

# Athlete Assistance Program

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Selection Criteria

**2021-22**



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**UPDATED CRITERIA:** Due to limited race opportunities in the 2020-21 competition season as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Nordiq Canada deferred the nomination of non-NST athletes for development carding in the 2021-22 funding year until the start of the 2021-22 competition season.

**Point 6.1.e**, which outlines the criteria for non-NST athletes to be nominated for AAP development carding, has been updated to reflect how the remaining development cards will be retroactively allocated. All nominations for AAP carding are subject to approval from Sport Canada.

*Nordiq Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact the criteria for AAP carding selection. Situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this 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 this 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 this 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. General Information**

- 1.1.** This document establishes the criteria that will be used by Nordiq Canada for nominating able-bodied athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2021-22 carding year.
- 1.2.** 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](#).
- 1.3.** This document is created following Nordiq Canada's NST Selection, Nomination and Announcement Policy.
- 1.4.** Nordiq Canada's High Performance Director (HPD) makes the final nomination recommendations to Sport Canada based on Nordiq Canada's carding criteria.
- 1.5.** Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with their AAP policies and the published Nordiq Canada *Athlete Assistance Program* selection criteria.
- 1.6.** 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.
- 1.7.** The Nordiq Canada HPD, or the NSO assigned designate, 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 from fairly and objectively implementing these 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 Olympic 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.

- 1.8. Athletes and coaches are responsible for reading and understanding the contents of this and supporting documents and policies. For clarification contact the HPD.
- 1.9. The qualification period is November 1, 2020 to Jan 10, 2021. The twelve-month carding cycle, which includes development cards, will run from June 1, 2021.
- 1.10. This policy does not require Nordiq Canada to select any or all athletes to the maximum number of allotted quota positions.
- 1.11. Athletes will only be nominated when eligibility requirements have been verified by Nordiq Canada and Sport Canada.
- 1.12. Athletes who meet criteria but are ranked lower than quota spots permit, will not be selected.

## 2. Eligibility

- 2.1. To be considered for AAP selection, athletes must:
  - a. be a Nordiq Canada member in good standing<sup>1</sup>;
  - b. be registered with a Nordiq Canada club;
  - c. have a valid Canadian passport;
  - d. have a valid Nordiq Canada race license; and,
  - e. have a valid FIS license

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the Nordiq Canada Bylaws for a full description of member in good standing.

- 2.2. To qualify for AAP carding, an athlete must meet the following criteria set by Sport Canada in the [Athlete Assistance Program Policy](#):
- 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 as outlined by the NST coaching staff and HPD.

### 3. Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons (COH)

- 3.1. Nordiq Canada will consider nominating Athletes for an injury card in accordance with section 9.1.3 of the Sport Canada AAP policy. The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting an injury or illness 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. An injury or illness 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.
- 3.2. A SR1/SR2/SR or D carded athlete who met 2020-21 NST objective criteria based on results from 2019-20, and not through a ranking list nomination, 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 a report which includes:

- i. Certificate of diagnosis;
    - ii. consistent communication of the athlete's health and performance status to the HPD 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 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.
- 3.3. 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 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 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;
  - f. the advice of medical experts provided to the HPD; 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 by **April 4, 2021 11:59 PM MST**.

## 4. Types of Cards and Funding Allocation

- 4.1. Nordiq Canada is awarded the equivalent of 17 Senior Cards or \$360,060 in AAP funding for the June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 Carding cycle. Sport Canada reviews its carding allocations regularly therefore this amount is subject to change.

- 4.2. There are two types of card: Senior (SR) and Development (D).
- 4.3. A minimum 4 months of carding support must be available to nominate an athlete for AAP.
- 4.4. 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).
- 4.5. **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 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 2.0 Eligibility, completing the online anti-doping courses, signing an Athlete NSO agreement, selection to the National Team and adhering to an HPD approved training program.  
*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 are awarded based on national criteria are to support athletes 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.
- 4.6. 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.
- 4.7. **Development Cards** are to meet the development needs of younger athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior card international criteria. Development cards are awarded for one year.
- 4.8. 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.

- 4.9. 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.

## 5. Senior Card (SR) Criteria

- 5.1. 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. Finish in the top eight, counting a maximum of three entries per country; **AND** Finish in the top half of the field.
- b. Athletes with an SR1 card during the preceding carding cycle are eligible to be nominated for a SR2 card provided they meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2.0 and have shown compliance to an HPD approved training plan.
- c. Athletes with a SR1 card during the preceding carding cycle who are injured, are eligible to be nominated for a SR2 card provided they:
  - i. meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 2.0, **AND**
  - ii. have documented their injury as per the Curtailment of Health requirements outlined in Section 3.0, **AND**
  - iii. are following an NSO approved return to competition plan.

- 5.2. National Criteria (SR) – Nomination of athletes for SR cards will be made in the following priority order, where a tie exists athletes will be ranked on their single best race result in all eligible races until the tie is broken:

- a. Athletes who qualified for the NST senior program on priority A criteria in order of NST qualification.
- b. Athletes who qualified for the NST junior program on priority A criteria in order of NST qualification.
- c. Athletes who qualified for the NST senior program on priority B criteria in order of NST qualification.
- d. Athletes who qualified for the NST senior program on priority C criteria in order of NST qualification.
- e. 2020-2021 SR carded athletes with an accepted Curtailment of Health as defined in Section 3.

- f. Athletes who qualified for the NST senior program through the selection event(s) as referred to in the *2021-22 NST Selection Criteria* in order of NST qualification. The selection event(s) and selection process will be determined and announced once the domestic race calendar has been confirmed.

## 6. Development Card (D) Criteria

- 6.1. Selection Criteria – Nomination of Development cards will be made in the following order, where a tie exists athletes will be ranked on their single best race result in all eligible races until the tie is broken:
  - a. Athletes who qualified for the NST junior program on priority B criteria in order of NST qualification.
  - b. Athletes who qualified for the NST junior program on priority C criteria in order of NST qualification.
  - c. 2020-21 D carded athletes with an accepted Curtailment of Health as defined in Section 3.
  - d. Athletes who qualified for the NST junior program through the selection event(s) as referred to in the *2021-22 NST Selection Criteria* in order of NST qualification. The selection event(s) and selection process will be determined and announced once the domestic race calendar has been confirmed.
  - e. Non-NST Athletes selected from selection event(s) as referred to in the *2021-22 NST Selection Criteria*. The selection event(s) and selection process will be determined and announced once the domestic race calendar has been confirmed.

### **AAP Carding Selection Event: WJR/U23 Championship Trials** Canmore AB - January 6-11, 2022

Selection race ranking lists will include final results of the following distance races and the qualification results (only) of the following sprint races (dates TBC):

- 10-15K individual start classic race
- Skate sprint qualification
- 15-30K mass start skate race
- Classic sprint qualification

All distance races and sprint qualification races will be on common distances for all U20 and U23/senior athletes.

Selection for AAP nomination will occur from gender specific ranking lists of combined U23/U20 athletes comprised of the best 2 of 4 races using the World Cup scoring system as outlined in point 12.5.1 in the Nordiq Canada 2022 Canadian Ski Championships Technical document.

U23 and U20 athletes that are on the 2021-22 NST and already receive AAP carding will be included in the points scoring system. However they will not be included in the final selection list. For example, NST athlete A is 1<sup>st</sup> and receives 100 pts. NST athlete B is 2<sup>nd</sup> and receives 80 pts, non-NST athlete is 3<sup>rd</sup> and receives 60 pts. For the final selection list the non-NST athlete will be scored 60 pts, not 100 pts, even though they are the highest ranked non-NST athlete.

Athletes from the combined ranking list will be selected in the following priority order:

- i. **Highest ranking eligible U20 male and female athletes** on the combined ranking list. The athlete with the highest points will have priority selection.
- ii. **Next highest ranking eligible U20 male and female athletes** on the combined ranking list. The athlete with the highest points will have priority selection.
- iii. **Next highest ranking eligible male and female (U23 or U20) athletes from the combined ranking list.** The athlete with the highest points will have priority selection.
- iv. Repeat iii until AAP carding funding allotment has been reached.

Ties will be broken by the number of 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes on the final selection list; if a tie persists, the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes will be used, etc. This system will also be used in case there is a tie between points when determining priority carding.

## 7. Definitions

Definitions relevant to understanding criteria procedures

- 7.1. Individual Final Finish Race Result - The final time and ranking attributed to an athlete at the completion of an entire individual event, i.e. time of day, qualification heats, pre-qualification times, team relay, or team sprint times are not considered individual final finish race results. World Cup (WC) points must be awarded for any result to be considered a WC race result.
- 7.2. Competition Ready: - Defined as the ability of the athlete to achieve equal or superior performance(s) onsite at the scheduled event, as compared to the performance(s) the athlete achieved in qualifying.

## 8. Withdrawal of AAP Funding

- 8.1. The High Performance Director 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
- e. If the athlete has not adhered to his/her responsibilities as they pertain to WADA, and CCES antidoping protocols
- f. Fraudulent misrepresentation Carded Athlete Program
- g. Gross breach of discipline

8.2. The procedures 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:
  - i. The grounds on which the recommendation is being made;
  - ii. The steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by a formal letter of warning);
  - iii. 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.