



**AAP CARDING CRITERIA
FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2021 CARDING CYCLE**

**Approved by the Board of Directors
October 15, 2020**

SPORT CANADA CARDING – ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Description and Program Objectives:

The main goal of the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is to contribute to the improvement of Canadian performances at major international sporting events such as World Championships. To this end, the AAP identifies and supports athletes already at or on course to be in the Top 16 in the world individually or Top 8 as a team.

AAP is a program of the Federal Government administered by Sport Canada. It is more commonly referred to as “Carding”. The AAP is designed to give Canada’s top athletes direct financial assistance and tuition support, which enables them to better prepare themselves to represent Canada at the highest possible level internationally. The intention of this funding is as a living and training subsidy and not intended to be the Athletes sole source of income.

Squash Canada will nominate players annually (based on the enclosed criteria) for direct funding by Sport Canada. Nominated athletes will receive support in the form of a monthly payment from Sport Canada that goes directly to the players. Players being nominated at the Senior International and Senior Domestic levels will receive 12 months’ worth of support. Players being nominated at the Development card level may receive fewer than 12 months of support, depending on the available quota remaining after the assignment of Senior cards.

For more information on the AAP policies and procedures please consult the Sport Canada website

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

Person Responsible for Nominating Players for AAP Support:

Jamie Nicholls – Director of Athlete Development, Squash Canada

Tuition and Deferred Tuition Support:

For information on tuition and deferred tuition support please refer to Section 8 of the AAP policies, procedures and guidelines.

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

Accepting or Declining AAP:

Athletes with annual income after sport expenses of \$50,000 or more may decline AAP financial support.

If an athlete **declines** carding as extended by Squash Canada under the carding criteria, the card will go to the next athlete that meets the criteria of the gender that declined the card. Declining AAP support for one year does not preclude the athlete from future funding and the athlete retains the recognition as a “carded” athlete within Squash Canada based on the level at which they qualify, provided they complete the Sport Canada requirements (Application form, signed athlete agreement and completed CCES modules).

Application:

Athletes who are nominated for carding and accepted by Sport Canada will be required to submit a Carding application and fulfill other Sport Canada requirements. This usually occurs in mid to late December. **It is the Athletes’ sole responsibility to submit their information. Failure to provide the necessary materials may render the athlete ineligible for carding status.**

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

Minimum requirements for athletes to qualify for AAP are:

- The athlete must be a **permanent resident of Canada** (as defined by Citizenship and Immigration Canada) on the date of the beginning of the carding cycle, and the athlete shall have been a legal resident in Canada (student status, refugee status, work visa or permanent resident) for a minimum period of one year before being considered for AAP support. The athlete would normally be expected to have participated in NSO sanctioned programs during that time period.
- The athlete, under the eligibility requirements of the sport’s International Federation (IF), must currently **be eligible to represent Canada** at major international events including World Championships.

- Athletes must meet the carding criteria as a member of a Canadian Team, at international events or in domestic event or events sanctioned by the NSO for such purposes
- Be a member in good standing with their respective provincial/territorial squash association.
- Sign Squash Canada’s current Athlete Agreement.
- Complete and return the necessary documentation for AAP Carding including: Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program – Application and Declaration to Accept/Decline AAP Financial Support; Annual training plan for carding year; competitive schedule for the carding year; competitive results from the current year (2020).

Allocation of Squash Canada Carding Levels:

Based on the parameters of Sport Canada’s policies and carding quota, Squash Canada is currently eligible to receive a maximum of four (4) Senior Cards (SR1 / SR2, SR, C1 and/or their D card equivalents) for the 2021 carding cycle. ***This quota number is subject to change at any time by Sport Canada.*** Sport Canada guidelines stipulate that Senior Card(s) may be converted into Development (D) cards.

Squash Canada’s card quota for the 2021 carding cycle is \$84,720 (the equivalent of 4 senior cards). The criteria for the distribution of these cards are listed below. The equivalent of 4 months of carding support must be available to nominate an additional athlete for the AAP.

★ International Senior (SR1 / SR2), Senior (SR cards)	\$1,765/month
★ Developmental (C1, D card)	\$1,060/month

The four-month COVID-19 emergency carding support that was extended to previously un-carded athletes in 2020 is not available in 2021.

Senior Domestic Cards based on national criteria are normally awarded for one year and are called SR or C1 Cards. Athletes who meet the criteria for Senior Domestic Cards for the first time are awarded C1 Cards and are funded at the Development Card level. C1 carded athletes are funded at the Development Card level in the first year they meet the national criteria for a Senior Card even if they have previously been carded at the Development (D) level. If, however, an athlete has met the Senior International Card (SR1/SR2) criteria before meeting the Senior Domestic Card criteria for the first time, the athlete will be funded at the Senior Card (SR) level rather than at the Development Card level.

Carding Cycle:

Squash Canada’s carding cycle runs January 1st – December 31st yearly.

For Additional Information:

Jamie Nicholls, Squash Canada
 Tel: (416) 880-1854
 Email: jamie.nicholls@squash.ca

CARDING CRITERIA

The global coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in 2020 has impacted the ‘normal’ criteria that are used to determine carding. Considering that

1. The 2020 Women’s World Team Championship, originally scheduled for December 15-21, 2020, results at which would normally be the #1 carding criterion, has been indefinitely postponed;
2. The Professional Squash Association suspended all World Tour events effective March 17, 2020 through to mid-September 2020, and has only resumed with a very limited number of events through to the end of 2021, which have a very restricted field, and because of travel restrictions, offers very limited opportunity for Canadian athletes to participate;

3. World Rankings, which are based upon the Professional Squash Association World Tour events, which are normally a primary Senior (SR) carding criterion, have been frozen since April 1, 2020;
4. The following competitions, results from which are criteria for Senior and Development Cards, were canceled;
 - 2020 Pan Am Championships
 - World Junior Championships
 - Canadian Squash Championships
 - Canadian Junior Championships
 - Pan American Junior Championships
 - Canadian Junior Open
 - United States Junior Open
 - Dutch Junior Open
 - Cologne Junior Open
5. Squash facilities in Canada were closed for four plus months, and upon opening placed severe restrictions on training activities, and as at October 1, restrictions still do not yet permit sanctioned competitions to occur in the country.

it is resolved that a fair and reasonably complete evaluation of athletes is not possible in advance of January 1, 2021.

Consequently, providing they continue to meet carding eligibility requirements, the same five athletes that received an SR1 / SR2, SR, C1 or D card in 2020, will have the same card rolled over to 2021.

For purposes of clarification, this does not apply to the athletes that received four months of COVID-19 emergency carding support in 2020.

Future Carding Eligibility

The 'normal' Squash Canada carding criteria placed limitations on the number of years at which an athlete may be carded at a D level. For example:

- *“Athletes who have graduated from the U19 age category and have competed for **5 years or less** on the PSA tour.*
- *Normally, a Development card cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at the Senior card levels (SR1, SR2, SR, C1) for more than **2 years**, except if the athlete was still eligible to compete at junior international level when carded at the Senior card levels.*
- *Athletes previously carded at the SR level (including SR injury) for **3 years or more are not eligible for D Cards.**”*

Due to the limited opportunity to compete in 2020 due to COVID-19, 2020 shall not count as a year of eligibility for such cards in the future.