



**EQUESTRIAN  
CANADA  
ÉQUESTRE**

**SPORT CANADA  
ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
JUMPING CARDING CRITERIA**

2026-04-10



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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to describe the criteria that applies to the three Olympic disciplines that Equestrian Canada (EC) will use for nominating athletes to Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2027 carding cycle.
- 1.2. The purpose of the AAP is to identify and support Canadian athletes performing at or having the greatest potential to achieve top 8 results at Olympic Games and World Championships (World Equestrian Games).
- 1.3. The nomination of athletes to the AAP is the responsibility of EC. Sport Canada is responsible for the final approval of nominations to the AAP.
- 1.4. Sport Canada's general policies and procedures governing AAP can be found on the Sport Canada website at [here](#). This includes all information pertaining to the establishment and application of criteria used by EC on the recommendations for the AAP.

## 2. General

- 2.1 Support under the AAP is only available to athletes who have executed a current EC Athlete Agreement and who meet the criteria set out below.
- 2.2 There are a number of grounds for the withdrawal of funding from a Carded athlete. These include voluntary withdrawal, withdrawal due to lack of participation and withdrawal for violation of agreement. Detailed information concerning grounds for withdrawal of funding is contained in the Sport Canada AAP Policy and Procedures document.
- 2.3 In addition to the regular stipend, other forms of financial assistance may be available through the AAP to both current and retired Carded athletes. These include tuition support (including support for Coach Certification cost) and supplementary supports (including Child Care support). Athletes should refer to Section 8 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy and Procedures document for further information.
- 2.4 The 2027 carding cycle for EC is from January 1st to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027.
- 2.5 Once approved, athletes must sign and return the annual EC Athlete Agreement, AAP Application form, and competitive program plan to the EC office, and complete the required CCES online training courses, in order for Sport Canada to release any funds.

## 3. Number and Types of Cards

- 3.1 There are three general types of Cards: International Senior Cards; National Senior Cards; and Development Cards. Value of Cards:
  - SR1: Year one of a two-year International Senior Card (\$2,175 per month)
  - SR2: Year two of a two-year International Senior Card (\$2,175 per month)
  - SR: National Senior Card level (\$2,175 per month)
  - D: Development Card level (\$1,305 per month)



- 3.2 The current AAP allocation for Jumping is \$104,400. Sport Canada regularly revises its carding allocation, so this amount is subject to change. With the \$104,400, EC will allocate up to four (4) Senior (SR1, SR2, SR) Cards for the carding cycle.

Note: Athletes will be nominated for AAP funding based on the National Team Program A & B Squad Lists in descending order starting with Squad A until all cards are exhausted.

### 3.3 Reallocation of Funding

#### Within Discipline

- 3.3.1 Notwithstanding the number of cards indicated in section 3.2, should a discipline have funding available that equals the equivalent of four or more months in carding funds, those funds will be reallocated within the same discipline to the next ranked eligible athlete(s) nominated for carding. The first priority is to issue the funds to an eligible Senior (SR) Card athlete(s). If, however, there are not enough funds available for the Senior level or there are no eligible athlete(s) at the Senior level, the funds will instead be issued to the next ranked eligible Development level athlete(s). This funding will be reallocated in the form of a partial card.

#### Other Disciplines

- 3.3.2 Should a discipline be unable to allocate the full financial value of its AAP Carding, those funds will be combined with funds from other disciplines that are also unable to allocate the full financial value of their AAP Carding for reallocation as outlined in this section.
- 3.3.3 Reallocated funds for the 2027 calendar year will be awarded to the discipline that has the best team performance score at the 2026 World Championships. The team performance score is calculated by taking the discipline's final team placing divided by the number of team entries at the (WC). The discipline with the lowest score after applying this formula earns the reallocated funds.
- 3.3.4 A discipline without a team does not earn a score.
- 3.3.5 In the event of a tie in team performance scores, the discipline with the highest average individual placing will earn the reallocated funds.
- 3.3.6 In the event that no discipline earns a team performance score, the discipline with the highest average individual placing will earn the reallocated funds.
- 3.3.7 Should the discipline to which the reallocated funds is awarded be without an athlete qualified as per their individual criteria to receive the reallocated funds, the discipline with the 2nd best team performance score at the WC will be substituted followed by the discipline with the 3rd best team performance score and followed by the discipline with the 4th best team performance score.



## 4. Prioritization of Carding Nominations

- 4.1 The annual funding allocations are prioritized as per the criteria below until funding is exhausted.
1. Athletes who meet the International Senior (SR1/SR2) card criteria
  2. Athletes who meet the National Senior (SR) card criteria
  3. Athletes who meet the Development level card (D) criteria
  4. Athletes who were carded in the prior funding year, but fail to meet renewal criteria for health-related reasons

## 5. Maximum number of years of AAP Support

- 5.1 An Athlete that has been carded at the Senior International (SR1/SR2) or National Senior (SR) level cumulatively for a period of 10 years will no longer be eligible for further AAP Funding.
- 5.2 An athlete is eligible to be carded for a maximum of five (5) cumulative years at the Development (D) Card level. In order to be nominated beyond five years, the athlete must demonstrate a clear progression to the National Senior (SR) Card level that is validated through the achievement of specific performance benchmarks established and evaluated by EC. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the Athlete is nominated under the development criteria.
- 5.3 Development (D) Cards cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card (SR, SR1, SR2) level for more than two (2) carding cycles.

## 6. Health Related Circumstances and AAP

### 6.1 Curtailment of Training (Short-Term and Long Term)

An AAP funded athlete who needs to modify or discontinue training and competition due to injury, illness or pregnancy during the carding year, may continue to receive funding based on the following:

#### 6.1.1 Short-term Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons

Carded athletes so affected will continue to receive AAP financial support, provided that the health-related circumstances that limit a carded athlete's training and competition are four months or fewer and the information and recovery plan have been submitted to EC.

#### 6.1.2 Long-term Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons

Carded athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for longer than four months because of injury, illness or pregnancy 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 EC, or its designate, for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfil the training and competition commitments included in the Elite 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 illness, injury, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance;
- The affected athlete provides a positive prognosis from the EC team physician or equivalent for their return to training and competition at the carded-athlete level in their sport normally within 8 to 12 months.

**NOTE This section has already been translated for Dressage and/or Eventing Criteria**

## **6.2 Health Related Circumstances and Pregnancy**

### *6.2.1 Health Cards Related to Pregnancy*

Equestrian Canada will consider nominating an athlete who was carded at the SR level for the in the prior season for a Health Related Card due to Pregnancy if:

- The athlete has been tracking towards the carding performances up until the time of performance limitation due to pregnancy or birth, and the performances comply with and meet the standards as published in Appendix 1 section 10 and 11 Senior International and Senior Card criteria as determined by the High Performance Advisory Group.
- The athlete provides a confirmation that their intent is to return to training and competition when medically appropriate.

Additional Information Related to Health Cards Related to Pregnancy Sport Canada.

The AAP will, on a case-by-case basis, support NSO sport disciplines with an assigned AAP quota who recommend an athlete for a health card specifically related to pregnancy at the Senior (SR) level, and which have a priority for health-related circumstances in their sport specific criteria for SR level athletes, but who do not have the quota space to be able to card that athlete in their priority order for the upcoming carding cycle.

The AAP will support a NSO with a health card related to pregnancy at the SR level over and above the NSO's quota of cards if an athlete meets the conditions as outlined above and is nominated by their NSO. The AAP may consider allocating a second cycle of a health card related to pregnancy under this section should the achievement of a nomination under the sport-specific AAP criteria not be met due to ongoing health circumstances related to the pregnancy and/or birth of the child, and the NSO nominates the athlete based on the principles and conditions as outlined above.



If, after two cycles of a health-related card due to pregnancy, the athlete is not able to meet the sport-specific AAP criteria, the athlete will be decarded and will be required to meet the sport-specific standards for the following cycle.

Other considerations:

- A health card that is designated for pregnancy will not count against sport specific policies around restrictions to the number of years carded for health-related circumstances at SRH or the number of consecutive years carded for health-related circumstances at SRH;
- An athlete who is supported under section 9.1.4 of the Sport Canada AAP policy, and who has most recently been carded at the SR1 level, may be carded at the SRH level rather than the SR2 level for that cycle;
- It must be clear for a nomination for a health card related to pregnancy that the athlete was tracking towards meeting the criteria and the program commitments but was unable to due directly to their pregnancy;
- The nomination for a health card related to pregnancy through the AAP supported quota per section 9.1.3 and 9.1.4 must come from and be supported by the Equestrian Canada like all other nominations and be monitored in compliance with Section 9 of the Sport Canada AAP policy.

### **6.2.2 Health Related Carding**

A carded 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 upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:

- There are sufficient dollars available when following the priority of nominations as per section 4
- The carded athlete has fulfilled 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 is continuing a rehabilitation program approved by EC;
- In the view of EC, the carded athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to the injury, illness, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance;
- EC, based on its technical judgement and that of a EC team physician or equivalent, indicates in writing the expectation that the carded athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period;
- The carded athlete has demonstrated and continues 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.
- Athletes will be ranked under this priority in the order in which they were nominated for carding in the previous carding cycle and may be funded until all funds are exhausted.



See <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html> Section 9.

## 7. Athlete/Horse Separation

- 7.1 A carded athlete who loses the ride on an international level horse for whatever reason will have 90 days to present a new competitive partnership plan which meets the performance benchmarks approved by EC. If a competitive partnership has not been established after 90 days EC may recommend the withdrawal of the athlete's carded status to Sport Canada due to the fact that the athlete is unable to continue to train and follow a training program outlined in section 8.2, approved by EC with other international horses at the equivalent level.
- 7.2 An athlete who meets the criteria but does not have an international level horse at the time of nomination for the next carding cycle may be eligible to receive a card based on their previous performances and benchmarks. However, if awarded a card, they must present a competitive partnership within 90 days following the beginning of the new carding cycle with an international level horse based on performance benchmarks approved by EC. If a new partnership is not achieved within 90 days and/or the partnership does not meet the performance benchmarks specified at the beginning of the carding cycle, the card may be withdrawn and redistributed.
- 7.3 It is the responsibility of EC to take the appropriate action with the athlete and inform Sport Canada in a timely manner if a competitive partnership cannot be achieved. In these cases Sport Canada Policies and Procedures would apply regarding the nomination of the athlete for "Replacement" carding.

## 8. Carding Maintenance Eligibility

- 8.1 The following is the minimum eligibility requirements for AAP support:
  - 8.1.1 To be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, an athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the beginning of the carding cycle for which 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.
  - 8.1.2 A nominated athlete must form a combination of athlete and international level horse during the carding cycle and be actively competing at the international level and participating in the national team program.
  - 8.1.3 If the carding status of an athlete is withdrawn during the carding cycle, the remaining card may be offered to the next eligible athlete, as per section 3.3 Reallocation of Funding.



- 8.2 In order to maintain eligibility for AAP support a carded athlete must:
- 8.2.1 Attend and participate in all scheduled activities of the national team program, unless excused by EC (e.g. once invited an athlete must attend a camp, event or training session and participate in all performance analysis monitoring programs).
  - 8.2.2 Senior (SR1/SR2/SR) Card athletes - must have an international level horse, have indicated a commitment to work within the national team program under the supervision of the Discipline Technical Advisor and Discipline Manager, be actively competing at the international (FEI) competitions during the carding cycle, and be available to participate in Major Games/Championships if selected.
  - 8.2.3 Development (D) Card athletes – must have an international level horse, be involved in a year round training program that is supervised and monitored by the Discipline Technical Advisor and Discipline Manager, and must be actively competing at the international competitions during the carding cycle.
  - 8.2.4 If a carded athlete is unable to enter into or maintain the terms of the EC Athlete Agreement, then EC can recommend to Sport Canada to initiate the process to de-card the athlete for the remainder of the carding cycle.

## 9. Appeals

- 9.1 Appeals of EC's AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of EC's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through the EC Discipline, Complaints, and Appeals Policy, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC).

Appeals of AAP Decision made under Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures Section 6 (Application for and Approval of Cards) or Section 11 (Withdrawal of Carding Status) may be pursued through Section 13 of the AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines [here](#)

[When there are issues of interpretation of the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Jumping Carding Criteria, the English and French versions are equally authoritative and must be read together in order to determine the intended meaning.](#)



# APPENDIX 1:

## JUMPING SPECIFIC CARDING CRITERIA

### 10. International Senior Cards (SR1/SR2)

10.1 Priority #1: Athletes who meet the Sport Canada International Senior Carding Criteria described below will be eligible to be nominated for a SR1/SR2 card.

<b>In World Championships and Olympic Games years (SR1/SR2)</b>	
In the team event	Top 8 and top ½ of field at the World Championships or Olympic Games
In the individual event	Top 8 and top ½ of field at the World Championships or Olympic Games. Counting a maximum of 3 entries/country.

10.2 Athletes that qualify for carding under the International Senior Card criteria are usually eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as an SR1 Card and the card for the second year referred to as an SR2 Card. In all EC programs, the second year is subject to the athlete meeting the Senior Card criteria in order to be re-nominated in year 2 (SR2).

10.3 If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the International Senior (SR1/SR2) Card criteria, the athletes with the highest placing at the World Championships or Olympic Games will be rank higher and in sequence. Should the number of eligible athletes still exceed the number of cards available, the athletes will be nominated in the order in which they appear on the FEI World Rider Ranking as of November 30, 2026.

### 11. National Senior Cards (SR)

11.2 If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the National Senior (SR) Card criteria, the athletes will be nominated in the priority order listed below. Should the number of eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the athletes will be nominated in the order in which they were named to the National Team Program A then B Squads until all available cards are exhausted.

11.2 Priority #2: Eligible athletes will be nominated for a National Senior (SR) Card in the following priority order:

11.3 Priority Order of National Team Program A Squad Athletes  
For purposes of naming athletes in priority order, the list of athletes will be ranked by highest % of usable scores (4 faults or less) with a minimum of 10 rounds.



#### 11.4 National Team Program (NTP) A Squad Performance Criteria

The horse/athlete must maintain a minimum of 60%  $\leq$  4 faults rate in FEI 1.55M - 1.60m or above with a minimum of 10 rounds within one calendar year for the A Squad eligibility.

11.5 Only rounds at 1.55M/1.60M and above count as number of rounds jumped towards NTP A Squad eligibility.

11.6 National Senior (SR) Cards support athletes showing potential to reach International Senior Card status.

11.7 Following the maximum number of years, Athletes are expected to make progress in their results in order to maintain National Senior (SR) Card status, as outlined in Section 5.

11.8 National Senior (SR) Cards are awarded for one carding cycle (one year).

11.9 Athletes eligible under the National Senior (SR) Card criteria are funded at the SR Card level in the first year they meet the National Senior (SR) Card criteria. If, however, the athlete has been carded at the International Senior (SR1/SR2) Card level or was a member of the Olympic/World Championship team before meeting the National Senior (SR) Card criteria, the athlete will be funded at the SR level.

## 12. Development Cards (D)

If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Development (D) Card criteria, the athletes will be nominated in the priority order listed below. Should the number of eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the athletes will be nominated in the order in which they were named to the National Team Program A then B Squads until all available cards are exhausted.

12.1 Priority #3: Eligible athletes will be nominated for a Development (D) Card in the following priority order:

#### 12.2 Priority Order of National Team Program B Squad Athletes

For purposes of naming athletes in priority order, the list of athletes will be ranked by highest % of usable scores (4 faults or less) with a minimum of 10 rounds.

#### 12.3 National Team Program B Squad Performance Criteria

The horse/athlete must maintain a minimum of 60%  $\leq$  4 faults rate in FEI 1.50m with a minimum of 10 rounds within one calendar year for the B Squad eligibility.

12.4 Rounds at 1.50M or above count as number of rounds jumped towards the B Squad eligibility. The Grand Prix at 2\* competitions will count towards the B Squad eligibility.

12.5 Should the number of eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available athletes will be nominated in the order in which they were named to the National Team Program B Squad.

12.6 Development (D) Cards are awarded to athletes on the basis of International results.



12.7 Development (D) Cards are intended to support the developmental needs of athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the International Senior Card criteria but are not yet able to meet the National Senior (SR) Card criteria.

12.8 Development (D) Cards are awarded for one carding cycle (one year)

12.9 Subject to any remaining funds following priorities #1, 2. And 3, the value of these funds will be redistributed based on the criteria outlined in Section 3.3 Reallocation of Funding.



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