



Athlete Assistance (AAP) Program **Carding Policy**

Date of Approval	September 15, 2026
Activation Date	October 1, 2026
Written by	High Performance Committee
Reviewed by	Melinda Megan Rock, Sport Canada
Approved by	Board of Directors, Pentathlon Canada

1. Introduction and Purpose

This document sets out Pentathlon Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Carding Policy for the athlete selection. It establishes the criteria, processes, and priorities that govern the allocation of Sport Canada AAP funding to eligible Canadian high-performance modern pentathlon athletes. Sport Canada determines the card quotas for eligible NSOs issues 'cards' under the AAP program.

Sport Canada has confirmed Pentathlon Canada's inaugural carding cycle under the AAP and noted that some adjustments to normal criteria development and nomination processes may be required. Objective performance thresholds will be progressively refined.

Pentathlon Canada is committed to the principles of transparency, fairness, and athlete-centred decision-making in all carding matters. This policy is designed to support athletes who demonstrate the potential and commitment to represent Canada at the highest levels of international competition in modern pentathlon.

Performance Objective

Pentathlon Canada's high-performance objective is to identify and support Canadian athletes who have demonstrated the potential to achieve Olympic qualification, World Championship Finals, and Pan American Games podium performances. Selection and investments will be made in accordance with these stated performance objectives.

2. Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Overview

The Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is a federal grant program administered by Sport Canada that provides direct financial support to high-performance Canadian athletes. AAP funding allows carded athletes to focus on training and competition while offsetting some, but not all, of the living and training costs. The current annual allocation for Pentathlon Canada is \$52,200. All matters relating to the nomination of athletes for AAP are the sole authority of Pentathlon Canada. Pentathlon Canada makes decisions relating to the athlete nominations for approval of AAP carding nominations based on the approved AAP Nominations Criteria and requirements. If an athlete does not meet the criteria or requirements set out in the AAP Nominations Criteria, the athlete will not be eligible for nomination by Pentathlon Canada.

AAP financial support to the NSO is determined by Sport Canada and is subject to change. Pentathlon Canada will update policy documents if changes occur.

Carded athletes have access to apply for multiple financial benefits as outlined in the [Sport Canada AAP Policies & Procedures section 8.4](#): Excellence Living and Training Allowance, Child Dependent Allowance, Relocation Assistance, Support for New Parents and Retirement Assistance.

Definitions

- AAP Carding Cycle:
 - October 1st to September 30th.
- An AAP Card is a designation for the different levels of direct athlete funding support:
 - Senior International Card (SR1/SR2) – two consecutive competitive seasons funding support
 - Senior National Card (SR) – one competitive season funding support

- Development Card (D) – one competitive season funding support
- Pentathlon Canada Senior National Team standard:
 - The pentathlon point standard required to qualify for the Pentathlon Canada Senior National team.
 - The qualifying standard is based on a percentage of top world performances.
- Competition Division:
 - The distinction between the men or women events.
- Qualifying Competitions:
 - The designated competitions approved by Pentathlon Canada for inclusion in the selection process.
- Pentathlon Canada approved Senior/Open Category competitions:
 - Domestic Competitions:
 - Open invitation competitions within Canada, identified by Pentathlon Canada for AAP selection.
 - International competitions as outlined in the UIPM Competition Rules policy [UIPM Competition Rules](#) section 1.7.
 - Senior Category A competitions
 - Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cup, Continental Championships, Champion of Champions
 - Senior Category B competitions
 - World Ranking Competitions
 - Regional Competitions
- Competition Category:
 - All events within this selection policy are specific to Senior category competitions.
- Aggregate Score:
 - The sum of 3 Pentathlon Canada approved senior/open category competitions. The scores are weighted to distinguish between the levels of competitiveness between the events using the highest scores achieved by the athletes during the event. The Pentathlon Canada approved events include the athletes' top 2 domestic event scores, or UIPM category B competitions, and the athletes' top score at a UIPM category A competition.
 - The 3 competition scores used to determine the aggregate score will be the highest score achieved by the athlete at 3 distinct competitions, multiple scores from one competition will not be included within the aggregate score.
 1. Pentathlon Canada Approved domestic or UIPM Senior/Open Category B events top score – 25% weighting.
 2. Approved domestic or UIPM Senior/Open Category B events second best score – 25% weighting.
 3. UIPM Senior Category A Competitions best score – 50% weighting.

Example:

Approved domestic or UIPM Senior/Open Category B highest competition score	x 25%
Approved domestic or UIPM Senior/Open Category B second highest competition score	x 25%
+ UIPM Category A highest score	x 50%
= Aggregate Score	

- Pentathlon World Standard:
 - The ratio of the athletes' aggregate score over the averaged score of the top 8 finishers at the Senior World Championships that occurred within the qualifying season.

$$\frac{\text{Aggregate Score}}{\text{World Champion average score of the top 8 finishers}} = () \%$$

- Laser Run World Standard:
 - The ratio of the athletes' average laser run scores achieved within the qualifying events used to determine the aggregate score, over the highest laser run score in the senior world championship final that occurred within the qualifying season.

$$\frac{\text{Average laser run score from aggregate score events}}{\text{Highest laser run score at world championships final}} = () \%$$

3. Minimum Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for AAP carding, an athlete must satisfy all the following minimum eligibility requirements at the time of nomination:

1. Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, and eligible to represent Canada under the rules of the UIPM.
2. Be registered as an active athlete member in good standing with Pentathlon Canada.
3. Be in a training program approved by the Pentathlon Canada high-performance committee to prepare for senior-level international competition.
4. Not be under a current suspension from Pentathlon Canada, the UIPM, Sport Canada, or the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
5. Agree in writing to comply with all carding requirements set out in Section 8 of this policy.
6. Be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships, Olympic Games, World Cups, and other events as identified.
7. Sign and adhere to the NSO-Athlete Agreement.
8. Be a current Pentathlon Canada Senior National Team member.

Carding is only available for results obtained in pre-defined UIPM and Pentathlon Canada Senior category competitions. (Results achieved during team events are not considered for selection).

The annual carding qualification period is October 1 to the completion of the season Senior World Championships. At minimum, one Card will be available for each division, pending achievement of the

eligibility standards. A maximum of four athletes may be eligible for carding dependent upon the allocation of SR1, SR2, SR, and D cards.

Pentathlon Canada's High-Performance Committee makes the final recommendation on nominations to Sport Canada's AAP based on the carding criteria outlined in this document. Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with the AAP policies.

AAP Carding Details:

Card Type	Code	Monthly Allowance	Annual Equivalent	Description
Senior International	SR1/SR2	\$2,175/month	\$26,100/year	Senior World Championships / Olympic Games Finals (top 8 and top half), individual event. (2-year carding).
Senior National	SR	\$2,175/month	\$26,100/year	Pan American Championships/Games top 3 finish, individual senior event (or) top 24 finish Senior World Championships/Olympic Games, individual event. (1-year carding)
Development	D	\$1,305/month	\$15,660/year	Achieve Pentathlon Canada National Team Standard within the qualifying season.

4. Carding Cycle and Timeline

Carding Cycle Start Date	△ [To be confirmed - Sport Canada to advise]
Carding Cycle End Date	September 30
Qualifying Period Start Date	October 1
Qualifying Period End Date	Following completion of the season Senior World Championships
Expected Activation Date	October 1

Pentathlon Canada will notify all registered senior national team athletes of the nomination process and deadlines immediately upon approval from Sport Canada.

Qualifying Period and Events

Results achieved at Pentathlon Canada approved events within the Qualifying Period are used to evaluate athletes for carding. The Qualifying Period runs concurrently with Pentathlon Canada's annual competition calendar (October – September).

5. Carding Criteria

Athletes must satisfy all minimum eligibility requirements in Section 3. Athletes are evaluated for carding based on performance results achieved during the Qualifying Period. The following criteria apply to each available card type.

5.1 Senior International Card (SR1/SR2)

- An athlete that qualifies for the Pentathlon Senior World Championship Final / Olympic Games (top 8 and top half) will be nominated for SR1 carding.

5.2 Senior National Card (SR)

- An athlete that finishes in the top three at the Pan American Senior Championships / Games will be nominated for SR carding.
- An athlete that finishes top 24 at the Pentathlon Senior World Championships / Olympic Games will be nominated for SR carding

Note: A maximum of 2 Senior cards will be available. In the case where more than 2 athletes qualify for a Senior Card, the athletes will be priority ranked based on the Carding Prioritization process (Section 6).

5.2 Development Card (D)

- When cards remain available following selection of the Senior Card selection process the remaining cards are allocated using the Pentathlon World Standard process (Section 6). Note: If one division has an athlete that qualified for a Senior Card the other division has priority for the 12-month D card if the qualification standard was achieved. The remaining available D card will be determined based on the Pentathlon World Standard calculation process.

6. Carding Prioritization

Each division will have priority access to a minimum 1 full year card, if an athlete in both divisions has met the qualifying standards. In a situation where no athletes in one division have met the qualifying standard, the card will be re-allocated to the athletes within the division where the qualifying standard has been met. The card level is based on the card level achieved (SR1/SR2/SR or D card) by the highest ranked athlete in each division. Where funds remain available after each division top ranked card is allocated, the remaining card will be available to the next highest ranked athlete regardless of division, based on the Pentathlon World Standard ranking calculation. The duration of the additional card (number of months) will be assessed with respect to available funds. The athlete eligible for nomination to receive the additional card must achieve at minimum the D carding standard to be nominated for carding.

Priority	Card Type	Criteria
1	SR1 / SR2	Senior World Championships / Olympic Games final (top 8 and top half)
2	SR	Pan American Senior Championship/Games medalist (Top 3) (or) Senior World Championships / Olympic Games top 24

Priority	Card Type	Criteria
3	D	Athletes meeting Development card criteria priority ranked based on the Pentathlon World standard process.

In all cases, the priority order within each carding tier is determined by ranking from highest to lowest based on the performance criteria defined in Section 6.1. In the case that only one Senior card is earned within a cycle, the remaining cards will be allocated following the same prioritization process.

AAP Card allotment is based on the number of qualifying athletes per carding cycle. Depending on the number of athletes that qualify for each Card category the following scenarios may occur:

Potential Scenarios		
Senior Cards (SR1/SR2/SR)	Development Cards	Situation
2	0	1 athlete from each division (total 2 athletes) qualifies for a Senior Card. Total of two - SR1/SR2/SR Cards (1 card per division if qualification criterion is met), there will be no Development card allocations.
1	2	1 athlete qualifies for a Senior card - Total of one 12-month SR1/SR2/SR card - Total of one 12-month card D card - Total of one – Partial D Card <i>(minimum one card per division if qualification criterion was met)</i>
0	4	No athletes qualify for a Senior Card. - Total of three – 12-month D cards - Total of 1 – Partial D Card <i>(minimum one card per division if qualification criterion was met)</i>

Following the identification of the top ranked athlete per division, all athletes achieving the qualifying standards will be priority ranked based on the following process with the highest ranked athletes to be nominated for the available cards.

Priority 1: SR1/SR2 Cards

- The highest placed qualified athlete in their respective division at the Senior World Championships where the carding eligibility was achieved.
- In the case where more than 2 athletes qualify for a Senior International card the priority will be based on the Pentathlon World Standard process.

Priority 2: SR Cards

- If cards remain available following allocation of SR1/SR2 cards, the highest placed qualified athlete in their respective division at the Senior World Championships where the carding eligibility was achieved.

The highest placed qualified athlete (Pan American Senior Championship/Games medalist - top 3 or Senior World Championships / Olympic Games top 24 finish) in their respective division

- In the case where more than 2 athletes qualify for a Senior national card the priority will be based on the Pentathlon World Standard process.

Priority 3: D Cards

- If cards remain available following allocation of the Senior cards, the highest ranked qualified athlete based on the aggregate score process will be nominated for a D card. (*minimum one card per division if qualification criterion was met*).
- Any remained available cards will be allocated based on the Pentathlon World Standing process ranking order.

6.1 Tiebreaker Criteria

In the event of a tie in all carding categories (SR1/SR2/SR/D), the higher ranking shall be determined based on the athlete's Laser Run World Standard within their division. The Laser Run World Standard is calculated by using the average of the athlete's laser run scores within the Aggregate Score process over the highest laser run score within the athlete's division at the Senior World Championship final occurring within the qualifying season.

eg:
$$\frac{\text{Average laser run score from aggregate score events}}{\text{Highest laser run score at world championships final}} = (\)\%$$

The athlete with the higher world standard ratio shall be considered the higher ranked athlete.

7. Athletes Training or Studying Outside Canada

Pentathlon Canada recognizes high-performance athletes train and/or study outside Canada. Athletes training or studying outside Canada remain eligible for AAP carding provided they:

- Meet all eligibility requirements in Section 3;
- Maintain Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status;
- Represent Canada (not another country) in international competition;
- Notify Pentathlon Canada in writing of their training/study location and provide updated contact information at the start of the carding cycle and whenever it changes; and
- Comply with all carding requirements in Section 8.

Athletes training outside Canada are subject to the same performance criteria, requirements, and withdrawal conditions as all other carded athletes. Being outside Canada does not exempt an athlete from any obligation under this policy.

- Institutions outside Canada are not eligible for education credits.

[Sport Canada AAP Policies & Procedures Section 2.5.1 requirements apply:](#)

- 2.5.1 Athletes Living Outside of Canada are not normally eligible for AAP support. Any exceptions to this requirement must be approved by Sport Canada. An athlete leaving Canada

should be fully aware that an exception will be made only through special submissions to Sport Canada by their NSO. Athletes living outside of Canada for athletic or academic purposes must demonstrate to the satisfaction of Sport Canada that appropriate training programs are in place and are being monitored by their NSO. Athletes who have been living full-time outside of Canada for more than two successive years will not normally be considered eligible for AAP benefits. However, if these athletes are competing within the Canadian sport system and representing Canada at international competitions as a member of the NSO National Team, carding may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

8. Carding Requirements

All carded athletes must fulfill the following requirements throughout the duration of their carding cycle. Failure to meet any requirement may result in a warning or withdrawal of the card, as determined by the High-Performance Committee.

8.1 Training and Competition

- Maintain a full-time training commitment in modern pentathlon.
- Compete in all mandatory national and international events as designated by Pentathlon Canada's High-Performance Committee.
- Represent Canada at designated national and international competitions when selected.

8.2 High Performance Plan

- Submit an annual High-Performance Plan (HPP) to Pentathlon Canada within 30 days of card activation.
- Participate in quarterly check-ins with the Pentathlon Canada High Performance staff or High-Performance Committee.

8.3 Reporting and Communication

- Inform Pentathlon Canada of any injury, illness, or circumstance that affects the athlete's ability to train or compete within 14 days of the event.
- Notify Pentathlon Canada of any significant change in training location, coach, or training group.
- Respond to Pentathlon Canada communications within 10 business days.

8.4 Anti-Doping

- Comply with the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP), the UIPM Anti-Doping Rules, and the World Anti-Doping Code at all times.
- Maintain an up-to-date Whereabouts profile in ADAMS (Anti-Doping Administration and Management System) if required by Sport Integrity Canada or WADA.

8.5 Conduct and Representation

- Conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on Pentathlon Canada and Canada.
- Comply with Pentathlon Canada's Safe Sport policies, Codes of Conduct, and any applicable NSO agreements.

9. Performance Monitoring

Pentathlon Canada's High-Performance Committee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of carded athlete performance throughout the carding cycle.

9.1 Training Review

The Pentathlon Canada High-Performance Committee will conduct a training assessment of carded athletes in consultation with their personal coaches. If a training review determines that an athlete's commitment no longer meets the expectations associated with carding, the High-Performance Committee may:

- Issue a formal written warning with clear improvement expectations and a timeline;
- Place the athlete on a probationary status with monthly reporting requirements; or
- Initiate withdrawal proceedings under Section 10.
- If an athlete does not meet training and competition requirements, there can be a cause to recommend withdrawal of carding and Pentathlon Canada will follow section 11.2.1 of the Sport Canada AAP Policies & Procedures and document the steps first before a withdrawal will be considered.

9.2 Communication of Concerns

Before any formal action is taken because of a performance review, the High-Performance Committee will notify the athlete in writing, outlining the concerns and providing an opportunity for the athlete to respond within 14 days.

10. Withdrawal of Carding

AAP carding may be withdrawn prior to the end of the carding cycle in the circumstances set out below. Withdrawal of carding results in cessation of the monthly allowance from the date of withdrawal.

10.1 Grounds for Withdrawal

Pentathlon Canada will follow the [Sport Canada AAP Policy](#): Section 9, Section 10, Section 11, Section 12.

1. Voluntary withdrawal by the athlete (written notice to Pentathlon Canada).
2. Retirement from high-performance modern pentathlon competition.
3. Failure to maintain minimum eligibility requirements (Section 3).
4. Sustained failure to meet carding requirements (Section 8) after written warning.
5. Violation of Pentathlon Canada's Safe Sport policies or Code of Conduct.
6. Anti-doping rule violation (card suspended or withdrawn per Sport Canada and UIPM policies).
7. Representation of a country other than Canada in international competition.
8. Failure to attend mandatory national events without a valid, approved exemption.

10.2 Withdrawal Process

For grounds 1-2 above, Pentathlon Canada will follow Sport Canada AAP Policy Section 10.2

For grounds 3–8 above, Pentathlon Canada will follow the Sport Canada AAP Policy Section 11.2 and 12.1

11. Appeals

An athlete who disagrees with a carding decision has the right to appeal under this section.

11.1 Grounds for Appeal

An appeal may be filed on the following grounds only:

- A procedural error that materially affected the decision.
- A manifest error in the application of the carding criteria.
- New material information that was not available at the time of the original decision and that could reasonably have changed the outcome.

Disagreement with the merits of the performance criteria, or with the policy itself, is not a valid ground for appeal.

11.2 Appeal Procedure

1. The athlete must submit a written notice of appeal to Pentathlon Canada's Executive Director (or designate) within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the contested decision.
2. The notice of appeal must identify: (a) the decision being appealed; (b) the specific ground(s) of appeal; and (c) the remedy sought.
3. Pentathlon Canada will appoint an independent Appeal Panel of one (1) or three (3) persons who were not involved in the original decision. The composition of the panel will be communicated to the athlete before the hearing.
4. The appeal hearing will be conducted within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice of appeal, unless otherwise agreed between the parties.
5. Both the athlete and the High-Performance Committee may present written submissions and, if applicable, attend the hearing in person or by video conference.
6. The Appeal Panel will render a written decision within fourteen (14) days of the hearing. The decision of the Appeal Panel is final and binding.

11.3 Costs

Each party bears their own costs in connection with an appeal. Pentathlon Canada will bear the costs of convening the Appeal Panel.

11.4 Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada

Athletes who have exhausted Pentathlon Canada's internal appeals process and believe a decision violates their rights under the Canadian Sport Policy may have recourse through the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) in accordance with its applicable rules.

12. Policy Administration

12.1 Decision-Making Authority

The High-Performance Committee of Pentathlon Canada is the designated decision-making body for all matters under this policy, including carding nominations, performance monitoring, health-related card

applications, and withdrawal proceedings. The Board of Directors retains ultimate approval authority over this policy document.

12.2 Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed prior to the commencement of each carding cycle. The review will incorporate athlete performance data collected during each season to establish more precise performance thresholds, qualifying event lists, and sport-specific criteria.

12.3 Interpretation

In the event of ambiguity or dispute regarding the interpretation of any provision of this policy, the High-Performance Committee's interpretation will prevail, subject to the appeal rights in Section 11.

Appendix A: Glossary

Term	Definition
AAP	Athlete Assistance Program - federal Sport Canada grant program providing direct financial support to high-performance Canadian athletes.
Card / Carding	The designation of an athlete as a recipient of AAP funding for a defined carding cycle.
Carding Cycle	The twelve-month (or shorter) period during which an athlete receives AAP support.
Development Card (D)	AAP card valued at \$1305/month for athletes demonstrating high-performance potential.
High Performance Committee	The Pentathlon Canada committee responsible for high-performance athlete programs and carding decisions.
NSO	National Sport Organization -- Pentathlon Canada in this context.
Qualifying Period	The defined window of competition results used to assess athlete eligibility for carding.
SR	Senior National Card -- AAP card for senior athletes meeting national performance standards (\$2,175/month).
SR1/SR2	Senior International Card -- highest-tier AAP card for top-ranked international athletes (\$2,175/month). SR1 – The year the qualification was achieved, year one of the two-year eligibility. SR2 – The 2 nd year of eligibility following qualification for the SR1 card.
SDRCC	Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada -- independent body for sport-related disputes.
UIPM	Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne -- international governing body for modern pentathlon.

Policy Approval Signatures

The undersigned confirm their approval of the Pentathlon Canada AAP Carding Policy 2026-2027.

Role	Name	Signature	Date
Chair, High Performance Committee	Ian Soellner		September 15, 2026
Executive Director, Pentathlon Canada	Shelley Callaghan		September 15, 2026
President, Board of Directors	Rod Staveley		September 15, 2026

Addendum:

As the 2026/2027 session is Pentathlon Canada's inaugural period for Sport Canada AAP. The approved qualification events are as follows:

Event	Date	Location	Level
Pentathlon AB Canada Cup (Western Champs)	March 1, 2026	Calgary, AB	Senior
Pentathlon AB Canada Cup (AB Prov Champs)	April 18, 2026	Calgary, AB	Senior
Pentathlon Canada Nationals	June 6, 2026	Cochrane, AB	Senior
Pan American Championships (Lima 2027 Qualifier)	July 16-20, 2026	Lima, PER	Senior