual: Athlete who placed in the top 4 at the 2014 Cadet World Championships in an individual event. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the Cadet HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 7 - Individual: Athletes ranked in the Top 64 in the Official FIE Individual Ranking. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 8 - Individual: Athletes who have achieved the most points in the Junior HP Selection rankings. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the Senior HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher. Only athletes with 300 points or higher in the Junior HP Selection rankings are eligible for carding under this criteria.

Notes:

- i. An athlete who achieves the Senior International or Senior (excluding C-1) card level is no longer eligible for the Development card unless the athlete is junior aged or younger. Any year of carding at the Senior International level when the athlete is less than 20 years of age will not count towards the maximum.

Illness, Injury or Pregnancy Condition

At the end of a carding cycle during which an athlete has, for strictly health-related reasons, not achieved the standards required for the renewal of carded status, he or she may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming carding period under the following conditions:

- i. The athlete was carded at the Senior International card levels or the Senior National priority 1 card level at the end of previous carding cycle.
- ii. The athlete duly notified the CFF in writing of his/her injury or health status. In particular if injury or health condition occurs during the eligible performances period, the CFF must be made aware of an injury in writing within 14 days of the date of diagnosis or of the date when the athlete had to interrupt his/her training. A licensed sport medicine practitioner must make any such signed diagnosis.
- iii. If an injury or health condition occurs after the 14 days allowable, the decision to nominate the athlete will be made at the sole discretion of the CFF taking into consideration the accumulated results, the overall potential of the athlete and the written



- explanations of the athlete as to why he/she was not in a position to provide the 14 days written notice.
- iv. Fencers receiving an injury card must report monthly to the CFF's National coach on their rehabilitation activity and progression. This must continue until such time as they are deemed fit to return to full training by a certified sport medicine practitioner. Failure to report on a monthly basis may result, in the sole discretion of the CFF, a recommendation to Sport Canada to withdraw carding.
 - v. Conditions outlined in the Sport Canada AAP policy entitled "Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health Related Reasons" apply to all injury and health condition applications.

CFF Selection Appeals Policy

For information on the CFF Selection Appeals Policy, please reference the following document:

http://www.fencing.ca/sites/default/files/policies/hp/cff_appeal_policy_2011_en.pdf

http://www.fencing.ca/sites/default/files/policies/hp/cff_appeal_policy_2011_fr.pdf