

SPEED SKATING CANADA HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN

#169 Team Selection & Carding Criteria

SHORT TRACK



August 2015

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETINS

The High Performance Committee – Short Track (HPCST) will issue bulletins periodically throughout the season informing skaters, coaches and associations of any update and/or changes to selection criteria, competitions, etc.

The HPCST reserves the right to modify or change the enclosed policies in the event that exceptional circumstances arise and that any such changes are clearly in the best interest of the high performance program. In these situations all athletes and coaches will be advised of any changes as soon as they are confirmed by the HPCST.

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National Team Selection Criteria

Introduction:

The High Performance Committee - Short Track will confirm the athletes who qualify for the 2016 / 17 National Team and Development Team respectively within 1 week of the HPCST's Annual Review meeting scheduled in April 2016.

The HPCST will select athletes as detailed below. The intention for the 2016-17 season is to carry only 6 athletes on each national team and 8 athletes on each development team. Additions to this number will only be considered under exceptional situations. Additional athletes may be added on the basis of the athlete being awarded an injury card from the AAP on the basis of a major injury/illness/pregnancy or in special circumstances evaluated by the HPCST.

PLEASE NOTE: Selection to the National Team or Development Team is provisional until any and all bye requests have been resolved.

National Team Selection

The 2016 /17 National Team will be selected on the basis of the following:

Objective Criteria

1. The 5 male and 5 female athletes selected for the 2016 World Short Track Speed Skating Championships.
In the case that Canada does not qualify a relay team for the World Championships, the athletes qualified for individual distances will be selected to the national team, and then the next top ranked athletes according to the 2015-16 final Canadian Senior Ranking (following bye requests) to a maximum of 5 athletes.
2. The next highest ranked athlete per gender from the adjusted 2015-2016 final Canadian Senior Rankings (following bye requests)

Development Team Selection

The 2016 /17 Development Team will be selected on the basis of the following:

Objective criteria

1. Junior athletes who finish top 3 in the overall final classification at the 2016 Junior World Championships.
2. Junior athletes, excluding those in their final year of eligibility, finishing in the top 4-6 in the overall final classification at the 2016 Junior World Championships.
3. Athletes ranked 7 – 12 from the adjusted 2015/16 final Canadian Rankings (following bye requests) if no athletes were selected from the priorities 1 and 2 above. If athletes qualified as per selection process 1 and 2 above, the number of skaters selected via the rankings will be reduced by the number of skaters selected via performances at the Jr. World Championships to maintain a maximum of 6 athletes per gender named to the Development team.

Discretionary criteria

4. The final two selections per gender will be made by the High Performance Committee, based on similar discretionary selection criteria that is used for the final individual distance entries at World Short Track Championships (as defined in HP Bulletin 167).
 - Long term potential for podium performances
 - Past International performances (if applicable)
 - National performances
 - Training performance
 - Readiness for competition
 - Commitment to their current training program
 - Assessment report from current coach(es)
 - Physiological readiness for increased training

Limits

Normally, an athlete can remain a Development Team member for a maximum of four (4) years (consecutively or in total). Please note that any years that a junior-aged athlete is a member of the Development Team are not considered as part of this 4 year maximum.

Additional years of SSC Development Team status will be decided at the discretion of the HPCST on the basis of performance history, current performance indicators and development pathway based on SSC's LTPAD model.

Confirmation of Team Membership

Athletes have 7 days following the official announcement of the 2016 / 2017 Teams to confirm acceptance of their position on the Team by returning a signed copy of the athlete intent document and the SSC National / Development Team Athlete Agreement.

Confirmation of Team membership indicates a commitment by the athlete to participate fully in the National / Development Team program and will participate in the respective selection events for these teams. Confirmation of Team membership also confirms acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of the SSC National / Development Team Athlete Agreement.

If SSC does not receive signed confirmation from the athlete that s/he accepts his/her position on the Team, that athlete will be regarded as having declined the position and any associated benefits. Any extensions to this confirmation period must be requested in writing by the athlete and will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.

Replacement of Skaters

Following confirmation to the 2016 –17 National Team, if an athlete subsequently withdraws from the National Team prior to the Fall World Cups Selection Competition of the 2016 / 2017 season, the next ranked Development Team skater **may** be elevated to National Team status. Consequently, the resulting vacancy on the Development Team **may** be filled by the next ranked skater from the 2015 / 16 final adjusted Canadian Sr. Rankings.

Similarly, following confirmation of the 2016-17 Development Team, if an athlete withdraws from the Development Team prior to the Fall World Cups Selection Competition of the 2016 / 2017 season, the resulting vacancy **may** be filled by the next ranked athlete from the 2015 / 16 final adjusted Canadian Rankings.

If an athlete withdraws from the National Team or Development Team after the Fall World Cup Selection competition, the vacancy on either team **will not** be filled.

All replacements will be evaluated and determined by the HPC with consideration to individual development progress on the basis of performance history, current performance indicators with respect to SSC's LTPAD model, as well as program objectives and budgetary implications.

Sport Canada Carding criteria

Introduction

The aim of this document is to describe the criteria that will be used by Speed Skating Canada for nominating athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP).

The High Performance Committee of the LT and ST programs are responsible for nominating athletes for carding in their respective program.

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 [HERE](#).

Relevant portions of the Sport Canada policy have been included within the pages of this document for the sake of providing complete information to speed skating athletes relative to carding nominations. In the event that changes are made to the Sport Canada policy, the text found on the official website of Sport Canada will prevail.

SSC Carding quota

SSC has been allocated the equivalent of 48 senior cards (\$864,000) by Sport Canada for both long track and short track programs. In order to align with the total maximum entry quota at the Olympic Games for each discipline (20 LT, 10 ST), a similar ratio of cards have been allocated to each for the quad: the equivalent of 28 senior cards (\$504,000) will be allocated to the Long Track program and 20 senior cards (\$360,000) to the Short Track program. If fewer athletes in a program qualify for carding than the number of cards allocated to that program, the unused cards will be transferred to the other program. A minimum of 4 months of carding support must be available to provide AAP support to any athlete on the nomination list.

After every Olympic Games, Sport Canada reviews carding allocations based on international results indicating Olympic podium potential. As a result the number of cards allocated to Speed Skating Canada is subject to change. If the allocation differs from that mentioned in this document, the High Performance Director will determine the distribution.

Support available

Living and training allowance, Tuition support, Special needs assistance

Athletes approved by Sport Canada for AAP may be eligible for a living and training allowance, tuition support (in a Sport Canada approved Institution, including the NCCP program), and deferred tuition support. Athletes funded by AAP receive a monthly financial stipend as follows:

Card Type	Monthly Stipend	Annual Value
Senior International card (SR1/SR2)	\$1,500	\$18,000
Senior National Card (SR)	\$1,500	\$18,000
1st year Senior Card (C1)	\$900	\$10,800
Development card (D)	\$900	\$10,800

The AAP program also provides athletes with the possibility of additional financial assistance in relation to specific circumstances, such as achievement of excellence at major games, relocation, retirement etc.

For details on the support available, please consult the Sport Canada policy online [HERE](#)

Carding process

1. At the end of the season Short Track Annual review, HPCST members evaluate bye requests to the national and development teams. A final adjusted Senior National ranking, in consideration of the bye requests, is achieved.
2. Athletes are named to the National and Development teams according to the National/Development Team objective criteria
3. All remaining athletes are ranked according to the National/Development Team Selection discretionary criteria. Where the maximum number of spaces on the team permits, those highest in this ranking will be named to the development team in the spaces allocated for discretionary selections.
4. The NT and DT team lists, along with other performance criteria are used to allocate cards according to the published prioritization.
5. All athletes eligible for carding are informed of their provisional status by letter (nominated, not re-nominated, alternate etc), and the nominations are posted on the Speed Skating Canada website.
6. After a review period of 7 days from the date of notification of nomination status

during which the athlete can appeal the decision, Speed Skating Canada presents its nominations to Sport Canada, usually in May.

7. Sport Canada approves the nominations in accordance with the AAP policies and the published NSO approved, AAP compliant carding criteria.
8. Athletes approved for the AAP complete the Sport Canada AAP application forms and the Speed Skating Canada National/Development team member agreement, as well as any anti-doping courses required.
9. The carding cycle begins on July 1, 2016.
10. Speed Skating Canada, through the national team coaches, and any other relevant coaches, monitors the carded athletes on a regular basis.

Carding eligibility

Athlete eligibility requirements

- The athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated (For Speed Skating, this begins on July 1 2016). Permanent residents must live in Canada for the full year preceding the carding cycle for which the athlete is being considered for AAP support. All athletes are expected to have participated in NSO-sanctioned programs during that time period;
- The athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships, Olympic Games. Any withdrawal from any international competitions is subject to HPCST approval.
- The athlete must also be eligible according to citizenship or residency status requirements of the International Skating Union (ISU) to represent Canada at major international competitions, including World Championships, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated;
- For athletes who have been permanent residents of Canada for three years or more, continued eligibility to receive AAP support is contingent on the athlete becoming eligible to represent Canada at the Olympic Games;
- The athlete must meet the published SSC approved, AAP compliant sport specific carding criteria;
- The athlete must participate in national team preparatory and annual training programs.

Ineligible athletes

- Athletes who have been ruled ineligible to participate in sport for two years or more as a result of an anti-doping rule violation and who have not, in the case of pre-2004 violations, subsequently been reinstated;
- Athletes who are serving an anti-doping rule violation sanction of less than two years of sport ineligibility at the start of the carding cycle; and

- Athletes who meet the carding criteria as members of another national team.

Athletes competing in World Championship events that are not on the Olympic program are not eligible for carding based on performances in those events.

Senior and Development carding policies

General Policy

The AAP cards are awarded on the basis of published SSC approved AAP compliant carding criteria.

- Senior Cards are awarded on the basis of either international criteria or national criteria.
- Development Cards are awarded on the basis of sport-specific criteria.

Prioritization of cards

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

1. Senior International cards;
2. Senior National cards (including C1);
3. Senior National Injury cards;
4. Development cards;
5. Development injury cards

Transfer of programs

Athletes who 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 by both HP Committees. In either event, the athlete must meet carding criteria.

Senior Card Policy

International cards (SR1, SR2)

Philosophy

International criteria recognize Canadian athletes for outstanding performance at World Championships or the Olympic Games.

Criteria

- Athletes who placed in the top 8 (counting a maximum of 3 entries per country) and in the top 1/2 of the field in an individual distance (500m, 1000m or 1500m) or in the relay at the 2016 Short Track World Championships

Each member of the Relay Team will be evaluated according to the results of the team in the relay. To be eligible under the relay criteria, the athlete must have participated in either the semi-final or final that qualifies the Relay Team for the top 8 finish.

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

In Olympic years, new Senior Cards based on the international criteria will be awarded only on the basis of results achieved in the Olympic Games. Results achieved at World Championships will not be used for awarding new SR1 cards.

Senior National Cards (SR, C1)

Philosophy

National criteria identify athletes who have the potential to achieve international criteria. Athletes who meet the national criteria for Senior Cards for the first time are awarded C1 Cards and are funded at the Development Card level. If the athlete is being carded at the SR1 level before meeting the national criteria for the Senior Card, the athlete will be funded at the Senior Card (SR) level rather than at the Development Card level.

Limits

The maximum total number of years an ISU Senior aged athlete can hold a senior national card is five (5) years. If after five (5) years the athlete has not attained senior international status, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive and thoroughly documented review of the athlete's year-to-year improvement, progression toward the international criteria and future potential. On the basis of this review, Sport Canada will, in discussion with SSC, exercise its discretion in determining whether an additional year of support as a Senior Card based on national criteria is warranted. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level. Note the first injury year will not count towards this maximum number of years of carding. Subsequent injury years will count towards the standard limits.

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 on this requirement the first year he/she enters the new program.

Criteria

The following senior national criteria will be used to complete the nomination for senior cards in the following priority order:

- Priority 1: Skaters selected to the National Team. These athletes will be ranked based on their position in the adjusted National Senior ranking.
- Priority 2: Any skater who earned at least two (2) top 6 performances in individual distances at World Cups in the 2015-16 competitive season.

Development Card Policy

Development cards

Philosophy

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 allocation of Development Cards is intended to ensure that financial support is provided to the athletes with the greatest potential.

Limits

All athletes who meet the eligibility criteria for a development card will be nominated to Sport Canada, however carding will be prioritized for those highest in the nomination list. If carding monies are not sufficient to supply a card to those who meet the criteria, then SSC will provide replacement funding for eligible athletes. See the section entitled SSC support for details.

The maximum number of years an athlete can hold a development card, once s/he has attained the ISU Senior age, is four (4) years. Note the first injury year will not count towards this maximum number of years of carding. Subsequent injury years will count towards the standard limits.

Normally, a Development Card cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level for more than two years. An exception may be made, at Sport Canada's sole discretion, for an athlete carded at the Senior Card level while still a junior athlete.

Criteria

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

Priority 1: Junior athletes who placed in the top 3 at the 2016 World Junior Championships in the overall classification. These athletes will be prioritized based on order of final overall classification at this competition.

Priority 2: Athletes in their non-final junior year who placed in the top 4-6 at the 2016 World Junior Championships in the overall classification. These athletes will be prioritized based on order of final overall classification at this competition.

Priority 3: The next athletes will be nominated based on their position in the overall 2015-16 Canadian Senior Ranking until 6 athletes per gender have been nominated under the development carding criteria (as per Priorities 1, 2 and 3).

Priority 4: The final two athletes nominated for Development cards per gender will be based on their selection to the Development team according to the Development team discretionary criteria (see page 4).

Injury/Illness/Pregnancy Card policy

Injury/illness/pregnancy cards

Philosophy

The respective High Performance Committees may add an athlete to the National Team or Development Team according to past performances. A carded athlete who must refrain from participating in a ranking competition for health-related reason 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 program the previous year (e.g., National team member, Development team member).

Limits

An athlete can only be the recipient of a total of 3 years of injury carding, with a maximum of 2 consecutive years.

Criteria

The athlete must have been carded the previous season.

The athlete must be added to the team following the granting of a bye according to the criteria set out for Major illness/injury in Bulletin 170.

Withdrawal of carded status

Policy

Athletes may have their carded status withdrawn under the following conditions:

- Failure to meet training or competition commitments;
- Violation of the SSC national/development team Agreement;
- Failure to meet athlete responsibilities outlined in the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Policies and Procedures;
- Gross breach of discipline;
- Investigation for cause; and
- Violations of anti-doping rules.

SSC may make the recommendation that carded status be withdrawn; however Sport Canada may also withdraw carded status without a recommendation from SSC. The procedure and specific reasons for which carding may be withdrawn are described in the Sport Canada policy, see Section 11 Withdrawal of Carded Status.

AAP Decision Appeals

Appeals of Speed Skating Canada AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of a Speed Skating Canada recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through Speed Skating Canada's review process, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). See SSC Appeal Policy RES 100 as posted online [HERE](#). Appeals of AAP Decision 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.

SSC Support

Athletes who are selected to the SSC Development Team but do not receive AAP carding support from Sport Canada will receive replacement funding from SSC equivalent to at least half the Developmental Card level, according to available funding, for the same duration and carding cycle in effect. To be considered for SSC support an athlete must demonstrate improved or at least equivalent performance to that of the previous year.

SSC will only provide “replacement” funding for at least 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 HPCST.