

Para Nordic Athlete Assistance Program

Selection Criteria

2022-23



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Nordiq Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact the criteria for Para-Nordic Sport Canada AAP selection. Situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require these criteria to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the criteria. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow these criteria 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 these criteria 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, Nordiq Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

1.0 General Information

1. This document establishes the criteria that will be used by Nordiq Canada for nominating Para Nordic (PN) athletes to Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2022-2023 carding year.
2. The Sport Canada policy and procedures that govern the AAP and the establishment and application of criteria can be found on the Sport Canada website: [Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program](#).
3. This document is created following Nordiq Canada's *NST Selection, Nomination, and Announcement Policy*.
4. Nordiq Canada's High Performance Director-Para (HPD-PARA) makes the final nomination recommendations to Sport Canada based on Nordiq Canada's carding criteria.
5. Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with their AAP policies and the published Nordiq Canada *Athlete Assistance Program* selection criteria.
6. Appeals of Nordiq Canada's AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or recommendation to withdraw carding, may be pursued through the Nordiq Canada's *Dispute Resolution and Appeal* policy. Appeals of the Sport Canada AAP decision made under Sport Canada's *AAP Policies and Procedures* (Section 6 or 11) may be pursued through Section 13.
7. The Nordiq Canada HPD-Para, or the NSO assigned Designate¹, has the authority, and reserves the right to amend this document prior to the selection date under the following circumstances:
 - a. In the event of unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of Nordiq Canada that prevents the HPD-Para from fairly and objectively implementing these

¹ In the event the HPD-PARA is unavailable, a designate will be appointed within Nordiq Canada to be the decision-making authority.

selection procedures.

- b. When additional (or altered) information deemed relevant by Nordiq Canada to the criteria is provided by external parties, such as (but not limited to) an event organizing committee, Sport Canada, The Canadian Paralympic Committee, FIS, or any other relevant organization.
- c. To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors or omissions in the criteria.
- d. COVID-19 occurrences pertaining to, but not limited to race cancellations or rescheduling, any country border limitations, travel restrictions, travel limitations, inability to maintain safety of athletes, etc.

Changes to this document will be communicated as per the Nordiq Canada *NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement* policy. Nordiq Canada is not responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any amendments.

- 8. Athletes and coaches are responsible for reading and understanding the contents of this and supporting documents and policies. For clarification contact the HPD-PARA, Kate Boyd kboyd@nordiqcanada.ca.
- 9. The qualification period is November 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. The twelve-month carding cycle will run from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023. Athletes will be eligible to accumulate WPNS race points (international and domestic) from November 1, 2021 until the end of March 2022.
- 10. This policy does not require Nordiq Canada to nominate any or all athletes to the maximum number of allotted cards.
- 11. Athletes will only be nominated when eligibility requirements have been verified by Nordiq Canada and Sport Canada.
- 12. Athletes who meet criteria but are ranked lower than allocated cards, will not be nominated to Sport Canada.

2.0 Eligibility

- 1. To qualify for AAP carding, an athlete or guide must meet the following criteria set by Sport Canada and Nordiq Canada:
 - a. The athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the beginning of the carding cycle to which the athlete is being nominated.
 - b. Permanent residents must live in Canada for the full year preceding the carding cycle for which the athlete is being considered for AAP support. All athletes are expected to have participated in National Sport Organization (NSO) sanctioned programs during that time.

- c. The athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Para Nordic Skiing (WPNS) World Championships and Paralympic Winter Games. As defined under the eligibility requirements of the sport's International Federation (IF) as it pertains to *citizenship or residency status*.
 - d. The athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Para Nordic Skiing (WPNS) World Championships and Paralympic Winter Games. Further, under the eligibility requirements of the sport's International Federation (IF) as it pertains to *classification* requirements.
 - e. The athlete must be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, including WPNS World Championships, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated.
 - f. 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 Paralympic Winter Games.
 - g. The athlete must meet the published NSO approved, AAP compliant sport specific carding criteria.
 - h. The athlete must be a member of the Para-Nordic National Ski Team (PNST) - Para-Nordic World Cup Team, Development Team, NextGen Team or Prospects Team.
 - i. The athlete must be a member in good standing¹ of a Nordiq Canada club.
 - j. The athlete must follow an annual periodized program consistent with Nordiq Canada's Long-Term Athlete Development model. This program will be approved and monitored by Nordiq Canada's HPD-Para or designate.
 - k. Development card athletes must achieve 150 WPNS points or less to be carded.
2. Nordiq Canada has established that Guides of visually impaired athletes will be eligible for Sport Canada AAP support under the following conditions:
- a. The guide will be considered for AAP support based upon the results and awarding of AAP support for the visually impaired athlete they are guiding;
 - b. The guide must guide the athlete in a qualifying event as outlined in Section 5;
 - c. More than one guide may be nominated for Sport Canada AAP support. Each guide must have a full training and competition schedule and be fully integrated with the visually impaired athlete's program. Sport Canada must approve additional guides

for AAP support.

3.0 Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons (COH)

- 1.** Nordiq Canada will consider nominating Athletes for a health-related card in accordance with section 9.1.3 of the Sport Canada AAP policy. The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting a health-related request is that all things being equal, the athlete nominated has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other athletes being considered for an SR1, SR2, SR/C1 or D nomination. A health-related request is considered as the last means by which an athlete can earn selection and is intended to provide for exceptional circumstances outside the normal selection criteria rather than being part of the normal means by which an athlete can earn selection. This provision only applies when athlete performance is compromised because they have not been able to train or compete for an extended period and has a positive prognosis within 8 to 12 months.
- 2.** A SR1/SR2/SR or D carded athlete who met 2021-22 PNST objective criteria based on results from 2020-21, who at the end of the Carding cycle, has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of Carding status strictly because of health-related reasons, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:
 - a.** An Athlete must, within 7 days following the incident or occurrence, submit to the HPD-Para a report which includes:
 - i.** Certificate of diagnosis;
 - ii.** consistent communication of the athlete's health and performance status to the HPD-Para or designated Nordiq Canada coaching or IST staff during the time the athlete is unable to train or compete;
 - iii.** documentation confirming diagnosis by a licensed, relevant and medical practitioner;
 - iv.** a return to training and competition plan for the current and upcoming season;
 - v.** supporting documentation of the athlete's treatment by an accredited professional (e.g. physiotherapist/ massage) that supports a return to training and competition plan.
 - b.** In the case of injury or illness, no Carding nominations will be made for injuries that are determined by the HPD-Para in consultation with medical professionals to be career-ending.
 - c.** If an Athlete competes in a qualifying event, they may not invoke Section 3 in respect to the qualifying event in which he or she competed. The intention of this provision is to ensure that Athletes who are injured, suffering from an illness, or medical condition do not compete, which could cause further ill health or harm. If an Athlete does compete, they must accept the race result they have achieved.

3. The Athlete may be nominated for a Senior Card or Development Card on the grounds of injury, a medical condition (including pregnancy) or illness at the sole discretion of the HPD-Para based on the following factors:
 - a. the number of Cards available;
 - b. the nature and details of the diagnosis and prognosis;
 - c. assessment and training data provided by the Athlete that is verifiable by the discipline coach and Integrated Support Team (IST);
 - d. evidence of the Athlete's level of performance prior to injury;
 - e. the strength of the Athlete's rehabilitation and training plan as evaluated by the HPD-Para;
 - f. the advice of medical experts provided to the HPD-Para; and
 - g. the realistic expectation that the Athlete can return to competition ready performance and continue to demonstrate the potential to perform at the Top-8 level and progress toward the podium.
 - h. Documentation must be submitted to the HPD-Para by **April 3, 2022 11:59 PM MST**.

4.0 Types of Cards and Funding Allocation

1. Nordiq Canada - Para is awarded the equivalent of 11 Senior Cards or the equivalent to \$232,980 in AAP funding for the June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 Carding cycle. Sport Canada reviews its carding allocations regularly therefore this amount is subject to change.
2. Nordic Canada will distribute the funding as per the criteria in 5.0 in priority order until all funds are utilized or there are no more eligible athletes.
3. A minimum of 4 months of carding support must be available to nominate an athlete to the AAP.
4. There are two types of cards: Senior (SR) and Development (D).
5. Senior cards are \$21,180 (\$1,765 /month x 12). C1 cards are \$12,720 (\$1,060 /month x 12). Development cards are \$12,720 (\$1,060 /month x 12). These cards are paid out every 2 months by Sport Canada.

SENIOR CARDS

5. **Senior Cards** are awarded on two sets of criteria:
 - a. International Criteria (SR1/SR2): Sport Canada sets these criteria.
 - i. Senior cards based on international criteria are awarded to recognize outstanding performances at the Para World Ski Championships or Paralympic Winter Games. In the event both events are held in the same year, the Paralympic Winter Games will be considered for SR1 nominations. The World Championships results will be used for the SR card nominations.
 - ii. Athletes achieving the international criteria are eligible for two years of AAP support. The first carding year is an SR1 card and second is an SR2

card. The second year is subject to the athlete meeting requirements in 2.0 Eligibility, completing the online anti-doping courses, signing an Athlete NSO agreement, selection to the National Team and adhering to an HPD-Para approved training program.

- iii. Following a season where there are no PWG, WCH, or World Para Biathlon Championships, there will be no nominations for SR1 cards.
- b. National Criteria (SR/C1):
 - i. Senior cards awarded based on national criteria are to support athlete with the potential to reach international criteria.
 - ii. Senior cards based on national criteria are awarded for one year.
 - iii. C1 cards are awarded to athletes who meet the national criteria for Senior cards for the first time. They are awarded for a period of one year and are funded at the Development card level.
- 6. **Progression Criteria:** Athletes are expected to make progress in their results in order to maintain SR card status. Normally eight years is the maximum that an athlete will be carded at the senior level based on national criteria after which time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive thoroughly documented review of the athlete's performance over the past eight years in order to demonstrate progress toward meeting the senior international criteria which then warrants nomination of "Senior National" card status for an additional year. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level.
- 7. **Eligibility** for Senior cards:
 - a. Only athletes on the PNST will be eligible for SR cards.
 - b. The PNST is comprised of Para-Nordic World Cup Team and the Para-Nordic Development Team.
 - c. The HPD-Para will confirm the PNST team selections using the posted PNST 2022-23 Team Selection Criteria. Therefore, the performance standards and ranking mechanisms contained in the PNST 2022-23 Team Selection Criteria also functions as the entry standard for AAP Carding.
 - d. The 2022-23 *PNST Team Selection Criteria* can be found on the Nordiq Canada website.

DEVELOPMENT CARDS

- 8. **Development Cards** are to meet the development needs of athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior card international criteria.
 - a. Development cards are awarded for one year and are referred to as D cards.
 - b. An athlete who has qualified for a development card as well as for a senior card has the choice to accept either the development card or the senior card.
- 9. **Progression Criteria:** Athletes are expected to make progress in their results in order to progress to SR card status. Three years (3) is the maximum that an athlete will be carded at the development level. After which time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive thoroughly documented review of the athlete's performance over the past five years in

order to demonstrate progress toward a performance equivalent to top 16 and top half at the WPNS WCH or PWG, which then warrants nomination of “Development” card status for an additional year. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level. Athletes who have previously been carded for two years or more at the Senior Card level (SR1, SR2, SR and C) are not normally eligible to be nominated for Development cards.

10. Eligibility for Development cards:

- a. Only athletes on the Para Nordic Development Team, NextGen or Prospects Team will be eligible for Development cards.
- b. The HPD-Para will confirm the team selections using the posted Para Nordic 2022-23 Team Selection Criteria. Therefore, the performance standards and ranking mechanisms contained in the Para Nordic 2022-23 Team Selection Criteria also functions as the entry standard for AAP Carding.
- c. The 2022-23 PNST Team Selection Criteria can be found on the Nordiq Canada website.

5.0 Senior Carding Criteria

1. Athletes will be nominated for the AAP in the following priority order until no further funding remains in the quota:
 - a. Athletes eligible under the SR1 Card Criteria;
 - b. Athletes eligible under the SR2 Card Criteria;
 - c. Athletes eligible under the SR/C1 Card Criteria;
 - d. Athlete eligible under the D Card Criteria
2. International Criteria (SR1/SR2) - International Criteria recognize and reward Canadian athletes for outstanding performance at World Championships or the Olympic/Paralympic Games. In Olympic and Paralympic sports, only results from events that are on the program of the upcoming Olympic/Paralympic Games will be considered for carding under the International Criteria. The following are the current standards for International Criteria:
 - a. For the 2022-23 carding year, SR1 cards will be awarded for international criteria to athletes achieving a top eight; **AND** top half of the field at the 2022 Paralympic Winter Games. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing.
 - b. For the 2022-23 carding year, carded athletes who held a SR1 card in 2021-22 may be eligible for nomination for a SR2 card provided they:
 - i. Meet all eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2.0;
 - ii. Must be following an NSO approved Yearly Training Program as reviewed by the HPD-Para and PNST National Team Coaches;
 - iii. If injured, follow submissions as per section 3.
3. National Criteria (SR/C1) – Nomination of Athletes for SR cards will be made in the

following priority order:

- a. **SR Card Priority 1** – Athletes who achieve 30 WPNS points or less at a World Championships or PWG.
- b. **SR Card Priority 2** – WPNS World Cup (WC) athletes placing top 8 AND top half of the field individual result at a 2021-22 WPNS World Cup. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing at any 2021-22 WPNS World Cup
- c. **SR Card Priority 3** – WPNS WC athletes placing 9th to 16th and top half of the field in an individual race result at the 2021-22 WPNS WC. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their single best individual placing at any 2021-22 WPNS World Cup.
- d. **SR Card Priority 4** – In the absence of any international events due to Covid or other, PNST athletes who held a SR2 card in the 2021-2022 cycle will be re-nominated for SR carding pending where possible:
 - i. Adhered to PN Head Coach and HPD-Para approved 2021-2022 training program;
 - ii. FIS/IBU racing results, compared to WPNS points, that support continued progress and improvement.
- e. **SR Card Priority 5** - Athletes who held SR2 cards in 2021-22 and who fall under Section 3 COH.
- f. **SR Card Priority 6** - Athletes selected to the PNST – World Cup Team in accordance with the 2022-23 PNST Team Selection Criteria, but not already nominated for international carding criteria or national priority 1, 2 and 3. Athletes will be ranked in accordance with their best result (lowest WPNS points) individual result in any WPNS WC during the 2021-22 season. This assessment will consider quality of competition;
- g. **SR Card Priority 7** - Athletes holding SR/C1 cards in 2021-22 who fall under Section 3 COH.

6.0 Development Card (D) Criteria

1. Selection Criteria - Nomination of athletes for Development Cards will be made in the following order of priority:
 - a. **D Card Priority 1** - Athletes on the PNST Development Team ranked in accordance with their best (lowest WPNS points) individual result at any WC or WCH race during the 2021-22 season.
 - b. **D Card Priority 2** - Athletes on the PNST NextGen Team ranked in accordance with their two best (lowest WPNS points) individual result at any WPNS sanctioned COC races (I.e. US Para Nordic Nationals), WC or WCH race during the 2021-22 season. Athletes must achieve a combined average of 150 WPNS points or less to be considered.
 - c. **D Card Priority 3** – In the absence of any international events due to Covid or other reasons, athletes who held a Development Card in the 2021-2022 cycle will be re-nominated for Development Card based on the following:
 - i. If held, ranking from Para-Nordic Nationals with respect to

WPNS points achieved in head-to-head competition against a proven current international performer who has achieved a WC medal or Top 5 in a WC/WCH/PWG.

- ii. FIS/IBU racing results, compared to WPNS points, that support continued progress and improvement.
- d. **D Card Priority 4** - Athletes holding Development cards in the 2021-22 season who fall under Section 3 COH.
- e. **D Card Priority 5** In the absence of any international events due to Covid or other reasons, athletes in the 2021-2021 cycle may be nominated for a Development Card based on the following which support a progression towards 2026 Paralympic Winter Games podiums. Athletes will be ranked as follows:
 - i. Priority 1: If held, ranking from Para-Nordic Nationals with respect to WPNS points achieved in head-to-head competition against a proven current international performer who has achieved a WC medal or Top 5 in a WC/WCH/PWG.
 - ii. Priority 2: FIS/IBU racing results, compared to WPNS points, that support continued progress and improvement.

7.0 Tie Breaker Process

1. Where a tie exists between ranked athletes, the tie breaker will be the lowest of the WPNS points on the final ranking list published by the WPNS/IPC.

8.0 Withdrawal of AAP Funding

1. The High Performance Director-Para may recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's carded status to Sport Canada, under one of the following conditions:
 - a. If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities with respect to mandatory training camps, testing, and competitions
 - b. If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities as identified in the NC Athlete Agreement
 - c. If the athlete has not fulfilled his/her responsibilities as identified in the NC Code of Conduct or NC Discipline Policy
 - d. If the athlete has demonstrated repeated toxic behavior eroding the NC Culture of Excellence, as outlined in the NC Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy.
 - e. If the athlete has not adhered to his/her responsibilities as they pertain to WADA, and CCES antidoping protocols
 - f. Fraudulent misrepresentation of Carded Athlete Program
 - g. Gross breach of discipline
2. The procedure for the withdrawal of carding by Nordiq Canada are:
 - a. Provide a written warning to the athlete, including the steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of a failure to heed the warning;
 - b. If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter and NC still wishes to recommend withdrawal of carded status, NC 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:

- c. The grounds on which the recommendation is being made;
 - i. The steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by a formal letter of warning);
 - ii. Provide notice to the athlete of the athlete's right to contest the NC recommendation to withdraw carded status through NC's internal appeal process within the prescribed time.
- 3. During the carding cycle, the NSO may recommend withdrawal of the carding support of a guide for health-related reasons or if the guide is no longer a member of the National Team. The remaining months of carding may be allocated to a new guide as long as the National Team Coach recommends them and they are a member of the National Team. In the case of a SR1, SR2 or SR card replacement, if the new guide has never been carded at the Senior level before they will be eligible for a C1 card.

9.0 Definitions Relevant to Understanding Criteria Procedures

WPNS Points

WPNS points are earned through participation at IPC World Para Nordic Skiing (WPNS) World Cup and WPNS sanctioned continental cups (i.e. US Nationals). Nordiq Canada uses 180 WPNS points as the minimum benchmark for team eligibility. An athlete must purchase an IPC and Nordiq Canada license to be eligible for WPNS points. The purchase of the IPC licenses is facilitated through the Nordiq Canada Para Program.

Depth of Field

For an individual final finish race result to be achieved, there must be 3 WPNS points ranked competitors, including at least one competitor with 60 or fewer WPNS that have started the race.

Objective Metrics for SELECTION, POTENTIAL, and PROGRESSION

Metrics for potential will include but not limited to: FIS results, WPNS points, IBU results, head to head racing against proven current international performers who have achieved WC Podium performances or Top 5 results at WC/WCH/PWG, validated Canadian Tire Analytics, and GMP analytics.