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1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

1. This document describes the criteria that will be used by Nordiq Canada for nominating able-bodied athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2020-21 carding year.
2. This document is published under the authority of the High-Performance Manager (HPM), in the absence of a High-Performance Director (HPD), in consultation with the High Performance Committee (HPC).
3. 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](#).
4. It is the athlete's responsibility to read and understand the contents of this document and other supporting documents and policies. For clarification on the content of this document, contact the HPD/HPM.
5. Nominees for AAP carding will be presented and reviewed at the annual HPC meeting.
6. The Nordiq Canada HPD (or HPM in the absence of), upon review of the HPC, makes the final nomination recommendations, to Sport Canada based on Nordiq Canada's carding criteria. The HPD/HPM is responsible for the implementation of this policy.
7. Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with the AAP policies and published Nordiq Canada approved and AAP compliant carding criteria.
8. Appeals of Nordiq Canada's AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued through the Nordiq Canada *Dispute Resolution and Appeals* 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. The deadline for appeal submissions is **April 23, 2020**.
9. Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health Related Reasons (COH) – Carded athletes unable to achieve the carding standard due to injury or illness may be considered for nomination ONLY if the athlete meets the conditions outlined in [\(9.1.2 and 9.1.3 of Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program – Policies and Procedures\)](#), as well as those below:
 - Notification to the HPD/HPM at the time the injury/illness occurs
 - Consistent communication of the athlete's health and performance status to the HPD/HPM during the time the athlete is unable to train or compete
 - documentation confirming diagnosis by a licensed medical physician¹
 - a letter from the athlete's coach outlining the impact of the illness, or injury on the athlete's training

¹ A Doctor of Medicine licensed to practice medicine in Canada.

- a return to training and competition plan for the current and upcoming season
- supporting documentation of the athlete's treatment by an accredited professional (physiotherapist/massage, etc.) that supports the return to training and competition plan
- Written declaration to the HPD (or HPM in absence of an HPD) by the athlete that they are making a submission under the COH

This provision **ONLY** applies when long-term athlete performance is compromised due to the inability to train or compete for an extended period and has a positive prognosis to return to high performance competition within 8 to 12 months.

Medical documents will be reviewed and verified by the NST Team Physician. In the case the team physician is unavailable, another physician will be appointed to review the documentation.

COH submissions will be reviewed and decided upon by the HPD/HPM with consultation by the HPC and NST Coaches. Acceptance or denial of a COH will be evaluated on the impact and relevance the injury had on the athlete's performance. Acceptance of a COH does not guarantee carding.

All documentation must be submitted to the HPD/HPM before **April 4, 2020 11:59 AM MST**. Submissions will not be accepted after this deadline.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY

1. To qualify for AAP carding, an athlete must meet the following criteria set by Sport Canada:
 - a) The athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the beginning of the carding cycle 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.
 - b) the athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships and Olympic Winter Games. Further, 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 World Championships, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated:
 - c) 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 Winter Games;
 - d) The athlete must meet the published NSO approved, AAP compliant sport specific carding criteria

- e) The athlete must participate in national team preparatory and annual training programs
2. To qualify for AAP carding, an athlete must meet the following criteria set by Nordiq Canada:
- a) A member of the National Ski Team (World Cup, Senior Development Team and Junior Development programs); or
 - b) A member in good standing of a National Team Development Centre (NTDC), or a Nordiq Canada club and 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/HPM or designate.

3.0 TYPES OF CARDS

There are two types of cards: Senior Cards (SR) and Development Cards (D).

1. **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 performance at the World Senior Championships or Olympic Winter Games.
 - ii. Athletes achieving the criteria are eligible for two years of AAP support. The first carding year is a SR1 card and second is a SR2 card. The second year is subject to the athlete meeting requirements in 2.1 Eligibility, completing the online anti-doping courses, signing an Athlete NSO agreement, and selection to the World Cup Team.
Note: No athlete will be nominated for SR1 cards immediately following a season where there is no Olympic Winter Games or World Ski Championships.
 - b) National Criteria (SR/C1)
 - i. Senior cards awarded based on national criteria are to support athletes with the potential to reach international criteria.
 - ii. National criteria for Senior cards are negotiated between Sport Canada and Nordiq Canada and are approved by Sport Canada each year.
 - iii. Senior cards based on national criteria are awarded for one year and are referred to as SR cards.
 - iv. 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.
2. **Development Cards (D)**
- i. Development cards are to meet the development needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior card international criteria.

- ii. Development card criteria are negotiated between Sport Canada and Nordiq Canada and approved by Sport Canada each year.
- iii. Development cards are awarded for one year and are referred to as D cards.

4.0 ALLOCATION OF CARDS

1. A minimum of 4 months of carding support must be available to nominate an athlete for AAP.
2. 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).
3. Athletes will be nominated for the AAP in the following priority:
 - i. Athletes eligible under the SR1 card criteria
 - ii. Athletes eligible under the SR2 card criteria
 - iii. Athletes eligible under the SR/C1 card criteria
 - iv. Athletes eligible under the D card criteria

5.0 SENIOR CARD CRITERIA

1. International Criteria (SR1/SR2)

- a) Top eight (8) and top half of the field individual result (counting three athletes per nation) in an Olympic event at a World Ski Championship or at the Olympic Winter Games. *No SR1 cards will be awarded for 2020-21.*
- b) Athletes with a SR1 card in 2019-20 are eligible to be nominated for a SR2 card provided they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in section 2.0.
- c) Athletes with a SR1 card in 2019-20 who are injured, are eligible to be nominated for a SR2 card provided they:
 - i. meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2, AND
 - ii. have documented their injury as per the Curtailment of Health requirements outlined in 1.9, AND
 - iii. are following an NSO approved return to competition plan.

2. National Criteria (SR)

- a) Eight (8) years is the maximum 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 to demonstrate progress toward meeting the 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.

- b) Eligibility: Only athletes in the World Cup and Senior Development programs are eligible for SR cards. The performance standards and ranking mechanisms in the *2020-21 NST Team Selection Criteria* function as the entry standard for AAP carding.
- c) Selection Lists: The following list will be used to rank the eligible athletes under the national criteria:
 - i. Sprint Selection Ranking List –as referenced in the *2020-21 NST Selection Criteria* (APPENDIX A.3).
 - ii. Distance Selection Ranking List – as referenced in the *2020-21 NST Selection Criteria* (APPENDIX A.3).

3. Nomination

Nominations of athletes for SR cards will be made in the following order:

- a) World Cup Program: Athletes selected to the World Cup program in accordance with the *2020-21 NST Selection Criteria*, but not already nominated for international or national criteria will be ranked in the following order:
 - i. Single best individual placing at a 2019-20 World Cup race; this includes individual stages in multi-stage events. The second-best individual placing will be used to break any ties.
- b) Senior Development Program: Athletes selected to the Senior Development program in accordance with the *2020-21 NST Selection Criteria* will be ranked in the following order:
 - i. Top 20 final individual result in a 2019-20 World Cup race. Athletes will be ranked according to the best final result.
 - ii. Top 30 final individual result in a 2019-20 World Cup race. Athletes will be ranked according to the best final result.
 - iii. Top 12 at the World U23 Championships
 - iv. Top 20 final individual result (graduating junior) at the 2020 World Junior Championship or U23 Championships. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result. The second-best individual placing will be used to break a tie.
 - v. The remaining eligible athletes (regardless of gender), ranked in accordance with their single best race on the (Senior) Sprint or Distance Selection Ranking List.

- vi. Athletes holding SR/C1 cards in 2019-20 with an accepted "Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons" (refer to 1.9).

6.0 DEVELOPMENT CARD (D) CRITERIA

1. **Eligibility:** Three years (3) is the maximum an athlete will be carded at the development level (this criterion applies once the athlete reaches the post-junior category). *After which time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive document review of the athlete's performance demonstrating progress toward meeting the senior international criteria, which then may warrant nomination of "Development" card status for an additional year at this level.*

Athletes carded at the Senior card levels (SR1, SR2, SR and C1) are not eligible for D cards. An exception can be made for the U23 age category when carded at the senior levels.

2. **Ranking Lists:** The 2019-20 FIS World Cups, 2020 World Junior Championships (WJC) and World U23 (WU23) Championships results and the 2019-20 NST Selection Lists (5.2.c.) will function as the ranking for D carding.
3. Nomination of D cards will be ranked in the following order:
 - a) **Junior Development Program:** Athletes selected to the Junior Development program in accordance with the *2020-21 NST Selection Criteria* will be ranked in the following order of priorities:
 - i. Top 30 final individual result at a 2019-20 World Cup race. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result.
 - ii. Top 20 individual distance or sprint result at the 2020 World Junior Championships. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result. The second-best individual placing will be used to break a tie
 - iii. Top 30 individual distance or sprint result at the 2020 World Junior Championships. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result. The second-best individual placing will be used to break a tie.
 - iv. The remaining eligible athletes (regardless of gender), ranked in accordance with their single best race on the (Junior) Sprint or (Junior) Distance Selection Ranking List.
 - b) **Prospects Program:** Athletes named to the Prospects program who meet the following criteria:
 - i. Top 30 final individual result at a 2019-20 World Cup race. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result.

- ii. Top 30 individual distance or sprint result at the 2020 World Junior Championships. Athletes will be ranked according to their best finish result. The second-best individual placing will be used to break a tie.
- c) Top 30 individual final result in a 2019-20 World Cup. Athletes will be ranked according to their best final finish result.
- d) Athletes holding D cards in the 2019-20 season with an accepted submission under the *Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons* (Refer to 1.9).
- e) The next top ranked athletes, excluding previously nominated athletes, from the combined ranking lists referenced in the *2020-21 NST Selection Criteria (APPENDIX A.3)* based on the point spread in relation to their IBP (regardless of sprint, distance, or gender) as referenced in the chart below until the carding limit has been reached. In the event of a tie, the athlete with the highest race ranking within the events comprising the ranking lists will be used, moving down the event rankings until the tie is broken.

YEAR OF BIRTH	MEN DISTANCE	MEN SPRINT	WOMEN SPRINT	WOMEN DISTANCE
1996	95.5	96.5	96	94
1997	95	96	95	93
1998	94.5	95	94	92
1999	93.5	94	93	90.5
2000	91.5	92	91	88.5
2001	89.5	90	89	86.5
2002	87	87.5	86.5	84