

## Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	1
GENERAL .....	1
DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY .....	2
ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT .....	2
ELIGIBLE WEIGHT CATEGORIES.....	3
CARDING ALLOCATIONS, CARDING CYCLE PERIOD, AND RESULTS ELIGIBILITY .....	3
ATHLETE WINNING STYLE ASSESSMENTS .....	3
CARDING PRIORITIZATION.....	4
CARDING CRITERIA.....	4
ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL OF SENIOR CARDS.....	9
ATHLETE WITHDRAWAL AND NON-RENEWAL .....	10
APPEAL .....	10
LANGUAGE.....	11

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to present the policies and procedures for Boxing Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), also referred to as "Carding," a program funded by Sport Canada. The target audiences for this document are the athletes, coaches and sport administrators who currently access or wish to access the program. The AAP objective is to support Canadian athletes identified and nominated by Boxing Canada as performing at or having the greatest potential to achieve top eight (8) results at the Olympic/Paralympic Games and World Championship. AAP funding is intended to contribute to an athlete's living and costs associated with preparing for and participating in international sports. It is not intended to serve as an athlete's sole source of income. Sport Canada's general policies and procedures governing AAP can be found on the Sport Canada website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance.html>.

## GENERAL

Boxing Canada does not make the final decisions regarding athlete Carding. Boxing Canada uses criteria to nominate eligible athletes for AAP support (carding) to Sport Canada. This document's criteria and procedures comply with Sport Canada's AAP Policies and Procedures. Nominations are reviewed and approved independently by Sport Canada.

Boxing Canada submits carding nominations to Sport Canada annually. Athletes must be actively competing to be nominated.

There are several grounds for the withdrawal of funding from a Carded athlete. See Section 11 for details.

In addition to the regular stipend, other financial assistance may be available to carded athletes through Sport Canada's APP. These could include tuition payments and deferred tuition assistance for retired athletes. For further information, athletes should refer to the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policy and Procedures document (<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html> )

A minimum of four (4) months of AAP support must be available to nominate an athlete to the AAP.

There are three (3) general types of Cards: International Senior Cards (known as SR1 or SR2 Cards), Senior National Cards (known as SR Cards), and Development Cards (known as D Cards).

## **DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY**

The HPD is responsible for implementing the Athlete Carding Program within Sport Canada AAP guidelines and parameters. All team nominations made by the HPD will be monitored by a Boxing Canada oversight structure and ratified by the Boxing Canada Executive Director to ensure that the process outlined in this document is properly followed, fair, and equitable for all candidates.

## **ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT**

To be eligible for carding, the Athlete must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Compete in standard World Boxing weight categories (see section 6).
2. Meet the Canadian Olympic Committee's (COC), World Boxing's (WB) and the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) requirements to be eligible to represent Canada at major international events, including the World Championships and the Olympic Games
3. Be named as a team member of the 2025-2026 High Performance Program (HPP), which is defined as the National Team
4. Must not be suspended or sanctioned for doping or doping-related offences.
5. Full compliance with the current Athlete Agreement. No Carding application will be processed without the signed Athlete Agreement being filed with Boxing Canada
6. At the time of selection, the boxer must be a member in good standing with their provincial/territorial boxing organization (PTSO) and Boxing Canada and maintain this status until the completion of the Carding cycle.
7. Unless otherwise authorized, in advance and in writing, athletes must have paid all outstanding invoices to Boxing Canada at the nomination date.
8. Carded athletes must agree to follow an Individual Performance Plan (IPP) designed by the National Coaches under the direction of the High-Performance Director (HPD). The goal is to ensure a high-performance training environment and that the athlete is progressing towards the stated goals of the AAP, section 7 of this document, and Boxing Canada's HPP.
9. To be eligible for an SR1, SR2, SR, or D card, athletes must centralize and train full-time at Boxing Canada's High Performance Training Centre (HPTC) at INS Québec (Montréal, QC) with the following accommodations:
  - Newly carded athletes outside Montreal will have eight weeks to complete the move to Montreal.

- U19 athletes allocated a D Card can be based at Boxing Canada's HPTC in Montréal (QC) or remain in their daily training environment (DTE). If the athlete chooses to remain in their home DTE, they will be expected to attend at least six weeks of camps/competitions with the National Coaches in domestic or international locations.
- Centralization may not be required if an athlete is nominated for six or fewer months of Carding.

## ELIGIBLE WEIGHT CATEGORIES

Boxing Canada’s High Performance Program focuses on Olympic weight divisions. Since the exact Olympic Weight Classes for the 2028 Olympics were not available at the time of this document’s publication, Boxing Canada’s nominations for 2025/26 Sport Canada AAP Carding will occur in current standard weight divisions.

Men’s Weight Divisions	Women’s Weight Divisions
50 kg	48kg
55 kg	51kg
60kg	54kg
65kg	57kg
70kg	60kg
75kg	65kg
80kg	70kg
85kg	75kg
90kg	80kg
+90kg	+80kg

Given that the 2024 World Boxing Cups and Challenges, the 2nd World Olympic Qualifier, and the Paris 2024 Olympics are being run with the existing Olympic weight divisions, athlete results earned during the designated results period in Olympic weight categories will be applied toward the athlete’s revised weight category listed in the table above.

## CARDING ALLOCATIONS, CARDING CYCLE PERIOD, AND RESULTS ELIGIBILITY

Sport Canada has awarded Boxing Canada the equivalent of four (4) Senior Men's Cards (\$84,720) and four (4) Senior Women's Cards (\$84,720) for AAP funding to Boxing Canada for the 2025/2026 Boxing carding cycle starting on May 1, 2025, and ending on January 31, 2026 (9 months).

Sport Canada will review the card quota for all sports after the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics. Any revisions to the carding quota will be applied to the 2025/2026 Carding Cycle.

Results used for the selection process must have been earned between May 1, 2024, and April 30, 2025.

## ATHLETE WINNING STYLE ASSESSMENTS

Athlete Winning Style (WS) Assessments will be utilized to prioritize athletes for AAP Carding nominations. The Assessment Tool will be shared with athletes and coaches beforehand, and, to the best of Boxing Canada’s ability, a Selection Panel consisting of the same coaches will be used for all Assessments. Ideally, all Athlete Assessments will be conducted at the same time of the year. WS Assessments will be conducted to:

1. Directly evaluate and rank athletes based on the defined WS metrics for Carding nomination (e.g. Priority 8).
2. Break any ties that may occur when nominating athletes based on international or national-level competitive results. (e.g. Priority 1).

## CARDING PRIORITIZATION

Cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the order of priority listed in the phased steps below. Each step will be completed, with the nomination of all eligible and qualified athletes exhausted before moving to the next step. As a result, it is possible that not all steps will be reached and that Cards may not be allocated in some categories. Therefore, due to the limited number of Cards available, meeting the Carding criteria does not automatically qualify an athlete for a card.

Priority	Description	Card	Goal
Priority 1	Senior International	SR1, SR2	Medal at upcoming Major Games
Priority 2	U19 Excellence	D	Medal at subsequent Major Games
Priority 3	SR 2 Health-Related Circumstances	SR	Maintain SR2 athletes who are unable to compete due to health-related circumstances.
Priority 4	Demonstrated Podium	SR	Medals at international competition
Priority 5	U23 Emerging Potential	SR	U23 Medal Potential at international competition
Priority 6	Podium Potential	SR	Medal Potential at International Competition
Priority 7	SR Health-Related Circumstances	SR	Maintain SR athletes who are unable to compete due to health-related circumstances.
Priority 8	National Development- Tier 1	D	Support athletes early in their performance trajectory who have yet to demonstrate evidence of international medal potential.
Priority 9	National Development- Tier 2	D	Support athletes who have yet to demonstrate evidence of international medal potential.

## CARDING CRITERIA

The following criteria describe the performance levels required for athletes to be nominated for Carding at each priority level. All competitions listed in these criteria must be on the designated competition list of the HPP for any given season. Athletes must achieve stated performance benchmarks with at least one win.

When not explicitly noted in the posted results of competitions listed in the following eight carding prioritization tables, Boxing Canada will utilize the following method to determine the Top-4, Top-6 and Top-8 competitive results of athletes plus the final placement of each athlete within the division.

Division Result	Medal	General Result Classification	Result Description
1st	Gold	Top 4	The winner of the Finals of the division
2nd	Silver	Top 4	The loser of the Finals of the division
3rd	Bronze	Top 4	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> -place bronze athlete who lost to the gold medalist in the semifinals. (round of 4)

4th	Bronze	Top 4	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> -place bronze athlete lost to the silver medalist in the semifinals. (round of 4)
5th	none	Top 6	The 5 <sup>th</sup> -place athlete lost to the gold medalist in the quarterfinals. (round of 8)
6th	none	Top 6	The 5 <sup>th</sup> -place athlete lost to the silver medalist in the quarterfinals. (round of 8)
7th	none	Top 8	The 5 <sup>th</sup> -place athlete lost to the #1 bronze medalist in the quarterfinals. (round of 8)
8th	none	Top 8	The 5 <sup>th</sup> -place athlete lost to the #2 bronze medalist in the quarterfinals. (round of 8)

In large divisions within single-elimination competitions, multiple athletes can achieve division rankings of 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup>. If breaking a tie by comparing two or more athletes' final placements at a designated competition is necessary, Boxing Canada will apply the method detailed in the above table to rank athletes beyond 8<sup>th</sup> place. If the competition software used to manage the designated competition provides a relative ranking within each broader ranking category of 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup> and 65<sup>th</sup>, then the software's relative ranking will be utilized to compare athletes within a tie-breaking process.

Priority	1
Description	Senior International
Card Type	SR1, SR2
Criteria	Top 8 and top half of the field at the Olympic Games. If no Olympics is held during this carding cycle, then Top 8 and Top Half of the field at the Elite World Championships - only weight classes on the program of the upcoming Olympic Games. SR1 Cards will be awarded before SR2 Cards.
Tie-Break Process	If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The highest-ranked athlete at the Olympic Games/World Championships</li> <li>2. The highest-ranked athlete at a World Olympic Qualifier</li> <li>3. The highest-ranked athlete at the most recent Continental Championships</li> <li>4. If the tie persists, a Winning Style assessment conducted by an Assessment Panel will rank the athletes, with the final decision being taken by the HPD</li> </ol>

Priority	2
Description	U19 Excellence
Card Type	D
Criteria	The top-ranked U19 male and the top-ranked U19 female athlete with either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a Top-4 placement at the 2024 U19 World Championships or</li> <li>2. a Top -2 at the U19 Continental Championships in an Olympic weight division. If Olympic weight divisions are not known at the time of nomination, standard with divisions will be utilized.</li> </ol> <p>A maximum of one (1) male and one (1) female Card will be allocated at this level. Athletes may receive D-card funding for four (4) years.</p>

Tie-Break Process	<p>If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Result at the most recent U19 World Championship. The athlete with the highest placement will be ranked higher.</li> <li>2. Results at the most recent U19 Continental Championships. The athlete with the highest placement will be ranked higher.</li> <li>3. If the tie persists, the result at the most recent Canadian Championship in the U19 age division. The athlete with the highest placement will be ranked higher.</li> <li>4. If the tie persists, a Winning Style assessment conducted by an Assessment Panel will rank the athletes, with the final decision being taken by the HPD.</li> </ol>
-------------------	--

Priority	3
Description	Health Related Circumstances Cards for athletes previously carded as SR2
Card Type	SR
Criteria	<p>At the end of the carding cycle, an SR2-carded athlete without the standard to renew their carding status solely for health-related reasons will be considered for renomination in the upcoming year. To be considered for renomination for 2025- 2026, an athlete must meet all the following requirements:</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet the Athlete Eligibility Requirement from Section 4.</li> <li>2. The athlete notified the Boxing Canada HPD, or delegate, in writing of their injury or health status within 14 days of diagnosis or when the athlete had to interrupt their training. A physician or licensed sports medicine practitioner approved by Boxing Canada must support such a diagnosis.</li> <li>3. The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high-performance training and competition during their injury, illness, pregnancy or other health-related circumstance or is continuing a rehabilitation program approved by Boxing Canada.</li> <li>4. In Boxing Canada's view, an athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to injury, illness, pregnancy, or other health-related circumstances.</li> </ol> <p>For the duration of the athlete's inability to fulfill their training and competitive commitments, which are part of the carded athlete's contract, the athlete must commit, in writing, to train and rehabilitate under the supervision of Boxing Canada. This must be done at a level that mitigates risk to the athlete's health and ensures a timely return to full training and a competitive program in line with the other members of the National Team. An athlete will not be nominated for renewal based on health-related circumstances in consecutive Carding cycles.</p>
Tie-Break Process	<p>If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Athlete nominated at a higher priority in the previous cycle</li> <li>2. Results at the most recent Olympics</li> <li>3. Result at the most recent World Championship.</li> <li>4. Results at other major competitions 12 months before the injury, illness, or pregnancy.</li> <li>5. If the tie persists, the HPAG will rank the top-ranked athletes who had previously been carded at SR2, with the final decision being taken by the HPD.</li> </ol>

Priority	4
Description	Demonstrated Podium
Card Type	SR
Criteria	A Top-4 placement at one of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Olympic Qualifier #2,</li> <li>• World Boxing Cup</li> </ul>
Tie-Break Process	If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The highest-ranked athlete at a World Olympic Qualifier #2</li> <li>2. The highest-ranked athlete at the most recent Continental Championships</li> <li>3. If the tie persists, a Winning Style assessment conducted by an Assessment Panel will rank the athletes, with the final decision being taken by the HPD.</li> </ol>

Priority	5
Description	U23 Emerging Potential
Card Type	SR
Criteria	As an athlete under 23 years of age who achieves any of the following performance benchmarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 8 at a World Olympic Qualifier #2</li> <li>• A podium placement at a World Boxing Cup</li> <li>• A podium placement at a World Boxing Challenge</li> <li>• A podium at the Elite Continental Championships</li> </ul>
Tie-Break Process	If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The highest-ranked athlete at a World Olympic Qualifier #2</li> <li>2. The highest-ranked athlete at the most recent Elite Continental Championships</li> <li>3. If the tie persists, a Winning Style assessment conducted by an Assessment Panel will rank the athletes, with the final decision being taken by the HPD.</li> </ol>

Priority	6
Description	Podium Potential
Card Type	SR
Criteria	An athlete who achieves either of the following performance benchmarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 8 at a World Olympic Qualifier #2.</li> </ul>
Tie-Break Process	If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The highest-ranked athlete at the most recent World Olympic Qualifier #2</li> <li>2. If the tie persists, a Winning Style assessment conducted by an Assessment Panel will rank the top-ranked athletes, with the final decision being taken by the HPD.</li> </ol>

Priority	7
Description	Health Related Circumstances Cards for athletes previously carded as SR
Card Type	SR
Criteria	<p>At the end of the carding cycle, an SR-carded athlete without the standard to renew their carding status solely for health-related reasons will be considered for renomination for the upcoming year. To be considered for renomination for 2025-2026, an athlete must meet all the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meet the Athlete Eligibility Requirement from Section 4.</li> <li>2. The athlete notified the Boxing Canada HPD, or delegate, in writing of their injury or health status within 14 days of diagnosis or when the athlete had to interrupt their training. A physician or licensed sports medicine practitioner approved by Boxing Canada must support such a diagnosis.</li> <li>3. The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high-performance training and competition during their injury, illness, pregnancy or health-related circumstance or is continuing a rehabilitation program approved by Boxing Canada.</li> <li>4. In Boxing Canada's view, an athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to injury, illness, pregnancy or health-related circumstances.</li> </ol> <p>For the duration of the athlete's inability to fulfill their training and competitive commitments, which are part of the carded athlete's contract, the athlete must commit, in writing, to train and rehabilitate under the supervision of Boxing Canada. This must be done at a level that mitigates risk to the athlete's health and ensures a timely return to a full training and competitive program in line with the other members of the National Team. An athlete will not be nominated for renewal based on health-related circumstances in consecutive Carding cycles.</p>
Tie-Break Process	<p>If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Athlete nominated at a higher priority in the previous cycle</li> <li>2. The highest-ranked athlete at a World Olympic Qualifier #2</li> <li>3. The highest-ranked athlete at the most recent Pan American Games</li> <li>4. Results at other major competitions 12 months before the injury, illness, or pregnancy.</li> <li>5. If the tie persists, a Winning Style assessment conducted by an Assessment Panel will rank the top-ranked athletes, with the final decision being taken by the HPD.</li> </ol>

Priority	8
Description	National Development- Tier 1
Card Type	D
Criteria	An athlete under the age of twenty-three at the time of assessment who shows significant potential for international success based upon a Winning Style (WS) Assessment.
Tie-Break Process	<p>If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The highest-ranked athletes in Boxing Canada's WS assessment</li> <li>2. If the tie persists, the HPD will decide.</li> </ol>

Priority	9
Description	National Development- Tier 2
Card Type	D
Criteria	Gold and silver medalist at the most recent Elite National Championships
Tie-Break Process	<p>If eligible athletes exceed the number of cards available, the following tiebreaking criterion will be applied singularly and sequentially to determine which athletes are nominated unless all Card quotas are nominated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The National Championship gold medalist with the highest WS Assessment score. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The National Championship gold medalist with the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest WS assessment score.</li> <li>b. The process will continue for National Championships gold medalists with the next highest WS Assessment score until all gold medalists are exhausted.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. The National Championship silver medalist with the highest WS assessment score. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The next highest-ranked WS Assessment Elite National Championships silver medalist athlete in the ranking.</li> <li>b. This criterion will be applied until the exhaustion of all Elite National Championships silver medalists</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. If the tie persists, the HPD will decide.</li> </ol>

## ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR RENEWAL OF SENIOR CARDS

Senior Cards (SR) are awarded to athletes for a year according to their ranking in the High Performance Program, as detailed in Section 8 above. Athletes must meet the following criteria to be progressively eligible for a Senior Carding nomination to Sport Canada.

The purpose of the required carding standards is to provide a fair opportunity to all carded athletes to develop and establish themselves on the international scene while at the same time outlining high-performance expectations over time. The longer an athlete has been on the National Team as a carded athlete, the higher performance expectations become, both in terms of results and consistency.

Years of involvement as a senior athlete in the HPP	Required Carding Standards
1 to 4	Selection to Boxing Canada High Performance Program.
5 to 7	<p>Within the previous four years, carding-nominated athletes must have placed at least once in the Top 6 at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A World Boxing Cup,</li> <li>● A World Boxing Challenge,</li> <li>● The American Continental Championships,</li> <li>● The Commonwealth Games,</li> <li>● The Pan American Games.</li> </ul>

8 and up	<p>Within the previous two years, carding-nominated athletes must have placed at least once in the top 4 at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A World Boxing Cup,</li> <li>• A World Boxing Challenge,</li> <li>• The American Continental Championships,</li> <li>• The Commonwealth Games,</li> <li>• The Pan American Games.</li> </ul>
----------	--

## **ATHLETE WITHDRAWAL AND NON-RENEWAL**

Athletes may lose their carding status or have carded status withdrawn under certain conditions, including the following:

1. Failure to meet training or competition commitments;
2. Violation of the Athlete/NSO agreement;
3. Failure to meet athlete responsibilities outlined in the AAP policies and procedures;
4. Gross breach of discipline, including assertion of, or prosecution of a criminal offence;
5. Investigation for cause; and
6. Violations of anti-doping rules.

The High-Performance Director, in consultation with the Executive Director, may pursue the withdrawal of an athlete's carded status to Sport Canada after engaging in the following steps:

1. Verbally warn the athlete, including the steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of failing to heed the warning.
2. Where applicable, follow up with a written warning to the athlete.
3. Provide written notification to the AAP Manager and the NSO's Sport Canada Program Officer, with a copy to the athlete, recommending withdrawal of the athlete's carded status. This letter must:
  - a. Indicate the grounds on which the recommendation is being made.
  - b. Indicate the steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by a formal letter of warning).
  - c. Provide notice to the athlete of the athlete's right to contest the Boxing Canada recommendation to withdraw carded status through Boxing Canada's internal appeal process within the prescribed time.

Athletes may also withdraw from the AAP by notifying Boxing Canada in writing. Carded athletes who retire permanently in the mid-carding cycle will be entitled to two months of L/T allowance (and any already-approved supplementary support allowances) past the date of retirement within the carding cycle for transitional support\* to help them adjust to their post-athletic situation. This does not preclude the athlete from applying for or receiving Supplementary AAP Retirement Allowance, Deferred Tuition or Relocation Assistance. (see Sub-Section 8.1).

## **APPEAL**

Appeals of Boxing Canada's AAP nomination/renomination decision or of Boxing Canada's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through Boxing Canada's review process, which 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 <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html> ).

In the event of an appeal, the affected athletes' carding support will be placed on hold until the appeal is finalized.

## **LANGUAGE**

Where there is a difference in interpretation between this document's French and English versions, the English version shall prevail.