

2026-2027 Athlete Assistance Program Nomination Procedure

HIGH PERFORMANCE BULLETIN 5

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Athlete Assistance Program (the “AAP”), funded by Sport Canada, ensures athletes identified with potential to be top 8 in the world are afforded the necessary resources to achieve international success. The program contributes to improving Canadian performances at major international sporting events such as the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cup.

The financial assistance provided to identified Canadian athletes comes in the form of a monthly living and training allowance and, where applicable, supplementary support and 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 is provided directly to the athletes.

An athlete’s carding status is subject to the obligations and commitments as detailed in Biathlon Canada’s Athlete Agreement and Sport Canada’s [Athlete Assistance Program Policies, Procedures and Guidelines](#).

1.2 DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

The final Nomination decisions shall be made at the sole, full, and absolute discretion of Biathlon Canada’s Performance Pathway Director (the “PPD”), and Sport Canada has final approval for Carding.

1.3 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The PPD, Biathlon Canada’s High Performance Manager (the “HPM”), and all members of Biathlon Canada’s Nomination Procedures Advisory Group (the “NPAG”) have an obligation to apply Biathlon Canada’s Conflict of Interest Policy in the exercise of their duties.

Should the PPD declare or be deemed to be in a conflict of interest, decision-making authority will transfer to the HPM.

Should the HPM declare or be deemed to be in a conflict of interest, decision-making authority will transfer to the NPAG

Should any members of the NPAG declare or be deemed to be in a conflict of interest, they will recuse themselves from all discussion or decisions regarding nomination decisions.

Determinations of the NPAG regarding nomination decisions must be made by consensus of all members of the NPAG who have not been declared or deemed to be in a conflict of interest.

In making nomination decisions, the PPD, HPM, and NPAG, may consult advisors, and will have the discretion to decide who to contact depending on the decision being made and the individuals involved in the decision.

1.4 FORCE MAJEURE

Biathlon Canada follows current events and how they may affect the upcoming 2025/26 Biathlon season. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, Biathlon Canada will implement this document as published. However, situations may arise that require this document to be modified. Such modifications will be made promptly and will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Furthermore, situations may arise that do not allow this document to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decisions will be made by the PPD in consultation with the HPM and the NPAG and any relevant individuals or committees, and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. If it is necessary to make any decision in this manner, Biathlon Canada will notify all affected individuals as soon as possible.

1.5 QUOTA

According to Sport Canada allocations, Biathlon Canada will be limited to a maximum full financial value of the equivalent of nine 9 Senior Cards or \$234,900 (subject to periodic review by Sport Canada), operating on a twelve-month cycle, beginning May 1, 2026 through to April 30, 2027.

1.6 LIVING AND TRAINING ALLOWANCE

Eligible Athletes approved for carding by Sport Canada will receive a monthly living and training allowance, tuition support, deferred tuition support. This allowance is paid through Sport Canada.

Carding Status	Monthly Allowance
Senior Card (SR1, SR2, SR)	\$2,175
Senior Health-Related Circumstances Card (SRH)	\$2,175
Development Card (D)	\$1,305
Development Health-Related Circumstances Card (DH)	\$1,305

1.7 SUPPLEMENTARY AAP SUPPORT

Supplementary AAP Support is available to carded athletes in the following situations:

- Excellence Living and Training Allowance
- Child Dependent Allowance
- Relocation Assistance
- Support for New Parents
- Retirement Assistance

See section 8.4 of Sport Canada's [Athlete Assistance Program – Policies and Procedures](#) for details on the supplementary support programs, eligibility, and how to apply.

1.8 AAP NOMINATION AND CONFIRMATION

Once the review and nominations are finalized by Biathlon Canada, the following procedure will occur:

- 1.8.1 A Carding Nomination Announcement will be posted on the Biathlon Canada website
- 1.8.2 Upon publication, athletes will have seven days to notify Biathlon Canada if there have been any errors or omissions.
- 1.8.3 The PPD will present the final nomination list to Sport Canada for review and approval.

- 1.8.4 Sport Canada will approve nomination in accordance with the AAP policies. Appeals of AAP decisions made under Section 6 (Application for and Approval of Cards) or Section 11 (Withdrawal of Carding Status) may be pursued through Section 13 of the [Athlete Assistance Program – Policies and Procedures](#).
- 1.8.5 If there are changes to the Carding Nomination Announcement after the Sport Canada meeting, an updated list will be posted on the website and communicated with those affected.
- 1.8.6 Approved athletes will complete and sign the AAP Application Form and be in compliance with the Biathlon Canada Athlete Agreement.
- 1.8.7 Biathlon Canada will advise Sport Canada's AAP officials when all athletes have signed the Biathlon Canada Athlete Agreement.

Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program information can be found [here](#).

1.9 DEFINITIONS

For this program, the following definitions apply:

- 1.9.1 **Athlete Age Determination:** an athlete's age for a Competitive Season is defined as their age on December 31 of that Competitive Season. For example, in the 2025–2026 Competitive Season, the age of an athlete born on December 12, 2000 will be defined as 25.
- 1.9.2 **Biathlon Canada National Program** is defined as the activities in which the Biathlon National Teams are engaged, including, but not limited to:
- Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cups, IBU Cups, Junior and Youth World Championships, Junior IBU Cup, Youth Olympic Games;
 - Biathlon Canada sanctioned events, such as Canadian Championships, North American Cups and trials races;
 - Training centres and high performance club programs;
 - Training camps;
 - Medical and performance testing;

- Career programs sponsored by, or entered through the assistance of, Biathlon Canada;
- Meetings;
- Awards ceremonies; and
- Promotional activities including media requests and press conferences.

1.9.3 **CAN Ski Speed %** is the percentage back from the average of the fastest three skiers in the competition.

1.9.4 **Competition Results** refer to all individual competitions (Sprint, Pursuit, Individual, Short Individual, Mass Start) and their results, unless explicitly listed as relay competitions. For any relay competition, the qualifying result for any athlete is the team relay result for the team they were part of. Single Mixed Relays do not count as an eligible relay result for carding, unless otherwise noted.

1.9.5 **Competitive Season** is the competitive season that runs from May 1 through April 30th in a given year. The current Competitive Season is May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026. Athletes can, over this period, earn Competition Results that qualify them for a 2026–2027 card, with financial support commencing May 2026.

1.9.6 **Field Size** is the total field size for a competition that includes all finishers, including all athletes who were lapped, disqualified, or did not finish. Athletes who are on a start list but did not start are not considered as competitors and thus are not included in the calculation of overall field size.

1.9.7 **Individual Event** means an event in which athletes compete as individuals (as opposed to on a relay team), which includes the following IBU race formats:

- Individual and Short Individual
- Sprint
- Pursuit
- Mass Start

1.9.8 **Shooting Accuracy** is the percentage of hits relative to shots taken.

1.9.9 Shooting Speed is the average total time on the shooting mat or lane including set up and departure for all shooting bouts in a competition. It does not include time into the range or leaving the mat and range.

1.10 RANKING ORDER FOR CARDING NOMINATIONS MADE TO SPORT CANADA

Athletes will be ranked in the order of Priority with the last athlete receiving a minimum of four months of carding. Where there are two or more athletes ranked within a priority, the athletes will be ranked in order of the respective criterion (for example, by placement or from lowest to highest IBU Qualifying Points).

Athletes who are awarded a Health-Related Circumstance provision will be ranked last within the priority that is the equivalent to the current Competitive Season's carding priority using their results from the previous Competitive Season. For the Health-Related Circumstance provisions, see Section 3.6 (Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related Reasons).

2 FIELD SIZE

The carding criteria in Section 4 assumes an adequate Field Size to allow Biathlon Canada to assess athlete performance in the context of identifying those with the potential to be top 8 in the world. Should the Field Size at a competition be less than 76, the benchmarks used for the carding criteria will be adjusted as described in Appendix A.

3 CARDING CRITERIA

3.1 PERFORMANCE POOL: SENIOR CARDING CRITERIA (SR1, SR2, SR)

This card is designed to support athletes who have achieved top 8 results or who have demonstrated through their performance at WC or IBUC competitions the potential to achieve a top 8 finish at the World Championships or Olympic Games. The Senior Card can be achieved through the following set of criteria and in the following priority order:

3.2 SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CARDING CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

To be eligible for a Senior International Card, an athlete must achieve one of the following standards at Olympic Winter Games or World Championships.

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

- Priority 1:** A single placing in the Top 8 and Top-half of the field in an Individual Event (counting a maximum of three entries per nation) at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.
- Priority 2:** A single placing in the Top 8 and Top-half of the field in any four person Relay competition at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games.
- Priority 3:** Athletes who qualify for carding under the Senior International Carding criteria are eligible to be nominated for two Competitive Seasons of AAP support based on the above priorities, with the card for the first Competitive Season referred to as a SR1 Card and the card in the second Competitive Season referred to as a SR2 Card. The second Competitive Season is subject to the athlete achieving at a minimum the Senior National Card criteria (Section 4.3).

3.3 SENIOR NATIONAL CARDING CRITERIA (SR)

Senior National cards are intended to support athletes with the potential to reach Senior International Card Status. Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

- Priority 4:** Athletes who placed in the Top 40 in an Individual Event at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games. Athletes who meet this criterion will be prioritized based on their final placing in the event for which they have qualified. Athletes who have the same placing, in different events, will be prioritized by the best individual event placement.
- Priority 5:** Athletes who placed in the Top 40 in an Individual Event on the World Cup twice during the 2025–2026 season.
- Priority 6:** Athletes who achieved an average of under 80 IBU Qualifying Points during the 2025–2026 season at the end of Trimester 3. Athletes who meet this criterion will be prioritized from lowest to highest IBU Qualifying Points.

Athletes are expected to be Senior National Carded for no more than eight Competitive Seasons, at which time the athlete is expected to have satisfied the Senior International criteria. If an athlete: (1) has been Senior National Carded for a total of eight or more Competitive Seasons; (2) does not achieve the standard for a Senior International Card during

the 2025–2026 season; and (3) does achieve the standard for a Senior National Card during the 2025–2026 season, then the PPD will conduct a comprehensive review of the athlete's performance over the previous five Competitive Seasons in order to determine if there is evidence of progress toward the Senior International Carding criteria and a likelihood of achieving Senior International Carding criteria within the next two seasons that would justify nominating that athlete for Senior National card status for the 2026–2027 season. Following this review, the PPD will have the sole, full, and absolute discretion to nominate the athlete for a Senior National Card for the 2026–2027 season or not.

3.4 DEVELOPMENT CARDING CRITERIA

After the application of the Senior International and Senior National Carding criteria, the remaining carding quota will be allocated to athletes eligible under the Development Carding criteria. Development Cards are intended to support the developmental needs of Development athletes who demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior International Carding criteria but are not yet able to meet the Senior National Carding criteria. Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following priority order:

- Priority 7:** Athletes who placed in the Top 10 and Top-third of the field in an Individual Event at the 2026 World Junior Championships. Athletes who have the same placing, in different events, will be prioritized by the best individual result at the 2026 World Junior Championships.
- Priority 8:** Athletes who achieved an average of under 100 IBU Qualifying Points during the 2025–2026 season at the end of Trimester 3. Athletes who meet this criterion will be prioritized from lowest to highest IBU Qualifying Points.
- Priority 9:** Athletes who achieved an average of under 120 IBU Qualifying Points during the 2025–2026 season at the end of Trimester 3. Athletes who meet this criterion will be prioritized from lowest to highest IBU Qualifying Points.
- Priority 10:** Any remaining card quota may be used to nominate athletes ranked on the 2025–2026 Canadian Ranking List (Appendix B) and prioritized in order of rank, and according to the number of available cards.

Athletes who have been Development Carded for a total of six Competitive Seasons are not eligible for a Development Card for a seventh Competitive Season.

Normally, an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level for more than two Competitive Seasons will not be eligible for a Development Card. Pursuant to section 5.3 of Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures, if an athlete: (1) has been Senior Carded for two or more Competitive Seasons; (2) does not achieve the standard for a Senior National Card during the 2025–2026 season; and (3) does achieve the standard for a Development Card during the 2025–2026 season, an exception may be made, at Sport Canada's sole discretion, for the athlete to be eligible for a Development Card..

3.5 LONG-TERM CURTAILMENT OF TRAINING AND COMPETITION FOR HEALTH-RELATED REASONS

Pursuant to section 9 of Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures, carded athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for longer than four months because of health-related circumstances will continue to receive 100 percent of the AAP financial support to which they would otherwise be entitled, provided the following conditions are met:

- The carded athlete undertakes in writing, to train or rehabilitate, or both, under the supervision of Biathlon Canada, or its designate, for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfil the training and competition commitments included in the Biathlon Canada Athlete Agreement, and at a level that minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures optimal return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date;
- The carded athlete signifies in writing, their intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the health-related circumstance;
- The affected athlete provides a positive prognosis from a Biathlon Canada team physician or equivalent for their return to training and competition at the carded-athlete level in biathlon within 8 to 12 months.

3.6 FAILURE TO MEET RENEWAL CRITERIA FOR HEALTH-RELATED REASONS

An athlete who, at the end of the carding cycle has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of carding status because of strictly health-related reasons, may be considered for re-nomination for the 2026–2027 Competitive Season provided they meet the requirements in Appendix C.

4 ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

4.1 GENERAL AND BIATHLON CANADA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for support through the AAP, an athlete must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada;
- Adhere to their Biathlon Canada athlete agreement requirements;
- Meet the eligibility requirement of the sport's international federation as they pertain to citizenship and residency status and be available to represent Canada at major international events, including World Championships, Olympic Games, World Cup;
- Meet the carding criteria as a member of the Canadian Team at international events or in domestic events or events sanctioned by Biathlon Canada. Athletes are usually required to live and train in Canada. Assistance for athletes living and training outside Canada may be approved by Sport Canada, if justified by Biathlon Canada for academic or athletic reasons;
- 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 their designate;
- Compete at all Trials events except for those who are racing in World Cups or IBU Cups at the same time Trials are being held or as approved by the PPD;
- Be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships and the Olympic Games;
- Have submitted a Yearly Training Plan to Biathlon Canada; and
- Comply with [Biathlon Canada's policies, procedures, and guidelines.](#)

4.2 INELIGIBILITY

Athletes who are ineligible to receive carding include:

- Athletes who have been ruled ineligible to participate in sport for two years or more as a result of an anti-doping violation and who have not, in the case of pre-2004 violations, subsequently been reinstated;

- Athletes who are serving an anti-doping rule violation sanction of less than two years or sport ineligibility at the start of the carding cycle;
- Athletes who meet the carding criteria as members of another national team; and
- Athletes competing in events that are not on the Olympic program are not eligible for carding based on performance in those events.

4.3 WITHDRAWAL OF CARDED STATUS POLICY

Athletes may have their carded status withdrawn under the following conditions:

- The athlete violates the Biathlon Canada Athlete Agreement;
- The athlete retires from or leaves the National Program before the end of the season; or
- The athlete fails to meet athlete responsibilities outlined in the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Policies and Procedures.

Biathlon Canada may recommend that carded status be withdrawn; however, Sport Canada may also withdraw carded status without a recommendation from Biathlon Canada. The procedure and specific reasons for which carding may be withdrawn are described in AAP Policies and Procedures (Section 11 Withdrawal of Carded Status).

5 APPEALS

Appeals of decisions made pursuant to this document may be made in accordance with Biathlon Canada's Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy.

APPENDIX A – ADJUSTMENTS TO AAP BENCHMARKS DUE TO SMALLER FIELD SIZES

The table below defines the AAP Benchmark related to Field Size and adjustments.

	AAP Benchmark adjusted for field size			AAP Benchmark
Field size – individual competition	0-25	25-50	50-75	>75
Top placement required to achieve benchmark	1	2	2	3
	2	4	6	8
	3	5	8	10
	4	8	11	15
	5	10	15	20
	7	14	21	28
	8	15	23	30
	9	18	26	35
	10	20	30	40
	13	25	38	50
	14	28	41	55
	15	30	45	60
Field size – relay competitions	1-5	6-10	11-15	>15
Top placement required to achieve benchmark	1	2	4	6
	2	3	5	8

How to use this table

1. Determine the field size of your race.
2. Using the AAP Priority ranking determine the Priority you achieved in the competition
3. If the field size is fewer than 76 athletes, find the column that corresponds to the appropriate field size. This number is the adjusted placement needed to achieve an AAP benchmark.

APPENDIX B – CANADIAN RANKING LIST

The 2025–2026 Canadian Ranking List will include the following competitions¹ and eligible races for ranking:

1 November Trials – November 4–8, 2025 (Canmore)

WOMEN		Open	Junior
November 5	Sprint	7.5km	7.5km
November 7	Sprint	7.5km	7.5km
November 8	Sprint	6km	6km

MEN		Open	Junior
November 6	Sprint	10km	10km
November 8	Sprint	10km	10 km
November 9	Sprint	7.5km	7.5km

2 January Trials – January 14–18, 2026 (Whistler)

WOMEN		Open	Junior
January 15	Sprint	7.5km	7.5km
January 17	Mass Start	10km	10km
January 18	Sprint	7.5km	7.5km

MEN		Open	Junior
January 15	Sprint	10km	10km
January 17	Mass Start	12.5km	12.5km

¹ The competition formats are subject to change.

January 18	Sprint	10km	10km
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3 Canadian Biathlon Championships – March 24–29, 2026 (Canmore)

WOMEN		Open	Junior
March 25	Sprint	7.5km	7.5km
March 26	Pursuit	10km	10km
March 28	Mass Start	10km	10km

MEN		Open	Junior
March 25	Sprint	10km	10km
March 26	Pursuit	12.5km	12.5km
March 28	Mass Start	12.5km	12.5km

The Canadian Ranking List will average the top three race results and ranked using Performance Percentage².

- The three races shall be composed of a maximum of one Pursuit or Mass Start result and a minimum of two sprint results by Performance Percentage.
- Up to a maximum of two races per event (November Trials, January Trials, and the Canadian Biathlon Championships) shall be used.
- Athletes who are unable to race at both January Trials and the Canadian Biathlon Championships due to being on a World Cup Tour or an IBU Cup Tour may use all three results from November Trials.
- Open and Junior race category results will be combined and ordered by time to calculate Performance Percentage.

² Performance Percentage shall be calculated in accordance with 2025–2026 Tour Nomination Procedures Appendix B. Athletes who have qualified for a Senior International or Senior National Card will be excluded from the Performance Percentage Ranking for the Canadian Ranking List.

- Athletes who have the same placing will be prioritized by the best Sprint result. If the athletes are still tied then athletes will be prioritized by their second best Sprint result. If the athletes remain tied then they will be prioritized by their best Pursuit or Mass Start result. Should there still be a tie then the fourth best result will be used.

APPENDIX C: GUIDELINES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF HEALTH-RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES CARDS

Philosophy

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, the PPD may, in their sole, full and absolute discretion, determine that, where an athlete has not had the opportunity, through no fault of their own, to compete in certain competitions in order to be nominated for carding, or if the athlete's performance at such competitions is negatively impacted by a health-related circumstance, the athlete may, subject to satisfying the conditions set out in section 9 of Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures and as further indicated below, be eligible to apply for nomination for AAP carding by making a request as set out in this Appendix.

Eligibility for requesting a Health-Related Circumstances Card

- Requests must be made in writing to the PPD in a timely manner, and no later than March 30, 2026.
- An athlete is ineligible for consecutive nomination for a health-related circumstance card and can only be the recipient of a maximum lifetime total of three health-related circumstance cards from Biathlon Canada. A health card that is designated for pregnancy will not count against these restrictions.

Conditions for Applying for a Health-Related Circumstances Card

- Each request must state clearly what the athlete is seeking and the supporting documentation must be provided at the time that the request is made.
- Unless physically incapable, only the athlete requesting a Health-Related Circumstance Card is permitted to submit the request (in such a case, the athlete's coach may make the request)
- The request must include documented evidence from a medical practitioner that specifies the date that the athlete was advised to reduce or stop certain physical

training or competition commitments because of an injury, illness, health concern or pregnancy or birth of a child.

- The PPD has the right to request further independent medical review after the request has been submitted.

Process for Reviewing a Request

The following outlines the process for considering requests. The PPD will review all requests and make a decision on each with supporting rationale:

- In cases where multiple requests are submitted, they will be assessed individually and on their own merit.
- After the PPD makes their final decision regarding the request, its decision will be communicated to the athletes requesting the Health-Related Circumstances card, athletes directly affected by the request, their coaches, and the athletes' representatives prior to the final nominations.

Conditions for Granting a Health-Related Circumstances Card

When considering whether to grant a Health-Related Circumstances card in cases where an athlete has been injured or affected by illness, the PPD must first consider the medical condition of the athlete, the degree to which the athlete has followed the prescribed rehabilitation process, and their readiness to return and compete at their previous performance level according to feedback received from the medical team and the athlete's coach.

In addition, the following conditions must be met:

- Biathlon Canada, based on its technical judgment and that of a team physician or equivalent, must be convinced that the carded athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to an injury, illness, pregnancy, or other health-related circumstance.
- The carded athlete must commit to a) regular check-ins with Biathlon Canada to discuss any additional supports they want to explore through sport partner programs or the Biathlon Canada's integrated support team, that their medical support may deem necessary during the recovery from their health-related circumstance, and b) fulfilling all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full

high-performance training and competition during the period of their injury, illness, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance, or will continue a rehabilitation program approved by Biathlon Canada (for pregnant athletes, this may or may not be prescribed by a medical or other practitioner based on the individual's pregnancy and birth circumstances).

- Biathlon Canada, based on its technical judgment and that of a team physician or equivalent, must be convinced that the carded athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.
- The carded athlete must demonstrate and continue to demonstrate their long-term commitment to high-performance training and competition goals, as well as their intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which they wish to be renewed despite not having met the carding criteria;
- Biathlon Canada must provide evidence that the above requirements are being met in order to nominate athletes for carding based on the above provisions.

If any of the above conditions are not respected by the athlete, the Health-Related Circumstances card may be refused on that basis alone.