



BIATHLON CANADA
2018 – 2019 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Effective September 1st, 2017



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SECTION I – Carding Criteria

Program Description:

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), funded by Sport Canada, ensures athletes identified with potential to be top-16 in the world are afforded the necessary resources to achieve international success. The program contributes to improving Canadian performances at major international sporting events such as the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, and World Championships.

The financial assistance provided to identified Canadian athletes comes in the form of a monthly living and training allowance and, where applicable, post-secondary school tuition support. This assistance helps athletes with their training and competition needs, as well as assisting in preparing for a post-sport career. This assistance is provided directly to the athletes.

An athlete's carding status is subject to the obligations and commitments as detailed in Biathlon Canada's Carded Athlete Contract and Sport Canada's Guide to Athlete Assistance.

Biathlon Canada is eligible to receive eleven (11) senior cards or \$198,000 (subject to periodic review by Sport Canada). If fewer than eleven athletes meet the Senior Card criteria the remaining value of cards will be dispersed as Development Cards.

Priority for nomination of athletes to Sport Canada for AAP cards:

Biathlon Canada's High-Performance Working Group (consisting of the High-Performance Director, National Team Head Coach, General Manager, and Athlete & Coach Development Manager) is responsible for nominating athletes for carding to Sport Canada. Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with the AAP policies.

Carding nominations will be made in the following order of priority (tiers):

- 1.A** Athletes meeting Senior A International Criteria (SR1/SR2)-Tier 1
- 1.B** Athletes currently on the Senior A Team meeting the Injury/Illness provision

- 2.A** Athletes meeting the Senior A National Criteria (SR/C1)-Tier 2
- 2.B** Athletes currently on the Senior A Team meeting the Injury/Illness provision

- 3.A** Athletes meeting the Senior B National Criteria Priority 1-2 (SR/C1)-Tier 3
- 3.B** Athletes currently on the Senior B Team meeting the Injury/Illness provision

- 4.A** Athletes meeting the National B Training Squad Priority 3 (D)-Tier 4
- 4.B** National B Training Squad athletes carded the previous year at the D level who meet the Injury Provision (DI)

- 5.A** Athletes meeting U24 National Development Team Criteria (D)-Tier 5
- 5.B** Athletes carded the previous year at the D - International Junior Criteria level who meet the Injury Provision (DI)

- 6.** Athletes meeting the High-Performance Working Group Criteria (D)-Tier 6

DEFINITIONS

For this program, the following definitions apply:

Biathlon Canada National Team Program is defined as the activities in which the National Biathlon Team is engaged, including, but not limited to:

- 1. Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cup, IBU Cup, Nor-Am Cups, Open European Championships
- 2. Canadian Championships
- 3. Training Centres
- 4. Training camps
- 5. Medical and performance testing
- 6. Career programs sponsored by, or entered through the assistance of, Biathlon Canada
- 7. Meetings
- 8. Awards ceremonies
- 9. Promotional activities including media requests and press conferences

Biathlon Canada National Team is defined as a formal team of athletes who have achieved predetermined criteria and are selected by Biathlon Canada to represent Canada at international biathlon events. Biathlon Canada National Teams include but are not limited to:

- 1. Olympic Team
- 2. Senior World Championship Team
- 3. World Cup Team
- 4. IBU Cup Teams

5. Senior Open European Championship Team
6. Junior World Championship Team
7. Youth World Championship Team

Biathlon Canada is responsible for selecting, organizing, and operating a National Team of athletes, coaches, and support staff to represent Canada.

Athletes named to a Biathlon Canada Team or Training Group are considered part of the Biathlon Canada National Team Program and are required to sign an Athlete Agreement with Biathlon Canada.

Sanctioned Athletes: Athletes, having achieved a minimum level of performance criteria, are eligible to compete on a national team under Biathlon Canada supervision.

Field Size: Unless specifically indicated otherwise, Biathlon Canada considers the total field size for a competition to include all finishers, all disqualified athletes (DSQ), and all did-not-finish athletes (DNF). Athletes who are on a start list but did not start (DNS) are not considered as competitors and thus are not included in the calculation of overall field size.

Athlete Age Determination: An athlete's age for the Athlete Assistance Program will be determined in accordance with the International Biathlon Union rules governing age determination for the applicable season for which these criteria are applied.

U24: refers to athletes aged 23 years and younger in the competitive season referred to herein.

Competitive season: The competitive season referred to in this document runs from November 1st, 2017 through April 30th, 2018. Athletes can, over this period, earn results qualifying them for a 2018-19 card, with support commencing May 2018.

List of Abbreviations:

- Competitions referred to are individual competitions (Sprint, Pursuit, Individual, Mass Start) unless explicitly listed as Relay competitions

WCH – World Championships

WC – World Cup

WYCH – World Youth Championships

OECH – Open European Championships

OWG – Olympic Winter Games

IBUC – IBU Cup

WJCH – Junior World Championships

SENIOR CARDING CRITERIA (SR1, SR 2, SR, C1)

Introduction

This card is designed to support athletes who have demonstrated ability to achieve top-16 results at the World Championships or Olympic Games. The Senior Card can be achieved through the following sets of criteria and in the following priority order:

SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CARDING CRITERIA

Tier 1: Senior International Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)

- a. To be eligible for a Senior Card nomination through the international senior criteria, an athlete must achieve *one of* the following standards at the Olympic Winter Games or World Championships:
 - i) A single placing in the **top-8** of the field in an individual competition (*counting a maximum of three (3) entries per nation*); or,
 - ii) A single placing in the **top-6** and top-half (1/2) of the field in any Relay competition, **and** meeting one of the current National A or B Training Squad Performance Standards Priorities 1 or 2 or 3 (see Annex A)
- b. Athletes who qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible to be nominated for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 Card and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2 Card. The second year is subject to the athlete meeting one of the current National A or B Training Squad Performance Standards Priorities 1 or 2 or 3 (see Annex A), submitting a training and competitive program approved by Biathlon Canada and Sport Canada, and signing an Athlete NSO Agreement. SR2 athletes must also **complete the CCES online anti-doping courses** and AAP application form for the year in question.

SENIOR NATIONAL CARDING CRITERIA (SR/C1)

***Athletes qualifying for Senior National Carding criteria for the first time are eligible to be nominated for a C1 card. This card level is funded at the Development Card level, except in the following circumstance: The athlete has been named to the Senior National A or B Team, or has competed in the World Championships prior to meeting Senior National criteria for the first time, in which case the athlete will be funded at the SR level.

Tier 2: National A Training Squad Criteria (SR/C1)

- a. Athletes who meet National A Training Squad Priority 1 or 2 Performance Criteria.
- b. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting Tier 2 criteria:

- i. Athletes meeting Tier 2 criteria will be further ranked according to “Determination of ranking within National A Training Squad”.

Tier 3: National B Training Squad Criteria (SR/C1)

- a. Athletes who meet National B Training Squad Priority 1 or 2 Performance Criteria.
- b. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting Tier 3 criteria:
 - i. Athletes meeting Tier 3 criteria will be further ranked according to “Determination of ranking within National B Training Squad”.

DEVELOPMENT CARDING CRITERIA (D)

Development cards are intended to support the needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve Senior International Card criteria but are not yet able to meet Senior National Card criteria. The Development Card can be achieved through the following sets of criteria and in the following priority order:

**Development cards cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at Senior levels (SR1, SR2, SR, C1, SRinj) for more than two years. An exception, however is made for an athlete carded at a Senior level while still a Junior-aged – such years will not be considered.

Tier 4: National B Training Squad Criteria Priority 3 (D) or 4 (D)

- a. Athletes who meet National B Training Squad Priority 3 or 4 Performance Criteria.
- b. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting these criteria:
 - i. Athletes meeting Tier 4 criteria will be further ranked according to “Determination of ranking within National B Training Squad”.

Tier 5: U24 National Development Team Criteria Priority 1 – 3 (D)

- c. Athletes who meet U24 National Development Team Priority 1, 2, or 3 Performance Criteria.
- d. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting these criteria:
 - i. Athletes meeting Tier 5 criteria will be further ranked according to “Determination of ranking within U24 National Development Team”.

Tier 6: Biathlon Canada High Performance Working Group (HPWG) Nomination (D)

- a. The HPWG may nominate athletes for the remaining **Development Cards** based on their single best individual placing in the following priorities:
 - i. Athletes placing Top-60 at World Cup or Olympics or World Championship competitions
 - ii. Athletes placing Top-40 at IBU Cup competitions
 - iii. Athletes placing Top-30 at World Junior Championships
 - iv. Athletes with the next single best result from the IBU, OECH or WJ Championships until carding allocation if fulfilled.
- b. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting any of the Tier 6 priorities, athletes will be ranked based on their best respective placing within each Tier 6 priority. Should additional ranking be required, the tied athletes' next best placing from the priority in which criteria was met will be used.

INJURY PROVISION

Athletes who were carded in the previous year and were unable to meet the carding criteria strictly due to health-related reasons may be considered for re-nomination by Biathlon Canada High-Performance Working Group for the upcoming carding period if:

- a. The athlete and their personal coach submit a written petition to High-Performance Working Group, prior to the April High Performance Working Group Meeting. The petition must include the following:
 - i. A doctor's medical certificate indicating the date and nature of the injury with the prescribed rehabilitation program and an estimated recovery period. An indication that a full medical recovery will be possible within the next carding period. Biathlon Canada reserves the right to have a second medical opinion;
 - ii. For the period during which the athlete is unable to fulfill the training and competition commitments which are part of the normal carded athlete's contract, the athlete undertakes in writing to train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of Biathlon Canada at a level which minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health, and ensures an optimal return to full training and competition;
 - iii. The athlete signifies in writing his / her intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness or injury;
- b. The final decision on eligibility for carding nomination based on the injury provision clause rests with the High-Performance Working Group.
- c. If there are fewer cards available than those who met the Injury Provision Criteria, athletes will be ranked on their ranking in the previous year's AAP nomination.

SECTION II - CARDING ELIGIBILITY –

A. Residence Requirement

To be eligible for support through the AAP, an athlete must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada;
- Adhere to their athlete/NSO agreement requirements;
- Meet the eligibility requirement of the sport's international federation as they pertain to citizenship and residency status and be available to represent Canada at major international events, including World Championships, Olympic and Paralympic Games; and
- Meet the carding criteria as a member of the Canadian Team at international events or in domestic events or events sanctioned by the NSO for his/her sport. Athletes are usually required to live and train in Canada. Assistance for athletes living and training outside Canada may be approved by Sport Canada, if justified by the NSO for academic or athletic reasons.

B. Biathlon Canada Eligibility Requirement

1. Training: To be eligible for carding, athletes must have an annual training and competitive program based on year-round training principles that is designed, supervised, and monitored by Biathlon Canada National Team coaches or designate.

C. Performance Requirement

1. If an athlete has been carded seven (7) years or more at the Senior Carding Criteria level (SR1/SR2, SR, C1) as a Senior Category participant, to be eligible for an additional year of AAP support the athlete must:
 - a. Achieve Tier 1 AAP criteria; or
 - b. Achieve Tier 2 AAP criteria; or
 - c. Achieve 2 X top-24 World Cup, World Championship, or Olympic Games results.
2. Athletes have a maximum of five years eligibility for D carding (excluding years carded as a Junior), after which athletes must qualify at the SR1/SR2, SR, C1 levels.

The Performance Requirement does not apply to athletes carded at SR1; such athletes must fulfill maintenance criteria detailed in section *Tier 1: Senior International Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)* – page 4.

Years carded under an Injury/Illness provision do not count when totalling years of carding in the above situations.

SECTION III - CARDING PROCEDURE

By the 15th of April 2018:

- A list will be established based on the priorities set out in this document.
- A nominations list based on the number of cards available will be prepared.
- The athlete carding nomination list will be published by Biathlon Canada on the Biathlon Canada website.
- Upon publication, athletes will have 7 days to notify Biathlon Canada if there have been any errors or omissions in the calculation of scores.
- The final nomination list will be presented to Sport Canada for review and approval.

SECTION IV - ATHLETE NSO AGREEMENT

Biathlon Canada will advise Sport Canada's AAP officials when athletes sign their Athlete/NSO Agreement and comply with responsibilities defined in Section V. As requested, AAP carding will not commence until confirmation is received that these conditions have been met.

SECTION V – GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Carding Cycle

- a. The carding cycle will run from May 1st to April 30th.

B. Biathlon Canada, Athlete, and Sport Canada Responsibilities

- a. Please see [Sport Canada Web Site](#)

ANNEX A – SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM - A AND B SQUAD and U24 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM CRITERIA 2017-18

1. Senior National Team - A Squad

- a. Objectives:
 - i. Medal result at 2019 World Championships
 - ii. Target Olympic podium 2022 Olympics
 - iii. Top 30 overall in World Cup Points

- b. General Training Plan:
 - i. Primary training location will be at the National Training Centre in Canmore, Alberta with camps and activities occurring in other training locations.
 - ii. Training will be directed by the National Team Coaches, and will provide access to appropriate levels of other resources in pursuit of program objectives
 - iii. Athletes must train at the National Training Centre Canmore under the leadership and direction of Biathlon Canada coaching staff, unless engaged in approved activities outside the National Training Centre.

SENIOR NATIONALTEAM - A SQUAD PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	Priority 1 SR or C1 Card	Priority 2 SR or C1 Card
Criteria	WC or WCH or OWG: -1x top-8 or WCH or OWG: -1x member of a top-6 Relay team	WC or WCH or OWG result: -2x top-16 or -1 x top-16 AND -1 x Member of a top-6 Relay

c. Determination of ranking within National A Training Squad

- i. Athletes meeting Priority 1 with a top-8 individual result at World Cup, World Championships or Olympic Winter Games
 - a. Ranked by best placing at WC or WCH/OWG
(If tied, ranked by next-best placing at WC or WCH/OWG)

- ii. Athletes meeting Priority 1 using a Top-6 Relay result at World Championships or Olympic Winter Games
 - a. Ranked by best Relay placing at WCH/OWG
(If tied, ranked by best individual placing at WCH/OWG. If still tied, ranked by next-best individual placing at WCH/OWG)

- iii. Athletes meeting Priority 2
 - a. Ranked by best single individual placing from WC and WCH/OWG (If tied, ranked by next-best single individual placing from WC and WCH/OWG results)

2. Senior National Team - B Squad

- a. Objectives:
 - i. Target Olympic podium 2022
 - ii. Top 20 result at World Championships 2019
 - iii. Multiple top 40 results on World Cup
- b. General Training Plan:
 - i. Primary training location will be at the National Training Centre in Canmore Alberta with camps and activities occurring in other training locations as required.
 - ii. Training will be focused on performance, will be directed by the National Team Coaches, and will provide access to appropriate levels of other resources in pursuit of program objectives.
 - iii. Athletes must train at the National Training Centre Canmore under the leadership and direction of Biathlon Canada coaching staff, unless engaged in approved activities outside the National Training Centre.

SENIOR NATIONAL TEAM - B SQUAD PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	Priority 1 SR Card	Priority 2 SR Card	Priority 3 D Card	Priority 4 D card
All Athletes Criteria	WC or WCH/OWG – one of the following: -1x top-30 -1x member of a top-6 Relay team	WC or WCH/OWG --1x top-40; or: IBUC or OECH – one of the following: -1x top-6 -2x top-16 -1x member of a top-3 Relay team		
U26 Criteria			IBUC or OECH: -3x top-25	
U24 Criteria	WC or WCH/OWG: -1x top-60	IBUC or OECH – one of the following: -1x top-16 -1x member of a top-3 Relay team	IBUC or OECH: -2x top-25	JWCH: -1x top-10

c. Determination of ranking within National B Training Squad

- i. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 1:
 - a. Ranked by best individual placing at WC or WCH/OWG
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual WC or WCH/OWG placing)
 - b. Ranked by best Relay placing at WC or WCH/OWG (athletes presenting only a Relay result)
(If tied, ranked by best individual WC or WCH/OWG placing)
- ii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 2:
 - a. Ranked by best individual placing at WC or WCH/OWG
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual WC or WCH/OWG placing)
 - b. Ranked by best individual placing at IBUC or OECH
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual IBUC or OECH placing)
 - c. Ranked by best Relay placing at IBUC or OECH (athletes presenting only a Relay result)
(If tied, ranked by best IBUC or OECH individual placing)
- iii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 3
 - Ranked by best individual placing at IBUC or OECH
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual IBUC or OECH placing)
- iv. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 4
 - Ranked by best individual placing at JWCH
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual JWCH placing)

3. U24 National Development Team

- a. Objectives:
 - i. Target podium 2026 Olympics
 - ii. Progress to B Team
 - iii. Top-16 results on IBU Cup and OECH
 - iv. Top-10 results at JWCH, JOECH and JIBU Cup
- b. General Training Plan:
 - i. Camp based program. Athletes will be invited to select National Senior Team Camp(s) to complement their training center or club based programming
 - ii. Athletes must train at the National Training Centre or High-Performance Club Program under the leadership and direction of full time coaching staff.
 - iii. Athletes are required to submit their YTP to Biathlon Canada HPD
 - iv. Athletes are required to use Biathlon Canada's training diary system

U24 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	Priority 1 D Card	Priority 2 D Card	Priority 3 D Card
U24 Criteria	IBUC – one of the following: -1x top-20 -1x member of a top-3 relay team	IBUC: -2 x top-30	
Junior Criteria	WJCH: -1x top-16	WJCH: -2x top-20	IBUC: -1x top-25
Youth Criteria	WYCH: -1x top-3		

c. Determination of ranking within U24 National Development Team

- i. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 1
 - a. Ranked by best individual placing at IBUC or WJCH or WYCH
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual placing at IBUC or WJCH or WYCH)
 - b. Ranked by best Relay placing at IBUC
(If tied, ranked by best individual placing at IBUC)
- ii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 2
 - a. Ranked by best individual placing at IBUC or WJCH
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual placing at IBUC or WJCH)
- iii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 3
 - a. Ranked by best individual placing at IBUC
(If tied, ranked by next best placing at IBUC)