



CARDED ATHLETE PROGRAM

2021 CYCLE

February 2021

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1 – INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to present the policies and procedures for Wrestling Canada Lutte's (WCL) Athlete Assistance Program (AAP); a program funded by Sport Canada. The target audiences for this document are the athletes, coaches and sport administrators who currently access or wish to access the program.

Sport Canada policies, including the Athlete Assistance Program, are designed to support amateur high performance pathway athletes that demonstrate the potential to progress to the Top 8 in the World. The purpose of the AAP is to improve Canadian performances at major international sporting events such as the Olympic and the World Championships. The program seeks to do so by relieving some of the financial pressures associated with preparing for and participating in international sport.

International podium performances at the Senior World Championships or Olympic Games, top 8, and top ½ of competing entries provide the framework for our performance standards.

Sport Canada AAP will only fund athletes who are competing in WCL approved events in preparation for the UWW 2020 Olympic program events. Athletes who wish to be nominated for a Senior or the Post-Junior Development card must accumulate nomination criteria as specified in this document.

Men's Freestyle (FS): 57, 65, 74, 86, 97, 125 kg
Women (WW): 50, 53, 57, 62, 68, 76 kg
Greco-Roman (GR): 59, 66, 75, 85, 98, 130 kg

Athletes who wish to be nominated for a Junior Development card will be able to accumulate nomination criteria in the six (6) junior weight classes (nomination criteria are weight class specific):

Men's Freestyle (FS): 57, 65, 74, 86, 97, 125 kg
Women (WW): 50, 53, 57, 62, 68, 76 kg

Please refer to Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Policies Document (2020), which can be found on the Sport Canada [website](#).

1.1 – OVERVIEW OF THE CARDING SYSTEM

The Sport Canada AAP funds Athletes at two levels:

A. SENIOR CARDS:

- **Senior International Cards (SR1/2)** (\$1,765.00/month). Criteria as determined by Sport Canada.
 - An athlete who achieves a Top 8 AND Top Half Performance in an Olympic Event at a Senior World Championship or Olympic Games;
- **Senior National Cards (SR)** (\$1,765.00/month). Criteria as determined by Wrestling Canada Lutte.
 - First year Senior National Card (C1) (\$1,060.00/month)

B. DEVELOPMENT CARDS:

- **Development Cards (D):** (\$1,060.00/month)

An athlete who has qualified for a development card as well as qualified for a senior card has the choice to accept either the development card or the senior card.

2 – CARDING CYCLE AND QUALIFICATION PERIOD

WCL has been following the evolution of the coronavirus and its impact on athletes’ ability to prepare for, participate in and perform on an international level. Due to the cancellation of competitions that are relevant to the ranking process, WCL has determined that a fair and reasonably complete evaluation and ranking of the athletes is not possible in advance of the start of the carding cycle on May 1st, 2021.

As a result, WCL is implementing an “interim” carding cycle (carding cycle extension) from May 1st to November 30, 2021.

This interim carding cycle also aligns with WCL’s new 12-month carding cycle (December 1st, 2021 to November 30th, 2022), which better aligns with WCL’s high performance program cycle and also allows for completion of events that can be used to rank and nominate athletes going forward.

3 – CARDING ALLOCATIONS

For this interim carding cycle, Sport Canada has awarded the equivalent of 16 Senior Women’s Cards and 9 Senior Men’s Cards for AAP funding to WCL for the May 2021 to December 2021 carding cycle, prorated to reflect a shortened carding cycle. Sport Canada will review the card quota for all sports – summer and winter - after the 2022 Olympics and Paralympics. In the event that WCL’s carding quota changes, WCL may have to modify the allocation of cards based on the principles noted above. Any modifications approved by Sport Canada will be communicated to athletes and coaches in a timely manner.

The funding for this carding cycle will be allocated by WCL as follows:

SENIOR “SR” CARDS:

Men 6 athletes
Women 13 athletes

C1 / DEVELOPMENT CARDS:

Men 5 athletes
Women 5 athletes

4 – DECISION AUTHORITY

The High-Performance Director (HPD), or their designate, is responsible for the development and implementation of a carding program that falls within Sport Canada AAP guidelines and parameters. The High-Performance Coordinator will assist the HPD in ensuring that the process outlined in this document is properly followed. The High-Performance Advisory Committee (HPAC) will provide oversight in the development and implementation of the Carded Athlete Program.

WCL does not grant AAP Cards to Athletes. Athletes eligible for a Sport Canada AAP Card are nominated by WCL to Sport Canada based on the criteria outlined in this document and AAP policies. All nominations are then reviewed and approved independently by Sport Canada.

The WCL AAP program will be overseen by the High-Performance Director (HPD), or their designate, and managed by the High-Performance Coordinator.

5 - ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered by WCL for nomination to Sport Canada for an interim card, all athletes must meet the following requirements at the time of nomination and maintain these requirements through the completion of the carding cycle.

- a) Must be a current registered member of, and in good standing with the WCL¹;
- b) Must have participated in the applicable activities required for carding purposes unless a request for an exemption due to injury, medical condition, or illness is approved, in advance, by the High-Performance Director, or their designate (Section 12);
- c) Must possess Canadian citizenship by May 1, 2021; the beginning of the carding cycle;
- d) Must satisfactorily demonstrate that he/she will be eligible to compete for Canada in United World Wrestling (UWW) competitions and the Olympic Games;
- e) Must not be under suspension, or other sanction, for any doping or doping-related offense;
- f) Must sign and comply with the Athlete Agreement as required by WCL and/or Sport Canada;
- g) Must otherwise comply with all eligibility requirements set out by Sport Canada in its publication "[Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program \(2020\)](#)";
- h) Must have met the Specific Criteria set out in Section 5 (where relevant);
- i) Athletes who are full-time permanent residents outside Canada for more than two successive years and are competing within the Canadian sport system and representing Canada at international competitions (as a WCL sanctioned member of the Canadian National Team), may be considered for carding at the discretion of the High Performance Director;
- j) Must fulfill the requirements of the WCL Senior/Junior Team Training Program as defined by the WCL Yearly Training Program (YTP) including testing, training, camps and events.
- k) Compliance rate of 80% via the Athlete Management System (Kinduct or other).

¹ In Good Standing with WCL: meet all eligibility requirements, no outstanding invoices or money owed to WCL, comply with all applicable code of conducts and discipline codes.

6 – CARDING PRIORITIZATION

Cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the following order of priority, based on gender:

SENIOR CARD

All senior carded athletes (2020-21 carding cycle) will be renominated for senior cards for the 2021 interim carding cycle.

NOTE: SR2 athletes will move to SR, all other senior cards will remain the same (SR = SR; C1 = C1)

DEVELOPMENT CARDS

Development carded athletes (2020-21 carding cycle) will be renominated for development cards for the 2021 interim carding cycle, based on the development card athlete ranking list (2020-21 carding cycle) up to the available funding allocation outlined in Section 3 – Carding Allocations.

NOTE: all development cards will remain the same (D = D)

7 – OLYMPIC GAMES

An athlete who qualifies to represent Canada as the final entry for the Olympic Games, through the International qualification system (Freestyle & Greco-Roman), will automatically be nominated for an SR card during the Olympic carding cycle.

NOTE: All Olympic carded athletes (2020-21 carding cycle) will be renominated for an Olympic card for the Olympic carding cycle (May 1st to August 31st, 2021).

8 – PROGRESSION CRITERIA

NOTE: These criteria will not be applied for the interim carding cycle.

In order to be nominated for carding, athletes who are entering their 8th year past United World Wrestling junior age, must achieve international performance standards as outlined below, in addition to meeting all the other senior national carding and ranking criteria:

- a) An athlete who have demonstrated one of the following performance markers will be eligible for nomination at the SR level for one (1) additional year:
 - i. Wins the 2020 Senior Pan American Championship – in an Olympic weight class;
 - ii. Defeats a 2018 or 2019 Senior World Top 5 or 2016 Olympic Top 5 at a WCL endorsed or UWW sanctioned event – in an Olympic weight class;
 - iii. Medalist at the 2018 or 2019 Senior World Championships in a Non-Olympic weight class.

- b) An athlete who has achieved senior international criteria within the 6th to 8th years post United World Wrestling junior age may be nominated at the SR level for two (2) additional years after which he/she must meet the senior international criteria or have earned an international performance index of 2.0 (men)/2.5 (women) or greater to be eligible for nomination in each year.
- c) An athlete who has achieved an international performance index of 2.0 (FS) / 2.5 (WW) or greater within the 6th to 8th years post United World Wrestling junior age may be nominated at the SR level for one (1) additional year after which he/she must meet the senior International Criteria (Article 8.1) or have earned an international performance index of 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) or greater to be eligible for nomination in each year.

An injury provision will count towards the maximum number of years at SR/C1.

9 – CARDING CONTRACT & RESPONSIBILITIES

Athletes are nominated for carding by WCL to the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program. An athlete's carding status is subject to the obligations and commitments as detailed in the WCL Carded Athlete Contract (which will include, but not limited to, annual competition, training, fitness testing, YTP confirmation and athlete monitoring system compliance) and the Sport Canada Guide to Athlete Assistance.

10 – FINANCIAL BENEFITS

More information on AAP financial support can be found at: [Athlete Assistance Program](#).

11 – ATHLETE WITHDRAWAL AND NON-RENEWAL

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

- Non-renewal of carded status;
- Failure to meet training or competitive commitments;
- Violation of the athlete/NSO agreement;
- Athlete's failure to meet responsibilities outlined in AAP policies;
- Gross breach of discipline; and
- Fraudulent misrepresentation

The High Performance Director or their designate may recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's carded status to Sport Canada, under the following conditions:

1. Provide a verbal warning to the athlete, including the steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of a failure to heed the warning;
2. Where applicable, follow up with a written warning to the athlete;

If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter and WCL still wishes to recommend withdrawal of carded status, WCL must send a letter to the Sport Canada Program Officer and the AAP Manager with a copy of the athlete's carded status. This letter must indicate:

1. The grounds on which the recommendation is being made;
2. The steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by a formal letter of warning);
3. Provide notice to the athlete of the athlete's right to contest the WCL recommendation to withdraw carded status through WCL's internal appeal process within the prescribed time.

12 – APPEALS

Appeals of WCL's AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of a WCL's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through the WCL's Appeal Policy.

Appeals of AAP decisions made under Section 6 "[Application for and Approval of Cards](#)" or Section 11 "[Withdrawal of Carded Status](#)" may be pursued through Section 13 "[Appeals Policy](#)" of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program.