



CANOE KAYAK CANADA'S ATHLETE ASSISTANCE POLICY – PARACANOE

November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019

1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this document is to define criteria used by Canoe Kayak Canada (CKC) to determine the nominations that will be submitted to Sport Canada for the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP). The target audience for this document are Athletes, and their coaches. This applies to both athletes who now currently access, or, wish to access the program.

Canoe Kayak Canada's AAP objectives for the Paracanoe Discipline are based on Sport Canada's AAP International and National Objectives (*Section 1 and 5 of the Sport Canada AAP Policy and Procedures Document*).

Sport Canada policies, including the Athlete Assistance Program, are designed to support amateur high performance pathway athletes that demonstrate the potential to progress to the Top 8 in the World. The purpose of the AAP is to improve Canadian performances at major international sporting events such as the Olympic/Paralympic Games and the World Championships. The program seeks to do so by relieving some of the financial pressures associated with preparing for, and participating in, international sport.

The proposed ICF 2020 Paralympic Program is as follows:

	200 m
Men	KL1
	KL2
	KL3
	VL2
	VL3

Women	KL1
	KL2
	KL3
	VL2

Note: The Sport Canada AAP will only approve Athletes competing in the ICF 2020 Paralympic Program events.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION AND DEFINITIONS

2.1 Carding Categories

The Sport Canada AAP Program provides three types of cards – Senior International, and Development – and 2 levels of funding, \$1765 / month for Senior International and Senior National, and \$1060/month for first-year Senior National and Development cards. A Senior International Card is awarded to an athlete who achieves a Top 8 Performance at a Senior World Championships or Paralympic Games.

2.2 Canoe Kayak Canada’s Authority for Decisions

CKC does not grant Carding to Athletes, however, based on the criteria outlined in this document, and AAP policies, the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) will recommend to the High-Performance Committee (HPC) those athletes eligible for nomination for a Sport Canada AAP Card. The HPC is responsible for ensuring that the CTO, has in their nominations, followed the criteria found within this document.

Final approval of all nominations submitted to Sport Canada for Cards is the sole responsibility of the CTO¹. All nominations will then be reviewed and independently approved by Sport Canada. Sport Canada approves nominations in accordance with the AAP policies and the National Sport Organization’s published Carding criteria.

¹ **Note:** In the case of a vacancy in the CKC CTO position, the HPC will appoint a designate to fill the CTO’s role for the purpose of applying the criteria.

2.3 Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible for a Carding nomination, an Athlete must meet all the following requirements:

- A. Must be a current registered member of, and in good standing with, CKC;
- B. Must have participated in the applicable competitions required for Carding purposes (see section 2.4) unless a request for an exemption due to injury, medical condition, or illness is approved, in advance, by the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) – (Section 5);
- C. Must possess Canadian citizenship, or Permanent Resident status, by November 1, 2018, and must satisfactorily demonstrate that he/she will be eligible to compete for Canada in International Canoe Federation (ICF) competitions and the Paralympic Games;
- D. Must be classified in an eligible category under the ICF/IPC classification system for paracanoe;
- E. Must not be under suspension, or other sanction, for any doping or doping-related offense;
- F. Must sign the Athlete Agreement as required by CKC and/or Sport Canada;
- G. Must otherwise comply with all eligibility requirements set out by Sport Canada in its publication [“Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program 2015”](#)
- H. Must have met the Specific Criteria set out in Section 4, 5 (where relevant), and 6 (Progression Criteria);
- I. Does not have any outstanding accounts with CKC that are more than 30-days in arrears or are without an approved payment plan;

2.4 Events for Performance Evaluation

Decisions on Carding nominations will be based upon performances in the following events. Priority ranking is listed in Section 4:

Type of Card or Performance Level	National Team Trials (NTT1)	National Team Trials (NTT3)	Senior World Championships (2017) Senior World Championships (2018)
SR1/SR2 Cards			✓
Senior (SR/C1) Cards	✓	✓	✓
Development (D)	✓	✓	✓
Evidence of Progression against GMP/PP	✓	✓	

3. FUNDING ALLOCATION

Sport Canada has awarded the Sprint Discipline the equivalent of 4 Senior Cards or \$84,720 in AAP funding for the November 2018 to October 2019 Carding cycle. Sport Canada regularly reviews its carding allocations. This amount is therefore subject to change.

Depending on performances and the Carding history of athletes in 2018, CKC will split the allocated funds creating a combination of Senior (SR1, SR2, SR, and C1) and Development (D) Cards.

It should be noted that where an athlete qualifies for both a D card and a Senior National Card, the athlete will have the choice to decline the Development card in favor of being nominated for a Senior National Card.

Athletes who meet the national criteria for Senior Cards for the first time are normally awarded C1 Cards and are funded at the Development Card level. If, however, the athlete has been previously carded at the SR1 or SR2 level or was named to the Senior World Championship Team or an Olympic Team before meeting the

national criteria for the Senior Card for the first time, the athlete will be funded at the Senior National Card (SR) level rather than at the Development Card level.

4. SPECIFIC CARDING CRITERIA

The following priorities constitute the sequential order for nominating eligible athletes until there are no funds remaining.

Priority 1: Allocation of SR1/SR2 Cards;

Priority 2: Allocation of Senior National Cards to athletes nominated to the 2018 Paracanoe World Championships who finish in the top ½ of the field;

Priority 3: Allocation of Illness, Injury or Pregnancy cards for Athletes who were carded at the SR1 or SR2 criteria and meet the Injury or illness criteria (*This includes pregnancy*);

Priority 4: Allocation of Development cards based on the Paracanoe Combined Trials Ranking.

4.1 Priority 1: International Cards (SR1/SR2)

- The athlete(s) must have placed in the Top 8 AND Top Half of the competing field in an ICF 2020 Paralympic Program event. An SR1 card takes priority over an SR2 card:
- **SR1 card:** 2018 Senior World Championships;
- **SR2 card:** 2017 Senior World Championships;
- Athletes nominated for SR2 need to demonstrate that they are maintaining a training and competition program supervised by the National Discipline Coach.

4.2 Priority 2: Allocation of Paracanoe Senior World Championship Senior National Cards

Athletes who are nominated to the 2018 Paracanoe Senior World Championships will be eligible for nomination for a Senior National Card if they finish in the top ½ of the field. (If the number of eligible Athletes exceeds the number of Cards available, the following process, in priority order, will be used to rank the nominations:

1. World Championship rank: 1st beats 2nd beats 3rd;
2. If there is a tie, the NTT3 ranking list will be used to break the tie.

4.3 Priority 3: Allocation of Illness, Injury and Pregnancy Cards

See criteria in Section 5

4.4 Priority 4: Allocation of Development Cards

After exhausting the above priorities, eligible athletes will be nominated according to the Paracanoe Trials Ranking List.

5. PROGRESSION CRITERIA

A progression criteria will apply to all athletes who are senior carded (excludes U21 athletes) and do not achieve SR1 /SR2 status (Priority 1) in 2018 but qualify for a senior national card through the other means (See section 4). CKC performance objectives are to support athletes who show the potential of a top 8 performance and are progressing toward podium performances at Senior World Championships and Paralympic Games.

An athlete who satisfies nomination criteria for a Senior National Card but do not show performance progression toward the performance objectives identified above will be evaluated and may not be nominated. Factors that will be considered when assessing performance progression can include:

- Closing the gap in % time differential from the GMT - An athlete/crew's performance against a Gold Medal Time (see Appendix A)
- Closing the gap in % time differential from the Winner at National Team Trials
- National Rank
- International Rank
- Injury, Illness and Pregnancy (See Section 6)
- Unforeseen Circumstances (See Section 7)
- An SR2 athlete who has not regained SR1 status within two competition years following their SR2 nomination after U21 Eligibility.

- An athlete who is nominated to any combination of 6 Senior World Championship Teams/Paralympic Teams and does not achieve SR1 status.
- An athlete previously nominated to the Senior World Championships Team who does not earn a nomination to the Senior World Championship Team for two successive competition years after U21 Eligibility.
- A SR/C1 athlete who does not achieve a Senior World Championship nomination within four years after U21 eligibility.
- A SR/C1 athlete who does not see an improvement in National Rank for two successive years after U21 Eligibility.

These factors are in no particular order and one or more may be used to either support or dismiss a selection. Other factors not listed may also be considered.

6. INJURY, ILLNESS AND PREGNANCY CARDS FOR ICF 2020 OLYMPIC EVENTS

Canoe Kayak Canada will consider nominating Athletes for an injury card in accordance with section 9.1.3 of the Sport Canada AAP policy.

6.1 **A SR1/SR2 or a Senior National Card athlete who was a member of the Senior World Championship or Olympic Team in the previous year**, who at the end of the Carding cycle, has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of Carding status strictly because of health-related reasons, may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:

6.1.1 An Athlete must, immediately following the incident or occurrence, report injuries, a medical condition (including pregnancy) or illnesses in writing and provide a medical certificate to the CTO. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) will assume responsibility for the assessment and management of such injuries, medical conditions² or illnesses and for the determination of whether such injuries or illnesses are career-ending;

² CMO will not be responsible for assuming responsibility for the assessment and management of a pregnancy

- 6.1.2 In the case of injury or illness, no Carding nominations will be made for injuries that are determined by CKC to be career-ending;
- 6.1.3 If an Athlete competes in a qualifying event, they may not invoke Section 5 in respect to the qualifying event in which he or she competed. The intention of this provision is to ensure that Athletes who are injured, suffering from an illness, or medical condition do not compete, which could cause further ill health, or harm. If an Athlete does compete, they must accept the race result they have achieved;
- 6.1.4 The Athlete may be nominated for a Senior Card on the grounds of injury, a medical condition (including pregnancy) or illness at the sole discretion of the CTO based on the following factors:
- the number of Cards available;
 - the nature and details of the diagnosis and prognosis;
 - assessment and training data provided by the Athlete that is verifiable and objective by the discipline coach and IST;
 - evidence of the Athlete's level of performance prior to injury;
 - the strength of the Athlete's rehabilitation and training plan as evaluated by the CTO in conjunction with the discipline coach;
 - the advice of medical experts provided to the CMO; and
 - the realistic expectation that the Athlete can return to full fitness and continue to demonstrate the potential to perform at the Top-8 level and progress toward the podium.

7. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

These criteria are intended to apply where fair racing conditions exist. Situations may arise where unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond CKC's control do not allow racing or team/crew selection to take place in a fair manner or in the best interests of the priorities and general principles for selection as indicated in these criteria; or do not allow the procedure for nomination as described in this document to be applied.

In the event of such unforeseen circumstances the CTO will, where possible, consult with the HC and the HPC to determine if the circumstances justify racing or selection should take place in an alternative manner.

The CTO will determine whether to allow racing or selection to take place so that the priorities and general principles of selection as indicated in these criteria and the nomination procedure as described in this document may be applied in a fair and just manner.

8. PARACANOE TRIALS RANKING LISTS

To establish the Paracanoe Trials Ranking List:

- To be considered for a Senior National Card there will be two (2) finals for each discipline at NTT1 and NTT3 (Senior World Championship Nomination)
- To be considered for a Development Card Nomination there will be two finals at NTT3 and one Final at Nationals.
- In the event of a tie on the Para Canoe ranking list athletes will also be ranked on their best %Gold Medal Time (GMT). The athlete with the time closest to the GMT will be nominated ;
- Where a tie exists on the %GMT comparison, the athletes will be ranked on their second-best time;
- Where an athlete missed trials due to injury, an athlete would need to fulfill the Injury and Illness requirements in Section 6, to be approved for exemption by the CTO;

9. APPEALS PROCESS

Appeals of Canoe Kayak Canada AAP nomination/re-nomination decision, or of a Canoe Kayak Canada's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through Canoe Kayak Canada's review process. This includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). Appeals of AAP Decision made under Section 6 ([Application for and Approval of Cards](#)) or Section 11 ([Withdrawal of Carding Status](#)) may be pursued through Section 13 of the AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.

APPENDIX A

Gold Medal Times

Any performance times to be compared against the PITs will be rounded to the 10th of a second. E.g. 49.46 becomes 49.5 or alternatively 1:00.34 would become 1:00.3.

EVENT	GMT	Top 8
KL3-MEN	40.00	42.50
KL3-WOMEN	50.00	55.50
KL2-MEN	42.00	47.00
KL2-WOMEN	51.00	58.00
KL1-MEN	49.00	56.00
KL1-WOMEN	57.00	65.00
VL3-MEN	50.00	54.00
VL3-WOMEN	60.00	70.00
VL2-MEN	51.00	59.00
VL2-WOMEN	62.00	72.00
VL1-MEN	56.00	66.00
VL1-WOMEN	70.00	80.00