



***Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Criteria  
for Nominations for the 2025-2026 carding cycle  
Olympic and Paralympic Programs***

This version of the AAP criteria for nominations for the 2025-2026 carding was approved on January 6, 2025.

*Situations may arise that do not allow this document to be applied as written or modified according to procedure due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this AAP criteria nominations, in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, The Canadian Fencing Federation will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.*

**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 authority of the Executive Director (ED) and High Performance Director (HPD) of the CFF. The ED and HPD make 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 ED and HPD and is based on the athlete commitment to the National Team Program and the number of training and competition days the athlete will be involved in during the carding cycle.

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

### **Eligible Fencers**

- Fencers competing in 2028 Olympic/Paralympic events are eligible to be nominated for AAP support.
- Fencers must hold validated licenses from the CFF for the 2025-2026 season, be members of the CFF 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#a11>



- Athletes carded at the Senior level (SR, SR1/SR2) may train at any club in Canada or another country as approved by the High Performance Director. Carded athletes are committed to training full time and agree to follow the annual training program developed by the High Performance Director and the National Coach. This plan includes all daily training, as well as other types of training (e.g., strength and conditioning, 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 must live and train at a Canadian club or designated national training centre full time in Canada (10 months per year), except for athletes attending NCAA institutions who are **NOT** receiving athletic scholarships. 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, as well as other types of training (e.g., strength and conditioning, mental preparation, etc.), performance tests, medical examinations, 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 the remaining quota may be transferred to the next eligible candidate. A minimum of 4 months of support must be available to assign another card (see "Withdrawal of Cards" on page 12).

### **Fencers Training Outside of Canada**

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 are no longer receiving an NCAA athletic scholarship 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 **thirteen (13)** Senior level cards and of **two (2)** Senior cards for the Paralympic program but is subject to change following Sport Canada's review.
- The athletes are nominated for the carding cycle that start on October 1st, 2025 and ends on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- 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:

	<b>Olympic program</b>	<b>Paralympic program</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Athletes that met the SR1 criteria	Athletes that met the SR1 criteria
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Athletes that met the SR2 criteria	Athletes that met the SR2 criteria
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Top 2 athletes that meet the Development card criteria by priority order (see section "Development Cards" on page 10 the previous year.	Athletes carded at SR1/SR2 criteria the previous year and met the illness, injury and pregnancy condition.
4 <sup>th</sup>	Athletes carded at SR1/SR2 criteria the previous year and met the illness, injury, and pregnancy condition.	Athletes that met the SR criteria.
5 <sup>th</sup>	Athletes that met the SR criteria by priority order (see section "Senior Cards" on page 7) the previous year.	Athletes carded that met the SR criteria the previous year and met the illness, injury, and pregnancy condition.
6 <sup>th</sup>	Athletes carded that met the SR criteria 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 <sup>th</sup>	Athletes that met the Development card criteria 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 2024-2025 international season and as published on the FIE website ([www.fie.ch](http://www.fie.ch)) on August 31, 2025, at the 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 2024-2025 international season and as published on the IWAS website (<https://wheelchair-fencing.org>) on September 15, 2025, at the end of the IWAS season.
- The Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program funds fencers in Olympic/Paralympic events at two levels:

**I. Senior Cards:**

1. Senior International Card – SR1 & SR2 (\$2,175.00/month)
2. Senior National Team Card – SR (\$2,175.00/month)

**II. Developmental Cards:**

(\$1305.00/month)

**Eligible Performances**

- The qualifying period for the 2025-2026 carding cycle shall be October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- Carding for athletes in the **Olympic program** will be determined based on the following performances:
  - a) performances at the following competitions:
    - 2025 Senior World Championships
    - 2025 Senior Pan-American Championships
    - 2024-2025 Senior World Cups and Grand Prix
    - Designated 2024-2025 NAC DIV 1 / Junior / Cadet
    - 2025 Junior World Championships
    - 2025 Cadet World Championships
  - b) The Official FIE Ranking as of the close of the 2024-2025 international season (Senior and Junior).
  - c) The final HP Selection Ranking (senior, junior, cadet) 2024-2025 on August 31st, 2025.
- Carding for athletes in the **Paralympic program** will be determined based on the following performances:
  - a) 2025 World Championships
  - b) 2024-2025 World Cups
  - c) the Official IWAS Ranking as of the close of the 2024-2025 international season.



## SENIOR CARD (SR1/SR2/SR)

### Senior International Card Criteria (SR1/SR2)

#### A) Olympic program

##### SR1-1

**Individual events:** Medal at 2025 Senior World Championships

**Team events:** Medal at 2025 Senior World Championships. Athletes must have fenced in a top 8, top 4 or medal match.

##### SR1-2

**Individual events:** Top 8 and top half at the 2025 Senior World Championships

**Team events:** Top 5 and top half at 2025 Senior World Championships. Athletes must have fenced in a top 8, top 4 or placement match.

If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior International criteria, the athletes will be ranked according to their best placing in an individual event at the 2025 Senior World Championships.

If a tie needs to be broken, the athletes will be ranked based on their individual ranking in the 2024-2025 Individual Official Final FIE Ranking as of August 31st, 2025. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one 2024-2025 Grand Prix/World Cup will be ranked higher. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by the number of points in the Senior HPP Selection Rankings.

#### B) Paralympic program

Athletes who placed **in the top 8 and top half** at the 2025 Senior World Championships.

If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior International criteria, the athletes will be ranked according to their best placing in an individual event at the 2025 Senior World Championships.

If a tie needs to be broken, the athletes will be ranked based on their individual ranking on the 2024-2025 Senior Individual Official IWAS Individual Rankings following the 2025 Senior World Championships. If still tied, the athlete with the best result in one 2024-2025 Senior 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 have met the minimum HP criteria as per the **AAP Carding Priority Summary chart on page 14**, and are maintaining an approved training and competitive program recognized by the CFF and Sport Canada. Athletes must also register for the 2025-2026 HPP.

In the case of force majeure or competitions listed in the classification grid being 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)

Senior National Team carding eligibility for 2025-2026 will be based on the following criteria for the Olympic and Paralympic programs and will be made in the following orders of priority:

##### a) Olympic Program

Priority 1: Top 8 Individual FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships

Priority 2: Top 16 placing in an individual event at the 2025 Senior World Championships **or** top 16 individual FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships

Priority 3: Team Gold Medal at the 2025 Senior Pan Am Championships (must have fenced in a top 4 or medal match and met the minimum HP criteria as per the **AAP Carding Priority Summary chart on page 14**)

Priority 4: Top 30 Senior individual FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships (must have met the minimum HP criteria as per the **AAP Carding Priority Summary chart on page 14**)

Priority 5: Individual Medal at the 2025 Senior Pan American Championships (must have met the minimum HP criteria as per the **AAP Carding Priority Summary chart on page 14**)

Priority 6: Top 75 Senior individual FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships (must have met the minimum HP criteria as per the **AAP Carding Priority Summary chart on page 14**)

If two athletes have the same priority, they will be ranked according to the final 2024-2025 Senior FIE Rankings.

If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their individual result at the 2025 Senior World Championships. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their best result in a 2024-2025 Senior World Cup/Grand Prix. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by the number of points in the Senior HPP Selection Rankings.





## b) Paralympic Program

Senior National Team carding eligibility for 2025-2026 will be based on the following criteria for the Paralympic program and will be made in the following order of priority:

Priority 1: Athletes placing in the top 16 and top half of the 2025 Senior World Championships

Priority 2: Athletes ranked **in the top 16 in the final official IWAS Senior Individual Final Rankings** for 2024-2025.

If two athletes have the same priority, they will be ranked according to the final 2024-2025 Senior IWAS Rankings.

If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their individual result at the 2025 Senior World Championships. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their best result in a 2024-2025 IWAS Senior World Cup.

### **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. To be carded at Senior National Team level for a seventh 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 being 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 International Card criteria but are not yet able to meet the Senior National 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).

An athlete may only be carded a maximum of five (5) years at the Development card level.

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 on September 31st, 2025 are not eligible for this card level.

After such time, CFF will conduct a comprehensive review of the athlete's performance over the past four years 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.

Eligibility for D cards for 2025-2026 will be based on following criteria for the Olympic and Paralympic programs and will be made in the following order of priority:

### A) Olympic Program

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.

Priority 1: Qualified for and competed in the 2025 Senior World Championships and met the minimum HP criteria for qualification as per the **AAP Carding Priority Summary chart on page 14**.

Priority 2: Top 8 placing in an individual event at the 2025 Junior World Championships

Priority 3: Top 4 placing in an individual event at the 2025 Cadet World Championships

Priority 4: Top 3 placing in a team event at the 2025 Junior World Championships (must have fenced in a top 8, top 4 or medal match)

Priority 5: Top 75 Individual senior FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships

Priority 6: Highest number of points in the 2024-2025 Junior HPP selection rankings. Must have achieved a minimum of 1000 Junior HPP points.

In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken using the final 2024-2025 Senior FIE Rankings.



If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their result at the 2025 Senior World Championships. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their best result in a 2024-2025 Senior World Cup/Grand Prix. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by the number of points in the Senior HPP Selection Rankings.

#### 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 criteria.

Athletes will be recommended in the following priority order:

Priority 1: Athletes who are ranked **in the top 32** (and top half of ranked fencers) on the 2024-2025 IWAS World Rankings following the 2025 World Championships, in any one of their events is eligible for nomination at the Development (D) level.

Priority 2: Athletes earning a medal at the 2025 U23 World Championships AND finishing in the top 20%.

If two athletes have the same priority, they will be ranked according to the final 2024-2025 Senior IWAS Rankings. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their individual result at the 2025 Senior World Championships. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by their best result in a 2024-2025 IWAS Senior World Cup.

In the case of force majeure or competitions listed in the classification grid being 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.

#### **Injury, Illness or Pregnancy Conditions**

At the end of a carding cycle during which a carded athlete has, for strictly health-related reasons or pregnancy, 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 or Senior National card levels at the end of previous carding cycle. Paralympic program: The athlete was carded at the end of previous carding cycle.
- ii. All new injuries, illness, or pregnancies must be recorded in Jane App by licensed CFF medical staff professionals within 14 days of the date of diagnosis or of the date when the athlete had to interrupt his/her training.
- iii. In the case of injury, illness, or pregnancy, athletes need to submit a “Verification of Athlete Injury, Illness or Pregnancy form”

(<http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Injury-Form-March-2016.pdf>) to the CFF



- medical lead in order to be considered for the injury/pregnancy card status.
- iv. After reviewing the “Verification of Athlete Injury, Illness or Pregnancy Form,” the CFF medical lead must compose and submit a signed medical report to the HP director.
  - v. Fencers who have received an injury card must report monthly to their CFF’s National Team coach on their rehabilitation activity and progress. This must continue until such time as they are deemed fit to return to full training by the CFF medical lead. Failure to report monthly progress may result, in the sole discretion of the CFF, in a recommendation to Sport Canada to withdraw carding.
  - vi. 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.

### **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. A subsequent written warning has been sent to the athlete.
3. If the above steps do not resolve the issue and the CFF 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 Appeal process, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC).

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



<http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Appeals-Policy.pdf>

<http://fencing.ca/wp-content/uploads/Politique-dappel.pdf>



## AAP Carding Priority Summary

AAP Card Level	CFF Priority Level	HP Criteria		Result	Notes
<b>Senior Card</b>					
SR1	SR1-1			Individual or Team Medal – 2025 Senior World Championships * For team, athletes must have fenced in a top 8, top 4 or medal match.	<b>Athletes that qualify for Senior Card:</b>  1. Can reside and train anywhere in Canada or outside  2. Can attend any post-secondary university in Canada or outside, but cannot receive AAP financial assistance while receiving an NCAA athletic scholarship
SR1	SR1-2			Top 8 Individual or Top 5 Team – 2025 Senior World Championships * For team, athletes must have fenced in a top 8, top 4, or placement match	
SR2	SR2	Yes	AND	Second Year of carding for those that were SR1 in 2024-2025 season	
SR	SR-1			Top 8 - Individual FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships	
SR	SR-2			Individual Top 16 result at 2025 Senior World Championships or Top 16 FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships	
SR	SR-3	Yes	AND	Team Gold Medal at Senior Pan Am Championships (athletes must fence in a top 4 or medal match)	
SR	SR-4	Yes	AND	Top 30 Senior Individual FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships	
SR	SR-5	Yes	AND	Individual Medal - Senior Pan American Championships	
SR	SR-6	Yes	AND	Top 75 Senior Individual FIE ranking after the 2025 senior world championships	
<b>Developmental Card</b>					
D	D1	Yes	AND	Qualify and compete at the 2025 Senior World Championships	<b>Athletes that qualify for Development Card:</b>  1. Must be training at and representing a Canadian club and/or training at a National Designated training centre and living full time in Canada (10 months per year), except for athletes attending an NCAA institution who are <b>NOT</b> receiving an athletic scholarship  2. Must be born 1998 or later (1997 or older is not eligible for Development Card)
D	D2			Top 8 - 2025 Junior World Championships - Individual	
D	D3			Top 4 - 2025 Cadet World Championships - Individual	
D	D4			Top 3 – 2025 Junior World Championships - Team (athletes must fence in a top 8, top 4 or medal match)	
D	D5			Top 75 - Individual Senior FIE ranking after the 2025 Senior World Championships	
D	D6			Most HP Points - Junior ( Must have achieved a minimum of 1000 Junior HPP points)	

**HP Criteria (Column 3):** Athlete must have made top 25% Individual result (twice) during the 2024 / 2025 season at Grand Prix or Senior World Cups (8 events – 5 World Cups and / or 3 Grand Prix) OR One top 8 placement at the October 2024 or January 2025 USA Fencing Division I NAC AND one (1) top 25% Individual result in a designated Senior World Cup or Grand Prix event.