



**WHEELCHAIR  
BASKETBALL  
CANADA**

**MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM**

**ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**PROCESS, ELIGIBILITY & CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION**

**MAY 1, 2026 – APRIL 30, 2027**

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## WBC SMNT AAP 2026-27 Carding Criteria

### 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).

### 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.

### 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.

### QUOTA

In 2026-2027, the WBC men's program is eligible to receive 17 Senior Cards or \$443,700 (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.

### 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 International Cards (SR1, SR2) - \$2175/Month

Senior National Cards (SR, SRH) - \$2175/Month

Development Cards (D, DH) - \$1305/Month

**Notes:**

Approved athletes must be nominated a minimum of 4 months, and up to a maximum of 12 months.

## ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS

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

- Be an identified National Team program athlete (process outlined below).
- Be a **Canadian citizen** at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated.
- Under the eligibility requirements of IWBF, the athlete must be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated.
- Have an eligible Impairment for the sport of Wheelchair Basketball and player meets the IWBF minimum impairment criteria.
- The athlete must meet the published WBC approved, AAP-compliant sport-specific carding criteria.

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.

## 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,
  - Program Head Coach, and
  - Next Gen Player Development Manager
- 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.

## 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 ½ (half) at the most recent IWBF World Championships or Paralympic Games and meet the Gold Medal Profile (GMP) Rankings 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 Gold Medal Profile (GMP) rankings 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 Gold Medal Profile (GMP) rankings 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 and 12.
  - 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's previous GMP Evaluation ranks them in the current depth chart for carding as per the Priority Rankings outlined in the Nomination Process.
- The Athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high-performance training and competition during the period of their injury, illness, pregnancy, or other health-related circumstance, or is continuing a rehabilitation program approved by Wheelchair Basketball Canada.
- 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.
- An athlete is only eligible to receive an injury card for a maximum of two years.
- NOTE: A health card that is designated for pregnancy will not count toward the health-related circumstances card maximum years.

## 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.
  - The carding quota established by Sport Canada
  - The player's position in the depth chart according to the Gold Medal Profile (GMP) rankings (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 (SRH)

4. Athletes meeting the Development card (D) criteria.
  5. Athletes eligible for a development health related circumstances card (DH)
- 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

## DEPTH CHART DEVELOPMENT

Wheelchair Basketball Canada will establish an athlete Depth Chart. Final decisions on the Depth Chart will be determined by the High-Performance Director. WBC Senior Head Coach and NextGen Player Development Manager will be consulted prior to final decisions.

The Gold Medal Profile Evaluation Criteria ranking will form the basis of building the National depth chart with consideration given to body of work, positional needs, level of opposition and trajectory. The athletes considered will include the following:

- all athletes who were involved in WBC's High-Performance programming from the season that just concluded
- Non-Basketball High Performance Program players evaluated over the course of the season may be included in this list.
- Position/Classification specific requirements for the team will be a consideration in the nomination of athletes for carding.

Invitations to training sessions will be derived from this list of athletes.

- Prior to submitting the final nominations for carding to Sport Canada a 'Final Depth Chart' will be established.
- Ranking in the Depth Chart will be based on:
  - o Depth Chart created from the Gold Medal Profile Rankings
  - o Roster Design: Position and/or classification specific requirements for team success

- On and Off-Court testing results / commitment to prescribed training program
- Character Evaluations: Possess a positive attitude including coachability, desire to improve personal skills, and desire to contribute to team objectives

## CARDING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Standards: To be eligible to receive full funding at any carding level (12 months of living and training allowance plus tuition where applicable), the following minimum standards must be in place:

To qualify for four months of carding, participants must demonstrate participation in a National Team program for a minimum duration of thirty (30) days. For twelve months of carding, sixty (60) days of participation are required. Participation with a national team program is on site with the National team and staff (Camps, competition and events). This minimum duration includes:

1. National Team Events, Camps and Training (Development Program applies)
2. Athletes must also comply with individualized year-round intensive training programs that are supervised or monitored by the National Team Strength & Conditioning Coach.
3. In accordance with the above, athletes are required to routinely share training and development plans from external environments.

## CARDED ATHLETE REQUIREMENTS

In order to receive and maintain their AAP support, carded Athletes must:

- Attend all scheduled national team activities they are invited to participate in unless the athlete has extenuating circumstances that are approved by WBC.
- Avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to significantly disrupt or interfere with a competition or the preparation of any Athlete for a competition.
- Compete on a club team in a wheelchair basketball league;
- Perform all health and fitness testing as prescribed by the program established by WBC;
- Follow their prescribed, individualized training programs and complete athlete monitoring as provided by WBC;
- The athlete must sign a WBC Athlete Agreement, complete the Athletes Assistance Program application form for the year in question and abide by all WBC regulations and protocols including but not limited to conduct, anti-doping, Safe Sport;
- Complete all CCES and anti-doping education, True Sport Clean 101 and Sport Canada - Athlete Assistance Program courses, at the beginning of each new carding cycle and at times thereafter as required by Sport Canada;
- Abide by specific Sport Canada and Federal Government policies that Canada

Basketball and carded athlete must comply with, including the following:

- The Canadian Anti-Doping Program;
  - The Canadian Policy Against Doping in Sport
  - Completion of the AAP anti-doping education module(s) as requested and available on the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport website;
  - The AAP policies and procedures (this document);
  - The Cannabis Act
  - The Federal Government Official Languages Act; and
  - The Universal Code of Conduct to Prevent and Address Maltreatment in Sport (UCCMS).
- WBC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to request further documentation or information from the carded athlete any time after the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

WBC will implement and facilitate a monitoring plan for each athlete that will allow an evaluation of each athlete's individual training plan, provide feedback and measure progress accomplished by the athlete.

Notwithstanding Sport Canada policy for special situations described in Section 11 of the AAP policy ('Withdrawal of Carded Status'), if a carded Athlete fails to meet training or competition commitments or fails to perform any other requirement as assigned by Canada Basketball (within the deadlines set), then the following process will be applied:

- Provide an oral 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 oral warning is not heeded.
- Written notification advising the Athlete that a member of the High-Performance Leadership Group recommend to AAP withdrawal of carded status following the procedures outlined in Section 11 Withdrawal of Carded Status.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html#a13>

## 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.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>

# APPENDIX 1

## WBC Gold Medal Profile (GMP) 2026

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

Office on the web Frame		WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL SENIOR PROGRAM - PLAYER GMP	
5 Above and Beyond	<p><b>CHAIR SKILLS</b> <i>Individual chair skills compliments all other skill sets</i></p> <p><b>Top speed</b> – ability to consistently produce an efficient and strong push  <b>Agility</b> – ability to turn, pivot and control your chair  <b>Quickness</b> – ability to accelerate, turn and pivot at a fast pace  <b>Control</b> – ability to control your chair in high-speed situations. To avoid charges and ability to make it through small holes.</p>	<p><b>SHOOTING</b> <i>Consistency based on classification</i></p> <p><b>Close Range</b> – inside key shooting  <b>Mid/Long range</b> outside key shooting including 3 pointers  <b>Shooting under pressure</b> – high percentage shooting when being defended or fatigued  <b>Shot creation</b> – ability to move with the ball into high percentage shooting areas and shoot off a dribble</p>	<p><b>GAME SENSE</b> <i>Actions &amp; thinking are one</i></p> <p><b>Communication</b> – allow team to gain an advantage  <b>Transition</b> transitioning on defense and offense to create advantages and to prevent disadvantages  <b>D &amp; O IQ</b> understanding and ability to perform high level game play strategy and endgame scenario.  <b>Court vision</b> – ability to see the court, read plays and stay one step ahead of the opponent</p>
3 Next Gen Level	<p><b>SKILLS/TACTICS</b> <i>Primarily in relation to defensive</i></p> <p><b>Defensive adjustments</b> – adjusting and playing different defensive formations on the fly or during set plays  <b>Athletic Ability</b> – combination of athletic qualities exp: speed, strength agility, hand quickness  <b>Time/Space</b> – ability to read and react to time and space accordingly</p>	<p><b>DEPENDABILITY</b> <i>You know what you are getting day in &amp; day out</i></p> <p><b>Compete-</b> Includes work ethic – makes the most of their size – hard to play against – willingness to fight for success – doesn't give up  <b>Conditioning</b> – ability to maintain a high pace of play throughout a game, camp or event  <b>Emotional Control</b> – displays resilience that allows to consistently perform at an emerging high-performance level under pressure regardless of the role. Includes displays of self-confidence, desire, focus, composure, body language is in check – does not put their team at a disadvantage .</p>	
2 Needs Improvement	1 Not the Level		