

**Wheelchair Basketball Canada (WBC) – Women
Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Nomination Process
2016-2017**

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline the process for athletes to be nominated for AAP carding.

The goal of the Women's program is to assemble the best possible team to achieve a podium performance at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. WBC will nominate 12 players for Senior cards.

WBC will also nominate 6-12 athletes in the national team pool for Development cards, who will *typically* be the athletes considered as "alternates".

Additional players may be nominated for Senior cards under very exceptional circumstances.

Wheelchair Basketball Canada Women's Program is eligible for the equivalent of 17 Senior cards (\$306,000) for the 2016-2017 carding year.

The number of months of an athlete's card will depend on their position on the depth chart and time commitment to the National Team program.

In order to be *eligible* for full support (12 months of living and training allowance, plus tuition where applicable) an athlete in a team sport must meet the following minimum standards:

- An annual National Team program of a minimum duration of 60 days must be in place and the athlete participates in that national team program for a least 60 days;

Reduced support may be provided to athletes who participate in the National Team program for a minimum of thirty days.

2. Timing

The 2016-2017 carding cycle is effective for a period of one year from March 1, 2016 to Feb 28, 2017.

The athletes to be nominated for carding (Senior and Development) will be notified of their status at the conclusion of the Carding Camp. This camp is scheduled for December 2015.

The list of nominated athletes will become official at the conclusion of the appeal period.

3. Decision making process

The final recommendation for nominations for the Senior and Development cards is made by the Senior Women's Head Coach, in consultation with the High Performance Director, the U25 Head Coach and the program Assistant Coaches.

The information used to determine the nominations will be collected throughout the year. Identified National Team pool athletes will be measured against the criteria at talent ID camps, Centres for Performance, National Team training camps, elite competitions and at the National Academy.

NB: Being nominated for a Senior card does not ensure that an athlete will be selected to the National Team to represent Canada at any major competition (Paralympics, World Championship, Qualification Tournament). For more information, please see the “National Team Selection Process” document.

4. Appeals

An athlete who wishes to appeal the decision of the Head Coach regarding their carding status, has the right to do so, by following the WBC Appeals Policy (available at www.wheelchairbasketball.ca or through the National Office). They will have 14 days from the conclusion of Carding Camp to file an appeal.

5. Eligibility

Athletes who wish to be considered for inclusion in the National Team Pool, and by consequence, AAP nomination, must inform the Head Coach no later than 3 months prior to Carding Camp, so that sufficient time can be given to measuring the athlete’s performance throughout the year.

As well, the Head Coach may inform an athlete they are being included in the national team pool and considered for carding nomination at any time during the year, in advance of Carding Camp.

Athletes must be Canadian citizens, or otherwise eligible to compete for Canada according to IWBF regulations and be members in good standing with Wheelchair Basketball Canada.

Athletes must have a medically-documented physical disability or be considered minimally-disabled by the IWBF to be considered for a carding nomination.

The Head Coach has the final authority on deciding whether an athlete should be considered for nomination in a given year.

Considerations include:

- The ability of the athlete to travel independently to National Team camps/competitions.
- The athlete’s future National Team potential, in comparison to the other athletes in the program.
- The classification of the athlete, in comparison to the other athletes in the program.
- The likelihood of the athlete being able to maintain a high enough level of training during the year, as determined by the Head Coach.

6. Criteria for Nomination

The primary criteria for nominating athletes for carding is to select the best team possible, ensuring the classification needs based on the primary line-up combinations, special line-up combinations, and substitution for players in the primary line-ups are met.

The measurement criteria can be broken down into 7 operational components:

6.1 Technical operational component. Athletes are measured using both contribution data and accuracy/intensity data that assess the core skills of wheelchair basketball (shooting, passing, ball-handling, rebounding, etc.). The data is measured using box score information and the Individual Technical Quality Measure Test (ITQMT) which rates the quality of skills execution.

6.2 Tactical operational component. Athletes are measured by assessing basketball intelligence and their understanding of decision making in WBC's style of play. Basketball IQ and Style of Play are measured using the ITQMT for basketball IQ and style of play.

6.3 Physical operational component. Athletes are measured by assessing their speed, agility and fitness for WBC's style of play. Speed, agility and style of play fitness are measured using the 20m sprint test, u-turn test, obstacle push test, and data collected from lactate tests, heart rate data and local positioning system (LPS) data.

6.4 Mental operational component. Athletes are assessed by measuring the mental skills needed specific to WBC's style of play. Examples of the skills measured include, but are not limited to, goal setting and arousal control. As an example, mental skills are measured using survey data from a mental skills inventory.

6.5 Health operational component. Athletes are assessed by measuring their durability using an index that tracks the number and type of workouts they do. The durability index is calculated on the number of possible workouts an athlete has outlined in their YTP and how many they are able to complete.

6.6 Nutrition operational component. Athletes are assessed by measuring their nutritional knowledge and improvements in their nutritional health. As an example, nutrition knowledge is measured using a questionnaire, while nutrition health is measured through blood tests.

6.7 Equipment operational component. Athletes are assessed by measuring how their installation is maximized to optimize pushing power, injury prevention and skill execution. This is calculated based on power outputs measured using an ergometer and skill execution in field tests like partner pylon passing, obstacle dribble and one minute shooting.

6.8 Additional criteria for consideration:

6.8.1 Factors related to team cohesion and team dynamics

6.8.2 Experience in international competition

6.8.3 Commitment to the program and to training as demonstrated through attendance at training and competition throughout the year and submission of training reports to the coaching staff

- 6.8.4 Ability to fit the overall team style of play (speed, full-court press, back-picking, high tempo defense, fast breaking)
- 6.8.5 Evaluation during the year in competitive events at an elite level.
- 6.8.6 The future potential of an athlete to compete in the next Paralympic Games will be considered.

7. WBC athlete program standards

7.1 AAP carding nominees

Carded athletes (senior and development) will receive and maintain their AAP support under the following conditions:

- Attendance at all mandatory events unless previous permission has been granted to be absent.
- Submission of evidence of maintaining a year round high performance training program.
- Maintenance of skill and fitness standards
- Agreement in writing to comply with the above criteria, as well as the conditions noted in the Wheelchair Basketball Canada Athlete Agreement document.

Notwithstanding special situations regarding health, injury and illness as outlined in the Sport Canada AAP guidelines, athletes who fail to comply with the above criteria may no longer be eligible to receive AAP support until such time as the inability to comply is rectified.

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

- Failure to meet training or competition commitments, as determined by the Head Coach;
- Violation of the Athlete/National Sport Organization(NSO) Agreement;
- Failure to meet athlete responsibilities outlined in the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Policies and Procedures;
- Gross breach of discipline;
- Investigation for cause; and
- Violations of anti-doping rules.

Other special situations may be considered on an individual basis whereby the application of fairness principles will be applied.

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

- A decision by the athlete to live in an environment not conducive to high performance achievement;
- Any deliberate action by the athlete that significantly risks or limits performance; or
- An inability to meet the training and competition obligations outlined in the 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-to training or competition commitments. If the NSO wishes to recommend withdrawal of carded status for an alleged failure to meet agreed-to training and competitive commitments, the NSO must first:

- Provide a verbal warning to the athlete, including the steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of a failure to heed the warning;
- Follow-up with a written warning to the athlete if the verbal warning is not heeded.
- If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter and the NSO still wishes to recommend withdrawal of carded status, the NSO must provide written notification to the AAP Manager and the NSO's Sport Canada Program Officer, with a copy to the athlete, recommending withdrawal of the athlete's carded status. This written notification must:
 - o Indicate the grounds on which the recommendation for withdrawal of carded status is being made;
 - o Indicate the steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by formal letter of warning);
 - o Notify the athlete of his or her right to contest the NSO's recommendation to withdraw carded status through the NSO's internal appeal process within the prescribed time

8. Short-term curtailment of training and competition for health-related reasons

Health-related circumstances that limit training and competition in relation to carding status, for relatively short periods (i.e.: less than 4 months) are a matter between WBC and the athlete. The athlete must notify the program Head Coach and WBC of any injury or other legitimate reason that will prevent the athlete from training or competing in an upcoming event as soon as is reasonably possible.

9. Long-term curtailment of training and competition for health-related reasons

Carded athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for periods longer than 4 months because of injury or illness will continue to receive 100% of the AAP financial support to which they would otherwise be entitled, provided the following conditions are met:

9.1 The athlete undertakes in writing, to train or rehabilitate or both, under the supervision of the program Head Coach (or designate) for the period of time which the athlete is unable to fulfill the normal training or competition requirement, and at a level which minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures optimal return to training and competition at the earliest possible date.

9.2 The athlete signifies in writing his intention to return to full high performance training and competition at the earliest possible date following the illness or injury.

9.3 In case of injured or ill athletes, a positive prognosis for the athlete's return to training and competition at the high performance level in wheelchair basketball within 8 – 12 months is required from a physician.

10. Failure to meet renewal criteria for health-related reasons

At the end of a carding cycle, during which an athlete has, for strictly health-related reasons, not achieved the standards required for renewal of carding status, he may be considered for the upcoming carding period under the following conditions:

10.1 The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to training and competition during the period of his injury or illness and, despite making every reasonable effort, has failed to achieve the standards.

10.2 The program Head Coach, along with a physician, indicates in writing that the athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.

10.3 The athlete has demonstrated long-term commitment to high performance training and competition goals, as well as their intention to continue to do so throughout the carding period for which they wish to be renewed despite not having achieved the standard.