



Athlete Assistant Program (AAP) Criteria for Nominations for the 2021-2022 carding cycle Olympic and Paralympic Programs

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 reach the top 8 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 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 classification grid 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: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>
- All athletes carded at the Senior level (SR, SR1/SR2) will be based at the National Centre, located at INS Quebec in Montreal or at a High Performance Training Centre (HPTC) or International Training Centre certified by the CFF. Being based at the National Centre or HPTC means that carded athletes are committed to training full time. Carded athletes agree to follow the annual training program developed by the High Performance Director and the National Coach. This plan includes all daily training, other types of training (e.g., indoor training, mental preparation, etc.), performance tests, medical examinations, tournaments, training camps and training periods in Canada and abroad approved by the High Performance Director.
- All Development (D) carded athletes will be based at the National Centre, located at INS Quebec in Montreal or at a CFF High Performance Training Centre (HPTC) or International Training Centre identified by the CFF. Being based at the National Centre or HPTC means that carded athletes are committed to training full time. Carded athletes agree to follow the annual training program developed by the High Performance Director and the National Coach. This plan includes all daily training, other types of training (e.g., indoor training, mental preparation, etc.), performance tests, medical exams, tournaments, training camps and training periods in Canada and abroad approved by the High Performance Director.
- Cards may be withdrawn during the cycle. National Team coaching staff will evaluate the performance of carded athletes; if it is determined that an athlete does not meet the conditions of the High Performance program, the athlete will be withdrawn and may be transferred to the next eligible candidate (see "Withdrawal of Cards" on page 14).



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:

- All fencers training outside of Canada shall be expected to support the National program as outlined in this document.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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, 2021 and ends on Sept. 30st, 2022.
- 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 and are identified E19 to F21 in the classification grid, by priority order (see section "Development Cards" on page 10) the previous year.	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 criteria and are identified A1 to C11 in the classification grid, by priority order (see section "Senior Cards" on page 7) the previous year.	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 criteria and are identified A1 to C11 in the classification grid, by priority order (see section "Senior Cards" on page 7) the previous year and met the illness, injury and pregnancy condition.	Athletes that met the D criteria.
7 th	Athletes that met the Development card criteria and are identified E19 to F21 in the classification grid, by priority order (see section "Development Cards" on page 10) the previous year.	

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 2020-2021 international season and as published on the FIE web site (www.fie.ch) on the date of August 31, 2021, end of the 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 2020-2021 international season on the date of September 15th 2021, end of the 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 2021-2022 carding cycle shall be October 1st, 2020 to September 30th, 2021.
- Carding for athletes in the **Olympic program** will be determined by the CFF classification grid (see section "Athlete Classification Grid", page 12) based on the following performances, but not limited to:
 - a) performances at the following competitions only:
 - Tokyo Olympic Games 2021
 - 2020-2021 Olympic Selection Competitions
 - Senior World Cup 2020-2021
 - 2021 Senior Pan Am Championships
 - FISU Games 2021
 - Cadet/Junior World Championships
 - U23 Competitions
 - NAC DIV 1 / Junior / Cadet
 - Junior World Cup
 - Cadet European Circuit



- Other Designated Senior Competitions

b) The Official FIE Ranking as of the close of the 2020-2021 international season (Senior and Junior).

c) The final HP Selection Ranking (junior, cadet) 2020-21 on July 31st, 2021.

- Carding for athletes in the **Paralympic program** will be included but are not limited to:

a) performances at the Tokyo Paralympic Games 2021 only, or

b) the Official IWAS Ranking as of September 30th, 2021.

SENIOR CARD (SR1/SR2/SR/C1)

Senior International Card Criteria (SR1/SR2)

A) Olympic program

Individual events:

- Athletes who are identified A1 (letter A, priority 1 in the "Athlete Classification Grid", page 12); or
- Athletes in a team that placed in **the top 8 and top ½** at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games

OR

Team events:

- Athletes who are identified A1 (letter A, priority 1 in the "Athlete Classification Grid", page 12) and have competed in a team match; or
- Athletes in a team that placed in **the top 8 and top ½** at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games. The athlete must have competed in a team match.

If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior International criteria, the athletes will be ranked according to their best placing at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games.

If a tie needs to be broken, the athletes will be ranked based on their individual placing on the 2020-2021 Individual Official Final FIE Ranking as of August 31st, 2021.

If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one 2020-2021 Grand Prix/World Cup will be ranked higher.



B) Paralympic program

Athletes who placed **in the top 8 and top ½** at the Paralympic Games, in a 2021 Paralympic event.

If a tie needs to be broken, the athletes will be ranked based on their individual placing on the 2020-2021 Individual Official IWAS Individual Rankings as of September 15th, 2021.

If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior International criteria, the athletes will be ranked according to their best placing at the 2021 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

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 2021-2022 HPP.

In the case of force majeure or competitions listed in the classification grid would be cancelled, the HP Director, after consultation with the High Performance Advisory Committee, may propose to replace the cancelled competition with another competition or replace it with identified criteria. All decisions must be validated by the Executive Director and the CFF Board of Directors before being communicated to all athletes registered in the HP program.

Senior National Team Card Criteria (SR/C1)

Senior National Team carding eligibility for 2021-2022 will be based on the athlete's classification grid (see "CFF Athlete Classification Grid" on page 12) for the Olympic program and the following criteria for the Paralympic program

Recommendations will be made in the following order of priority:

a) Olympic Program

1. Athlete identified A2 (Letter A, Priority 2 of the "Athlete Classification Grid")
2. Athlete identified A3
3. Athlete identified B4
4. Athlete identified B5
5. Identified athlete B6
6. Athlete identified B7
7. Athlete identified C8
8. Athlete identified C9
9. Athlete identified C10
10. Athlete identified C11



If two athletes have the same identification, they will be ranked according to the Senior FIE World Rankings.

If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their individual result at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games.

b) Paralympic Program

Athletes ranked **in the top 14 in the final official IWAS Individual Final Rankings** for 2020-2021,

In the event of a tie, the athlete with the best result in a World Cup event in 2020-2021 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.

Note

In the case of force majeure or competitions listed in the classification grid would be cancelled, the HP Director, after consultation with the High Performance Advisory Committee, may propose to replace the cancelled competition with another competition or replace it with identified criteria. All decisions must be validated by the Executive Director and the CFF Board of Directors before being communicated to all athletes registered in the HP program.

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 FIE junior age category. The FIE 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.

Eligibility for D cards for 2021-2022 will be based on the athlete classification grid (see "CFF Athlete Classification Grid" section) for the Olympic program and the following criteria for the Paralympic program

Recommendations will be made in the following order of priority:

1. Athlete identified as F20 (Next Gen, priority 20 on the "Athlete Classification Grid")
2. Athlete identified D12
3. Athlete identified D13
4. Athlete identified D14
5. Athlete identified D15
6. Athlete identified as F21 (Next Gen, priority 21 on the "Athlete Classification Grid")
7. Athlete identified E16
8. Athlete identified E17
9. Athlete identified E18
10. Athlete identified E19

In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by the Senior FIE World Rankings.

If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their result at the 2021 Tokyo Olympic Games.

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 2020-2021 IWAS World Rankings as of September 30th, 2021, as per Paralympic quota (2 per country), in any one of their events is eligible for nomination at the Development (D) level.

In the case of force majeure or competitions listed in the classification grid would be cancelled, the HP Director, after consultation with the High Performance Advisory Committee, may propose to replace the cancelled competition with another competition or replace it with identified criteria. All decisions must be validated by the Executive Director and the CFF Board of Directors before being communicated to all athletes registered in the HP program.



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 (ranked A1 to C11 on the "Athlete Classification Grid") 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 of Training and Competition for Health Related Reasons" apply to all injury and health condition applications.

WITHDRAWAL OF A CARD

The High Performance Advisory Committee, on the recommendation of the High Performance Director, may at any time recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's Sport Canada card if the following steps have been taken:

1. The athlete has received a verbal warning specifying the steps to be taken and the timeline to remedy the situation, as well as the consequences of not complying with the warning.
2. Where applicable, a written warning has been sent to the athlete.
3. If the above steps do not resolve the issue and the CFF still wishes to recommend the athlete's carding be withdrawn, the CFF must send a letter to its Sport Canada Program



Officer and the AAP Director, with a copy to the athlete, recommending the withdrawal of carding.

The letter must:

- Specify the reasons for the recommendation;
- Indicate what steps have already been taken to rectify the situation (verbal warning followed by a warning letter);
- Inform the athlete of his or her right to challenge the CFF's recommendation for withdrawal of carding through the CFF's internal appeal process within the prescribed time frame.

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>