



BIATHLON CANADA
2024 – 2025 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SELECTION CRITERIA
September 1, 2023

OUTLINE

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

SECTION II – RANKING ORDER FOR CARDING

SECTION III – FIELD SIZE

SECTION IV – CARDING CRITERIA

SECTION V – CARDING ELIGIBILITY

APPENDIX A – ADJUSTMENTS TO AAP BENCHMARKS DUE TO SMALLER FIELD SIZES

APPENDIX B – BEST SCORE

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

1. Program Description:

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), funded by Sport Canada, ensures athletes identified with **potential to be top 8** in the world are afforded the necessary resources to achieve international success. The program contributes to improving Canadian performances at major international sporting events such as the Olympic Games, World Championships and World Cup.

The financial assistance provided to identified Canadian athletes comes in the form of a monthly living and training allowance and, where applicable, supplementary support and post-secondary school tuition support. This assistance helps athletes with their training and competition needs, as well as assisting in preparing for a post-sport career. This assistance is provided directly to the athletes.

An athlete's carding status is subject to the obligations and commitments as detailed in Biathlon Canada's Athlete Agreement and Sport Canada's [Athlete Assistance Program Policies, Procedures and Guidelines](#).

2. Force Majeure

Biathlon Canada carefully follows all world events and how they may effect or impact the upcoming 2023/24 Biathlon season. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of these situations (Coronavirus-19 pandemic, etc.)

Biathlon Canada will respect the published AAP as written. However, situations related to these situations may arise that require this AAP to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the AAP. In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow this AAP to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including nomination decisions, will be made by the High Performance Working Group (HPWG), in consultation with the relevant individual(s) or committee(s), and in accordance with the stated performance objectives and selection philosophy and approach as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Biathlon Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Should a tour or a portion of a tour be canceled or postponed, Biathlon Canada reserves the right to modify or adjust all components of the tour including the team composition as deemed necessary.

3. Quota:

According to Sport Canada allocations, Biathlon Canada will be limited to a maximum full financial value of the equivalent of nine (9) Senior Cards or \$190,620 (subject to periodic review by Sport Canada), operating on a twelve-month cycle, beginning May 1, 2024 through to April 30, 2025.

4. Living & Training Allowance:

Eligible Athletes approved for carding by Sport Canada will receive a monthly living and training allowance, tuition support, deferred tuition support. This allowance is paid through Sport Canada.

Carding Status	Monthly Allowance
Senior Card (SR1, SR2, SR)	\$1,765
Senior Card Injury/Illness (SRI)	\$1,765
Development Card (D)	\$1,060

Note that the C1 card no longer exists. Going forward, any athlete who meets the SR criteria, will be funded at the SR level and NOT at the D level amount for their first senior year.

5. Supplementary AAP Support

Supplementary AAP Support is available to carded athletes in the following situations:

- Excellence Living and Training Allowance
- Child Dependent Allowance
- Training and Competition Allowance for Paralympic athletes with high support needs
- Relocation Assistance
- Retirement Assistance

Please see section 8.4 of Sport Canada's [Athlete Assistance Program – Policies and Procedures](#) for details on the supplementary support programs, eligibility, and how to apply.

6. Types of Carding: **Note that this table represents a summary. The full carding details can be found further below. In a dispute/appeal Section IV will supersede this section should there be a discrepancy.*

Order	Criteria	Maximum Years	Restrictions
Senior International SR1	Finish in the top 8 WCH/OWG counting a maximum of 3 entries per country; and Finish in the top half of the field in an individual event or four-person relay.	No Maximum	

Senior International SR2	Athletes who did not meet SR1 criteria this season (2023-2024), but met SR1 criteria in previous season (2022-2023), subject to being re-nominated by Biathlon Canada		Must also achieve age based criteria (3.2 to 3.6.)
Senior National SR	National Criteria identifies athletes who have potential to achieve International Criteria	5 years before age-based performance criteria begins	Athletes may receive a maximum of five SR cards; may be eligible for six or more SR cards if they demonstrate continued improvement towards SR1/2 (defined further in Section IV – Athlete Eligibility C. Performance Requirements). If an athlete qualifies for SR carding while in their Last Year Junior (21) or younger those years do not count towards the maximum five SR cards. Athletes may only be carded at 3.8 and 3.9 for a maximum of two years.
Development Cards D	Development Card Criteria is objective and clearly demonstrates that the athlete has high-performance potential.	5 Years at D level before the age of 25 years	<p>Athletes may receive a maximum of five D cards. Athletes qualifying for D carding in their Last Year of Youth (18) and First Year of Junior (19) do not count when totalling years of D carding. The maximum age an athlete can be to receive a D card is 25 Years old.</p> <p>An athlete previously carded at the Senior Card level (SR, SR1, SR2) for more than two years cannot be nominated for a Development Card; however, any years carded at the Senior Card level while at LYY, 1st YJ, 2nd YJ or LYJ (18-21 years old) do <u>not</u> count toward this total number of years</p>

Notes:

A) Senior International (SR1/SR2) Cards: eligible to be nominated for two consecutive years of AAP support, with the first year referred to as a SR1 Card and the second year referred to as a SR2 Card. The second year is subject to the athlete being re-nominated by Biathlon Canada. Athletes currently carded at SR1 who meet the criteria again in the 2023–2024 season are eligible to be nominated for another SR1 Card.

B) Senior National (SR) and Development (D) Cards: athletes receiving this level of carding are eligible for one year of AAP support.

C) Years carded under an Injury/Illness provision do not count when totalling years of carding in the above situations.

7. Process for nomination of athletes to Sport Canada for AAP cards:

- AAP nominations will be made by the HPWG. The HPWG will include the Director of Development and High Performance (DDHP), the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Board representative(s).
- HPWG decisions will be informed by advisors to the HPWG. The HPWG may decide who to contact depending on the decision being made and the individuals involved in the decision. Potential advisors include: Biathlon Canada National Team Coaches, Tour Coaches, the Sport Development Manager, Club coaches, IST members, Athlete Representatives etc. NOTE: The HPWG reserves the right to contact whomever necessary in order to make the best decision.
- Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with the AAP policies.

8. Carding Procedure:

By April 15, 2024:

- A list will be established based on the priorities set out in this document.
- An athlete carding provisional nominations list based on the number of cards available will be prepared.
- The athlete carding provisional nomination list will be published by Biathlon Canada on the Biathlon Canada website.
- Upon publication, athletes will have seven (7) days to notify Biathlon Canada if there have been any errors or omissions in the calculation of rankings.
- After this seven (7) day period, the athlete carding final nomination list will be presented to Sport Canada for review and approval.

In order for an athlete to receive funding through the AAP carding program, the athlete must sign and be in compliance with their Athlete/NSO Agreement. Biathlon Canada will advise Sport Canada's AAP officials when these conditions have been met.

For reference, please find information on Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program [here](#).

9. Definitions:

For this program, the following definitions apply:

Athlete Age Determination: is as listed in the chart below:

AGE DEFINITIONS			2023-24 SEASON for carding in 2024-2025	
Athlete's Age	Definition	Abbreviation	Birth Year	Abbreviation
18	Last Year of Youth	LYY	2005	LYY
19	1st Year of Junior	1st YJ	2004	1st YJ
20	2nd Year of Junior	2nd YJ	2003	2nd YJ
21	Last Year of Junior	LYJ	2002	LYJ
22	1st Year Post Junior	1st YPJ	2001	1st YPJ
23	2nd Year Post Junior	2nd YPJ	2000	2nd YPJ
24	3rd Year Post Junior	3rd YPJ	1999	3rd YPJ
25	4th Year Post Junior	4th YPJ	1998	4th YPJ
26	5th Year Post Junior	5th YPJ	1997	SR
27	Senior	SR	1996	SR
28	Senior	SR	1995	SR
29	Senior	SR	1994	SR
30	Senior	SR	1993	SR

Biathlon Canada National Team Program is defined as the activities in which the National Biathlon Team is engaged, including, but not limited to:

1. Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cups, IBU Cups, Junior and Youth World Championships, Junior IBU Cup, YOG;
2. Biathlon Canada sanctioned events, such as Canadian Championships, NorAms and trials races;
3. Training Centres;
4. Training camps;
5. Medical and performance testing;
6. Career programs sponsored by, or entered through the assistance of, Biathlon Canada;
7. Meetings;
8. Awards ceremonies; and
9. Promotional activities including media requests and press conferences.

Biathlon Canada National Team is defined as a formal team of athletes who have achieved predetermined criteria and are selected by Biathlon Canada to represent Canada at international biathlon events. Biathlon Canada National Teams include but are not limited to:

1. Olympic Team;
2. World Championship Team;
3. World Cup Team;
4. IBU Cup Teams;
5. Junior IBU Cup Teams;
6. Junior World Championship Team; and
7. Youth World Championship Team.

Biathlon Canada is responsible for selecting, organizing, and operating a National Team of athletes, coaches, and support staff to represent Canada.

Athletes named to a Biathlon Canada Team or Training Team are considered part of the Biathlon Canada National Team Program and are required to sign an Athlete Agreement with Biathlon Canada.

CAN Ski Speed % is the percentage back from the average of the fastest THREE (3) skiers in the race, as per the published results. So the fastest skier will have a % lower than zero, since they will be better than the average of the fastest 3. This metric compares athletes to the Top 3 skiers in the race, rather than the single fastest.

Competition Results refer to all individual competitions (Sprint, Super Sprint, Pursuit, Individual, Mass Start) and their results, unless explicitly listed as relay competitions. For any

relay competition, the qualifying result for any athlete is the team relay result for the team they were part of. Single Mixed Relays do not count as an eligible relay result for carding, unless otherwise noted. The term 'place' or 'placing' may be used interchangeably with the term 'results'. For a Super Sprint, the athlete's final placing will be considered the Competition Result.

Competitive Season is the competitive season that runs from November 1st, 2023 through April 30th, 2024. Athletes can, over this period, earn **Competition Results** that may qualify them for a 2024-2025 card, with financial support commencing May 2024.

Field Size is the total field size for a competition that includes all finishers, all disqualified athletes (DSQ), and all did-not-finish athletes (DNF). Athletes who are on a start list but did not start (DNS) are not considered as competitors and thus are not included in the calculation of overall field size.

Individual Event means an event in which athletes compete as individuals (as opposed to a team competition), which includes the following IBU race formats:

- Individual and Short Individual
- Sprint
- Pursuit
- Mass Start
- Super Sprint

Sanctioned Athletes are athletes, having achieved a minimum level of performance criteria, who are eligible to compete on a national team under Biathlon Canada supervision.

Shooting Accuracy is the percentage of hits relative to shots taken, as per the published results.

Shooting Speed is the total time on the shooting mat or lane including set up and departure. Does not include time into the range or leaving the mat & range. Shooting Speed will be an average of the shooting speeds in the race.

9. List of Abbreviations:

AAP – Athlete Assistance Program

IBU – International Biathlon Union

COC – Canadian Olympic Committee

BC – Biathlon Canada

OTP – Own The Podium

CCES – Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport

WADA – World Anti-Doping Agency
WCH – World Championships
WC – World Cup
JWCH – IBU Junior World Championship
YWCH – IBU Youth World Championship
OWG – Olympic Winter Games
IBUC – IBU Cup
JIBUC – Junior IBU Cup
SR1 – First year of International Criteria carding
SR2 – Second year of International Criteria carding
SR – Senior carding
SMR – Single Mixed Relay
MR – Mixed Relay
D – Development carding
BEST – Biathlon Excellence Scorecard Target

SECTION II – RANKING ORDER FOR CARDING

1. Ranking Order for Carding Nominations made to Sport Canada:

Athletes will be ranked in the order of Priorities (Priority 1 ranked ahead of Priority 2, etc.). Where there are two or more athletes ranked within a priority, the athletes will be ranked by best individual placing at WCH/OWG, WC or IBUC (in this order) that qualified the athlete for the Priority. If still tied, ranked by next-best individual rank in WCH/OWG, WC, or IBUC placing – in this order, and so forth.

If a Priority has a WCH/OWG, WC requirement and an IBUC requirement the highest individual placing at the WCH/OWG, WC will be used (If tied, ranked by best individual IBUC placing).

Example:

Athlete	OWG/WCH	World Cup	IBU Cup	Ranking
A	N/A	1 x 40th 1 x 31st	N/A	3
B	N/A	1 x 30th 1 x 32nd	N/A	2
C	N/A	1 x 27th 1 x 35th	N/A	1

Athletes who are awarded an injury provision will be ranked last within the priority that is the equivalent to the prior year's carding. For the Injury provision, please see "Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-related Reasons"

Athletes achieving the 5+ year carding performance requirement will be ranked and assigned a priority based on criteria athletes would normally qualify under if they were not past the 5 year carding window. Relay and IBU Cup results do not count towards improved average best two results.

SECTION III – FIELD SIZE

The carding criteria in Section IV assumes an adequate Field Size to allow Biathlon Canada to assess athlete performance in the context of identifying those with the potential to be top 8 in the world. Should the Field Size at a competition be smaller than normal, the benchmarks used for the carding criteria will be adjusted as described in Appendix A.

SECTION IV – CARDING CRITERIA

Performance Pool: Senior Carding Criteria (SR1, SR2, SR)

This card is designed to support athletes who have achieved top 8 results or who have demonstrated through their performance at WC, or IBUC competitions the potential to achieve a top 8 finish at the World Championships or Olympic Games. The Senior Card can be achieved through the following set of criteria and in the following priority order:

3.1: Senior International Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)

Priority 1: To be eligible for a Senior Card nomination through the Senior International Criteria, an athlete must achieve one of the following standards at OWG or WCH limited to only competition events which will be contested at the subsequent OWG.

- a. A single placing in the top-8 and top-half (1/2) of the field in an individual competition (counting a maximum of three (3) entries per nation); or,
- b. A single placing in the top-8 and top-half (1/2) of the field in any four (4) person Relay competition and achieving age-based criteria within 3.2 to 3.6 National Carding Criteria. (See 3.2 to 3.6 below)

Priority 2: Athletes who qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible to be nominated for two years of AAP support based on 3.1.i) and 3.1.ii) above with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 Card and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2 Card. The second year is subject to the athlete also achieving the current age-based criteria 3.2 to 3.6 National Carding Criteria (See 3.2 to 3.6 below), submitting a training and competitive program approved by Biathlon Canada and Sport Canada, signing an Athlete NSO Agreement, and completing the CCES online anti-doping courses and AAP application form for the year in question.

Senior Carding Criteria (SR)

3.2: 4th YPJ and Younger (SR)

Athletes producing results tracking with OWG, WCH or WC Podium Probability aged 4 years post-junior to last year youth (LYY) (25 years old and under).

3.2 (25 Years Old and Younger)	
Priority 3	2 x Top 15 – OWG, WCH, or WC
Priority 4	1 x Top 15 – OWG, WCH, or WC and 1 x Top 6 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC.

3.3: 5th YPJ and Older (SR)

Athletes producing results tracking with OWG, WCH or WC Podium Probability aged 5 years post-junior and older (26 Years old and older).

3.3 (26 Years Old and Older)	
Priority 5	2 x Top 15 – OWG, WCH, or WC
Priority 6	1 x Top 15 – OWG, WCH, or WC and 1 x Top 6 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC.

3.4: 4th YPJ and Younger (SR)

Athletes producing results tracking with OWG, WCH or WC Podium Probability aged 4 years post-junior (YPJ) to last year youth (LYY) (25 Years old and under).

3.4 (25 Years Old and Younger)	
Priority 7	2 x Top 28 – OWG, WCH, or WC
Priority 8	1 x Top 28 – OWG, WCH, or WC and 1 x Top 6 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH, or WC.
Priority 9	1 x Top 28 – OWG, WCH, or WC and 1 x Top 3 IBUC
Priority 10	2 x Top 3 IBUC

3.5: 5th YPJ and Older (SR)

Athletes producing results tracking with OWG, WCH, or WC Podium Probability aged 5 years post-junior and older (26 years and older).

3.5 (26 Years Old and older)	
Priority 11	2 x Top 28 – OWG, WCH, or WC

Priority 12	1 x Top 28 – OWG, WCH, or WC and 1 x Top 6 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC.
Priority 13	1 x Top 28 – OWG, WCH, or WC and 1 x Top 3 IBUC
Priority 14	2 x Top 3 IBUC

3.6: 3rd YPJ and Younger (SR)

3rd YPJ and Younger

3.6.1 (24 Years Old and Younger)	
Priority 15	2 x Top 35 – OWG, WCH, or WC
Priority 16	1 x Top 35 – OWG, WCH, or WC and 1 x Top 8 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH, or WC.
Priority 17	1 x Top 35 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 6 – IBUC
Priority 18	2 x Top 6 – IBUC

2nd YPJ and Younger

3.6.2 (23 Years Old and Younger)	
Priority 19	2 x Top 40 – OWG, WCH or WC
Priority 20	1 x Top 40 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 8 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC.
Priority 21	1 x Top 40 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 10 – IBUC

Priority 22	2 x Top 10 – IBUC
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1st YPJ and Younger

3.6.3 (22 years old and younger)	
Priority 23	2 x Top 50 – OWG, WCH or WC
Priority 24	1 x Top 50 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 8 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC
Priority 25	1 x Top 50 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 15 – IBUC
Priority 26	2 x Top 15 – IBUC

3.7 Prospect Pool D Carding

The Prospect Pool selection criteria are established for younger athletes that are achieving Podium Potential targets and clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior International criteria but are not yet able to meet the Senior criteria. Team event results (e.g., relays) will not be considered for D carding unless otherwise noted below in the criteria. The allocation of Development Cards is intended to ensure that financial support is provided to the athletes with the greatest potential.

Development Carding supporting the athletes in the Prospect Pool showing the most Podium Potential.

3.7: LYJ to 1st YJ

3.7 (21 to 19 Years Old)	
Priority 27	1 x Top 3 JWCH or JIBUC

Determination of Ranking within 3.7:

If there are fewer remaining cards than athletes meeting criteria within 3.7, athletes will be ranked accordingly:

- a. Athlete with the highest individual placing in the race that qualified them for 3.7

- b. If two or more athletes have the same individual placing then the BEST score will be used as a tiebreaker.

The BEST score is a metric used to track athlete performance in non-team races and is the summation of points assigned to an athlete's ski speed, shooting accuracy and shooting time. A breakdown of points and how they are assigned is available in Section IV.

3.8: 3rd YPJ and Younger (SR)

For athletes aged 24 and under, performance criteria exist to capture athletes who may not achieve OWG/WCH/WC medal-winning age progression, but have achieved good results at the WC and IBUC level. Athletes may qualify for 3.8, Priorities 28 – 31 twice in their competitive careers.

Eligibility restrictions for section 3.8:

IF this scenario occurs...	THEN this is the impact on eligibility for carding
...an athlete is at the 5+ years of carding	...the athlete may only qualify at this level once
...an athlete qualified for one of these priorities before their 5+ years of carding	...the athlete will have one remaining opportunity to qualify for these criteria again when they are 5+ years carded
...an athlete meets these criteria twice before their 5+ years carding	...the athlete will not be eligible to qualify for these criteria again when they are 5+ years carded.

3.8 (24 Years Old and Younger)	
Priority 28	2 x Top 50 – OWG, WCH, or WC
Priority 29	1 x Top 50 – OWG, WCH or WC And 1 x Top 8 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC
Priority 30	1 x Top 50 – OWG, WCH or WC And 1 x Top 15 – IBUC

Priority 31	2 x Top 15 – IBUC
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3.9: 4th YPJ and Older (SR)

For athletes aged 25 and older, performance criteria exists to capture athletes who have not achieved objective medal-winning age progression criteria, but have achieved good results at the WC and IBUC level. Athletes may qualify for 3.9, Priorities 32–35 twice in their competitive careers.

Eligibility restrictions for section 3.9:

IF this scenario occurs...	THEN this is the impact on eligibility for carding
...an athlete is at the 5+ years of carding	...the athlete may only qualify at this level once
...an athlete qualified for one of these priorities before their 5+ years of carding	...the athlete will have one remaining opportunity to qualify for these criteria again when they are 5+ years carded
...an athlete meets these criteria twice before their 5+ years carding	...the athlete will not be eligible to qualify for these criteria again when they are 5+ years carded.

3.9 (25 Years Old and Older)	
Priority 32	2 x Top 40 – OWG, WCH, or WC
Priority 33	1 x Top 40 – OWG, WCH or WC And 1 x Top 8 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC.
Priority 34	1 x Top 40 – OWG, WCH or WC And 1 x Top 8 – IBUC
Priority 35	2 x Top 8 – IBUC

3.10: 4th YPJ and Younger (D)

1st YPJ and Younger

3.10.1 (22 Years Old and Younger)	
Priority 36	2 X Top 60 – OWG, WCH, or WC
Priority 37	1 x Top 60 – OWG, WCH or WC And 1 x Top 8 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC
Priority 38	1 x Top 60 – OWG, WCH or WC And 1 x Top 40 – IBUC
Priority 39	2 x Top 40 – IBUC
Priority 40	1 x Top 40 – IBUC and 1 x Top 6 in SMR or 4-person relay IBUC

2nd YPJ and Younger

3.10.2 (23 Years Old and Younger)	
Priority 41	2 X Top 60 – OWG, WCH or WC
Priority 42	1 x Top 60 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 8 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC
Priority 43	1 x Top 60 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 30 IBUC
Priority 44	2 x Top 30 – IBUC
Priority 45	1 x Top 30 – IBUC and 1 x Top 6 in SMR or 4-person relay IBUC

4th YPJ and Younger

3.10.3 (25 Years Old and Younger)	
Priority 46	2 X Top 55 – OWG, WCH or WC
Priority 47	1 x Top 55 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 8 in SMR or 4-person relay at the OWG, WCH or WC.
Priority 48	1 x Top 55 – OWG, WCH or WC and 1 x Top 20 IBUC
Priority 49	2 x Top 20 – IBUC
Priority 50	1 x Top 20 – IBUC and 1 x Top 6 in SMR or 4-person relay IBUC

Determination of Ranking within 3.10:

In the event more athletes meet the carding criteria for section 3.10, than are available for distribution athletes will be ranked as follows:

- i. Athletes meeting the highest Priority in the level specific to their age;
- ii. If athletes have qualified for the same Priority rank the athletes will be:
 - a. Ranked by best individual placing at WCH/OWG, WC or IBUC (If tied, ranked by next-best individual WCH/OWG, WC, IBUC placing)
 - b. Ranked by best Relay placing at WC (athletes presenting only a Relay result) (If tied, ranked by best individual WCH/OWG or WC placing)
- iii. If a Priority has both an OWG/WCH/WC requirement and an IBUC requirement the highest individual placing at the OWG/WCH/WC will be used (If tied, ranked by best individual IBUC placing).

3.11: LYJ and Younger (D)

Priority 51: Junior or Youth athletes achieving the required points in a single race in their respective age category in **Priority 51** on the Biathlon Excellence Scorecard Target (BEST) **and** a top 15 Finish. Only scores from international events assigned by Biathlon Canada will be considered (JWCH, YWCH, JIBUC, IBUC, WC, YOG, etc.). Highest probability based on BEST at each age level will determine prioritization of athletes. Please see Appendix B for the BEST.

Determination of Ranking within 3.11:

In the event more athletes meet the carding criteria for section 3.11, than are available for distribution athletes will be ranked accordingly:

- i. Athlete with the highest BEST score (if tied, ranked by the individual placing in the race used for the BEST score).
- ii. If still tied, next top ranking in an individual race.

3.12: LYJ and Younger (D)

Priority 52: Junior or Youth athletes achieving the required points in a single race in their respective age category in **Priority 52** on the Biathlon Excellence Scorecard Target (BEST). Only scores from international events assigned by Biathlon Canada will be considered (JWCH, YWCH, YOG, JIBUC, IBUC, WC, etc.). Highest probability based on BEST at each age level will determine prioritization of athletes. Please see Appendix B for the BEST.

Determination of Ranking within 3.12:

In the event more athletes meet the carding criteria for section 3.12, than are available for distribution athletes will be ranked accordingly:

- i. Athlete with the highest BEST score (if tied, ranked by the individual placing in the race used for the BEST score).
- ii. If still tied, next highest ranking in an individual race.

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 Biathlon Canada, 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/NSO 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 or pregnancy;

- An injured or ill carded athlete provides a positive prognosis from a Biathlon Canada team physician or equivalent for their return to training and competition at the carded-athlete level in their sport within 8 to 12 months.

Failure to Meet Renewal Criteria for Health-related Reasons

Athletes who were carded in the previous year and were unable to meet the carding criteria strictly due to health-related reasons may be considered for re-nomination by Biathlon Canada HPWG for the upcoming carding period if:

- a. The athlete has abided by the Injury Provision requirements of the Biathlon Canada Athlete Contract, Section 5.2.c.: "In the case of an injury or illness which prohibits the Athlete from participating in a National Team or National Training Team activity, the athlete must send a signed certificate from a physician to the High-Performance Director (or their designate) within eight (8) days following injury or sickness. The certificate should indicate the details of the problem and the prognosis. National Team and National Training Team athletes are expected to follow a recovery program as prescribed by the practitioner (physician or other), including following the training and recovery regime/strategy assigned by the coach;"

In addition, the athlete must provide the following within eight days following injury or sickness:

- i. A doctor's medical certificate indicating the date and nature of the injury, the prescribed rehabilitation program, the estimated recovery period, and an indication that a full medical recovery will be possible within the next carding period. Biathlon Canada reserves the right to have a second medical opinion;
 - ii. For the period during which the athlete is unable to fulfill the training and competition commitments which are part of the carded athlete's contract, the athlete undertakes in writing to train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of Biathlon Canada at a level which minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health, and ensures an optimal return to full training and competition;
 - iii. The athlete signifies in writing his / her intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness or injury;
- b. Prior to April 15, 2024 the HPWG will verify, with any athletes who submitted an injury provision (via the process above in "a"), that they were unable to meet the minimum requirements.

The final decision on eligibility for carding nomination based on the injury provision clause rests with the HPWG to assess whether there is an expectation that the athlete undertaking the injury provision will achieve the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.

Athletes who are awarded an injury provision will be ranked last within the priority that is the equivalent to the prior year's carding.

SECTION V – ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

A. General Requirements

To be eligible for support through the AAP, an athlete must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada;
- Adhere to their athlete/NSO agreement requirements;
- Meet the eligibility requirement of the sport's international federation as they pertain to citizenship and residency status and be available to represent Canada at major international events, including World Championships, Olympic Games, World Cup; and
- Meet the carding criteria as a member of the Canadian Team at international events or in domestic events or events sanctioned by the NSO for their sport. Athletes are usually required to live and train in Canada. Assistance for athletes living and training outside Canada may be approved by Sport Canada, if justified by the NSO for academic or athletic reasons.

B. Biathlon Canada Eligibility Requirement

1. Training: To be eligible for carding, athletes must have an annual training and competitive program based on year-round training principles that is designed, supervised, and monitored by Biathlon Canada National Team coaches or designate.
2. Athletes must comply with [Biathlon Canada's policies, procedures, and guidelines.](#)

C. Performance Requirements

1. Athletes may receive a maximum of five SR cards. They may be eligible for six or more SR cards if they achieve 3.1 AAP criteria or demonstrate continued improvement towards SR1/2 by achieving one of the criteria below. The year an athlete qualifies for an SR card or qualifies for SR carding while in their Last Year Junior (21) or younger does not count towards the maximum five SR cards.

Criteria to be eligible for six or more SR cards		
1.	Achieve criteria 3.2 or 3.3	
2.	The average of the athlete's two best results in WC, WCH or OWG (average of the 2 results) from the previous season equals 28 or lower and must improve each year. (For example, if an athlete's two best results averaged 20 (i.e. 16th and 24th) in 2022–2023 then their average 2 best results must equal 19.5 or lower in 2023–24). Each of the results considered must be in the Top 28 and top-half (1/2) of the field in an individual competition. This will qualify athletes within Priority 11, and determination of ranking will be used to rank all athletes within these criteria.	
3.	Achieve criteria 3.8 (priorities 28–31) or criteria 3.9 (priorities 32–35). For clarity, athletes may achieve 3.8 and/or 3.9 twice in their competitive careers.	
	IF this scenario occurs...	THEN this is the impact on eligibility for carding
	If an athlete is at the 5+ years of carding...	...then the athlete may only qualify at this level once.
	If an athlete qualifies for one of these priorities before their 5+ years of carding...	...then the athlete will still have one remaining opportunity to qualify for these criteria again when they are 5+ years carded.
	If an athlete qualifies at this criteria level twice before their 5+ years carding...	...then the athlete will not be eligible to qualify for these criteria again when they are 5+ years carded.

Determination of ranking:

Athletes achieving the 5+ year carding performance requirement will be ranked and assigned a priority based on criteria athletes would normally qualify under if they were not past the 5 year carding window. Relay and non WC/WCH/OWG results do not count towards improved average best two results.

1. If there are fewer remaining cards than athletes meeting the above performance requirement, athletes will be ranked accordingly:
 - a. Athletes meeting the highest priority

- b. If more than one athlete has qualified for the same priority, athletes will be ranked by highest average best two results
 - c. If still tied, athletes will be ranked based on best single result, and, if still tied, the second best result
- 2. Athletes have a maximum of five (5) years eligibility for D carding until the age of 25 years old (4th Year Post Junior) after which athletes must qualify at the SR1/SR2, SR levels. Athletes qualifying for D carding in their Last Year of Youth (18) and 1st Year of Junior (19) do not count when totalling years of carding in the above situation.
- 3. The Performance Requirement does not apply to athletes carded at SR1; such athletes must fulfill maintenance criteria detailed in section Tier 1: Senior International Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2).
- 4. Years carded under an Injury/Illness provision do not count when totalling years of carding in the above situations.

APPENDIX A – ADJUSTMENTS TO AAP BENCHMARKS DUE TO SMALLER FIELD SIZES

The table below defines the AAP Benchmark related to Field Size and adjustments.

	AAP Benchmark adjusted for field size			AAP Benchmark
Field size - individual competition	0-25	25-50	50-75	>75
Top placement required to achieve benchmark	1	2	2	3
	2	4	6	8
	3	5	8	10
	4	8	11	15
	5	10	15	20
	7	14	21	28
	8	15	23	30
	9	18	26	35
	10	20	30	40
	13	25	38	50
	14	28	41	55
	15	30	45	60
Field size - relay competitions	1-5	6-10	11-15	>15
Top placement required to achieve benchmark	1	2	4	6
	2	3	5	8

How to use this table

1. Determine the field size of your race. Note that the field size for a Super Sprint race is the number of participants starting in the qualification heat.
2. Using the AAP Priority ranking (Section IV) determine the Priority you achieved in the competition
3. If the field size is fewer than 76 athletes, find the column that corresponds to the appropriate field size. This number is the adjusted placement needed to achieve an AAP benchmark.

APPENDIX B – BEST SCORE

	Priority 51	Priority 52
Placing required for priority	15th place	N/A
Plus BEST points required, by age of athlete:		
Final Year of Youth (18) & younger	80	75
1st Year of Junior (19)	80	76
2nd Year of Junior (20)	80	76
3rd Year of Junior (21)	84	80

BEST Score calculated by sum of points earned for Ski Speed, Shooting Accuracy, Shooting Speed					
CAN Ski Speed %		Shooting Accuracy		Shooting Speed (average)	
Benchmarks	Points	Benchmarks	Points	Benchmarks	Points
-1.0 to 2.0	65	95.1 to 100%	30	< 25 sec	5
2.1 to 2.8	62.5	90.1 to 95%	29	25.1 to 28 sec	4
2.9 to 3.5	60	85.1 to 90%	28	28.1 to 32 sec	3
3.6 to 4.3	57.5	80.1 to 85%	26	32.1 to 38 sec	2
4.4 to 5.0	55	75.1 to 80%	23	38.1 to 45 sec	1
5.1 to 5.8	52.5	70.1 to 75%	22.5		
5.9 to 6.5	50	65.1 to 70%	18.5		
6.6 to 7.3	47.5	60.1 to 65%	14		
7.4 to 8.0	45				
8.1 to 8.8	42.5				
8.9 to 9.5	40				
9.6 to 11.0	35				
11.1 to 12.5	30				
12.6 to 14.0	25				
14.1 to 15.5	20				
15.6 to 17.0	15				