

Ski Jumping Canada Athlete Assistance Program Carding Criteria for 2026-2027 Nominations

Introduction

The Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) aims to improve Canadian performances at major international sporting competitions such as the Olympic/Paralympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Pan Am Games and World Championships. To this end, the AAP identifies and supports athletes already among, or having the potential to be among, the top 16 in the world.

Ski Jumping Canada (SJC) supports these aims when nominating athletes to Sport Canada for this funding stream. For the 2026-27 year, SJC is targeting the following athletes who are:

- Performing at a high level and have the potential to do well at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games for senior funding.
- Next-generation athletes with the potential to do well at the 2030 or 2034 Olympic Winter Games and beyond with development-level funding.

The Athlete Assistance Program is part of SJC's total support program for its athletes, which aims to enable them to reach their highest potential throughout their athletic careers and beyond.

Athletes approved by Sport Canada for the AAP may be eligible for a living and training allowance, tuition support, deferred tuition support, and special needs assistance. Athletes funded by AAP receive a monthly financial compensation as follows:

Card Type	Monthly Compensation	Annual Value
Senior International Card (SR1/SR2)	\$2,175	\$26,100
Senior National Card (SR)	\$2,175	\$26,100
Development Card (D)	\$1,305	\$15,660

The new carding quota for Ski Jumping is six (6) senior cards or equivalent (\$156,600). It will be in effect for nominations for the next carding cycle, starting on June 1, 2026.

Selection decisions may be appealed under Ski Jumping Canada Dispute Resolution and Appeal Policy.

For more information about the Sport Canada AAP, please visit the [Sport Canada website](#).

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1. Definitions

- The "Carding Cycle" is the twelve-month period commencing June 1 of any year. Athletes who have been successful in being awarded carding will normally be informed in May of that year that they have successfully completed the carding approval process.
- "COC Ranking List" refers to the FIS Continental Cup ranking list published by FIS annually.
- "FIS Cup (FC)" is a series of ski jumping competitions arranged yearly by the International Ski Federation, ranked below the World Cups and Continent Cups.
- "FIS World Cup Ranking List" refers to a female athlete's current World Cup season ranking.
- "FIS World Ranking List (WRL)" refers to a male athlete's world ranking.
- "HPD" Means the High Performance Director of Ski Jumping Canada
- "SJC" or "Ski Jumping Canada" means the Canadian Ski Jumping Team, including the National and Development Team.
- "SJC Leadership Group" means the Head Coach and the High Performance Director.
- "World Cup" refers to the FIS World Cup/Grand Prix competitions held between July 15, 2025, to April 1, 2026.

2. Process

In order to be nominated for AAP support, an athlete must:

1. Meet the **Eligibility** requirements below
2. Be nominated based on established **Priority of Nominations** (see section 3)
3. Be ranked against other eligible athletes using the **Carding Level Criteria** (see section 4)

2.1 Eligibility

In order to be eligible for nomination for AAP support, each athlete must:

1. Be an SJC member in good standing with a registered SJC club, a valid Canadian passport, and a valid Canadian FIS license.
2. Compete in events considered for AAP selection, including the Winter Olympic Games, World Ski Championships, World Cup, Youth Olympic Games, World Junior Ski Championships, International FIS races (COC, ICOC), or other events as needed and identified by the HPD. Any event added or replaced to the above list will be communicated.
3. Be named to the Canadian Ski Jumping National or Development Team as of July 1 of

the qualifying year.

4. The 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.
5. Be eligible per FIS rules to represent Canada at major international competitions, including World Championships, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is nominated.
6. Participate in national team preparatory and annual training programs during the period they qualify for AAP support.
7. Meet published NSO-approved, AAP-compliant sport-specific carding criteria.

3. Priority of Nominations

Ski Jumping Canada currently has a maximum card quota of 6 senior cards, equating to \$156,600. Sport Canada regularly reviews its carding quotas; therefore, this allocation is subject to change. Cards are allocated in the following priority order to eligible athletes named to the Canadian National Ski Jumping Team:

1. Athletes who meet Senior International criteria (4.1)
2. Athletes who meet the Senior National criteria (4.2)
3. Athletes who meet the Development criteria (4.3)

More details are available in each section below, including health related circumstances.

4. Carding Level Criteria

The Athlete Assistance Program qualification criteria for Ski Jumping Canada include the following categories:

- International Senior Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)
- Senior National Carding Criteria (SR)
- Development Carding Criteria (D)

Nominations are evaluated and selected according to the following prioritization framework.

1. Athletes who meet Senior International criteria
2. Athletes carded the previous carding cycle at the Senior International Card level (SR2) who meet health-related circumstances criteria.
3. Athletes who meet the Senior National criteria
4. Athletes carded the previous carding cycle at the Senior National Card level who meet health-related circumstances criteria.
5. Athletes who meet the Development criteria

6. Athletes carded the previous carding cycle at the Development Card level who meet health-related circumstances criteria.

4.1 International Senior Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)

Sport Canada establishes the international criteria for awarding the SR1 and SR2 cards. These criteria are based on results in Olympic events at the World Championships and the Olympic Games.

Athletes who meet the international criteria are eligible to be nominated for two consecutive years; the card for the first year is referred to as an SR1 card, while the second-year card is known as an SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the athlete being re-nominated by SJC and maintaining a training and competitive program approved by SJC.

Note that a maximum of three (3) entries per nation will be considered when calculating results from a World Championship or Olympic Winter Games

4.1.1 Eligibility Criteria

Athletes must meet the following criteria to be eligible for SR1/SR2 cards:

Priority 1 – Olympic Games

- A.
- B. Finish in the top 8 and the top half of the field in an Olympic event at the Olympics of the Olympic year.

4.2 Senior National Carding Criteria (SR)

The criteria for Senior national cards have been designed to identify athletes with the potential to achieve the following international criteria.

4.2.1 Eligibility Criteria

The following are criteria **prioritized** for eligibility of SR cards in the order of the criteria met:

- A. Finish in the top three of an Individual World Cup or Grand Prix event
- B. Finish in the top three of a World Cup or Grand Prix Team event
- C. Finish top 20 in an Individual World Cup event (with 40 or more competitors)
- D. Finish top 20 in an Individual Grand Prix Event (with 40 or more competitors)
- E. Finish with 60% of the average of the top 3 in a World Cup event.
- F. Named in the SJC Olympic shortlist
- G. Health related circumstances Including Pregnancy as per section 5

4.2.2 Priority Ranking

If more athletes qualify through priority one than there are cards available, the cards will be allocated based on the athlete's positions on the World Ranking List (men) or World Cup Ranking (women).

In the event of a tie on the World Ranking List or World Cup Ranking, the athlete's top World Cup finish in the qualification period will be the tiebreaker; if there is still a tie, the athlete's second-best World Cup finish will be the tiebreaker.

4.2.3 Maximum number of years at National Senior level

Usually, the maximum number of years an athlete may remain at the National Senior Card (SR) status is seven (7). Years carded at the SR health related circumstances, SR1, and SR2 will not count toward this maximum.

In order to be nominated for carding for eight (8) or more years, the athlete must demonstrate improvement toward International Senior Card status (SR1 and SR2) by being ranked amongst the top 40 (men) and top 25 (women) on the FIS World Ranking list (men) or FIS World Cup Ranking (women) and having competition results on average within 20% of the top five competitors in those lists.

4.3 Development Carding Criteria (D)

Development cards are targeted at athletes who show potential for the 2030 and 2034 Olympic Winter Games and beyond based on their current performance and predicted future maximum potential. Athletes who fail to demonstrate future potential will not be carded.

Usually, a Development Card cannot be allocated to an athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level (D, SR, SR1, SR2) for more than two years. At Sport Canada's sole discretion, an exception may be made for an athlete carded at the Senior Card level for more than two years for exceptional circumstances, such as an athlete carded as a senior card for two or more years while still competing at the Junior international level.

4.3.1 Number of Cards Available for Development Cards

The remaining AAP budget will be allocated to athletes as Development cards.

4.3.2 Eligibility Criteria

Athlete criteria to be nominated for Development cards in **priority order** of criteria met:

International Competitions:

- A. Finish top three at a World Junior Ski Championships individual event at 8th Lillehammer NOR2 026 March 4th-
- B. Finish top 30 at a Grand Prix or World Cup (with 40 or more competitors)
- C. Finish top half at a World Junior Ski Championships event
- D. Finish top 30 at a World Junior Ski Championships individual event
- E. Achieve a top 75% of the total score (distance plus judge points) of the average of the top three athletes (average of the podium scores) in one Inter Continental Cup

For example, if the average is 250 points, the athlete must achieve 187.5 points; Or

- F. Women, finish top 30 at an InterContinental Cup (ICOC) with over 40 competitors. Men, finish top 30 at Continental Cup (COC) (with over 40 competitors).
- G. Finish top 30 at an international FIS Cup (with over 50 competitors)

H. Health related circumstances as per section 5

4.3.3 Priority Ranking for Development Cards

- A. Ranking will be based on average points obtained on normal or large hill competitions. The average will be calculated separately for each level of competition, and WC will outrank COC, which will outrank FC; only competitions where athletes have attained the top 30 results will be used in calculating the average points.
- B. In the event of a tie in #1, the athlete's top competition finish in the qualification period will be the tiebreaker, with World Cup points outranking COC points and COC points outranking FIS Cup points earned in the qualification period.

The last-ranked nominee may only receive partial Development Card funding if full funds are not available. Partial cards can only be allocated if a minimum of four months of carding is available.

4.3.4 Maximum number of years at the Development level

Usually, the maximum number of years an athlete may remain at the Development Card (D) status is five (5) years carded whilst still a Junior Competitor (under 20) or at the D status. Health related circumstances will not count toward this maximum.

5. Health Related Circumstances Including Pregnancy

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 including pregnancy may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year, provided the athlete meets the requirements set out by Sport Canada's section 9.1.3 [*Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-Related Reasons*](#) and section 9.1.4 [*Health Cards Related to Pregnancy*](#) in Canada's AAP policy.

Athletes must provide written confirmation of their health-related condition including pregnancy, a plan for returning to training and competition approved by their doctor, and a written commitment to make a full return to training and competition by a specific date agreed upon by the athlete, medical team, and the SJC Leadership Group. All of this must be completed prior to being considered for re-nomination.

When athletes return to training after a health-related circumstance including pregnancy but are not considered ready for competition (as specified by the Head Coach), the health-related circumstances carding status will remain in place for the entire cycle. Athletes will be ranked under this priority in the order in which they were nominated for carding in the previous carding cycle carding ranking from before the health-related circumstance. Athletes must follow the conditions outlined in sections [*9.1.1 and 9.1.2 of the AAP Policies and Procedures*](#) regarding curtailment of training and competition for health-related circumstances including pregnancy.

Health related cards do not count toward total years carded at the SR Health Related Circumstances (SRH) and (DH) will not count toward this maximum.

6. Retirement Assistance

Retirement Assistance Athletes who have been carded for a minimum of three carding cycles at a Senior Card level (C1, SR, SR1, SR2 and SRH) may apply for a one-time maximum Retirement Assistance of \$5,000 to assist in their transition to retirement, within one year of the first day of their retirement. Carded athletes applying for Retirement Assistance must provide:

1. A letter outlining why they are in need of the transition to retirement support;
2. A letter from their NSO confirming their retirement from National Team activities;
3. A statement of their current income and expenses, as well as a forecast for the following year. These expenses must include rent, food and transportation expenses;
4. A copy of the Canada Revenue Agency's Notice of Assessment for the most recent taxation year. The following procedures apply for payment:
5. The athlete submits all required documentation to the AAP via email or mail;
6. The AAP Manager reviews the request for assistance and may contact the NSO to validate any part of the claim. All incomplete applications will be returned to the athlete;

If approved, the AAP funds the athlete directly.

Documents or questions will be sent to:

programmedaideauxathletesathleteassisprogram@pch.gc.ca

7. Withdrawal of Carded Status

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

1. Failure to meet training or competition commitments;
2. Violation of the Athlete/NSO agreement;
3. Failure to meet athlete responsibilities outlined in the AAP policies and procedures;
4. Gross breach of discipline including assertion of, or prosecution of a criminal offence;
5. Investigation for cause; and
6. Violations of anti-doping rules.

In most cases, the SJC would make the recommendation that carded status be withdrawn; however, Sport Canada may also withdraw carded status without a recommendation from the SCJ. These situations are noted in the following sections.

7.1. Failure to meet training or competition commitments

Failure to meet agreed upon training or competition commitments may include:

- A decision by the carded athlete to live in an environment not conducive to high-performance achievement;

- Any deliberate action by the carded athlete that significantly risks or limits performance; or
- An inability to meet the training and competition obligations outlined in the carded athlete's annual training/competition plan or the Athlete/NSO Agreement for the particular carding cycle.

Note: Failure to achieve preset performance objectives does not in itself establish failure to meet agreed upon training or competition commitments.

7.2. Violation of the Athlete/NSO Agreement

If an athlete allegedly violates any of the obligations specified in his or her Athlete/SJC Agreement, the SJC may recommend withdrawal of carded status. In such cases, the steps listed in [Failure to Meet Training or Competitive Commitments](#) will apply.

7.3. Failure to Meet Athlete Responsibilities Outlined in the AAP Policies and Procedures

If Sport Canada wishes to withdraw an athlete's carded status because it has reason to believe the athlete has failed to meet responsibilities outlined in AAP policies, the steps listed in [Investigation for Cause](#) will apply.

7.4. Gross Breach of Discipline Including Assertion of, or Prosecution of a Criminal Offence

If the NSO decides to recommend the suspension or withdrawal of an athlete's carded status for an alleged gross breach of discipline, the steps listed in [Failure to Meet Training or Competitive Commitments](#) will apply.

If Sport Canada decides to suspend or withdraw an athlete's carded status, without the NSO's recommendation, because it has reason to believe the athlete has committed a gross breach of discipline, the steps listed in [Investigation for Cause](#) will apply.

7.5. Investigation for Cause

Investigation for cause may include, but is not limited to, making a false application to obtain AAP benefits for which the carded athlete would not otherwise have been eligible (for example, the AAP Living and Training Allowance, Tuition Support, or Supplementary AAP Support).

7.6. Violations of Anti-Doping Rules

Athletes who are asserted to have committed an anti-doping rule violation by Sport Integrity Canada, an International Federation, a Major Games Organization, the World Anti-Doping Agency or any other anti-doping organization, will have their carded status placed on hold pending resolution of the matter.

The AAP will advise the athlete of any such hold.

If it is determined that an athlete has committed and is sanctioned for an anti-doping rule violation, Sport Canada will withdraw that athlete's carded status from the date of the sport ineligibility.

Detailed Policies on the Withdrawal of Carded Status are outline in [Section 11](#) of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program

Policies on anti-doping and AAP funding are outlined in [Section 12](#). of the Policies and Procedures – Athlete Assistance Program

8. Appeals

Appeals of SJC's AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of an SJC's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through the SJC appeals process.

Appeals of AAP Decisions made under Section 8 (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.

