



Athlete Assistant Program (AAP) Criteria for Nominations for the 2020-2021 carding cycle Olympic and Paralympic Programs

This version of the Fencing AAP was approved on April 25th, 2020 and replaces the version approved on September 1st, 2019.

The changes to the document were developed by the High Performance Director in consultation with the HP committee and Sport Canada.

All changes have been implemented in accordance with the FIE decisions regarding postponements of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and the cancellation of FIE events from March 13, 2020.

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 the Senior international criteria 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 High Performance Director (HPD) of the CFF. The HPD makes decisions relating to AAP nominations on the basis of the approved CFF AAP Criteria and requirements.



The number of months of carding support allocated to each athlete is determined by the High Performance Director and the National Team Coach and is based on the athlete commitment to the National Team Program and the number of training and competition days the athlete will be involve during the carding cycle.

Sport Canada is responsible for the final approval of nominations to the AAP.

Eligible Fencers

- Fencers competing in 2024 Olympic/Paralympic events are eligible to be nominated for AAP support.
- Fencers must meet CFF minimum standards for Pan Am Championships/World Championships as outlined in the CFF HP booklet to 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.
- Fencers must meet the AAP Athlete Eligibility Requirements described in section 2.3 of the AAP Policies and Procedures: <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1414514343755/1414514385181>

Fencers Training Outside of Canada

Carded fencers must train in Canada during the carding period. Fencers electing to train outside of Canada must receive prior approval from the CFF.

The following shall apply to fencers who meet the carding criteria 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 and the training and competitions program is approved by CFF.
- 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 if their



training and competitions program are approved by CFF. At this time their circumstances will be reviewed by the CFF.

Carding Opportunities – Fencing Athletes

- Sport Canada is currently reviewing the carding quota for all sports. The current quota for Fencing’s Olympic program is the equivalent of **eleven (11)** Senior level cards (\$232,980) and of **two (2)** Senior cards for the Paralympic program (\$42,360) but is subject to change following Sport Canada’s review.
- The athletes are nominated for the carding cycle that start on October 1st, 2020 and ends on Sept. 30st, 2021.
- Of the Olympic program’s 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:

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



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10 th	Athletes that met the SR/C1 priority 4 criteria.	
11 th	Athletes carded that met the SR/C1 priority 4 criteria the previous year and met the illness, injury and pregnancy condition.	
12 th	Athletes that met the D criteria.	

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

General Information and Definitions

- Olympic Program: Where the term “World Ranked” or World Ranking” is used, these shall be the Official FIE Rankings of performances completed for the 2019-2020 international season and as published on the FIE web site (www.fie.ch) on the date of April 15th, end of the 2019-2020 FIE season.
- Paralympic program: Where the term “World Ranked” or World Ranking” is used, these shall be the Official IWAS World Rankings of performances completed for the 2019-2020 international season on the date of April 15th, end of the 2019-2020 IWAS season.
- C1 carded athletes are funded at the Development Card level in the first year they meet the national criteria for a Senior Card even if they have previously been carded at the Development (D) level. If, however, the athlete has been previously carded at the SR1 or SR2 level, has been named to the national senior team, has competed in World Championships, or in the case of team sports World Championship (Cup) qualifiers, before meeting the national criteria for the Senior Card for the first time, the athlete will be funded at the Senior Card (SR) level rather than at the 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 (\$1,765.00/month)
2. Senior National Team Card – SR (\$1765.00/month)
3. C1 card (\$1060.00/month)

II. Developmental Cards:

(\$1060.00/month)

Eligible Performances

- The qualifying period for the 2020-2021 carding cycle shall be October 1st, 2019 to April 15th, 2020.



- Carding for athletes in the **Olympic program** will be included but are not limited to:
 - a) performances at the following competitions only:
 - 2019 Senior World Championships
 - 2019-2020 Olympic Games qualification competitions
 - 2019-2020 Senior World Cups
 - 2020 Junior Pan-Am Fencing Championships
 - 2020 Cadet Pan-Am Fencing Championships
 - b) The Official FIE Ranking as of the close of the 2019-2020 international season (Senior and Junior) on April 15th, 2020.
 - c) The final HP Selection Ranking (junior, cadet) 2019-20 on April 15th, 2020.
- Carding for athletes in the **Paralympic program** will be included but are not limited to:
 - performances at the 2019 IWAS World Championships only, or
 - The Official IWAS Ranking as of April 15th, 2020.

Senior Card

Senior International Card Criteria (SR1/SR2)

A) Olympic program

Individual events: Athletes who placed in the top 8 and top ½ at the 2019 World Championships.

OR

Team events: Athletes in a team that placed in the top 8 and top ½ at the 2019 World Championships. The athlete must have competed in a team win in direct elimination in this event **and have minimum of 3 FIE points in the 2018-2019 or 2019-2020 official Final FIE senior Individual ranking.**

If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior International criteria, the athletes will be ranked according to their best placing at the 2019 World Championships.

Olympic Program: If a tie needs to be broken, the athletes will be ranked based on their



individual placing on the 2019-2020 Individual Official Final FIE Ranking. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one 2019-2020 Grand Prix/World Cup will be ranked higher.

Paralympic program: If a tie needs to be broken, the athletes will be ranked based on their individual placing on the 2019-20 Individual Official IWAS Individual Rankings as of September 15th, 2020.

B) Paralympic program

Athletes who placed in the top 8 and top ½ at the 2019 IWAS World Championships, in a 2020 Paralympic event.

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 2018-2019 HPP.

Senior National Team Card Criteria (SR/C1)

Eligibility for a 2020-2021 Senior National Team card shall be based on the following criteria and will be recommended in the following priority order:

A) Olympic program

Priority 1 –Team events: Up to four cards will be awarded to athletes ranked in the Top 8 of the 2019-2020 FIE World Rankings

The four ranked athletes on the 2019-2020 Individual FIE Ranking who fenced Team at least two times during the season are eligible. Athletes will be ranked according to their 2019-20 Final Individual FIE Ranking. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one Grand Prix/World Cup will be ranked higher.

Priority 2 - Individual events: Athletes who placed two times (2) in the top 8 in a 2019-2020 World Cup / GP If tied, the athlete with the best individual ranking in the event will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the best individual 2019-2020 FIE Ranking on the 2020, April 15th, will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one Grand Prix/World Cup will be ranked higher.



Priority 3 – Team events: Athletes in a team that qualified to Tokyo 2021 and have a minimum of thirty (30) FIE points in the 2019-2020 official Final FIE senior Individual ranking. The athlete must have competed in a team win in direct elimination. Athletes will be ranked according to their Individual 2019-2020 FIE Ranking. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup / Grand Prix in 2019-2020 will be ranked higher.

Priority 4 – Individual events: Athletes ranked in the Top 32 in the 2019-20 Official Final FIE Individual Ranking. If tied, the athlete with the best result in one Grand Prix/World Cup in 2019-2020 will be ranked higher.

B) Paralympic program

Priority 1: Athletes ranked in the Top 16 in the Official 2019-20 IWAS Individual Ranking and who placed in a top 16 in a World Cup, in a 2020 Paralympic event. If tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup in 2019-2020 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 6 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 FIE Junior age (20 years of age or younger) will not count towards the maximum.

Developmental Card Criteria (D)

A) Olympic program

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.

An athlete previously carded at the Senior Card levels (SR1, SR2 SR, SR inj., C1) for more than three (3) years is no longer eligible for the Development card unless the athlete was FIE junior aged (20 years of age or younger) when he/she was awarded Senior card(s).



A Development Card may not be awarded to an athlete older than seven (7) years past the IF junior age category. The IF Junior age is 20 years or younger, so athletes that are more than 27 years of age are not eligible for this card level.

Reminder:

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.

Athletes will be recommended in the following priority order:

Priority 1 – Individual events: Athlete who is ranked top 8 in the 2019-20 Final FIE Official Junior World Rankings. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the Final FIE ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 2 – Team event: Athletes in a team that qualified to Tokyo 2021 and have a minimum of eight (8) FIE points in the 2019-2020 official Final FIE senior Individual ranking. The athlete must have competed in a team win in direct elimination. Athletes will be ranked according to their Individual 2019-2020 FIE Ranking. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup / Grand Prix in 2019-2020 will be ranked higher. If tied, the athletes with the most points in the final FIE ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 3 – Individual events: Athlete who won Gold medal at the 2020 Junior Pan-Am Championships. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the Final Junior HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 4 – Individual events: Athletes ranked in the Top 64 in the 2019-2020 Official Final FIE senior ranking and are eligible. If tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup/Grand Prix in 2019-2020 will be ranked higher

Priority 5 – Team events: Athlete in a team that won the gold medal at the 2020 Junior Pan Am Championships. Athlete must have participated in the round of semi-final, final. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the 2019-2020 Junior HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher

Priority 6 – Individual events: Athletes who have a minimum of fifteen (15) FIE points in the 2019-2020 Official Final FIE Senior Individual Ranking. If tied, the athlete with the best result in one World Cup/Grand Prix in 2019-2020 will be ranked higher.



Priority 7 – Individual events: Eligible athlete who won a Silver or Bronze medal at the 2020 Junior Pan-Am Championships. If tied, the athlete with the best result at the junior Pan Am will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the most points in the Final Junior HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 8 – Individual Event: athlete who won Gold medal at the 2020 cadet Pan-Am Championships. If tied, the athlete with the most points in the 2019-2020 Cadet HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

Priority 9 – Individual events: Eligible athlete who won a Silver or Bronze at the 2020 Cadet Pan-Am Championships. If tied, the athlete with the best result at the cadet Pan Am will be ranked higher. If still tied, the athlete with the most points in the 2019-2020 Cadet HP Selection Ranking will be ranked higher.

B) Paralympic program

Paralympic Development Cards are intended to support the developmental needs of developing athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior Card international criteria.

- Normally athletes previously carded at the Senior levels (SR1, SR2, SR inj, SR or C1) for more than 2 years are no longer eligible for development carding, unless the athletes were of the FIE junior age at the time (20 years or younger).
- An athlete may only be carded a maximum of five (5) years at the Development card level. After such time Fencing Canada will conduct a comprehensive review of the athlete's performance over the past four years in order to demonstrate progress, which may warrant nomination of "Development" card status for an additional year. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level.

Athletes will be recommended in the following priority order:

Athletes who are ranked in the top 32 (and top half of ranked fencers) on the 2019-20 IWAS World Rankings as of 2020, April 15th, as per Paralympic quota (2 per country), in any one of their events is eligible for nomination at the Development (D) level.

Illness, Injury or Pregnancy Condition



At the end of a carding cycle during which a carded 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. Olympic Program: The athlete was carded at the Senior International card levels or the Senior National priority 1 or 2 card level at the end of previous carding cycle. Paralympic program: The athlete was carded at the end of previous carding cycle.
- ii. Athletes must have completed the Athlete Pre-Participation Medical in CAMP in order to be considered for injury card application.
- iii. All new injuries must be recorded in CAMP by treating medical professionals 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.
- iv. Athletes must give CFF access to CAMP injury documentation pertaining to the injury/illness in consideration of injury card status.
- v. Athletes need to submit a “Verification of Athlete Illness or Injury form.”
(<http://fencing.ca/wp-content/documents/Athlete%20Illness%20or%20Injury%20Verification%20Form.pdf>)
- vi. “Verification of Athlete Illness or Injury Form” is to be completed only by a Canadian National Sport Centre Physician holding a CASEM Diploma of Sport Medicine or other CASEM Diploma of Sport Medicine Physician approved by the Canadian Fencing Federation.
- vii. Fencers receiving an injury card must report monthly to the CFF’s National coach in their Weapon 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.
- viii. Conditions outlined in the Sport Canada AAP policy entitled “Curtailed Training and Competition for Health Related Reasons” apply to all injury and health condition applications.

CFF Selection Appeals Policy

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

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

<http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Selection-Appeals-policy-Aug.-2018.pdf>



<http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/fce80828-pol-appel.doc.pdf>