



BIATHLON CANADA
2015 – 2016 ATHLETES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Effective September 1st, 2014



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ARTICLE 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 that athletes identified with international potential to be in the top 16 in the world are afforded the necessary opportunities in order to achieve international success. The program contributes to improve 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.

Carded athlete status is a privilege designated for athletes that have demonstrated, and continue to demonstrate, outstanding abilities and commitment to the sport of biathlon. The card is not a reward for past work, but rather, it is intended to allow the athlete to enter into a training and competitive schedule which, by design, will lead to consistent improvement with respect to international results.

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

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

Priority for the Nomination of athletes to Sport Canada for all the AAP cards:

The Biathlon Canada's High Performance Working Group is responsible for nominating athletes for carding to Sport Canada. Sport Canada is responsible to approve nominations in accordance with the AAP policies.

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

1. Athletes meeting the Senior International Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)
2. Athletes meeting the Senior National Criteria (SR/C1)
3. National A Training Squad athletes carded the previous year at the SR1, SR2, SR or C1 level who meet the Injury Provision (SRI)
4. Athletes meeting the National B Training Squad (D)
5. National B Training Squad athletes carded the previous year at the SR1, SR2, SR, C1 or D level who meet the Injury Provision (DI)
6. Athletes meeting the International Junior Criteria (D)
7. Athletes carded the previous year at the D - International Junior Criteria level who meet the Injury Provision (DI)
8. Athletes meeting the High Performance Working Group Criteria (D)

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 Cup, IBU Cup, Nor-Am Cup, World Championships and 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, coaches and support staff 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 shall be responsible to select, organize and operate a National Team of athletes, coaches and necessary support staff to represent Canada in the sport of Biathlon.

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

Sanctioned Athletes are those athletes having achieved a minimum level of performance criteria that are eligible to compete on a national team at predominantly their own expense and 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 their 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:

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

- a. To be eligible for Senior Card nomination through the international senior criteria, an athlete must achieve the following standard at the Olympic Winter Games or World Championships:
 - i. A single placing in the **top 8 and top half (1/2)** of the field in the individual, sprint, pursuit, relay, mass start, or mixed relay competitions (*counting a maximum of three (3) entries per nation*)

And

- ii. Meet the minimum National A Training Squad Priority 1, 2, or 3 performance standard for the upcoming season.
- b. Athletes that qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible 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 the minimum National A Training Squad Priority 1, 2, or 3 performance standard, 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, and completing the AAP application form for the year in question.

Priority 2: Senior National Carding Criteria (SR/C1)

- a. Athletes who have not met SR1 or SR2 status but who meet the minimum National A Training Squad Priority 1, 2, or 3 performance standard for the upcoming season.
- b. Athletes that achieve Senior National card criteria for the first time will be funded at the senior probationary card (C1) level (Sport Canada Policy).
- c. 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 A Training Squad”

Priority 3: National A Training Squad Athletes carded in the previous year at the SR1, SR2, SR, or C1 level who meet the Injury Provision (SRI)

DEVELOPMENT CARDING CRITERIA (D)

Development Cards are intended to provide support to biathletes who are not yet competing on the World Cup circuit but who have demonstrated the potential for World Cup success within a reasonable developmental time period. The Development Card can be achieved through the following sets of criteria and in the following priority order:

Athletes previously carded at a senior level (excluding C1) are no longer eligible for Development card. Carding at the senior level when the athlete is junior age will not count towards this restriction.

Priority 4: National B Training Squad Criteria Priority 1, 2 or 3 (D)

- a. Athletes who meet the minimum National B Training Squad Priority 1 or 2 or 3 performance standard 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”

Priority 5: National B Training Squad athletes carded in the previous year at the SR1, SR2, SR, C1 or D level who meet the Injury Provision (DI)

Priority 6: International Junior Criteria (D)

- a. Athletes who finish in the **top 8 and top 1/3** 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

Priority 7: Athletes carded in the previous year at the International Junior Criteria level who meet the Injury Provision (DI)

Priority 8: Biathlon Canada High Performance Working Group (HPWG) Nomination (D)

- a. The HPWG may nominate athletes for the remaining **Development Cards** based on the following considerations:
 - i. Best single performance (measured by rank) internationally in the current season that would be eligible for National B Training Squad Priority 1, 2, or 3

If there are still cards remaining, or if there is a tie for cards based on Priority 8 a. i.:

- ii. Best average Performance Percentage (as defined in the current National Team Program: Competition) using the best two individual performance at the Canadian Biathlon Championships in the current season, considering all athletes racing Men's and Women's distances
 - a. Minimum average performance percentage of 95%

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

1. **Prior:** Athletes must be a resident of Canada for a minimum of one year prior to carding. Athletes that qualify for carding but have not reached the one year residency requirement as of June 1st, may be nominated for carding with the understanding that the card will not be activated until the one year residency period has been served.
2. **During:** Athletes must maintain their primary residence within Canada during the carding period to remain eligible for carding unless approved by Biathlon Canada and Sport Canada.

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. **Participation:** To be eligible for carding an athlete must be currently eligible to represent Canada at the Olympic Games or World Championships and be a member in good standing of Biathlon Canada.

C. Performance Requirement

1. If an athlete has been carded seven (7) years or more at the Senior Carding Criteria level (SR1/SR2, SR, C1) as a Senior Category participant to be eligible for an additional year of AAP support the athlete must:
 - a. Achieve SR1/SR2 performance criteria; or
 - b. Have been in the top 30 overall world cup points at the end of the first World Cup trimester, or at any point in the season thereafter; or
 - c. Demonstrate continued progression
 - i. Defined as both:
 - a single result being within 1% of the 16th place percentage (calculated for each race based on the top three race results forming the benchmark) in either the Sprint, Individual or Mass Start competitions at either the World Championships or Olympic Games
 - 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 in the Men's or Women's category. 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.

ARTICLE III - CARDING PROCEDURE

At the conclusion of the National Championships in March / April, the athlete's results will be calculated and the names will be rank ordered.

The names of the athletes that met carding criteria will be ranked. A nominations list based on the number of cards available will be prepared.

The athlete carding nomination list will be published by Biathlon Canada. Upon publication, athletes have 5 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.

ARTICLE IV - ATHLETE NSO AGREEMENT

Biathlon Canada will advise Sport Canada's AAP officials when athletes sign their Athlete/NSO Agreement, their Letter of Intent, 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.

ARTICLE V – GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Carding Cycle

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

B. Biathlon Canada, Athlete, and Sport Canada Responsibilities

1. Please see Sport Canada Web Site: <http://www.pch.gc.ca/pgm/sc/pol/athl/104-eng.cfm>

C. Living and training Allowance

1. Athletes approved by Sport Canada for the AAP are eligible to a living and training allowance. This assistance is usually paid in advance every other month. The support paid varies as follows:
2. Carding Status Monthly Allowance (\$)
 - a. Senior Card (SR1, SR2, SR) \$1500
 - b. First year Senior Card (C1) \$900
 - c. Development Card (D) \$900

Detailed information on the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) and the carding process can be found on the Sport Canada Website: <http://pch.gc.ca/eng/1267374509734>

ANNEX A – NATIONAL A AND B TRAINING SQUAD CRITERIA 2015-16

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. Achievement of the Medal Performance Target at the end of the season

- 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
 - iii. The target size of this squad will be 4 male and 4 female athletes

- d. Selection and performance benchmarks for the National A Training Squad:

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

- e. Determination of ranking within National A Training Squad:
 - i. Athletes meeting Priority 1 using a Top 8 result at World Championships
 - Ranked by best placing at World Championships
 - Ranked by best 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 percentage at World Championships
- iii. Athletes meeting Priority 2
 - Ranked by best single placing from eligible results
 - Ranked by best single percentage from eligible results
- iv. Athletes meeting Priority 3
 - Ranked by best single placing from eligible results
 - Ranked by best single percentage from eligible results
- v. Athletes meeting Priority 4 as ranked by the HPWG [Note: HPWG Recommendations are not criteria for carding]

2. National B Training Squad

- a. Objectives:
 - i. Medal result at IBU Cup Events
 - ii. Multiple top 6 results at IBU Cup Events
 - iii. Achievement of the IBU Cup Medal Performance Target at the end of the season
- 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.
 - iii. The target size of this squad will be 4 male and 4 female athletes.
- d. Selection and performance benchmarks for the National B Training Squad:

	Priority 1	Priority 2 (U26 Only)	Priority 3 (U26 Only)	Priority 4
Men's and Women's Criteria	WC or WCH top 40	Achieved IBU Cup Medal Performance Target at the end of the season Or IBU Cup or OECH result 2x top 6	Achieved IBU Cup Performance Target at the end of the season Or IBU Cup or OECH result 4x top 16 and top 1/3	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 • Near achievement of the WC Performance Standard at the end of the season • Significant than average fitness testing results from standardized tests during the training season • Exceptional circumstances
U23 Men's and Women's Criteria	WC or WCH top 60	IBU Cup or OECH result 1x top 6	IBU Cup or OECH result 3x top 16 and top 1/3 Or JWCH or JOECH result 1x top 3	

- e. 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 [Note: HPWG Recommendations are not criteria for carding]