

## **WBC SMNT AAP 2024-25 Carding Criteria**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to describe the process and criteria that will be used by Wheelchair Basketball Canada (WBC) to nominate athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP).

### **2. Goal**

The goal of the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is to provide financial support to athletes to train and compete successfully for CANADA at Paralympic Games and World Championships.

### **3. Program Description**

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), funded by Sport Canada, ensures identified high-performance athletes are afforded the necessary resources to achieve international success. The program contributes to improving Canadian performances at major international sporting events such as the Paralympic Games and World Championships.

Athletes who are nominated for funding, and who are approved by Sport Canada for AAP financial support are referred to as "Carded" athletes, and AAP funding is referred to as "Carding".

The Financial Assistance provided to identified Canadian athletes comes in the form of a monthly living and training allowance and, where applicable, 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 obligations and commitments as detailed in Wheelchair Basketball Canada's Athlete Agreement and Sport Canada policies and procedures which govern the AAP and the establishment and application of criteria.

### **4. Quota**

In 2024-2025, the WBC men's program is eligible to receive 17 Senior Cards or \$360,060 (subject to periodic review by Sport Canada). This allocation is typically divided into 12 Senior cards with the remainder being assigned to Development cards. This is only a guideline, and the actual division of cards will vary.

The carding cycle is from May 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> each year.

### **5. Types of Carding**

Athletes approved by Sport Canada for the AAP may be eligible for a living and training allowance, tuition support (in a Sport Canada approved University, College program or other post secondary institution) and deferred tuition support. This allowance is usually paid in advance every two months. Athlete funded through the AAP receive a monthly financial stipend as follows.

Senior Card (SR1, SR2, SR, SRI) - \$1765/Month

Development Card (D, DI) - \$1060/Month

## 6. Eligibility Standards

To be considered eligible for AAP assistance, an athlete must:

- Be an identified National Team program athlete (process outlined below).
- Have an eligible Impairment for the sport of Wheelchair Basketball and player meets the IWBF minimum impairment criteria.
- 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.
- Be eligible to represent Canada, under the eligibility requirements of the IWBF as it pertains to citizenship or residency status, at major international competitions, including World Championships, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated.
- Sign an Athlete Agreement, complete the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Application Form for the year in question and complete the required on-line anti-doping courses.

If the athlete is nominated for the AAP and accepts, they must continue to fulfill these conditions.

An athlete may be selected to the National Team Pool but may not be nominated for the AAP.

## 7. Decision Making Process

- The final recommendation for nominations for the Senior and Development cards is made by the WBC Nomination Committee which consists of the High-Performance Director and Program Head Coach in consultation with the U23 Head Coaches, program assistant coaches and select IST staff.
- Sport Canada reviews all nominations put forward by the WBC Nomination Committee and approves them in accordance with the AAP policies and the published WBC approved carding criteria.
- Athletes that do achieve the standards, are not guaranteed to be awarded a card.
- Final selections for the AAP will be based on the Gold Medal Profile (GMP) Rankings and the athlete must display behaviors that contribute to team cohesion and a positive team culture.

## 8. Carding Categories and Definitions Overview

### A. Senior International Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2):

Eligible athletes must have played on the team that achieved top 8 and top 1/2 at 2023 Dubai IWBF World Championships and meet the GMP Evaluation criteria outlined in Appendix 1.

Athletes who meet the international criteria are eligible to be nominated by the WBC Nomination Committee 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 card.

The second year of carding will be confirmed by meeting the following criteria and being re-nominated by the WBC Nomination Committee:

- the athlete maintaining a training and competitive program approved by WBC.
- the athlete maintaining their status in the national depth chart according to the GMP Evaluation criteria (Appendix 1)
- the athlete meeting the additional criteria listed in Section 9 and 10

B. Senior National carding criteria (SR):

Eligible athletes who meet the Senior National depth chart according to the GMP Evaluation criteria outlined in Appendix 1.

- Number of years an athlete may be carded at the Senior (SR) National Level or be recommended for additional years of carding support:
  - An athlete is expected to progress in their development to maintain Senior National card status.
  - An athlete who has been carded for more than 5 years at the Senior National level must meet the International Senior carding or clearly demonstrate continued progress toward being selected on the final roster of the Senior National Team.
  - Athletes who have not met the International Senior carding level after 5 years at senior (SR) national level will be informed by WBC of a minimum standard they must achieve in the current cycle to be eligible for an additional year of Senior card support.

C. Development Card carding criteria (D):

Eligible athletes who meet the Development depth chart according to the GMP Evaluation criteria outlined in Appendix 1.

- a. Note: An athlete who has been carded at the SR/SR1/SR2 levels for more than 2 years is no longer eligible for nomination for Development Card, unless they were a U23 age-eligible athlete when carded at these levels.

Number of years an athlete may be carded at the Development Level

- b. An athlete is expected to progress in their development to maintain a Development Card. An athlete who has been carded for more than 5 years after the age of 22 at the Development level must meet the following criteria to be recommended for additional years of carding support:
  - i. the National/International Senior depth chart according to the GMP Evaluation criteria outlined in Appendix 1.
  - ii. the additional criteria listed in Section 9 and 10
  - iii. or clearly demonstrated ongoing progress toward being selected on the final roster of the Senior National Team.
- c. Athletes who have reached the maximum 5 years at Development card will be informed by WBC of a minimum standard they must meet to be eligible for an additional year of Development card support.

#### D. Health-Related circumstances:

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

- The Athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high-performance training and competition.
- In consultation with identified IST staff, the WBC Nomination Committee, accepts that the Athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to a health-related reason.
- The WBC Nomination Committee, based on its technical judgment and that of a WBC team physician or equivalent, indicates in writing the expectation that the Athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.
- The Athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate their long-term commitment to high performance training and competition goals, as well as their intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which they wish to be renewed despite not having met the carding criteria.

#### E. Athletes Competing on Professional Teams:

Athletes on contract or regularly competing in leagues may be eligible for nomination for AAP support under the following circumstances:

- WBC can demonstrate that each Eligible Athlete nominated for AAP support is an active member of the WBC's high performance and national team program.
- WBC can demonstrate that each Eligible Athlete nominated for AAP support has an individualized annual training program that includes significant daily training activities and is based on year-round training principles; and
- WBC formally monitors and evaluates each athlete's training and competitive programs while they are participating in the professional league. The NSO must designate a national coach or a person with equivalent qualifications and status (i.e. IST Lead, High Performance Director, etc.) to perform these tasks.
- Athletes participate for at least 60 days of formal training and/or competition as specified in the National Team program.

#### 9. Nomination Process

- Because of the limited card quota available, the number of months an athlete is nominated for carding will be based off the following.
  - 1) The carding quota established by Sport Canada
  - 2) The players position in the depth chart according to the GMP Evaluation criteria (Appendix 1).

- Eligible athletes will be nominated for AAP support in the following order of priority.
  1. Athletes meeting the Senior International (SR1 and SR2) criteria.
  2. Up to 12 available athletes based on the Depth Chart developed from the GMP Evaluation nominated for Senior (SR) carding.
  3. Athletes eligible for a Senior health related circumstances card (SRI).
  4. Athletes meeting the Development card (D) criteria.
  5. Athletes eligible for a development health related circumstances card (DI)
  
- WBC Nomination Committee in no order, will consider the following criteria before providing a final recommendation for carding:
  - The WBC card quota established by Sport Canada.
  - The athlete's position on the depth chart.
  - The athlete's abilities to fulfill national team commitments within the carding cycle year.
  - Factors related to team cohesion and team dynamics.
  - The quality of the athlete's training environment to support high performance training.
  - Experience in international competition.
  - Commitment to the program and to training as demonstrated through attendance at training and competition throughout the year and submission of required training reports to the coaching staff.
  - Based on confirmed classification, the athlete can contribute within proposed line-ups
  - Demonstrated commitment to their Individual Performance Plan (IPP)
    - o ongoing communication with program leadership, coaches and IST in their growth as a person and an athlete,
    - o executing on the IPP which when transferred to competition shows a positive change of behavior that contributes to team excellence on and off the court.
  - The potential of an athlete to compete in the next Paralympic Games

## **10. Wheelchair Basketball Canada Carded Athlete Requirements**

To receive and maintain their AAP support, carded athletes must:

- Respond to and declare their status to invited WBC events within the communicated time frames.
- Be available to accept all invitations to attend all camps, competitions or training sessions.
  - o For exceptional circumstances, such as health related reasons, death in family etc., exemptions can be discussed with the WBC HPD and Program Coaches.
- Follow year-round training programs (i.e. IPP) that are provided to the athlete by WBC head coach and/or IST staff.

- ☐ Train and/or compete from September to April of the carding year in an approved WBC environment.
- ☐ Submit training logs as prescribed by the program coaches and/or IST through a communicated platform.
- ☐ Perform fit.
- ☐ Fitness monitoring/testing and submit requested results as prescribed by the program coaches and/or IST.

Notwithstanding Sport Canada policy for special situations described in section 8D of this document, if a carded athlete fails to meet the criteria (Section 9) or fulfill their requirements (Section 10) within 10 days of a scheduled deadline, then the following process will be followed:

- First Offense
  - An oral warning to the athlete followed by a written summary of the conversation which will include the steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of a failure to heed the warning.
  - A time frame by which the athlete will need to show a change of behaviour is to be provided verbally and in writing.
- Second Offense
  - Written warning to the athlete in which they acknowledge in writing they have received their second and final warning.
- If after two warnings, no consistent change in the identified behaviours have occurred to the satisfaction of the WBC Nomination Committee and the WBC still wishes to recommend withdrawal of carded status, the WBC will provide written notification to AAP, with a copy to the athlete, recommending withdrawal of the athlete's carded status.

## **11. Appeal Process**

Appeals of decisions of WBC on AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or to withdraw carding may be pursued only through the WBC's appeal process, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). Appeals of AAP decisions made under (Application for and Approval of Cards) or (Withdrawal of Carding Status) may be pursued through Section 13 of the AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.

# APPENDIX 1

## WBC Gold Medal Profile (GMP) 2024

Psychological GMP Asset	Description	Competencies/Skills	Evaluation Parameters
Competitive Readiness	Ability to execute trained skills at a high-performance level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Statistical Benchmarks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attentional Control</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emotion &amp; Arousal Regulation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sport-Confidence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Resilience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Technical GMP Score</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tactical GMP Score</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 5-Cone Drill</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Skill Execution/Duration</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour Changes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Experience Level</li> </ul>
Optimizes Training Gains	Ability to meet/exceed individual and team training expectations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Motivation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Attentional Control</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Resilience</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Emotion &amp; Arousal Regulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physical Preparation Score</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Individual Expectations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Team Expectations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compliance to Training</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compliance to Additional Training</li> </ul>
Supports teammates training and performance	Ability to engage with teammates and enhance their training/performance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Statistical Benchmarks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Teamwork</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Peer Evaluation</li> </ul>
Maintains appropriate health and well-being	Ability to implement strategies, seek out resources, and engage with a support system to maintain physical and mental health/well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Physical Treatment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Literacy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Self-awareness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stress management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of skills/strategies (self-evaluation)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compliance to recovery plans</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with IST</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with additional resources</li> </ul>
Commitment to Culture of Excellence	Ability to support/promote the established values of the current senior program(s).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Candor</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Empathy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vulnerability</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Self-determination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with IST &amp; other resources</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Compliance to Additional Training</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engagement with athletes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Feedback from Athletes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Equipment</li> </ul>

	Name:			
<b>GMP Evaluation Grid</b>	<b>Evaluation Components</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Observations, strengths &amp; gaps</b>	<b>Gap-closing strategies</b>
<b>Competitive Readiness</b>	Execution of skills	/4		
	Emotion/arousal regulation	/4		
	Duration of execution	/4		
	Experience level	/4		
	Technical GMP score	/4		
	Tactical GMP score	/4		
	5-Cone drill	/4		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>/28</b>		
<b>Optimize Training Gains</b>	Setting training objectives	/4		
	Meeting individual expectations	/4		
	Complete training programs	/4		
	Complete additional training	/4		
	Sustain focus during training	/4		
	Physical performance score (20m)	/4		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>/24</b>		
<b>Support Teammates</b>	Peer evaluation basketball development	/8		
	Peer evaluation personal development	/8		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>/16</b>		
<b>Maintain appropriate health and well-being</b>	Implementation of skills/strategies	/4		
	Compliance to recovery plans	/4		
	Engagement with IST/other resources	/4		
	Engagement with outside resources	/4		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>/16</b>		
<b>Commitment to culture of excellence</b>	Engagement with IST/other resources	/4		
	Complete additional training	/4		
	Providing direct feedback	/4		
	Equipment	/4		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>/16</b>		



<b>Final Score</b>		<b>/100</b>	
<b>Final Rank*</b>		<b>/23</b>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>			

*\*Final rank dependent on number of athletes evaluated that year.*