



CARDED ATHLETE PROGRAM

2026 CYCLE

January 2025

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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 2028 Olympic program events. Athletes who wish to be nominated for a Senior card must accumulate nomination criteria as specified in this document in Olympic weight classes.

Men's Freestyle (FS):	57, 65, 74, 86, 97, 125 kg
Women (WW):	50, 53, 57, 62, 68, 76 kg
Greco-Roman (GR):	60, 67, 77, 87, 97, 130 kg

Similarly, athletes who wish to be nominated for a Development card will be able to accumulate nomination criteria in the six (6) Olympic 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 (2022), which can be found on the Sport Canada Website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>).

Situations related to the coronavirus or other pandemic viruses may arise that require this Carded Athlete Program 2026 to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the Carded Athlete Program 2026. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow this Carded Athlete Program 2026 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 individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this Carded Athlete Program 2026, in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s) (as applicable), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and nomination philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, WCL will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

1.1 – OVERVIEW OF THE CARDING SYSTEM

The Sport Canada AAP funds athletes at two levels (this may be adjusted based on the Sport Canada Yearly Allocation):

A. SENIOR CARDS:

- a) **Senior International Cards (SR1/2)** (\$2,175/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)** (\$2,175/month). Criteria as determined by WCL.

B. DEVELOPMENT CARDS:

- b) **Development Cards (D)**: (\$1,305/month)

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

2 – CARDING ALLOCATIONS

As of November 2024, Sport Canada has awarded the equivalent of 22 senior cards (\$574,200) for AAP funding to WCL for the 2026 carding cycle (December 2025 to November 2026). Sport Canada reviews the carding quota (subject to change) on a regular basis.

The funding will be allocated by WCL towards a maximum of 18 senior cards (\$469,800) across both genders, and a minimum of 6 development cards (\$104,400) across both genders.

In the event WCL's carding quota changes, WCL may have to modify the allocation of senior and development cards accordingly. Any modifications approved by Sport Canada will be communicated to athletes and coaches in a timely manner.

3 – 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 Manager (HPM) 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 HPD, or their designate, and managed by the HPM.

4 - ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a Carding nomination, an athlete must meet all the following requirements:

- a) Must be a current registered member of, and in good standing with the WCL¹;
- b) Must have participated in the applicable competitions required for carding purposes unless a request for an exemption due to injury, medical condition, or illness is approved, in advance, by the HPD, or their designate (Section 12);
- c) The athlete must be a **Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada** at the beginning of the carding cycle (December 1st, 2025) for which the athlete is being nominated. Permanent residents must live in Canada for the full year preceding the carding cycle for which the athlete is being considered for AAP support;
- d) Under the eligibility requirements of the sport's International Federation (IF) as it pertains to citizenship or residency status, the athlete must be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, including UWW World Championships, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated;
- e) 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 or Paralympic Games;
- f) Must not be under suspension, or other sanction, for any doping or doping-related offense;
- g) Must sign and comply with the Athlete Agreement as required by WCL and/or Sport Canada;
- h) Must otherwise comply with all eligibility requirements set out by Sport Canada in its publication: Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>). Where there may be discrepancies between WCL and Sport Canada eligibility requirements, and / or Sport Canada eligibility rules change mid-cycle, Sport Canada requirements will supersede those of WCL.
- i) Must have met the Specific Criteria set out in Section 4, 8, 9, 10 (where relevant), 11 (Progression Criteria) and 12 (Injury Provision);
- j) 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;
- k) Must fulfill the requirements of the WCL Senior / Development Team Training Program as defined by the WCL Yearly Training Program (YTP) including testing, training, camps and events.
- l) Compliance rate of 80% via the Athlete Management System (Smartabase or other).

5 – CARDING CYCLE & QUALIFICATION PERIOD

The twelve-month carding cycle, which includes development cards, will run from December 1st, 2025 to November 30th, 2026. This cycle is in line with the schedule of payments.

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.

Athletes will be eligible to accumulate carding points (international and domestic) from December 1st, 2024, to November 30th, 2025.

6 – GRECO-ROMAN

Athletes competing in Greco-Roman must qualify for carding by meeting the stated criteria for SR1 and SR2 cards at the Senior World Championships and/or Olympic Games. Greco-Roman athletes are not eligible for SR or development cards.

7 – CARDING PRIORITIZATION

Cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the following order of priority, **regardless of gender**, until carding quotas are filled:

SENIOR CARD (up to 18 cards)

7.1 Senior international card (SR1): The athlete must have placed in the top 8 AND top half of the competing field in an Olympic weight class (OW) at the 2025 Senior World Championships, with a minimum of two 'valid match'² wins.

Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:

- a) Final placement from highest to lowest
- b) 2025 International Performance Index³ (IPI) from highest to lowest

7.2 Senior international card (SR2): The athlete must have placed in the top 8 AND top half of the competing field at the 2024 Olympic Games and awarded an SR1 card.

2025 SR1 carded athletes will be required to compete and train in the same Olympic weight class to be re-nominated for their 2026 SR2 card. Additionally, athletes nominated for an SR2 card need to demonstrate that they are at a minimum following the WCL National YTP and / or WCL approved individualized program, including participation in the final ranking process (Canadian and/or World/Olympic Team Trials).

Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:

- a) Placement from highest to lowest
- b) 2025 IPI from highest to lowest

7.3 Senior international health-related card (SR2): Please refer to section 11.1 for more details.

Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:

- a) Placement from highest to lowest based on Senior World Championship and / or Olympic Games placement in the previous carding cycle

² Please refer to the Annex and "Rules for IPI" for a description of ineligible matches.

³ Please refer to the Annex for details on calculation of the IPI.

- b) 2025 IPI from highest to lowest
- 7.4 Senior national card (SR): Athletes who achieve a top 5 ranking in a non-Olympic weight class (nOW) at the 2025 Senior World Championships, with a minimum of two 'valid match' wins.
- Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:
- Placement from highest to lowest
 - 2025 IPI from highest to lowest
- 7.5 Senior national card (SR): Athletes must have a top 3 final ranking from the 2025 Senior Canadian Championships (Olympic weight class) **AND** meet the following International Performance Index (IPI):
- International Performance Index – FS 2.0 or greater
 - International Performance Index – WW 2.5 or greater
- Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:
- 2025 IPI from highest to lowest
 - 2025 International Winning Consistency⁴ (IWC) from highest to lowest
 - 2024 IPI from highest to lowest
 - 2024 IWC from highest to lowest
- 7.6 Senior national card (SR): Athletes who are the 2025 top ranked athlete in each eligible Olympic weight class after final senior national ranking.
- Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:
- 2025 IPI from highest to lowest
 - 2025 International Winning Consistency (IWC) from highest to lowest
 - 2024 IPI from highest to lowest
 - 2024 IWC from highest to lowest
- 7.7 Senior national card (SR) and senior national health-related card (SR): Athletes will be ranked on their position on the **Senior National Carding Identification System (SNCIS)** described in Section 8, up to the maximum remaining cards available, provided they have a top 3 final ranking from the 2025 Senior Canadian Championships (Olympic weight class). This includes all health-related cards that have re-qualified for carding based on the health-related provision described in section 11.2.
- Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:
- 2025 IPI from highest to lowest
 - 2025 International Winning Consistency (IWC) from highest to lowest
 - 2024 IPI from highest to lowest
 - 2024 IWC from highest to lowest

⁴ Please refer to the Annex for a definition of the IWC.

If all tie-breaking criteria have been exhausted at this point and a tie still exists, the HPD will have discretion to break the tie, using other objective criteria (i.e. number of years carded, age, etc).

DEVELOPMENT CARDS (minimum of 6 cards)

Please note that normally a Development Card cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level (C1, SR, SR1, SR2) for more than two years. An exception can be made, at Sport Canada's sole discretion, for an athlete carded at the Senior Card level for more than two years for exceptional circumstances: for example, an athlete carded as a senior card for 2 or more years while still competing at the Junior international level.

Cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the following order of priority, **regardless of gender**, until carding quotas are filled:

7.8 Development international card (D): 2025 U23 World Medallists (Olympic weight classes), with a minimum of two 'valid match' wins.

Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:

a) Placement from highest to lowest

7.9 Development international card (D): 2025 Junior World Medallists (Olympic weight classes), with a minimum of two 'valid match' wins.

Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:

a) Placement from highest to lowest

7.10 Development national card (D): The remaining eligible athletes will be nominated, until the carding maximum is met, based on their position on the **Development Carding Identification System (DCIS)** described in Section 9.

To be eligible for this card, an athlete must be 23 years or younger as of the 31st of December in the year that the card is initiated (born in 2002 or younger) AND must satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

- Former U23 Canadian Freestyle Champion (2022 - 2024); OR
- Former U20-Junior Canadian Freestyle Champion (2022 - 2024); OR
- 2024 U23 or Junior World Team Member; OR
- Placed in the top six (6) at the 2025 Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships (Olympic weight classes only).

Tie-breaking criteria in order of priority:

a) 2025 U23 World Championship placing in Olympic weight classes, limited to top 8

b) 2025 U20 World Championship placing in Olympic weight classes, limited to top 8

c) 2025 Final Senior National Ranking in Olympic weight classes

d) 2025 Final U23 National Ranking in Olympic weight classes

e) 2025 Final U20 National Ranking in Olympic weight classes

f) 2025 Carding Tournament Ranking in Olympic weight classes

8 – SENIOR NATIONAL CARDING IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (SNCIS)

The WCL Senior National Carding Identification System is an objective method used to rank athletes in terms of their potential to perform at the elite level of international wrestling. The identification system will be the same for both women and men. Point accumulation is specific to a single weight class.

There are four factors used to obtain an athlete's ranking:

- a) The athlete's international performance index (Freestyle)
- b) Placement at the 2025 domestic carding tournaments
- c) Placement at the 2025 final senior national ranking event(s) (Freestyle)
- d) The number of years the athlete has been carded at the SR1, SR2, SR and C1 levels

The weighting and scale of each factor is summarized in the table below:

SENIOR NATIONAL CARDING IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

International Performance Index (IPI)		Domestic Carding Tournaments (Olympic Weight Only)		2025 Final Senior National Ranking (upon completion of all ranking events) Olympic Weight Only		Years Carded (Senior)	
Tier	Conversion points	Ranking	Points	Ranking	Points	Years	Points
3.0	35	1	15	1	30	<3	5
2.9	33	2	11	2	18	3	4
2.7	30	3	7	3	12	4	3
2.5	27	4	3			5	2
2.3	24	5	2			6	1
2.1	21	6	1			>6	0
2.0	19						
1.8	18						
1.5	15						
1.3	12						
1.1	9						
0.9	6						
0.7	3						
0	0						

8.1 – INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDEX (IPI)

A maximum of 35 points can be earned through the international performance index (same conversion points value for men and women).

The IPI indicates the overall success of the athlete at senior international competitions. The calculation of the index is outlined in the “International Performance Index” (Annex A). The above table converts the IPI value into carding points.

The IPI is rounded to the nearest decimal place.

8.2 – DOMESTIC CARDING TOURNAMENTS

A maximum of 15 points (men & women) can be earned through participation in either of the domestic carding tournaments (Olympic weight classes only). Only the best result of the two tournaments counts for carding points. The results of domestic carding tournaments are counted to 6th place.

Each carding tournament will hold a certified weigh-in using UWW weight classes (for carding purposes, Olympic weight classes only) with a same day weigh-in and will include a +2 kg weight allowance.

EAST: 2025 Guelph Open

WEST: 2025 Simon Fraser University (SFU) Open or 2025 Saskatoon Open (TBD)

If an athlete competes at a domestic freestyle tournament but is not eligible for carding points by the end of the carding cycle (i.e. foreign athletes, permanent residents without an approved UWW sport nationality transfer, athletes that did not weigh in on site, etc.) the athlete will be removed from the final rankings (for carding purposes only) and the next eligible athlete will be moved up in the ranking and will receive the corresponding carding points.

8.3 – 2025 FINAL SENIOR NATIONAL RANKING

Carding points are not allocated until the completion of all ranking events. The 2025 Ranking Events include the following:

- 2025 Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships (Men's Freestyle and Women's Wrestling) including True Second Ranking (final results are counted to 3rd place);
- Wrestle-offs as per wrestle-off policies.

If an athlete places in the top 3 at the 2025 Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships, but is not eligible for carding points by the end of the carding cycle (i.e. foreign athletes, permanent residents without an approved UWW sport nationality transfer, athletes that did not weigh in on site, etc.) the athlete will be removed from the rankings (for carding purposes only) and the next eligible athlete will be moved up in the ranking and will receive the corresponding carding points after all the final ranking events have occurred.

8.4 – YEARS CARDED

A maximum of 5 points (men & women) can be earned through the athlete's total number of years carded. Athletes who have been carded for several years at the senior level (SR1, SR2, and SR) are expected to be earning carding points through the international performance index. As the athlete continues their development as a National Team member, they are expected to obtain international results. As such, any athlete that has been carded less than 3 years at the senior level will receive the full 5 points, whereas an athlete that has been carded for more than 6 years at the senior level will not receive any points.

9 - DEVELOPMENT CARDING IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (DCIS)

The WCL Development Carding Identification System (DCIS) is an objective method used to rank U23 athletes in terms of their potential to perform at the elite level of international wrestling. The identification system will be the same for both women and men. Point accumulation is NOT specific to a single weight class.

There are FOUR factors used to obtain an athlete's ranking in an Olympic weight class:

- a) Placement at the designated 2025 international development tournament(s) TBD.
- b) Placement at the 2025 domestic carding tournaments.
- c) Placement at the 2025 final senior national ranking event(s) (Freestyle).
- d) Placement at the 2025 final U23 national ranking event.

The weighting and scale of each factor is summarized in the table below:

DEVELOPMENT CARD IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

2025 International Development Tournament(s) Olympic Weights Only		Domestic Carding Tournaments Olympic Weights Only		2025 Final Senior National Ranking Olympic Weights Only		2025 Final U23 National Ranking Olympic Weights Only	
Canadian Ranking	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1 st	6	1 st	6	1 st	10	1 st	6
2 nd	5	2 nd	5	2 nd	8	2 nd	5
3 rd	4	3 rd	4	3 rd	7	3 rd	4
4 th	3	4 th	3	4 th	6	4 th	3
5 th	2	5 th	2	5 th	5	5 th	2
6 th	1	6 th	1	6 th	4	6 th	1

9.1 – 2025 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOURNAMENT(S)

- The designated “Development Tournaments” for 2025 include:
 - a) To be determined upon confirmation of the finalized 2025 United World Wrestling calendar
 - b) Bill Farrell Memorial 2025
 - c) All WCL supported international events (minimum support of an official)
- The best result will count for carding points;
- Athletes must achieve at least one win (not by forfeit or those injury matches that never started) at each of the designated international development tournament(s) they participate in;
- For the purposes of determining the “Canadian Ranking”, all non-Canadian athletes and those athletes ineligible for carding will be removed from ranking and all eligible athletes will be ranked accordingly;
- Athletes placing out of the top 6 original event ranking (which includes all athletes), will be ranked according to the following tie-breaking criteria:
 - a) Matches won

- b) Result of a head-to-head match
- c) UWW classification points
- d) Total points scored
- e) Total points conceded

If a tie still remains, the athletes involved will share ranking and corresponding points.

9.2 – DOMESTIC CARDING TOURNAMENTS

A maximum of 6 points (men & women) can be earned through participation in either of the domestic carding tournaments (Olympic weight classes only). Only the best result of the two tournaments counts for carding points. The results of domestic carding tournaments are counted to 6th place.

Each carding tournament will hold a certified weigh-in using UWW weight classes (for carding purposes, Olympic weight classes only) with a same day weigh-in and will include a +2 kg weight allowance.

EAST: 2025 Guelph Open

WEST: 2025 Simon Fraser University (SFU) Open or 2025 Saskatoon Open (TBD)

If an athlete competes at a domestic freestyle tournament but is not eligible for carding points by the end of the carding cycle (i.e. foreign athletes, permanent residents without an approved UWW sport nationality transfer, athletes that did not weigh in on site, etc.) the athlete will be removed from the final rankings (for carding purposes only) and the next eligible athlete will be moved up in the ranking and will receive the corresponding carding points.

9.3 – 2025 FINAL SENIOR NATIONAL RANKING

Carding points are not allocated until the completion of all ranking events. The 2025 Senior Ranking Events include the following:

- 2025 Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships (Men’s Freestyle and Women’s Wrestling) including True Second Ranking (final results are counted to 3rd place);
- Wrestle-offs as per wrestle-off policies.

If an athlete places in the top 3 at the 2025 Senior Canadian Wrestling Championships, but is not eligible for carding points by the end of the carding cycle (i.e. foreign athletes, permanent residents without an approved UWW sport nationality transfer, athletes that did not weigh in on site, etc.) the athlete will be removed from the rankings (for carding purposes only) and the next eligible athlete will be moved up in the ranking and will receive the corresponding carding points after all the final ranking events have occurred.

9.4 – 2025 FINAL U23 NATIONAL RANKING

Carding points are not allocated until the completion of all ranking events. The 2025 U23 Ranking Events include the following:

- 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships (Men’s Freestyle and Women’s Wrestling) including True Second Ranking (final results are counted to 3rd place);

If an athlete places in the top 3 at the 2025 U23 Canadian Wrestling Championships, but is not eligible for carding points by the end of the carding cycle (i.e. foreign athletes, permanent residents without an approved UWW sport nationality transfer, athletes that did not weigh in on site, etc.) the athlete will be removed from the rankings (for carding purposes only) and the next eligible athlete will be moved up in the ranking and will receive the corresponding carding points after all the final ranking events have occurred.

10 – PROGRESSION CRITERIA

To be nominated for carding, athletes who are entering their 8th year past United World Wrestling U20-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 has demonstrated one of the following performance markers will be eligible for nomination at the SR level for one (1) additional year:
 - i. Wins the 2025 Senior Pan American Championship – in an Olympic weight class;
 - ii. Defeats a 2024 or 2025 Senior World or Olympic Games Top 5 (Olympic & non-Olympic weight classes) at a senior WCL endorsed or UWW sanctioned event– in an Olympic weight class.
Note: this excludes defeating a Canadian opponent in order to eliminate any possible competition manipulation;
 - iii. Medalist at the 2024 or 2025 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 U20-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.

Summary of Article 10.1 – Performance Requirements

Year past UWW U20-Junior age	(10.a) Athlete has met performance markers	(10.b) Athlete has achieved the senior international criteria within the 6th to 8th year post UWW junior age	(10.c) Athlete has earned an international performance index of 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) or greater within the 6th to 8th year post UWW U20-Junior age	All other scenarios
*8 th year	Eligible for nomination at SR level	Eligible for nomination at SR level	Eligible for nomination at SR level	Must meet Senior International Criteria OR 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) performance index OR achieve Performance Markers
9 th year	Must meet Senior International Criteria OR 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) performance index OR achieve Performance Markers	Same as above	Must meet Senior International Criteria OR 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) performance index OR achieve Performance Markers	Must meet Senior International Criteria OR 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) performance index OR achieve Performance Markers
10 th year	Must meet Senior International Criteria OR 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) performance index OR achieve Performance Markers	Must meet Senior International Criteria OR 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) performance index OR achieve Performance Markers	Must meet Senior International Criteria OR 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) performance index OR achieve Performance Markers	Must meet Senior International Criteria OR 2.0 (FS)/2.5 (WW) performance index OR achieve Performance Markers

* Turning 28 years of age in the calendar year in which the carding cycle is initiated

11 – HEALTH-RELATED PROVISION (SR1, SR2, & SR ATHLETES ONLY)

Illness, injury, pregnancy or other health-related circumstances may prevent a current senior carded athlete from attending a sufficient number of competitions in order to re-qualify for carding.

The affected athlete (currently holding a card) will still be able to obtain carding points through the health-related provision as outlined below. The affected athlete (currently holding a card) will then be ranked with all other athletes, according to the carding prioritization outlined in section 7. Where applicable, athletes must still re-qualify for carding based on their points total using the points obtained through the health-related provision.

Athletes will not be eligible for health-related cards in consecutive years. Athletes who have been approved for a health-related card will be exempt from clause 10.

Considerations for athletes under the health-related provision:

- 11.1 Athletes who received an SR1 card in the previous carding cycle (2025) will be eligible to receive an international SR2 health-related card (see section 7.3), if their health-related circumstance has been so substantial that they have not been able to train or compete for a minimum of 10 of the 12 months during the qualification period or at the discretion of the HPD. It is expected that the athlete will be able to return to competition during the next carding cycle. Carding points for number of years carded will follow the yearly progression.
- 11.2 Athletes who received an SR2 or SR card in the previous carding cycle (2025) will receive the following health-related points and must still re-qualify for carding based on their points total in the Senior National Carding Identification System (SNCIS). If the affected athlete does re-qualify for carding, they will be eligible to receive a national SR health-related card (see section 7.7):
 - a) 50% of the international performance index points will be awarded from the previous carding cycle if the athlete's health-related circumstance has been so substantial that they have not been able to compete for a minimum of 10 of the 12 months during the qualification period or at the discretion of the HPD. It is expected that the athlete will be able to return to competition during the next carding cycle.
 - b) 50% of the domestic carding points from the previous carding cycle's carding tournaments will be awarded in the current carding cycle, only for the event that the athlete is unable to compete in. Only the best result of the two will be counted for domestic carding points.
 - c) 50% of the current carding cycle's Senior Canadian Championships points will be awarded based on the athlete's placement in the previous carding cycle at the Senior Canadian Championships or Olympic Trials (in Olympic year), if the athlete is unable to compete at the Senior Canadian Championships in the current carding cycle.
 - d) Carding points for number of years carded will follow the yearly progression.

In addition to the requirement that the affected athlete (currently holding a card) must meet in order to re-qualify for carding based on their point total according to the carding prioritization outlined in section 7, the athlete or the athlete's coach must submit a written request to the High Performance Director, as

soon as possible following the assessment of the health-related circumstance and no later than 2 hours prior to the weigh-in for the particular event. The request must include the following:

- The official WCL Inability to Participate Medical Certificate, completed by an approved WCL physician prior to the nearest upcoming event, and approved by the WCL CMO, indicating the date and nature of the injury with the prescribed rehabilitation program and an estimated recovery period.
 - A full medical recovery must be possible within the next carding period
 - WCL reserves the right to have a second medical opinion
- For the duration of the injured athlete's inability to fulfill their training and competitive commitments, which are part of the carded athlete's contract, the athlete must commit, in writing, to train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of WCL. This must be done at a level that mitigates risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures a timely return to a full training and competitive program that is in line with the other members of the National Team.

12 – 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 Agreement (which will include, but not limited to, annual competition, training, fitness testing, approved Yearly Training Plan (YTP) confirmation and athlete monitoring system compliance, consent to administration and enforcement of the UCCMS) and the Sport Canada Guide to Athlete Assistance.

13 – FINANCIAL BENEFITS

More information on AAP financial support can be found at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html#a9>.

14 – 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 approved YTP 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 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.

15 – 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 Decision made under Section 6 Application for and Approval of Cards (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html#a7>) or Section 11 Withdrawal of Carding Status (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html#a12>) may be pursued through Section 13 of the AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.

ANNEX A: INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDEX

1 – INTRODUCTION

The objective of the international performance index (IPI) is to develop an objective ranking of athletes based upon their senior international performance throughout the qualification period. The utility of such a ranking system is as follows:

1. To enhance the Senior World team and Olympic team selection process by identifying those athletes capable of performing at the world-class level on a consistent basis.
2. To have a system capable of quantifying performance such that objective performance goals can be clearly stated and progress towards those goals can be effectively monitored and evaluated by WCL and its performance partners.
3. To provide athlete accountability.

Senior international podium performances, top 8, and top ½ competing entries provide the framework for our performance standards.

2 – RULES FOR IPI

1. **Athlete's Responsibility:** Each individual athlete has the responsibility to maintain a record of all international matches and to verify results produced by WCL within one week of receiving a WCL summary.
2. **Coaches' Responsibility:** Coaches have the responsibility to verify any results reported by WCL with their individual athletes. Coaches and athletes will have one week after the publication of the performance index to report errors or omissions. After this date the athlete's results will not be adjusted.
3. **WCL's Responsibility:** The Performance Analyst Coach, under the direction of the High Performance Director has the responsibility to maintain an international competitive record for all carded athletes.
4. **Style:** Opponents are classified according to the style that they are currently wrestling in.
5. **Weight Class:** Match results are weight class specific for Olympic weight classes (i.e. athletes cannot mix and match results from different Olympic weight classes for a single IPI). If athletes compete in two different Olympic weight classes, they will accumulate two different IPIs for each respective weight class.
6. Only United World Wrestling senior sanctioned tournaments that have been approved by WCL will be considered for IPI purposes.

7. **Ineligible Matches:** The following matches will not be considered for the IPI:
- a) Matches won or lost by Forfeit
 - b) Matches won or lost by Injury if the match was not initiated, or in case the Canadian wrestler did not score at least 2 technical points.⁵
 - c) Matches against Canadian opponents (those with a Canadian UWW licence) will be excluded to eliminate any possible competition manipulation.
8. **Carding:** A minimum of 10 international matches are required in order to calculate the IPI for carding purposes. These matches must be accumulated within the qualification period. If the athlete is short 10 matches as of the cut-off date the IPI will still be calculated and the point total will still be divided by 10.
9. **International Winning Consistency (IWC):** This represents the median number of international victories per tournament.
10. The IPI, Mq, SGI and ToF are all rounded to one decimal place.

3 – MATCH ASSESSMENT

The ability to accurately measure international performance is essential for the IPI concept to be implemented effectively.

Tournament placement by itself is not a comprehensive indicator of performance, particularly for rankings beyond 4th place. The randomness of the draw allows the element of chance to influence the tournament results in an unpredictable fashion. Moreover, the ranking method tends to only evaluate an athlete when they perform well and gives no feedback when they perform poorly.

The way wrestlers win / lose (e.g. by tech fall, by points, and the final points differential of the match) affords an opportunity to examine an athlete's performance capabilities in more detail and on a more consistent basis. Also, by classifying the opponent's quality based on best historical results, the athlete's overall win/loss record can be assessed quantitatively.

The IPI is calculated based on a "Match Quality Formula" applied to every single match at senior UWW sanctioned, WCL informed international tournaments.

⁵ As per UWW rules, "technical points" are defined as any type of action that results in points scored during a match.

TABLE 3.1 – MATCH QUALITY FORMULA

Match Quality Formula	Match Quality Formula for Victories by Fall (Pin)*:
$Mq = (Oq + SGI) * ToF$	$Mq = (Oq + 1) * ToF$
<p>Where:</p> <p>Mq = Match Quality</p> <p>The following matches will be considered for the IPI and will have a match quality (Mq) of 0.0 (zero):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matches lost by fall / pin, regardless of points scored or lost and regardless of the Oq. • Any match lost by any other score (technical superiority, points) if the Canadian wrestler did not score at least 2 technical pts. <p>If, as result of a negative SGI value against a wrestler with low Oq value, the Mq result is a negative value, this Mq value will be rounded to 0.0.</p> <p>Oq = Opponent quality: Ranging from 0.7 to 4.0, based on the best historical result of the opponent according to tables 3.2 to 3.5.</p> <p>SGI = Scoring Gap Index: The SGI is calculated by subtracting points lost from points scored, then dividing the result by 10. Thus, the SGI should range between 0.0 and 1.0.</p> <p>An SGI of 1.0 is the maximum scoring gap resulting from a win by technical superiority ((10 pts scored – 0 pts lost) / 10 = 1.0). If the scoring gap is higher than 10 (e.g. a win by Tech fall where the winner won by a score of 14 – 2)), the scoring gap will be normalized to 10.</p> <p>The SGI can result in a positive or negative value, depending on if the points differential is in favor of the Canadian wrestler or the opponent. Examples: a) CAN vs CUB, final scoring 7-4 = 0.3 (positive). b) CAN vs CUB, final scoring 4-6 = -0.2 (negative).</p> <p>*Winning by fall (or pin) is considered the ultimate victory in wrestling, and results in an SGI of 1.0, the equivalent of a victory by technical superiority.</p> <p>ToF = Tournament Factor: Value attributed to the type of tournament, based on the quality of wrestlers, as outlined in Table 3.6.</p> <p>Note: all numbers are rounded to one decimal place.</p>	

3.1 OPPONENT QUALITY (Oq)

Only head-to-head senior competition against recognized opponents (see table 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 below) are considered for IPI purposes. The opponent's previous senior, U23 and U20-Junior record is examined only to determine if the opponent can be classified based on previous best placement at the World Championships / Olympics or Continental Championships.

Applying Tables 3.2 to 3.4, WCL will be able to effectively classify opponents. Previous performance criteria apply to the past 4 years at the specific weight class and style that the opponent is currently competing in. Best senior results in Olympic weight classes are considered with higher value than non-Olympic weight classes, resulting in differentiated tables. Applying Table 3.5, U23, U20 performances are valued up to 5th place (i.e. reaching the bronze medal match, but failing to win it).

An athlete will be able to amass performance index points in any senior weight class, but additional requirements are set for athletes competing in non-Olympic weight classes.

TABLE 3.2 – OPPONENT QUALITY: OLYMPIC WEIGHT CLASSES

Event	Year	Opponent Final Ranking							
		Gold	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Senior Worlds & Olympic Games	2025	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0
	2024	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6
	2023	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2
	2022	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9
Senior European Championships	2025	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5
	2024	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2
	2023	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8
	2022	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6
Senior Asian Championships	2025	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7
	2024	3.3	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3
	2023	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0
	2022	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7
Senior Pan-Am Championships	2025	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0
	2024	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7
	2023	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4
	2022	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2
Senior African/Oceanian Championships	2025	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5
	2024	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4
	2023	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3
	2022	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2

TABLE 3.3 – OPPONENT QUALITY: NON-OLYMPIC WEIGHT CLASSES

Event	Year	Opponent Final Ranking							
		Gold	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	Top 8
Senior World	2025	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0
	2024	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8
	2023	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6
	2022	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4
Senior European Championships	2025	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5
	2024	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3
	2023	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1
	2022	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9
Senior Asian Championships	2025	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8
	2024	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6
	2023	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4
	2022	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2
Senior Pan-Am Championships	2025	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2
	2024	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1
	2023	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0
	2022	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9
Senior African/Oceanian Championships	2025	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0
	2024	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.9
	2023	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8
	2022	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7

TABLE 3.4 – OPPONENT QUALITY: NON-SENIOR MAJOR WORLD LEVEL EVENTS

Event	Year	Opponent Final Ranking				
		Gold	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
U23/U20-Jr Worlds	2025	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.4
	2024	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.1
	2023	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.8
	2022	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6

It should also be noted that in the competitions listed above, countries are only able to send one athlete per weight class. As such, athletes that have the wrestling ability to be among the top in the world may not be able to compete, thus they may be unranked at World, Continental Championships or Olympic Games, but may attend other international tournament and face Canadian athletes.

Table 3.5 has been established to allow for a point structure that allows opposing countries to be recognized as having strong wrestling programs and opponents with a high opponent quality (Oq) value. Athletes from opposing countries that have ranked in the top 5 in Women’s Wrestling (WW) or top 8 in Men’s Freestyle (FS) at the most recent Senior major event (World Championships or Olympic Games) will be classified according to Table 3.5.

TABLE 3.5 – OPPONENT QUALITY: COUNTRY PROGRAM PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Opponent Country Ranking for unranked wrestlers from Top Senior World Teams*

Event	Year	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
Men’s Freestyle	2025	3.5	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.0
	2024	3.2	2.9	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.2	1.8	1.7
	2023	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.4
	2022	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.2
Women’s Wrestling	2025	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.6			
	2024	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3			
	2023	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9			
	2022	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7			

*NOTE: Where the event takes place in an opponent’s home country, athletes from a top nation designated in table 3.5 must be classified in their national top 3 ranking in the past two years to earn the Oq value in table 3.5 (i.e. an international tournament that occurs in the USA and where the opponent is an unranked international opponent per tables 3.2 to 3.4, but is ranked in the top 3 USA ranking in the past two years, the Oq would be valued based on the USA Country Ranking value). The national ranking must be an acceptable, approved and verifiable ranking list from the home country federation.

Any other international opponent not classified in the above tables, at an approved tournament (see IPI rule 6), will be worth 0.7 points.

3.2 TOURNAMENT FACTOR (ToF)

TABLE 3.6 – TOURNAMENT FACTOR (ToF) FOR 2025

Tournament Type	Description	Factor		Tournaments 2025*
		OW	nOW	
International C	Few to none of the top nations in attendance	1.0	1.0	Klippan Lady Open Granma Y Cerro Pelado Macedonia Pearl Pat Shaw Memorial Sassari City Pellicone Memorial Ibrahim Moustafa Spanish GP Thailand Open Ion Cornianu Valamar Cup Bill Farrell Memorial
SR Pan Am	All nations from Americas participating	1.2	1.0	Senior Pan Am Championships
International B	Between 3 to 4 top nations in attendance	1.4	1.0	Henri Deglane Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov Yasar Dogu Ziolkowski & Poland Open
International A	Ranking Series (RS); other world calibre events	1.6	1.3	Zagreb Open RS Muhamet Malo (Albania) RS Ulaanbaatar Open (Mongolia) RS Polyak Imre (Hungary) RS World Cup
SR Worlds	Senior World Championships	1.8	1.5	Senior World Championships
Olympic Games	Quadrennial defining event	2.0		Olympic Games

OW – denotes an Olympic weight class

nOW – denotes a non-Olympic weight class

***NOTE:** Tournaments may be reclassified in advance of an event (based on entries), and no later than one week following an event (based on final participation), at the discretion of the HPD.

3.3 MATCH QUALITY CALCULATION

For the match examples noted below, the following apply:

- Matches in an Olympic weight class
- Ranking Series event = tournament factor 1.6 (as per table 3.6)
- Opponent is a 2024 World Bronze medalist in an Olympic weight class = opponent quality is 3.3 (as per table 3.2)

Example #1 won by points 7 - 3	Example #2 lost by points 3 - 7	Example #3 lost by points 0-6
$Mq = (Oq + SGI) * ToF$ $Mq = (3.3 + 0.4) * 1.6$ $Mq = (3.7) * 1.6$ $Mq = 5.9$	$Mq = (Oq + SGI) * ToF$ $Mq = (3.3 + (-0.4)) * 1.6$ $Mq = (2.9) * 1.6$ $Mq = 4.6$	No points scored by CAN $Mq = 0.0$

If, as result of a negative SGI value against a wrestler with low Oq value, the Mq result is a negative value, this Mq value value will be rounded to 0.0. Example against an unranked opponent, whose Oq is 0.7:

Example #4 lost by points 3 – 12
$Mq = (Oq + SGI) * ToF$ $Mq = (0.7 + (-0.9)) * 1.6$ $Mq = (-0.2) * 1.6$ $Mq = -0.32$ $Mq \text{ (rounded)} = 0.0$

4 – IPI CALCULATION

The international performance index more accurately reflects an athlete’s ability to compete internationally as the number of matches increase and as higher tournament factor events are attended. Therefore, it is essential that carded athletes compete in a sufficient number of high tournament factor events to accurately assess their performance capabilities.

A minimum of 10 international matches are required to calculate the performance index for carding purposes. These matches must be accumulated within the qualification period. If the athlete is short 10 matches as of the cut-off date, the index will still be calculated and the point total will still be divided by 10.

If the athlete accumulates more than 10 valid matches (including lost matches valued at 0.0), the total number of valid matches will be used to divide the sum of total points resulting in a “true average”.

4.1 CORRECTION FACTOR

Athletes cannot accumulate more than 40% of Match Quality (Mq) points in non-Olympic weight classes (nOW). If they exceed this 40% threshold, an additional correction factor of 0.8 will be applied to their IPI value.

Calculation example:

An athlete who accumulated 16 valid matches during the accumulation points cycle, 8 of those at nOW (50%):

Match #	Oq	Outcome	Pts Scored	Pts Conceded	Scoring Gap Index (SGI)	Tournament Factor (ToF)	Weight Class	Match Quality (Mq)
1	3.5	Won	6	2	0.4	1.6	OW	6.2
2	2.5	Won	10	2	0.8	1.2	OW	4.0
3	1.8	Won	8	3	0.5	1.2	OW	2.8
4	1.9	Won	10	7	0.3	1.0	OW	2.2
5	2.0	Lost	4	4	0.0	1.2	OW	2.4
6	1.2	Won	9	4	0.5	1.4	OW	2.4
7	0.7	Won	8	0	0.8	1.6	OW	2.4
8	1.7	Lost	8	10	-0.2	1.8	OW	2.7
9	1.0	Won	5	0	0.5	1.0	nOW	1.5
10	0.8	Won	9	2	0.7	1.3	nOW	2.0
11	1.2	Won	3	3	0.0	1.5	nOW	1.8
12	0.7	Lost	3	12	-0.9	1.0	nOW	0.0*
13	0.7	Lost (by pin)	4	2	0.2	1.3	nOW	0.0**
14	3.5	Lost	0	6	-0.6	1.5	nOW	0.0***
15	2.7	Won	10	0	1	1.5	nOW	5.6
16	3.0	Won	5	2	0.3	1	nOW	3.3
TOTAL								39.3

* Formula results in a negative Mq and is rounded to 0.0

**Loss by fall / pin results in a Mq of 0.0

***Loss where athlete did not score at least 2 technical points results in a Mq of 0.0

IPI = sum of Match Quality (Mq) divided by the number of valid matches, multiplied by the correction factor.

In the above example:

$$\text{IPI} = (\text{sum } Mq) / \# \text{ valid matches} * \text{correction factor}$$

$$\text{IPI} = (39.3/16) * 0.8$$

$$\text{IPI} = 1.97$$

$$\text{IPI} = 2.0$$