



BIATHLON CANADA
2016 – 2017 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Effective September 1st, 2015



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SECTION I – Carding Criteria

Program Description:

The Biathlon Canada carding program is funded by Sport Canada through the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP). The purpose of the carding program is to ensure athletes identified with potential to be top-16 in the world are afforded the necessary opportunities in order 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 goes 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:

The Biathlon Canada's High Performance Working Group (consisting of the High Performance Director, National Team Head Coach, and National Team Coach) is responsible for nominating athletes for carding to Sport Canada. Sport Canada is responsible to approve nominations in accordance with the AAP policies.

Athletes will be nominated in the following order of priority (tiers):

1. Athletes meeting the Senior A International Criteria (SR1/SR2)-Tier 1
 - Athletes meeting the Injury/Illness provision who are currently on the Senior A Team
2. Athletes meeting the Senior A National Criteria (SR/C1)-Tier 2
 - Athletes meeting the Injury/Illness provision who are currently on the Senior A Team
3. Athletes meeting the Senior B National Criteria (SR/C1)-Tier 3
 - Athletes meeting the Injury/Illness provision who are currently on the Senior B Team
3. Athletes meeting the National B Training Squad Priority 2-3 (D)-Tier 4
 - National B Training Squad athletes carded the previous year at the D level who meet the Injury Provision (DI)
4. Athletes meeting the International Junior Criteria (DI)-Tier 5
 - Athletes carded the previous year at the D - International Junior Criteria level who meet the Injury Provision (DI)
5. Athletes meeting the High Performance Working Group Criteria (D)-Tier 6

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of 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-Ams, Open European Championships U26
2. Canadian Championships
3. Training Centres
4. Training camps
5. Medical and performance testing
6. Career programs sponsored by or entered into 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 Team
5. Open European Championship Team U26
6. North American Cup Team

7. Junior World Championship Team
8. 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 in the sport of Biathlon.

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 that 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.

Competitive season: From November 1st of one year until April 30th of the following year.

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 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 the Individual, Sprint, Pursuit, or Mass Start competitions (*counting a maximum of three (3) entries per nation*)
 - ii) A single placing in the top-8 and top half (1/2) of the field in any Relay competition, **and** completion of National A Training Squad Performance Standards: Either priority 1, 2, or 3
- b. Athletes that 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 Training Squad

Priorities 1, 2, or 3 performance standards (see Annex A), being re-nominated by Biathlon Canada, submitting a training and competitive program approved by Biathlon Canada and Sport Canada, and signing an Athlete NSO Agreement, **have completed the online anti-doping courses** and completing the AAP application form for the year in question.

SENIOR NATIONAL CARDING CRITERIA (SR/C1)

***Athletes that qualify through the 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.

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

- a. Athletes who meet the minimum National A Training Squad Priority 1, 2, or 3 performance criteria for the upcoming season (see Annex A).
- b. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting Tier 2 criteria:
 - i. Athletes will be ranked using the National A Training Squad-Performance Standards

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

- a. Athletes who meet National B Training Squad Priority 1 performance criteria.
- b. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting Tier 3 criteria:
 - i. Athletes will be ranked using the National B Training Squad-Performance Standards

DEVELOPMENT CARDING CRITERIA (D)

Development cards are intended to support the developmental 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 is made for an athlete carded at a Senior level while still a junior athlete."

Tier 4: National B Training Squad Criteria Priority 2 or 3 (D)

- a. Athletes who meet the minimum National B Training Squad Priority 2 or 3 performance criteria for the upcoming season.
- b. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting this criteria:
 - i. Athletes will be ranked using the Squads and Teams "Determination of Ranking within National B Training Squad"

Tier 5: International Junior Criteria (D)

- a. Athletes who finish in the **top-8** of the field in the Junior category of the Individual, Sprint or Pursuit competitions at the most recent Junior World Championship.
- b. If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting this criteria:
 - i. Athletes will be ranked solely on their best individual placing at the Junior World Championships regardless of gender;
 - ii. If further ranking is required, due to the same placing being achieved by more than one athlete, the athletes' greatest performance % based on the average of the top three finishers at the Junior World Championships will be used to establish final priority.

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 placing in the following priorities:
 - i. Athletes placing in the Top 60 at the World Cup or World Championships
 - ii. Athletes placing in the Top 40 at an IBU Cup Race
 - iii. Athletes placing in the 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, the athletes meeting the specific standard will be ranked base on their placing at the event:**

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 of time for 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 optimum return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date;

- 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.

ARTICLE II - CARDING ELIGIBILITY -

A. Residence Requirement

To be eligible to be considered 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. Be selected on the National A Training Squad
 - b. Achieve SR1/SR2 performance criteria; or
 - c. Have placed in the top 16 at any point in the season at WC, World Championships or OWG
 - d. Demonstrate continued progression as defined :
 - Having a World Cup seasonal percentage (counting Sprint, Individual, and Mass Start Races) in this season which is greater than the average World Cup seasonal percentage of the previous three seasons (counting Sprint, Individual, and Mass Start Races)
2. Athletes have a maximum of five years eligibility for D carding (excluding years carded as a junior). After this period of eligibility the only way to be carded is to qualify at the SR1/SR2, SR, C1 levels.

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

SECTION III - CARDING PROCEDURE

At the conclusion of the National Championships:

- 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 are in compliance with their responsibilities as 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 – NATIONAL A AND B TRAINING SQUAD CRITERIA 2016-17

1. National A Training Squad

- a. Objectives:
 - i. Medal result at World Championships or Winter Olympic Games
 - ii. Multiple top-8 results at World Championships
 - iii. Medal performances at 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 directed by the National Team Coaches, and will provide access to appropriate levels of other resources in pursuit of program objectives
 - iii. Cost per athlete will be detailed in the yearly National Team Program
- c. Principles guiding the selection:
- i. 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
 - ii. Athlete performance is expected to improve on an annual basis

NATIONAL A TRAINING SQUAD – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	Priority 1 SR or C1 Card	Priority 2 SR or C1 Card	Priority 3 SR or C1 Card	Priority 4
Criteria	Top-8 at World Championships Sprint, Pursuit, Individual, or Mass Start or Member of a top-6 Relay at World Championships	2x WC or WCH results: top-16, or top-3 Relay	3x any combination of: WC or WCH top- 30, or Member of a WC or WCH top-8 relay	HPWG recommendation based on any combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single or multiple exceptional performance(s) internationally in the current season • Significant fitness testing results from standardized tests during the training season • Exceptional circumstances

- d.
- Determination of ranking within National A Training Squad:
- i. Athletes meeting Priority 1 using a Top 8 individual result at World Championships
 - Ranked by best placing at World Championships
 - Ranked by best performance percentage at World Championships
 - ii. Athletes meeting Priority 1 using a Top 6 Relay result at World Championships
 - Ranked by relay placing at World Championships
 - Ranked by best individual placing at World Championships
 - Ranked by best individual performance percentage at World Championships
 - iii. Athletes meeting Priority 2

- Ranked by best single placing from WC and WCH results
- Ranked by best single performance percentage from eligible results
- iv. Athletes meeting Priority 3
 - Ranked by best single placing from eligible results
 - Ranked by best single performance percentage from eligible results
- v. Athletes meeting Priority 4 as ranked by the HPWG

2. National B Training Squad

- a. Objectives:
- i. Medal result at IBU Cup Events
 - ii. Multiple top-6 results at IBU Cup Events
- 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. Cost per athlete will be detailed in the yearly National Team Program.
- c. Principles guiding the selection:
- i. 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.
 - ii. Athlete performance is expected to improve on an annual basis from both a national and international perspective.

NATIONAL B TRAINING SQUAD – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	Priority 1 SR Card	Priority 2 SR Card	Priority 3 D Card	Priority 4
All Athletes	WC or WCH top- 30	IBU Cup or OECH result: 2x top-6, or top-3 relay		
26 and Under Criteria	WC or WCH top- 40		IBU Cup or OECH result 3x top-16	HPWG recommendation based on any combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single or multiple exceptional
23 and Under Criteria		IBU Cup or OECH result		

	WC or WCH top- 60	1x top 6, or top-3 relay	IBU Cup or OECH result 2x top-16 Or JWCH or JOECH result 1x top 3	performance(s) internationally in the current season <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant than average fitness testing results from standardized tests during the training season • Exceptional circumstances
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- d. Determination of ranking within National B Training Squad:
- i. Athletes meeting Men's and Women's Criteria Priority 1
 - Ranked by best placing at World Cup or World Championships
 - Ranked by best percentage at World Cup or World Championships
 - ii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 2
 - Ranked by best placing at IBU Cup or OECH
 - Ranked by best percentage at IBU Cup or OECH
 - iii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 3
 - Ranked by best placing at IBU Cup or OECH or JWCH or JOECH
 - Ranked by best percentage at IBU Cup or OECH or JWCH or JOECH
 - iv. Athletes identified as Priority 4 as ranked by the HPWG