



**AAP CARDING CRITERIA
FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2019 - 2020 CARDING CYCLE**

SPORT CANADA CARDING – ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SPORT CANADA CARDING LEVELS

Tennis Canada will nominate players annually (based on the enclosed criteria) for direct funding by Sport Canada. Support comes in the form of a monthly payment from Sport Canada that goes directly to the players. Eligibility for the Carding assistance program begins in a player's second year U14. Players are nominated for a twelve-month period under this program.

Carding Levels:

- International Senior (SR 1, 2), Senior (SR cards) \$1,765/month
- Senior (C1 Card) \$ 1,060/month
- Developmental (D Card) \$ 1,060/month

Please be aware that Sport Canada also provides tuition support to athletes able to attend school and meet the high performance training and competition requirements. For more information on the AAP Policies and Procedures, please consult the Sport Canada web site: <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1414514343755/1414514385181>

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR NOMINATING PLAYERS FOR AAP SUPPORT:

Director, High Performance – Tennis Canada

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications will be sent by Tennis Canada to all likely candidates in late November. To be considered for carding the athlete must apply to Tennis Canada. The Application must be received by the High Performance Director no later than the third week of January.

SPORT CANADA CARDING CRITERIA

Minimum requirements for athletes to qualify for the AAP are:

- The athlete's NSO must meet the minimum requirements listed in section 2.2 of AAP Policies and Procedures
- AAP support is subject to athletes availability to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, participation in preparatory and annual training programs, and adherence to their Athlete/National Sport Organization (NSO) Agreement
- The athlete must be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada, on the date of the beginning of the carding cycle, and the athlete shall have been a legal resident in Canada (student status, refugee status, work visa or permanent resident) for a minimum period of one year before being considered for AAP support. The athlete would normally be expected to have participated in NSO-sanctioned programs during that time period.

In addition to the criteria above, to be considered for carding, players must:

- Be a Davis or Fed Cup Squad member who meets our carding criteria or;
- Be a Transition Player who meets our carding criteria or;
- Be a "age eligible" junior (as defined by our criteria) who meets our D carding criteria
- Junior players must participate in one indoor and one outdoor Junior Nationals (any age category) to be eligible for the Sport Canada carding program (unless they meet the exemption clause – see Appendix #3 for specific details)
- Carded athletes must maintain system eligibility throughout the carding cycle to retain their carding status
- Be a member in good standing with Tennis Canada
- Sign the Player Agreement. Be eligible to represent Canada in accordance with the ITF rules and regulations stipulated for the ITF World Team Championships (Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympics, Pan Am Games, Jr. Davis/Fed Cup and World Junior Tennis).

Tennis Canada is currently eligible to receive a maximum of ten (10) Senior Cards (\$211,800). This current quota number is subject to change at any time by Sport Canada.

General Guidelines:

- Players will be nominated by Tennis Canada for carding assistance in February of each year. A player application will be evaluated in relation to the established carding criteria for their respective age/gender.
- The carding year will be based on a 12-month cycle, starting in May and ending in April of each year.
- Player results for the Senior Card Criteria will be based on the official published Year-End ATP/WTA ranking, and for Development Cards based on results achieved during the current and previous calendar years (January 1 to December 31)
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- **PRIORITY #1:** Up to \$127,080 or 6 Sr. Cards (SR1, SR2, SR, C1 cards, or athletes meeting the Senior injury card criteria) will be guaranteed to professional players meeting the published AAP Performance Standards (for their applicable Transition Year and gender). Up to \$38,160 or 3 D Cards will be guaranteed to age eligible juniors players meeting Tennis Canada's published Performance Standards (for their applicable birth year and gender).
- Athlete prioritization (up to the maximums listed above for professional and juniors) will be given to the athlete meeting the highest AAP Performance Standards (professionals) or Tennis Canada's Performance Standards (juniors) for the previous calendar year (please see Appendix #1 for specific details). GOLD any year ahead of SILVER any year, ahead of BRONZE any year). If more than six (6) professional players are tied, or more than three (3) age eligible junior players are tied, the tie-breaking procedures outlined below will be used:
- **Priority #1 Tie-Breaking Procedure (Senior Cards SR1, SR2, SR and C1):**
 - The first tie breaker will be the highest AAP Performance Standard met (for gender and year) during the current competitive year (GOLD any year, ahead of SILVER any year ahead of BRONZE any year).
 - For ties between professional players who have each met the same AAP Performance Standard (for gender and year) then the player with lowest % difference between the official Year End ATP or WTA ranking and their applicable AAP Performance Standard breaks the tie. For example player A achieves a year end WTA ranking of #113. Her required ranking was #115. The difference is $\#113/\#115 = (.982\%)$. Player B achieves a year-end ATP ranking of #202. His required ranking was #225. $\#202/\#225 = (.897\%)$ Player B would be carded.
 - **Priority #1 Tie-breaking Procedure (Development Cards):**
 - First, the highest Tennis Canada Performance Standard met during the current competitive year (GOLD any year, ahead of SILVER any year, ahead of BRONZE any year)
 - If still tied, then the tie-breaker used will be as outlined in the Tie-Breaking Procedure D Card Nominations.
- If there are less than six (6) SR1, SR2, SR, C1, or injury cards recommended to professional players based on Priority #1). Or less than 3 developmental D cards recommended to age eligible juniors based on Priority #1, then any remaining Senior Card(s) will be allocated to athletes who meet the guidelines listed below in this order (Priority #2, ahead of Priority #3)..
- **PRIORITY #2:** Based on the nominations made above, remaining SR or C1 cards will first be guaranteed to Senior Athletes who came the "closest" to meeting their published AAP Performance Standard (for year and gender).
- For professional players who did not meet their published AAP Performance Standard, the carding order will be determined by the player with smallest % difference between the official Year End ATP or WTA ranking and their applicable AAP Performance Standard breaks the tie (to within a maximum differentiation of +1.5%). For example if 1 SR card is available for distribution. Player A achieves a year end WTA ranking of #161. Her required AAP Performance Standard (for gender and year) was #142. The difference is $161/\#142 = (1.13\%)$. Player B achieves a year-end WTA ranking of #168. Her required AAP Performance Standard (for gender and year) was #115. $\#168/\#115 = (1.46\%)$. Player C achieved a year end ATP ranking of #492. His required AAP Performance Standard was #200. The difference is $\#492/\#200 = (2.46\%)$. Player C would be ineligible for consideration, player A would be recommended for carding support.
- **PRIORITY #3:** Based on the nominations made above, any remaining SR, or C1 cards will be available to age eligible junior players in order of priority, based on the highest number of points earned via the D carding tables (see Appendix #2 for specific details)
- If there is a tie, then the tiebreaker will be as outlined in the Tie-Breaking Procedure D Card Nominations
- **PRIORITY #4:** If there is AAP carding support left after the application of all the priorities described in the General guidelines section above, "about to graduate juniors" who have signed a letter of intention to play in a college (NCAA) program may be considered for the AAP, at the D card level. The D Carding Tables will be used in determining the order of nomination priority for college players. Priority will be given to players who earn the most number of points over the two year eligibility period.

The carding criteria is reviewed and approved by the High Performance Committee, comprised of Tennis Canada's VP- High Performance, Director-High Performance, VP – Tennis Development. Two athlete representatives (one male and one female) will provide feedback and input to the carding criteria. The criteria is recommended by Tennis Canada to Sport Canada annually for review.

SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CARDS (SR1 AND SR2)

Sport Canada establishes the performance standards for international criteria used to award Senior Cards. The following are the current standards for international criteria recognized by Sport Canada for Tennis Canada:

OLYMPIC YEAR:

- Eligible players who finish Top 8 and Top half in in singles or doubles the Olympic Games

NON-OLYMPIC YEAR:

- Eligible players who played on the team that finished Top 8, equivalent to the quarterfinals Davis Cup (World Group draw) or Fed Cup (World Group draw).

Athletes who meet the International criteria are eligible to be nominated by Tennis Canada for two consecutive years, with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the competitive plan approved by Tennis Canada and Sport Canada being maintained, and on the athlete continuing to meet all eligibility criteria. The athlete must also sign the Player/Tennis Canada agreement and complete the AAP application form for the year in question.

SENIOR CARDS

SENIOR (SR and C1)

- Senior cards are intended for those Transition players who have the potential to achieve Senior International status

TRANSITION PLAYERS ARE:

- Graduating junior female players who choose not to enter college/university and have completed five (5) years or fewer full time on the professional tour
- Graduating college/university female players who have completed two (2) years or fewer on the professional tour
- Graduating junior male players who choose not to enter college/university and have completed six (6) years or fewer full-time on the professional tour
- Graduating college/university male players who have completed four (4) years or fewer full time on the professional tour
- Transition players will be considered for senior cards based on the ranking achieved in professional events in relation to their published AAP Performance Standards.
- A player's Transition years (1-6 years male or 1-5 years female) begins the year after junior eligibility has concluded.
- Players who have not been previously carded at the Senior (SR) card level or higher, and meet the Senior card criteria for the first time will be carded at the Senior (C1) level
- Players whose ATP/WTA ranking declines from one year to the next, will be eligible for AAP nomination should they meet the AAP Performance Standard requirement for the applicable "Transition Year".
- A player at the Senior card level will be re-considered for carding if injury or illness prevents him/her from meeting the carding criteria. The player's year end ATP/WTA ranking from the previous year will be compared to their applicable AAP Performance Standard ranking progression to determine his/her rank on the priority list. The requirement of Sport Canada's policy on the "Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health Related reasons" must be met in order for a player to be nominated as an "injury" card.

COLLEGE TRANSITION: MALE

TRANSITION YEAR	RANKING PROGRESSIONS
	AAP Performance Standard
Transition Year 1	215
Transition Year 2	200
Transition Year 3	165
Transition Year 4	160
Doubles Standard	50 – 11 (Year End <u>DOUBLES</u> ATP ranking achieved <u>any</u> year 1 through 4)

COLLEGE TRANSITION: FEMALE

TRANSITION YEAR	RANKING PROGRESSIONS	
	AAP Performance Standard	
Transition Year 1		132
Transition Year 2		123
Doubles Standard		50 - 11 (Year End <u>DOUBLES</u> WTA ranking achieved any year 1 through 2)

Developmental D CARDS

Developmental D cards are intended for age eligible junior players who have the potential to achieve Senior (SR, C1) card status.

D Carding Criteria

- Age eligible juniors (are players under the age of 18 as specified by ITF rules defining U18 players) during the evaluation years in question.
- Juniors are considered for Development (D) card status based on the points accrued based on the D Carding Tables (see Appendix #2 for specific details) for their respective age and gender.
- Once a player has reached the age eligibility requirement, all Development (D) carded players will have a two - year (January 1 to December 31) window to accrue points and thus injury has been factored into the selection process
- The D Carding Tables will be used in determining the order of priority for Developmental (D) Cards. Priority will be given to players who earn the most number of points over the two year eligibility period.
- The following order or priority will be used to break all D card ties:
 - (1) Current carding year results (points total accrued), if still tied then
 - (2) Meeting upper age category GOLD Performance Standards, ahead of SILVER Performance Standards, ahead of BRONZE Standards (current year) if still tied then
 - (3) Meeting birth age category GOLD Performance Standards, ahead of SILVER Performance Standards, ahead of BRONZE Standards (current year) if still tied then
 - (4) Previous year's carding results (point totals accrued)
 - (5) Most recent International singles results
 - (6) Most recent National singles results
- All players applying for a D card, must earn a minimum of 10 points over the two-year eligibility period to be eligible to receive Sport Canada carding support

CARDING PROGRAM GRADUATION

A player who has reached any one of the ranking benchmarks listed below, or who has reached the maximum number of years of full time play on the professional tour as listed below, will graduate from the carding program and will therefore no longer be eligible to be nominated for carding at any level.

MEN

- Top 75 ATP singles ranking
- Top 10 ATP doubles ranking
- Top 100 ATP singles ranking combined with a Top 50 ATP doubles ranking
- Men who have competed seven (7) years or more full-time on the professional tour

WOMEN

- Top 50 WTA singles ranking
- Top 10 WTA doubles ranking
- Top 75 singles ranking combined with a Top 50 WTA doubles ranking
- Women who have competed six (6) years or more full time on the professional tour

INJURY CARD PROVISION:

A player carded the previous year at the Senior card level (SR1, SR2, SR and C1) will be considered for carding if injury, illness or pregnancy prevents him/her from meeting the carding criteria. The player's year-end ATP/WTA ranking from the previous year will be utilized to determine his/her rank on the priority list. The requirements of Sport Canada's policy on the "Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health Related Reasons" must be met in order for a player to be nominated as an "injury" card.

NOMINATION PROCESS:

Based on the above criteria, the provisional nomination list will be posted on Tennis Canada's website and all athletes who submitted an application will be notified via e-mail of the provisional status accorded to the by Tennis Canada. Athletes will have a review period of seven (7) days, following the notification by e-mail, to appeal the decision not to nominate them for carding.

Any appeal launch by an athlete will be expedited in accordance with Tennis Canada's Appeals Policy.

Following the seven (7) day review period, the names of the eligible to be nominated for carding support will be submitted to Sport Canada for final approval.

Sport Canada reviews all nominations put forward by Tennis Canada and approves nomination in accordance with Athlete Assistance Program (AAP Policies).

Athletes whose nominations are approved by Sport Canada must sign the Tennis Canada Player Agreement and complete the AAP Application Form and Anti-Doping educational requirement before they can begin receiving carding support.

APPEALS PROCESS

For any matters related to the Athlete Assistance Program Nomination or de-carding, all appeals must follow the Policies and Procedures of Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Section 13 http://canada.pch.gc.ca/DAMAssetPub/DAM-PCH2-financement-funding/STAGING/texte-text/athlete_assistance_program_2015_1449583292452_eng.pdf?WT.contentAuthority=13.0

Please find the process that athletes need to follow to appeal Tennis Canada's AAP nomination to Sport Canada.

- (1) The athlete is required to send a formal letter of appeal to Tennis Canada. The letter is to be sent to the Director- High Performance, and has to be received no later than 7 days after being notified of the carding decision
- (2) The letter must clearly outline the reasons "grounds" why the appeal is being requested
- (3) Tennis Canada's Appeal Committee will review the appeal and follow up with the athlete once a decision has been reached.
- (4) Should the athlete not be in agreement with Tennis Canada decision, the athlete then has the right to bring the matter to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada.

**APPENDIX #1 – AAP PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
(for female players – 17 – 23)**

AGE CATEGORY	BRONZE STANDARDS	SILVER STANDARDS	GOLD STANDARDS
1st year U18	399	340	172
2nd year U18	255	192	106
1st year Full Time (T1)	150	132	68
2nd year Full Time (T2)	142	123	47
3rd year Full Time (T3)	132	90	40
4th year Full time (T4)	123	85	37.5
5th year Full Time (T5)	115	80	35

**APPENDIX #1 – AAP PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
(for male players – 17 – 23)**

AGE CATEGORY	BRONZE STANDARDS	SILVER STANDARDS	GOLD STANDARDS
1st year U18	850	738	541
2nd year U18	700	623	343
1st year Full Time (T1)	382	284	182
2nd year Full Time (T2)	322	208	100
3rd year Full Time (T3)	215	113	64
4th year Full time (T4)	200	100	48
5th year Full Time (T5)	165	97.5	40
6th year Full Time (T6)	160	95	36

APPENDIX #2 - D CARDING TABLES

http://www.tenniscanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Carding-Tables_ENG-2017-FINAL.pdf

APPENDIX #3 - NATIONAL PARTICIPATION AND EXEMPTION POLICIES

<http://www.tenniscanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/High-Performance-Handbook.compressed.pdf> (pg. #49)