

BIATHLON CANADA
2021 – 2022 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SELECTION CRITERIA
UPDATED: September 1st, 2020

OUTLINE:

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

SECTION II - CARDING CRITERIA

SECTION III - CARDING ELIGIBILITY

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

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 Athlete Agreement and Sport Canada's [Athlete Assistance Program Policies, Procedures and Guidelines](#).

In 2021-2022, Biathlon Canada is eligible to receive eight (8) Senior Cards or \$169,440 (subject to periodic review by Sport Canada). If fewer than eight athletes meet the Senior Card criteria the remaining value of cards will be allocated as Development Cards.

COVID-19

Biathlon Canada is carefully following the evolution of the Coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact the 2020-2021 Biathlon season. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of the Coronavirus, Biathlon Canada will respect the published Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) document as written. However, situations related to the Coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this document to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the AAP. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow the AAP document to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the High Performance Working Group, as stated in the Biathlon Canada AAP, 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, Biathlon Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Types of Cards:

There are four main types of cards. These are introduced below and the eligibility requirements are explained further in Section II. Typically, athletes will be nominated to receive a card for twelve months from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 (the Carding Cycle). Cards are normally twelve months per athlete; however, if fewer than twelve months of funding remains when allocating cards, the last eligible athlete will receive a partial card provided that at least four months of funding remain.

1. SR 1 and SR 2: See “Senior International Criteria” (Tier 1). This card has a value of \$1,765.00/month during the Carding Cycle.
2. SR: See “Senior National Criteria” (Tier 2 and 3). This card has a value of \$1,765.00/month during the Carding Cycle.
3. C1: See “Senior National Criteria” (Tier 2 and 3). This card has a value of \$1,060.00/month during the Carding Cycle.
4. D: See “National Criteria” (Tier 4), “U24 National Development Criteria” (Tier 5), and “High Performance Working Group Criteria” (Tier 6). This card has a value of \$1,060.00/month during the Carding Cycle.

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

AAP nominations will be made by the HPWG – currently the Biathlon Canada General Manager and a Board Representative – with input from various expert advisors. These advisors may include any or all of the following, depending on the nature of the input required: Biathlon Canada National Team Coaches, Tour Coaches, Long Term Athlete Development Director, Athlete and Coach Development Manager, Club coaches, athlete representatives, IST members, etc.

Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with the AAP policies.

Carding Procedure:

By April 15, 2021:

- A list will be established based on the priorities set out in this document.

- An athlete carding provisional nominations list based on the number of cards available will be prepared.
- The athlete carding provisional nomination list will be published by Biathlon Canada on the Biathlon Canada website.
- Upon publication, athletes will have seven (7) days to notify Biathlon Canada if there have been any errors or omissions in the calculation of rankings.
- After this seven (7) day period, the athlete carding final nomination list will be presented to Sport Canada for review and approval.

In order for an athlete to receive funding through the AAP carding program, the athlete must sign and be in compliance with their Athlete/NSO Agreement. Biathlon Canada will advise Sport Canada's AAP officials when these conditions have been met.

For reference, please find information on Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program [here](#).

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

Priority Order	Criteria
1.A	Athletes meeting the Tier 1 Senior International Criteria (SR1/SR2).
1.B	Athletes carded at Tier 1 in the previous carding year who meet the Injury/Illness provision for the current year (SRI).
2.A	Athletes meeting the Tier 2 Senior National Criteria (SR/C1).
2.B	Athletes carded at Tier 2 in the previous carding year who meet the Injury/Illness provision for the current year (SRI).
3.A	Athletes meeting the Tier 3 Senior National Criteria (SR/C1).
3.B	Athletes carded at Tier 3 in the previous carding year who meet the Injury/Illness provision for the current year (SRI).
4.A	Athletes meeting the Tier 4 National Criteria (D).
4.B	Athletes carded at Tier 4 in the previous carding year who meet the Injury/Illness provision for the current year (DI).
5.A	Athletes meeting the Tier 5 - U24 National Development Criteria (D).
5.B	Athletes carded at Tier 5 in the previous carding year who meet the Injury/Illness provision for the current year (DI).
6	Athletes meeting Tier 6 - High-Performance Working Group Criteria (D).

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, Junior and Youth World 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; and
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; and
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 Team 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 at the cut off date 31 December, as per the method used by the International Biathlon Union rules governing age determination for the applicable season for which these criteria are applied. For the 2021/2022 season the Year Of Birth is 1998.

Competitive Season: The competitive season referred to in this document runs from November 1st, 2020 through April 30th, 2021. Athletes can, over this period, earn Competition Results that may qualify them for a 2021-2022 card, with financial support commencing May 2021.

Competition Results: All competitions and their results referred to herein are individual competitions (Sprint, Pursuit, Individual, Mass Start) unless explicitly listed as relay competitions. For any relay competition, the qualifying result for any athlete is the team relay result for the team they were part of. The term 'place' or 'placing' may be used interchangeably with the term 'results'. For a Super Sprint, the athlete's final placing will be considered the Competition Result.

List of Abbreviations:

WCH – World Championships

or World Senior Championships

WC – World Cup

WYCH – World Youth Championships

OECH – Open European Championships

OWG – Olympic Winter Games

IBUC – IBU Cup

WJCH – Junior World Championships

SECTION II: CARDING CRITERIA

Senior Carding Criteria (SR1, SR2, SR, C1)

This card is designed to support athletes who have demonstrated an 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:

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

- a. To be eligible for a Senior Card nomination through the Tier 1 senior international criteria, an athlete must achieve *one of* the following standards at the **Olympic Winter Games or World Championships** (NOTE: in non-Olympic years, the result achieved at World Championships must be an event on the program at the Olympic Winter Games).
 - 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 four (4) person Relay competition **and** achieving the current Tier 3 Priority 1 National Carding Criteria. (See Tier 3 below)
- b. Athletes who qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible to be nominated for two years of AAP support based on a.i) and a.ii) above 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 also achieving the current Tier 3 Priority 1 Senior National Carding Criteria (see Tier 3 below), submitting a training and competitive program approved by Biathlon Canada and Sport Canada, signing an Athlete NSO Agreement, and **completing 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 competed (participated and is considered in the **Field Size** in at least one competition) in the 2021 World Senior Championships, in which case the athlete will be funded at the SR level.

Tier 2 Senior National Carding Criteria (SR/C1)

a. To be eligible for a SR/C1 Card nomination through the Tier 2 senior national carding criteria, an athlete must meet either Priority 1 **or** Priority 2:

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

b. Determination of ranking within Tier 2:

If there are fewer remaining cards than athletes meeting Tier 2 criteria, athletes will be ranked accordingly:

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

Tier 3 Senior National Carding Criteria (SR/C1)

a. To be eligible for a SR/C1 Card nomination through the Tier 3 senior national carding criteria, an athlete must meet either Priority 1 **or** Priority 2 specific to their age

TIER 3	Priority 1 SR or C1 Card	Priority 2 SR or C1 Card
All Athletes Criteria	one of the following: 2x either: top 25 WC/WCH/OWG or top 6 IBUC/OECH or: 1x either: top 25 WC/WCH/OWG or top 6 IBUC/OECH and 1x either: member of a top- 6 WC Relay team or top 3 IBUC Relay team	one of the following: 2x either: top 40 WC/WCH/OWG or top 12 IBUC/OECH or: 1x either: top 40 WC/WCH/OWG or top 12 IBUC/OECH and 1x either: member of a top- 6 WC Relay team or top 3 IBUC Relay team
U24 Criteria	one of the following: 2x either: top 40 WC/WCH/OWG or top 12 IBUC/OECH or: 1x either: top 40 WC/WCH/OWG or top 12 IBUC/OECH and 1x either: member of a top- 6 WC Relay team or top 3 IBUC Relay team	one of the following: 2x either: top 55 WC/WCH/OWG or top 23 IBUC/OECH or: 1x either: top 55 WC/WCH/OWG or top 23 IBUC /OECH and 1x either: member of a top- 6 WC Relay team or top 3 IBUC Relay team

b. Determination of ranking within Tier 3:

If there are fewer remaining cards than athletes meeting Tier 3 criteria, athletes will be ranked accordingly:

i. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 1:

- All athletes criteria ranks above U24 criteria
- 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 (athletes presenting only a Relay result)
(If tied, ranked by best individual WC or WCH/OWG placing)

ii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 2:

- All athletes criteria ranks above U24 criteria
- 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)

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:

**Normally, an athlete previously carded at Senior levels (SR1, SR2, SR, C1, and SRI) for more than two years cannot be nominated for a development card. Exceptions can be made to this principle as follows:

- The time that a junior-aged athlete, as per the [IBU definition](#), is carded at a senior level (SR1/SR2,SR,C1) will not be considered.
- The time that an athlete who is initially nominated for a development card but upgraded to a senior card (SR,C1) during the Carding Cycle due to Olympic Team selection will not be considered.

Tier 4: Development Carding Criteria (D)

a. To be eligible for a D Card nomination through the Tier 4 Development Carding Criteria, an athlete must meet either Priority 1 **or** Priority 2 specific to their age.

TIER 4	Priority 1 D Card	Priority 2 D card
All Athlete Criteria	IBUC or OECH: 3x top-35	
U24 Criteria	IBUC or OECH: 2x top-35	JWCH: 1x top-10

b. Determination of ranking within Tier 4:

If there are fewer remaining cards than athletes meeting Tier 4 criteria, athletes will be ranked accordingly:

- i. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 1
 - Ranked by best individual placing at IBUC or OECH
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual IBUC or OECH placing)
 - All athletes criteria ranks above U24 criteria
- ii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 2
 - Ranked by best individual placing at JWCH
(If tied, ranked by next-best individual JWCH placing)

Tier 5: U24 Development Carding Criteria (D)

a. To be eligible for a D Card nomination through the Tier 5 Development Carding Criteria, an athlete must meet either Priority 1 **or** Priority 2 **or** Priority 3 specific to their age.

	Priority 1 D Card	Priority 2 D Card	Priority 3 D Card
U24 Criteria	IBUC/OECH – one of the following: 2 x top-40 or 1x member of a top-3 relay team	IBUC/OECH: 1 x top-40	
Junior Criteria	WJCH: 1x top-16	WJCH: 2x top-20	IBUC: 1x top-50
Youth Criteria	WYCH: 1x top-3		

b. Determination of ranking within Tier 5:

If there are fewer remaining cards than athletes meeting Tier 5 criteria, athletes will be ranked accordingly

- i. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 1
 - U24 ranks above Junior and Youth criteria. Junior Criteria ranks above Youth criteria.
 - a. Ranked by best individual placing at IBUC/OECH or WJCH or WYCH (If tied, ranked by next-best individual placing at IBUC/OECH or WJCH or WYCH)
 - b. Ranked by best Relay placing at IBUC/OECH (If tied, ranked by best individual placing at IBUC/OECH)
- ii. Athletes meeting Criteria Priority 2
 - U24 ranks above Junior criteria.
 - a. Ranked by best individual placing at IBUC/OECH 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/OECH
(If tied, ranked by next best placing at IBUC/OECH)

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

- a. The HPWG may nominate athletes for any 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.

Long-term Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-related Reasons

Carded athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for longer than four months because of injury, illness or pregnancy will continue to receive 100 percent of the AAP financial support to which they would otherwise be entitled, provided the following conditions are met:

- The carded athlete undertakes in writing, to train or rehabilitate, or both, under the supervision of Biathlon Canada, or its designate, for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfil the training and competition commitments included in the Athlete/NSO Agreement, and at a level that minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures optimal return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date;
- The carded athlete signifies in writing, their intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness, injury or pregnancy;
- An injured or ill carded athlete provides a positive prognosis from a Biathlon Canada team physician or equivalent for their return to training and competition at the carded-athlete level in their sport within 8 to 12 months.

Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-related Reasons

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 has abided by the Injury provision requirements of the Biathlon Canada Athlete Contract, Section III.1 (i): *“In the case of an injury or illness which prohibits the Athlete from participating in a National Team activity, the athlete must send a signed certificate from a physician to the HPWG within eight (8) days following injury or sickness. The certificate should indicate the details of the problem and the prognosis. National Team athletes are expected to follow a recovery program as prescribed by the practitioner (physician or other), including following the training and recovery regime/strategy assigned by the coach;”*

In addition, the athlete must provide the following within eight days following injury or sickness:

- 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. Prior to April 15, 2021 the High-Performance Working Group will verify, with any athletes who submitted an injury provision (via the process above in “a”), that they were unable to meet the minimum requirements. .

The final decision on eligibility for carding nomination based on the injury provision clause rests with the High-Performance Working Group to assess whether there is an expectation that the athlete undertaking the injury provision will achieve the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.

If there are fewer cards available than those who met the Injury Provision Criteria, athletes claiming Injury Provision will be ranked based on their ranking in the previous year's AAP nomination.

SECTION III - CARDING ELIGIBILITY

A. General Requirements

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.
2. Athletes must comply with [Biathlon Canada's policies, procedures, and guidelines](#).

C. Performance Requirements

1. Normally athletes can only be carded for seven years at the Senior Carding Criteria level (SR1/SR2, SR, C1). In order to be eligible for additional years of AAP support, the athlete must:
 - a. Achieve Tier 1 AAP criteria; or
 - b. Achieve Tier 2 AAP criteria; or
 - c. Achieve two top 20 WC/WCH/OWG individual results
2. Athletes have a maximum of five years eligibility for D carding (years the athlete was carded as a junior are not counted), 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)*.

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