



**AAP CARDING CRITERIA
FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2024-25
CARDING CYCLE**

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 in their first year at the Senior level and players 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:

–*Manager 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

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 will now occur in late May/early June. **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 past 12 months (2023-2024).

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 and/or their D card equivalents) for the 2024-25 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 2024-25 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 (D card)	\$1,060/month

Senior Domestic Cards based on national criteria are normally awarded for one year and are called SR Cards.

Squash Canada will nominate a minimum of **2 males and 2 females** who are eligible for the Senior Cards (SR1 / SR2, SR). If there are not enough athletes from one gender meeting the Senior Card criteria, Squash Canada will re-allocate a maximum of one (1) card to the other gender provided there are eligible athletes meeting the criteria. If there is a quota left after the application of the Senior Domestic Card (SR) criteria, it may be used to nominate eligible athlete(s) who met the Domestic Development Card Criteria in the below order:

Carding Cycle:

The carding cycle has changed to July 1st – June 30th yearly (from previous cycle of January 1st – December 31st yearly).

Priority for Senior Carding:

1. Athletes eligible under the International Senior Carding criteria (SR1/SR2)
2. Athletes eligible under the Domestic Senior Card Criteria (SR) – Priority #1
3. Athletes carded the previous year that meet the Injury Card Criteria – Priority #1
4. Athletes carded the previous year that meet the Injury Card Criteria – Priority #2 (As long as athlete was ranked 35 or better PSA Women and 75 or better PSA Men prior to injury declaration.)
5. Athletes eligible under the Domestic Senior Card Criteria (SR) – Priority #2
6. Athletes carded the previous year that meet the Injury Card Criteria – Priority #3 (As long as the athlete was ranked 40 or better PSA Women and 80 or better PSA Men prior to injury declaration.)
7. Athletes eligible under the Domestic Senior Card Criteria (SR) – Priority #3
8. Athlete eligible under the Development Carding Criteria (D) – Priority #1
9. Athlete eligible under the Development Carding Criteria (D) – Priority #2
10. Athletes eligible under the Development Carding Criteria (D) – Priority #3

For Additional Information:

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SENIOR CARDING CRITERIA

Senior Card Eligibility Requirement:

To be eligible for carding consideration for senior level carding, an athlete **MUST** be a member of Squash Canada's Senior National or NextGen Squads.

Once an athlete has been carded at the senior level, he/she ***must participate in a minimum of 11 PSA events in the 12 months they are carded in order to qualify for a senior card (SR) the next year.*** Squash Canada will count participation at international events (Commonwealth Games, World Doubles Championships (softball), World Games, Pan Am Games, Pan American Championships,

World University Championships, or other international events Squash Canada participates in) as an event played for carding purposes. The number of events played will be based on the 12-month carding year (July-June) and not the Squash Canada season (Sept- May).

Note: The 6 months January 1st to June 30th 2024 carding cycle will require less participation than 11 PSA events in the six months carded. Only 5 PSA events will be required in the 6-month carding period. Following this, the July 1st 2024 to June 30th 2025 cycle and onward will base the number of events played July 1st - June 30th as per the criteria in the previous paragraph.

1. Senior International Card Criteria (SR1/SR2)

Squash Canada athletes are treated on the basis of their team results at World Team Championships. Athletes must have competed in the team competition to be considered for SR1/SR2 carding. World Team Championship occurs each year, alternating between men and women. Athletes are eligible for International Senior SR1 / SR2 under the following criteria:

Men and Women

SR1/SR2 Criteria: A Top 8 Finish and Top ½ of the field at the 2024 World Team Championships (Men's and Women's events being held simultaneously)

Note: A maximum of two athletes on each gender team will be awarded a Senior International (SR1/SR2) card prioritized based on the best PSA 12-month average (July 1, 2024 – June 1, 2025), using only the first ranking of each month, and if tied, by the best order of finish at the most recent Canadian Squash Championships 'Open' Division.

Athletes who meet the senior international criteria are eligible to be nominated for carding for two consecutive years, with the card for the first year referred to as SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2.

- The second year of carding is subject to the athlete meeting their PSA 6-month ranking average (Jan 1st – Jun 1st preceding) as per their progressive yearly indicator (see Senior Domestic card criteria priority 2), **OR**;
- Finish in the top 16 at the most recent World (Individual) Championships, **OR**;
- Finish in top 8 at a PSA World Series Gold/Platinum Event within the preceding 12 months.
- Being re-nominated by Squash Canada and a training and competitive program approved by Squash Canada and Sport Canada being maintained.

Note: There will be no women's SR2 cards available for the July 2024-June 2025 cycle due to the fact that there were two carding periods since the 2022 Women's World Team Championship. However, the most recent 6-month carding cycle does not count towards the athlete's progressive yearly indicator.

2. Senior Domestic Card Criteria

Domestic Senior Cards are intended to support athletes with demonstrated potential to reach International Senior Card status. Athletes meeting the Domestic Senior Card criteria will be carded at the Domestic Senior Card (SR) level.

The remaining number of Senior Domestic Cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the following priority:

Priority #1:

To support the transition from a January to December cycle into the new July to June cycle, athletes currently carded under the SR2 category will be prioritized for nomination for an SR card if they achieve the progressive yearly indicators set forth by the progressive senior development chart below. The PSA ranking indicators are 12-month averages from July 1, 2023 – June 1, 2024, using only the first ranking of each month.

OR

Canadian male athletes with a 12-month average of **75** PSA ranking or better (July 1, 2023 – June 1, 2024), using only the first ranking of each month, and Canadian female athletes with a 12-month average of **35** PSA ranking or better (July 1, 2023 – June 1, 2024), using only the first ranking of each month.

OR

Achieve a Top 16 finish at the most recent World Individual Championship

OR

Top 8 finish at a PSA World Series Gold event or PSA World Series Platinum/Gold event within the preceding 12 months

Tiebreaker: If more athletes meet the above criteria than cards available, the athletes will be prioritized based on the athletes with the best PSA 12-month average (July 1, 2023– June 1, 2024), using only the first ranking of each month, and if still tied, by the athletes with the best order of finish at the most recent World Championship.

Priority #2:

Athletes who achieve the progressive yearly indicators set forth by the progressive senior development chart below will be eligible for nomination for a SR card. The PSA ranking indicators are 12-month averages from July 1, 2023 – June 1, 2024, using only the first ranking of each month.

PROGRESSIVE SENIOR DEVELOPMENT CHART

	PSA Men’s ranking	PSA Women’s Ranking
1	120 or better	80 or better
2	110 or better	70 or better
3	100 or better	60 or better
4	90 or better	50 or better
5	80 or better	40 or better
6 or more years	75 or better, or Meet Senior International Criteria or Senior Domestic Priority 1 Criteria	35 or better, or Meet Senior International Criteria or Senior Domestic Priority 1 Criteria

NOTE(S):

- ***The year of carding as an injury carded athlete does not count toward the Progressive Senior Development Chart stipulated under the Domestic Senior Card criteria (SR).***
- ***Carding received from January-June 2024 does not count as a year on the progressive senior development chart.***
- The Year of Carding refers to the Year they are entering, not the previous number of years carded. Therefore, if this is their first year of carding, the athlete must achieve at least the year 1 standard (i.e.: Men 120 or better & women 80 or better). To be eligible for a second year of carding under this priority the athlete must achieve at least the year 2 standard, etc.

Tiebreaker(s) – the following tie break will be used for priority #2:

1. If multiple athletes meet the same priority level and have the same 12-month average, using only the first ranking of each month, the athlete with the highest ranking on June 1, 2024 will be awarded the card, and if a tie still exists, by the order of finish at the most recent Canadian Squash Championships ‘Open’ Division.

Other Senior Carding Notes:

1. Only whole numbers will be used for ranking averages. All decimal points will be rounded down to the whole number. For example, 90.1 and 90.9 will both be rounded down to 90.
2. Athletes who participate for Canada at international events will receive credit towards their 12-month PSA ranking in order to offset any PSA points potentially lost due to missing a PSA event while competing for Canada at an international event. Credit towards an athlete’s 12-month PSA ranking will be assigned using the International Events Ranking Credits chart that can found in **Appendix 1.0**. The credit received for participation in international events will be applied after all international events have been played for the year and after the publishing of the June 1st, 2024 PSA rankings. The credits applied to an athlete will only be good for the current carding cycle and will not carry over to subsequent years.

3. DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT CARD (D)

Domestic Development (D) Cards are intended to support the development needs of developing athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve Senior International Card Status. There will be two types of athletes who can access Domestic Development (D) Cards:

1. Athletes who have graduated from the U19 age category and have competed for **5 years or less** on the PSA tour.
2. Junior age eligible athletes (Under the age of 19 as specified by the World Squash Federation rules defining U19 players) during the year they are considered for carding. Junior eligible athletes must have participated as a junior athlete during the 12 months applicable for carding (2023-24).

CARDING ALLOCATION

In the event the full annual carding amount has not been allocated via SR1 / SR2, SR cards, the remaining number of cards or carding amounts shall be determined using Domestic Development (D) Card criteria below.

Generally, athletes are nominated for Domestic Development (D) Cards for the full carding period. However, given that Sport Canada has provided Squash Canada with a carding allocation of \$84,720 for 2024-25, it is Squash Canada’s objective to nominate developmental athletes for D Cards so as to maximize this allocation. Consequently, Squash Canada may nominate athletes for D Cards for less than the maximum number of months in the carding period, so long as the carding support to any one athlete is no less than four (4) months.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT CARDS:

To be eligible the athlete must have:

- Participated in the most recent Canadian Junior Championships in either U17 or U19 division or at the most recent Canadian Senior National Championships, ‘Open’ division;
- Been named to the most recent season’s Senior National Squad, NextGen or National Junior Squads.
- Normally, a Development card cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at the Senior card levels (SR1, SR2, SR) 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.

NOTES:

1. Athletes previously carded at the SR level (including SR injury) for **3 years or more are not eligible for D Cards**.
2. Domestic Development Cards (priorities 1 – 3) will not be allocated based on gender; the athletes meeting the highest priorities will be nominated for carding regardless of gender. Please refer to the **Domestic Development Card Tiebreaking section**.
3. Junior eligible athletes **must normally earn a minimum of 16 points** from the chart in **Appendix 2.0** in the year of carding consideration, Priority #3.

Maximum Number of Years Carded at the ‘D’ Level

Once an athlete has graduated from the U19 age category he/she can only be carded a maximum of three (3) years at the D level after which the athlete is expected to meet the Senior Carding Criteria. There is no maximum number of years for junior age athletes.

3.1 Post U19 Age Category Card Criteria

In addition to meeting the yearly progressive domestic chart indicator below, an athlete who has graduated the U19 age category **must** win a **minimum of 3 main draw matches** at PSA 10k or higher tournaments to be considered for carding.

DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT CHART

<i>Level of Carding</i>	<i>PSA (men)</i>	<i>PSA (women)</i>	<i>Evaluation Methodology</i>
D (1 st year)	160 or better	110 or better	Players must achieve ranking indicator based on a 4-month average ranking (Feb 1, 2024 – Jun 1, 2024), using only the first ranking of each applicable month
D (2 nd year)	140 or better	90 or better	Players must achieve ranking indicator based on a 12-month average (Jul 1, 2023 – Jun 1, 2024), using only the first ranking of each applicable month
D (3 rd year)	120 or better	70 or better	Players must achieve ranking indicator based on a 12-month average (Jul 1, 2023 – Jun 1, 2024), using only the first ranking of each applicable month

NOTE: Carding received from January-June 2024 does not count as a year on the developmental progressive development chart.

Priority #1 – Senior National Squad Athletes

Eligible athletes, members of the Senior National Squad (only), who have reached their respective Progressive Development Criteria and **win a minimum of 3 main draw matches** at PSA 10k or higher tournaments to be considered for carding

Tiebreaker: If there is more than one eligible athlete meeting Priority #1, then priority will be given to the athlete who had the best order of finish at the most recent Canadian Squash Championships 'Open' Division. If multiple athletes in either gender have the same order of finish, then the athlete with the highest PSA ranking on June 1, 2024, using only the first ranking of each applicable month will be prioritized.

Priority #2 – NextGen Squad Athletes

Eligible NextGen Squad athletes, who have reached their respective Progressive Development Criteria and **win a minimum of 3 main draw matches** at PSA 10k or higher tournaments to be considered for carding.

Tiebreaker: If there is more than one eligible athlete in Priority #2, then priority will be given to the athlete who had the best order of finish at the most recent Canadian Squash Championships 'Open' Division. If multiple athletes in either gender have the same order of finish, then the athlete with the highest PSA ranking on June 1, 2024 will be prioritized.

3.2 Junior Development Card Criteria

Priority #3 – Junior Eligible Athletes

Junior Eligible athletes must normally earn a minimum of 16 points in **Appendix 2.0** to be considered for carding nomination.

Eligible junior athletes are ranked for Domestic Development (D) card status based on the total points accumulated through the Development Carding Table for junior eligible athletes as indicated in **Appendix 2.0**. The athlete with the highest score is ranked higher.

Tiebreakers: If there is more than one eligible athlete meeting Priority #3 (Junior Eligible Athletes), priority will be given to the athletes in the following order:

- a) The athlete(s) who achieve the highest number of points in **Appendix 2.0**
- b) If more than one athlete achieves the same number of points in **Appendix 2.0**, priority will be given to the athlete with the best order of finish at the most recent Canadian Junior Championships
- c) In the event that more than one athlete has the same order of finish at the most recent Canadian Junior Championships, the tie will be broken by the athlete with the highest Canadian senior ranking; if still tied then,
- d) The athlete(s) with the best order of finish at the most recent Canadian Squash Championships 'Open' Division

INJURY CARD PROVISION

A player carded the previous year at the senior card level (SR1, SR2, SR and D) will be considered for carding if injury, illness or pregnancy prevents him/her from meeting the carding criteria. The requirements of Sport Canada's policy on the "Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health Related Reasons" must be met in order for a player to be nominated as an "injury card". Injury cards will only be granted for a maximum of **one carding cycle**. The year of carding as an injury carded athlete does not count toward the Progressive Yearly Indicator chart stipulated under the Domestic Senior Card criteria (SR) above.

In the event that multiple athletes apply for an injury card and there are not sufficient cards available, the following priority will be utilized to determine injury card(s):

Priority #1 - Athletes who were carded at the International Senior Carding level (SR1) during the previous carding cycle.

Priority #2 - Athletes who were carded at the International Senior Carding level (SR2) during the previous carding cycle.

Priority #3 – Athletes who were carded at the Domestic Senior level (SR) during the previous carding cycle (As long as athlete was ranked Top 35 PSA Women and Top 75 PSA Men prior to injury declaration). **Note: the 6-month carding cycle does not count as a "previous carding cycle", therefore athletes who received an injury card from January 2024-June 2024 may re-apply for an injury card.**

Priority #4 – Athletes who were carded at the Domestic Senior level (SR) during the previous carding cycle (As long as the athlete was ranked Top 40 PSA Women and Top 80 PSA Men prior to injury declaration). **Note: the 6-month carding cycle does not count as a**

“previous carding cycle”, therefore athletes who received an injury card from January 2024-June 2024 may re-apply for an injury card.

If multiple athletes meet the same priority level, the athlete with the highest 12-month (July 1, 2023 – June 1, 2024 year) PSA ranking average, using only the first ranking of each month, will be nominated for the card in the priority. In the event there are multiple athletes meeting the same priority level and have the same 12-month average, the athlete with the highest ranking on June 1st, 2024 will be awarded the card.

**APPENDIX 1.0
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS RANKING CREDITS**

Event	Participation	Top 16	Top 10	Top 8	Top 4
World Team Championships	4 ranking credits	+0	+2	NA	NA
Commonwealth Games – Singles World Open & World Games – Main Draw	2 ranking credits	+4	NA	+6	+8
Pan American Games – Individual Event	2 rankings credits	+0	NA	+0	+4
Pan American Games – Team Event	2 ranking credits	+0	+0	+0	+2
Pan American Championships – Individual Event	1 ranking credit	+0	NA	+0	+1
Pan American Championships – Team Event	1 ranking credit	+0	NA	+0	+1
World Junior Championships – Individual Event	1 ranking credit	+0	+0	+1	+2
World Junior Championships – Team Event	1 ranking credit	+0	+0	+1	+2

NOTE:

- An athlete may receive participation points (participation column) PLUS any bonus points for Top finishes (Top 16, Top 10, Top 8, Top 4 columns) as listed above.***
- Ranking credits are applied directly to the 12-month average. If an athlete earns 10 ranking credits, their final year-end (12-month average) ranking, using only the first ranking of each month, will drop by 10 points***

**APPENDIX 2.0 – (D) Card Table
JUNIOR ELIGIBLE ATHLETES PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

INDIVIDUAL PLACING

BOYS / GIRLS EVENTS	Champion	Finalist	Top 4	Top 8	Top 16
Junior National Championships					
U17 Division – Canadian Junior Squash Championships	3	2	1	0	0
U19 Division – Canadian Junior Squash Championships	4	3	2	0	0
Junior National Team Selection Events					
U19 Division – Canadian National Team Selection Events	2	1	0	0	0
Major International Events – British Jr. Open & World Individual Championships					
U17 Division – British Junior Open	9	8	7	6	5
U19 Division – British Junior Open	15	14	13	12	10
U19 Division – World Junior Individual Championships	16	15	14	12	10
International Events – Canadian Junior Open, US Junior Open, Pioneer Junior Open, Dutch Junior Open, Scottish Junior Open					
U17 Division – Canadian Junior Open, US Junior Open, Pioneer Junior Open, or Dutch Junior Open	3	2	1	0	0
U19 Division – Canadian Junior Open, US Junior Open, Pioneer Junior Open, or Dutch Junior Open	4	3	2	0	0
Pan American Junior Individual Championships					

U19 Division – Individual Singles Event	4	3	2	1	0
Junior Pan American Games					
U23 Division – Individual Singles Event	15	14	13	12	10

TEAM PLACING

NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM PARTICIPATION IN WORLD / REGIONAL EVENTS	Participation	Champion	Finalist	Top 4	Top 8
Represent Canada at the World Junior Team Championships	2 pts.	6	5	4	0
Represent Canada at the Pan American Junior Team Championships	1 pts.	3	2	1	0
Represent Canada at the Junior Pan American Games	1 pts.	3	2	1	0

NOTE:

1. Athletes will be responsible for providing supporting documentation for **EVERY** point listed. No point will be included in the final application to Sport Canada without the appropriate back up. Squash Canada will assist as necessary.