

SPEED SKATING CANADA

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN #180

2016-2017 Athlete Assistance Program Carding Criteria



October 2016 – *amended January 17, 2017*

The fundamental strategic purpose of the High Performance Bulletins (HPB) for the long track program is to establish provisions that are designed to select athletes to teams who will perform at the highest level, and achieve the best possible results for Canada at Olympic Games and World Single Distance Championships.

The High Performance Committee Long Track (HPC-LT) will issue Bulletins periodically throughout the season communicating any relevant information to athletes, coaches, the Officials Development Committee, other SSC Committees and SSC Branches of updates and/or changes with respect, but not limited, to selection criteria and/or competitions.

The HPC-LT reserves the right to modify or change the policies and criteria contained herein in the event that exceptional circumstances arise and that any such changes are, in the opinion of the HPC-LT, in the best interests of the High Performance program. In these situations, athletes and coaches will be advised of any changes as soon as is feasible after they are confirmed by the HPC-LT.

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------|
| 1. | Carding Criteria | 3 |
| 1.1. | General Information | 3 |
| 1.2. | Short Track vs. Long Track | 4 |
| 1.3. | Injury Cards | 4 |
| 1.4. | Prioritization of Nominations | 4 |
| 1.5. | Tie Breakers | 4 |
| 1.6. | Senior International Card Criteria | 5 |
| 1.7. | Senior National Card Criteria | 5 |
| 1.8. | Development Card Criteria | 6 |
| 2. | Speed Skating Canada Program Support | 7 |
| 3. | Appeal | 7 |

1. Carding Criteria

1.1. General Information

This is the description of the criteria that will be used by Speed Skating Canada for nominating athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2017-18 carding cycle (July 2017-June 2018)

The Sport Canada policy and procedures which govern the AAP and the establishment and application of criteria can be found on Sport Canada's website: [Sport Canada AAP Policy and Procedures](#).

After every Olympic Games, Sport Canada reviews carding allocations based on international results indicating Olympic podium potential. Therefore the 2017-18 carding allocation for Speed Skating Canada will only be determined after the Games in Rio have been evaluated and a new-sport quota allocation communicated to Speed Skating Canada sometime in January 2017. As the number of cards available for the collective Speed Skating Canada program (both short track and long track) will only be known at that time, the High Performance Director will wait until then to determine the division of cards between the two programs. This division will be based on the needs and capacity of each program to deliver podium performances at the 2018 Olympic Games in PyeongChang.

Sport Canada's AAP is responsible to review all nominations of eligible athletes for the AAP support made by National Sport Organizations (NSO), to approve nominations in accordance with AAP policies and to approve the published AAP compliant carding criteria.

Only athletes named to Speed Skating Canada's National Program athlete pools, and athletes who train within a Long Track High Performance Athlete Pathway in the National Training Centre - Calgary, National Training Centre - Quebec, or any other elite training environment that is approved and monitored by SSC, and meets the requirements of Sport Canada and the SSC High Performance Athlete Pathway are eligible to be nominated to Sport Canada for AAP Carding.*

The athletes must meet the carding criteria in an event on the 2018 Olympic program. The standard must be met during the 2016-2017 competitive season, except for athletes meeting the SR2 card criteria.

AAP support is subject to the athlete's eligibility to represent Canada in international competitions, including World Cups, World Championships and Olympic Games. The athlete must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada on the date of the beginning of the carding cycle, and the athlete must have been a legal resident in Canada (student status, refugee status, work visa or permanent resident) for a minimum period of one year before being considered for AAP support.

*Note: The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) Registered Testing Pool (RTP) will be expanded beyond the Long Track High Performance Elite Athlete Pool to include additional athletes who may not already be identified.

1.2. Short Track vs. Long Track

Athletes that decide to change programs (from Long Track to Short Track or vice versa) will be evaluated on the criteria of the program they are joining unless otherwise agreed to by both HP Committees.

1.3. Injury Cards

The respective High Performance Committees (or equivalent to) may add an athlete to a National Program Athlete Pool according to past performances (as per SSC National Program selection policies). A carded athlete whose health-related reasons compromises his/her participation in a ranking competition, may be nominated for carding based on the **AAP policy 9.1.3. Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for health-related reasons**. For nomination purposes, the Athlete will be ranked at the same position as he/she was in the National Program in the previous year, with the performance of the previous year.

Note: the first injury year will not count towards the maximum number of years of eligibility for Senior National or Development carding. Subsequent injury years will count towards the maximum number of years of eligibility within the appropriate card limitations.

1.4. Prioritization of Nominations

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

- i. Senior International cards;
- ii. Senior National cards (including C1); and
- iii. Development cards

Please note that if fewer athletes in a program qualify for carding than the number of cards available in this program, then the unused cards may be transferred to the Short Track Program or visa versa. A minimum of 4 months of carding support must be available to provide AAP support to the last athlete on the nomination list.

1.5. Tie Breakers

If a tie exists after the application of the specific carding priority process, and there is a need to separate two or more nomination comparisons, the HPC-LT will refer to performances of the respective skaters from the most recent; 1) ISU Individual

Distance rankings and/or 2) Canadian Single Distance Championships. In this instance, the final ranking of each athlete will be compared using each of the respective distances, and the best result will be used to break the tie.

1.6. Senior International Card Criteria

Athletes who place in the top 8 and top ½ of the field in an Olympic event at the 2017 World Single Distance (WSD) Championships as indicated by distance. Athletes that meet this criteria will be prioritized based on their final ranking in the event which they have qualified for. Athletes who have the same placing, in different distances, will be prioritized by the percentage difference from the winner in each of the respective distances.

- i. 500m**
From the ranking in the distance at the 2017 WSD Championships
- ii. 1000m**
From the ranking in the distance at the 2017 WSD Championships
- iii. 1500m**
From the ranking in the distance at the 2017 WSD Championships
- iv. 3000m**
From the ranking in the distance at the 2017 WSD Championships (Women)
- v. 5000m**
From the ranking in the distance at the 2017 WSD Championships
- vi. 10000m**
From the ranking in the distance at the 2017 WSD Championships (Men)
- vii. Team Pursuit**
From the final ranking in the event at the 2017 WSD Championships
- viii. Mass start**
From the final ranking in the event at the 2017 WSD Championships

Athletes that qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card in the first year referred to as an SR1 Card and the card in the second year referred to as an SR2 Card. The second year is subject to the athlete being re-nominated by Speed Skating Canada, following a training and competitive program approved by Speed Skating Canada and Sport Canada and signing the AAP application and SSC/Athlete agreement.

1.7. Senior National Card Criteria

Senior National cards are intended to support athletes with the potential to reach Senior International card status. Athletes are expected to improve each year to maintain Senior National card level.

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

Priority 1: Athletes that placed 9th – 16th in an individual Olympic distance event at the 2017 World Single Distance Championships. Athletes that meet this criteria will be prioritized based on their final placing in the event which they have qualified for, within this carding criteria, at the 2017 World Single Distance Championships. Athletes who have the same placing, in different distances, will be prioritized by the percentage difference from the winner in each of the respective distances.

Priority 2: Athletes that placed in the top 8 and top ½ of the field (in final classification) at:

2017 World Sprint Championships or
2017 World All-Round Championships

Athletes that meet this criteria will be prioritized based on their final placing in the event which they have qualified for, within this carding criteria, at the respective World Championships. Athletes who have the same placing, in different distances, will be prioritized by the percentage difference from the winner in each of the respective distances.

Priority 3: Athletes that placed in the top 20 in an individual Olympic distance event on the **ISU Final Qualification Ranking List after World Cup 4**. Athletes that meet this criteria will be prioritized based on their position on the final ISU Distance ranking (final ISU Distance rankings are combined for women’s 3000m/5000m and 5000m/10000m).

Maximum number of years at Senior National card level: Once an athlete has reached the IF senior age, he/she is generally expected to be Senior National (including C1 Card) carded for no more than five (5) years, at which time it would be expected that the Senior International criteria has been met. After such time, The HPC-LT will conduct a comprehensive and thoroughly documented review of the athlete’s performance over the previous five years in order to demonstrate progress toward performance equivalent to the Senior international criteria and justify nomination to “Senior National” card status for an additional year. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level.

For an athlete changing programs, there may be a different maximum number of years at the Senior national card level. This number will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the respective High Performance Committee. The athlete will be informed by Speed Skating Canada of this requirement the first year he/she enters the new program.

1.8. Development Card Criteria

After the application of the Senior International and Senior National card criteria, the remaining card quota in Long Track will be allocated to athletes eligible under the Development Card criteria. Development Cards are intended to support the developmental needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior International Carding criteria but are not yet able to meet the Senior National Card criteria.

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

Priority 1: Athletes that placed in the top 8 and top 1/3 of the field at the 2017 World Junior Championships in the overall classification or individual distance events, or medal in Team Pursuit or Mass Start. These athletes will be prioritized based on the overall classification. If there is a tie between 2 or more athletes, the results in the individual distance classifications will be used to break the tie.

Priority 2: Athletes that place 21st to 24th in an individual Olympic distance event on **the ISU Final Qualification Ranking after World Cup 4 (ISU Final Qualification Rankings** are combined for women's 3000m/5000m and 5000m/10000m). These athletes will be prioritized based on the actual respective distance ranking.

A senior age athlete is expected to be eligible for a Priority 2 Development card for no more than two (2) years at senior age. (S1-S2)

Normally, a Development Card cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level (C1, SR, SR1, SR2) for more than two years, except for an athlete carded as a senior card while still competing at the Junior international age level.

2. Speed Skating Canada Program Support

Athletes who are nominated to the SSC Development Pool but who do not receive AAP carding support from Sport Canada **may** be considered to receive replacement funding from SSC (budget dependent) at half the Developmental Card level of funding for the same duration and carding cycle in effect.

If approved, SSC may only provide "replacement" funding for half the stipend of the AAP Training and living allowance. SSC will not provide any of the other AAP financial benefits such as tuition support, relocation assistance, etc. SSC support for an athlete who does not receive AAP carding support will be limited to a maximum of 2 years. Additional years may be added in special circumstances evaluated by the respective HPC-LT.

3. Appeal

Appeals of Speed Skating Canada AAP nomination/re-nomination decisions or of Speed Skating Canada's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through Speed Skating Canada's review process, which may include 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.