



TAEKWONDO CANADA

Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

Carding Criteria for 2025-2026 Nominations

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to present the criteria for the determination of the Taekwondo Canada (TC) sport specific carding criteria in alignment with Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) policies and procedures. Sport Canada’s AAP is a federal government grant program that provides direct financial assistance to Canadian high-performance athletes. In general, the AAP recognizes the commitment high performance taekwondo athletes make to long-term training and competition programs and provides financial assistance to better allow them to seek enhanced training and competition opportunities to progress their performances. AAP supported athlete status is a privilege designated for athletes who have demonstrated, and continue to demonstrate, outstanding abilities and commitment to regimented training and performance in the sport of taekwondo.

The AAP objective is to support Canadian athletes identified and nominated by TC as performing at or having the greatest potential to achieve top eight (8) results at Olympic/Paralympic Games and World Championships. The coach remains a critical component of the process and in conjunction with TC manages and directs the taekwondo athlete’s training plan. TC’s High Performance Director is responsible for the nomination of eligible athletes for AAP support. Sport Canada approves nominations in accordance with the published Sport Canada and TC AAP policies and criteria.

1.1 The AAP Carding Process

As outlined in Sport Canada’s Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>), the following process will be followed for the current Carding cycle.

- a. Sport Canada allocates Cards to TC.
- b. TC develops and publishes AAP-compliant, sport-specific criteria that athletes must meet to be nominated for AAP support.
- c. TC nominates or re-nominates eligible athletes for AAP support according to the published TC Carding criteria.
- d. Sport Canada reviews and approves nominations based on TC’s published Carding criteria.
- e. Athletes complete the AAP application form provided by TC, as provided by Sport Canada, and sign an Athlete Agreement with TC.
- f. Eligible athletes approved for Carding receive benefits during the period of time for which they were approved.
- g. AAP funding may be withdrawn as a result of:
 - i. Voluntary withdrawal from the AAP, or
 - ii. Withdrawal of Carded status.
- h. Athletes may appeal a Sport Canada AAP decision.

2. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2.1 General Information and Definitions

- a. Sport Canada has allocated a maximum of \$105,900 in living and training allowance to be allocated through the application of the 2025-2026 Taekwondo Canada Athlete Assistance Program Carding Criteria. Sport Canada regularly reviews its Carding allocations; therefore, this amount is subject to change.
- b. Where the term ‘WT Olympic Ranked’ or ‘WT World Ranked’ is used, these shall be for World Taekwondo (WT) Olympic and World weight division rankings respectively, as published on the World Taekwondo Global Membership System (<https://worldtkd.simplycompete.com>).

- c. Where there are Sport Canada policies that restrict eligibility to results from events that are on the program of the upcoming Olympic Games, TC will utilize the following WT World Weight Classes for results from events not formatted under the WT Olympic Weight Classes:
 - i. Women: W-49kg, W-57kg, W-67kg, W+73kg
 - Men: M-58kg, M-68kg, M-80kg, M+87kg
- d. The Carding cycle for 2025-2026 shall be February 1st, 2025 to January 31st, 2026.
- e. Due to the maximum allocation of Sport Canada AAP funding for TC, meeting Carding criteria does not automatically qualify an athlete for a Card.

2.2 Levels of Available Sport Canada AAP Support

- a. The Sport Canada AAP funds Canadian athletes at two levels:
 - i. Senior Cards:
 - Senior International Card - \$1,765/month = \$21,180/year
 - Senior National Team Card - \$1,765/month = \$21,180/year
 - Health Related Card - \$1,765/month = \$21,180/year
 - ii. Development Cards:
 - Development Card - \$1,060/month = \$12,720/year
- b. The Sport Canada AAP also offers Canadian athletes who receive AAP support the following additional benefits:
 - i. Tuition support to a maximum payment of \$5,500 per Carding cycle with a lifetime maximum of \$27,500.
 - ii. Additional supplementary AAP support includes:
 - Excellence Living and Training Allowance
 - Child Dependent Allowance
 - Relocation Assistance
 - Retirement Assistance
 - iii. NOTE: These sport Canada benefits are subject to change by Sport Canada. More information regarding these additional financial benefits can be found in Section 8: Financial Benefits of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>).

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 The athlete must meet Sport Canada’s Athlete Eligibility Requirements as published in 2.3 Athlete Eligibility Requirements of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>).
- 3.2 For the entirety of the Carding cycle, the athlete must be a Competitive Registered Participant in good standing with TC *and* must have a valid WT Global Athlete License (GAL).
- 3.3 For the entirety of the Carding cycle, the athlete must be a Canadian citizen *and* be eligible to represent TC at all WT major international competitions including World Championships, Olympic Games, and Paralympic Games.
- 3.4 Athlete must complete the AAP application form, *and* all required anti-doping education courses.
- 3.5 For the entirety of the Carding cycle, the athlete must participate in all mandatory training or evaluation camps as determined by TC.
- 3.6 Athlete must sign the Athlete Agreement with TC.
- 3.7 Athletes may only be carded for a maximum of five (5) consecutive years at the Senior National Team level. Additional years of Carding can be available if the athlete meets the Senior International Card criteria or clearly demonstrates annual progression in WT Olympic weight classes. The annual progression will be evaluated through *both* WT Olympic Ranking as well as placement at competitions during the Carding cycle in the eligible WT weight classes as outline in 2.1.c.i.

4. PRIORITIZATION OF CARDING NOMINATIONS

Athletes meeting the 2025-2026 Taekwondo Canada Athlete Assistance Program Carding Criteria will be nominated to Sport Canada for AAP support based on the following priority order:

- 4.1 Senior International Card nominations (SR1/SR2).
- 4.2 Athletes carded the previous year at the Senior International Card level (SR1/SR2) who have had their training and/or competition plan significantly impacted by health related circumstances (SRI*) *and* who meet the Sport Canada policy as published in Section 9: Health Related Circumstances of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>).
- 4.3 Senior National Team Card nominations (SR).
- 4.4 Athletes carded the previous year at the Senior National Team Card level (SR) who have had their training and/or competition plan significantly impacted by health related circumstances (SRI*) *and* who meet the Sport Canada policy as published in Section 9: Health Related Circumstances of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>).
- 4.5 Development Card nominations (D).

*See section 7. HEALTH RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES

5. SENIOR CARD CRITERIA

5.1 Senior International Card Nominations (SR1/SR2)

Senior International criteria provides support to taekwondo athletes that achieve outstanding performances at World Championships or the Olympic Games. As outlined in Sport Canada's Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>), in Olympic sports, only results from events that are on the program of the upcoming Olympic Games will be considered for Carding under the Senior International criteria.

- a. Eligibility for the 2025-2026 SR1/SR2 will be based on results from the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- b. Place in the top eight (8) *and* top half of the field in the following weight classes:
 - i. Women: W-49kg, W-57kg, W-67kg, W+67kg
Men: M-58kg, M-68kg, M-80kg, M+80kg
 - ii. NOTE: Athletes meeting the Senior International Card criteria are eligible to be nominated for two (2) consecutive years. The second year (SR2) is contingent on the athlete maintaining a training and competition program approved by the TC High Performance Director.
- c. The following priorities will be used to rank all athletes for nomination that have met the SR1/SR2 criteria as outlined under 5.1.b.:
 - i. Best placing at the eligible event under 5.1.a.
 - ii. Most points earned within the Carding cycle qualification period in respective WT Olympic Weight Class.
 - iii. Most points earned within the Carding cycle qualification period in respective WT World Weight Class.

5.2 Senior National Team Card Nominations (SR)

- a. Any participant at the eligible event under 5.1.a that did not qualify for nomination under 5.1.b.
- b. Athletes Projected WT Olympic Ranked top twenty-five (25) as determined following the published World Taekwondo [2023 Ranking Bylaw](#).
 - i. Top twenty-five (25) Projected WT Olympic Ranking is calculated by comparing an eligible athlete's point total to a benchmark standard utilizing WT's last published Olympic Ranking Points prior to the point reset in 2024 and applying Article 5 of the [2023 Ranking Bylaw](#) through to December 31st, 2024.
 - ii. The benchmark standard for each Olympic Weight Class is based on the average point totals within the division between January 1st, 2024 and May 1st, 2024, for the 25th Olympic Ranked athlete. Eligible athletes must have a calculated WT Olympic Weight Class point total as per 5.2.b.i. on December 31, 2024, that is *greater than* the respective Olympic Weight Class benchmark as outlined below:
 1. Women: W-49kg=148.11; W-57kg=150.92; W-67kg=138.54; W+67kg=148.54
 - Men: M-58kg=153.25; M-68kg=150.26; M-80kg=131.81; M+80kg=140.95
 - iii. The following priorities will be used to rank all athletes for nomination that have met the SR criteria as outlined under 5.2.a. and 5.2.b.:
 1. Best placing at the eligible event under 5.1.a.
 2. Best placing at the eligible event under 5.1.a *and* most points earned within the Carding cycle qualification period in respective WT Olympic Weight Class.
 3. Best placing at the eligible event under 5.1.a *and* most points earned within the Carding cycle qualification period in respective WT World Weight Class.
 4. Most points above the benchmark standard within the respective WT Olympic Weight Class as determined under 5.2.b.i.
 5. Most points above the benchmark standard within the respective WT Olympic Weight Class as determined under 5.2.b.i, *and* most points earned within the Carding cycle qualification period in respective WT Olympic Weight Class as determined under 5.2.b.i.
 6. Most points above the benchmark standard within the respective WT Olympic Weight Class as determined under 5.2.b.i, *and* most points earned within the Carding cycle qualification period in respective WT World Weight Class as determined under 5.2.b.i.

6. DEVELOPMENT CARD CRITERIA

- 6.1 The following priorities will be used to rank all athletes in priority order for Development Card nomination:
- a. Athletes finishing top three (3) in their respective WT Junior Weight Class at the 2024 World Taekwondo Junior Championships.
 - b. Athletes Projected WT Olympic Ranked top fifty (50) as determined following the published World Taekwondo [2023 Ranking Bylaw](#).
 - i. Top fifty (50) Projected WT Olympic Ranking is calculated by comparing an eligible athlete's point total to a benchmark standard utilizing WT's last published Olympic Ranking Points prior to the point reset in 2024 and applying Article 5 of the [2023 Ranking Bylaw](#) through to December 31st, 2024.
 - ii. The benchmark standard for each Olympic Weight Class is based on the average point totals within the division between January 1st, 2024 and May 1st, 2024, for the 50th Olympic Ranked athlete. Eligible athletes must have a calculated WT Olympic Weight Class point total as per 6.1.b. on December 31, 2024, that is *greater than* the respective Olympic Weight Class benchmark as outlined below:
 1. Women: W-49kg=94.67; W-57kg=86.17; W-67kg=89.30; W+67kg=60.71
 - Men: M-58kg=96.33; M-68kg=97.95; M-80kg=81.07; M+80kg=71.11

- iii. The following priorities will be used to rank all athletes for nomination that have met the Development criteria as outlined under 6.1.b.:
 1. Most points above the benchmark standard within the respective WT Olympic Weight Class as determined under 6.1.b.i.
 2. Most points above the benchmark standard within the respective WT Olympic Weight Class as determined under 6.1.b.i., *and* most points earned within the Carding cycle qualification period in respective WT Olympic Weight Class as determined under 6.1.b.
 3. Most points above the benchmark standard within the respective WT Olympic Weight Class as determined under 6.1.b.i., *and* most points earned within the Carding cycle qualification period in respective WT World Weight Class as determined under 6.1.b.
 - c. Any participant at the 2024 World Taekwondo Junior Championships not nominated under 6.1.a and finished top eight (8) *and* top half of field as categorized by WT Junior World Weight Classes.
 - i. Ranked by top performance at WT Open events.
 - ii. If there is still a tie, athletes will be iteratively ranked by their next top performances at WT Open events.
- 6.2 Once an athlete reaches senior age as defined in the WT regulations, they may only be eligible for a Development Card up to a maximum of four (4) years.
- 6.3 A senior age athlete previously Carded at the Senior level for more than two (2) years is no longer eligible for nomination at the Development level except if they were carded at the Development level when they were still of junior age.

7. HEALTH RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES

TC will consider nominating athletes for a Health Related Card (SRI) who meet the Sport Canada policy as published in Section 9: Health Related Circumstances of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>).

- 7.1 In order to be considered for nomination under health related circumstances, the athlete must meet the following requirements.
- a. The athlete was carded at the Senior Card level at the end of the previous Carding cycle.
 - b. It is the responsibility of the athlete to have duly notified TC by reporting any health related circumstance that significantly affected their ability to train at full capacity at any point in the Carding cycle by submitting the Health Related Circumstances Report available from TC. The report must have been submitted within fourteen (14) days of the date of the initial instance of the health related circumstance.
- 7.2 If TC nominates an athlete for a Health Related Card:
- a. The athlete nominated for a Health Related Card will be nominated at the same level at which they were carded at the end of the previous Carding cycle.
 - b. The Carded athlete undertakes in writing, to train or rehabilitate, or both, under the supervision of TC, or its designate, for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfil the training and competition commitments included in the 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.
 - c. The Carded athlete signifies in writing, their intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness, injury, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance.
 - d. The affected athlete provides a positive prognosis from a TC designated physician or equivalent for their return to training and competition at the Carded athlete level in their sport normally within 8 to 12 months.

- 7.3 Athletes receiving a Health Related Card must:
- a. Follow the Sport Canada policy as published in Section 9: Health Related Circumstances of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>).
 - b. Report as directed to the TC High Performance Director on their rehabilitation activity and progression.
- 7.4 Failure to report as directed may result in a recommendation to Sport Canada to withdraw Carding at the sole discretion of TC's High Performance Director.

8. CARDING REQUIREMENTS

The following shall apply to all athletes accepted to receive AAP Carding:

- 8.1 For each Carding cycle, all carded athletes must complete and submit all required documentation by the specified deadline in their Carding notification letter.
- 8.2 All Carded athletes shall be expected to attend to an appropriate standard of training suitable to progress their competitive standard.
- 8.3 All Carded athletes *and* their respective coaches will be required to submit a yearly training plan to TC by March 1st of the Carding cycle year.
- 8.4 All Carded athletes *and* their respective coaches will be expected to submit testing/monitoring data when requested by TC.
- 8.5 All Carded athletes and their respective coaches are required to attend Carded Athlete and Coach Meetings as determined by the TC High Performance Director.

9. APPROVAL OF SPORT CANADA AAP CARDS

All matters relating to the nomination of athletes for AAP Carding support are the sole authority of TC. TC will make decisions relating to the nomination of athletes to Sport Canada on the basis of the published TC AAP policies and criteria. Ultimately, the approval of nominations and the final decision on granting AAP Carding to individual athletes is made by Sport Canada.

10. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Further, situations may arise that do not allow the AAP criteria document to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional or unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including athlete nomination for AAP Carding support, will be made by Taekwondo Canada's High Performance Director, in accordance with the performance objectives and nomination principles as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Taekwondo Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

11. APPEALS PROCESS

Appeals of TC AAP nomination, re-nomination, and/or withdrawal for athlete Carding may be pursued through TC appeal policy (<https://taekwondo-canada.com/about-us/bylaws-policies/>). Appeals of AAP decisions may be pursued through the Sport Canada policy as published in Section 13: Appeals Policy of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program on the Government of Canada website (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>).