



**CANOE KAYAK
CANADA**

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CANOE KAYAK CANADA CANOE SLALOM CARDING CRITERIA

For recommendation for the 2022-23 carding cycle

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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 paddlers and their coaches. This applies to both paddlers who currently access, or wish to access, the program.

Canoe Kayak Canada's Carding Criteria objectives are based on [Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program - Policies and Procedures](#).

Sport Canada policies, including the Athlete Assistance Program, are designed to support amateur high performance pathway paddlers that demonstrate the potential to progress to the Top-8 in the world in an Olympic event. 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 2024 Canoe Slalom Olympic Program is as follows:

Men	K1	K1 Extreme Slalom	C1
Women	K1	K1 Extreme Slalom	C1

Note: Sport Canada will only approve carding recommendations based on performance(s) achieved in events included in the 2024 Canoe Slalom Olympic program.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION AND DEFINITIONS

2.1. *Canoe Kayak Canada's Authority for Decisions*

CKC does not grant carding to paddlers, however, based on the criteria outlined in this document, and AAP policies, the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) will recommend to the Canoe Slalom High Performance Committee (HPC) those paddlers eligible for nomination for a Sport Canada AAP Card. The HPC is responsible for approving and 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 Canoe Kayak Canada's published carding criteria.

¹In 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.

2.2. Paddler Eligibility

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

- 2.2.1. Must be a current registered member of, and in good standing with, CKC;
- 2.2.2. Must have participated in the appropriate competitions required for carding purposes (see [Events for Performance Evaluation](#)) unless a request for an exemption due to injury, medical condition, or illness is approved, in advance, by the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) - ([See Injury Illness or Pregnancy Card Criteria](#));
- 2.2.3. Must possess Canadian citizenship, or Permanent Resident status, by November 1st, 2022, and must satisfactorily demonstrate that he/she will be eligible to compete for Canada in International Canoe Federation (ICF) competitions and the Olympic Games;
- 2.2.4. Must not be under suspension, or other sanction, for any doping or doping-related offense;
- 2.2.5. Must sign the Athlete Agreement as required by CKC and/or Sport Canada;
- 2.2.6. Must otherwise comply with all eligibility requirements set out by Sport Canada in its publication "[Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program - Policies and Procedures](#)";
- 2.2.7. Must satisfy the appropriate [Progression Card Criteria](#);
- 2.2.8. Must have met the specific [International Card Criteria](#), [National Card Criteria](#) or [Development Card Criteria](#);
- 2.2.9. Does not have an outstanding account(s) with CKC that are more than 30-days in arrears or are without an approved payment plan;
- 2.2.10. Carded paddlers who are no longer in secondary school must be under the supervision of a National Team Coach. The paddler is required to be in a quality training environment at a CKC training centre and/or a training hub approved by the CTO in consultation with the High Performance Manager and International Coach.

2.3. Events for Performance Evaluation

Decisions on Carding nominations will be based upon performance(s) in Olympic events at the following competitions or ranking systems. Only the events and ranking mechanisms listed in the table below will be considered eligible for assessing a paddler's performance and progression. The prioritization of carding nominations is described in Section 4.

Event	International Cards (SR1/SR2)	National Cards (SR/C1)	Development Cards (D)
World Cup Prague		✓	
World Cup Krakow		✓	
World Cup Tacen		✓	
World Cup Pau		✓	

World Cup Seu		✓	
Augsburg Senior World Championships	✓	✓	
Ivrea Junior/U23 World Championships			✓
National Selection Races Oklahoma, USA		(Interclass Ranking used for Tie-breaker)	✓

3. FUNDING ALLOCATION

Sport Canada has awarded the Canoe Slalom High Performance Program the equivalent of six Senior Cards or \$127,080 in AAP funding for the November 2022 to October 2023 Carding Cycle. Sport Canada reviews its carding allocations regularly therefor this amount is subject to change. The Sport Canada AAP Program provides the following four types of cards.

Card Type	Monthly Stipend
International Cards (SR1/SR2)	\$1765/month
National Cards (SR)	\$1765/month
First year National Cards (C1)	\$1060/month
Development Cards (D)	\$1060/month

Eligible paddlers will be nominated to Sport Canada according to the prioritization system described in section 5 of this document. It should be noted that where a paddler qualifies for both a D card and a Senior National Card, the paddler will have the choice to decline the Development card in favor of being nominated for a Senior National Card. Similarly, the athlete may chose to decline the Senior National Card in favor of being nominated for a D card.

Paddlers 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 paddler 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 paddler will be funded at the Senior National Card (SR) level rather than at the Development Card level.

4. PRIORITIZATION OF CARDING NOMINATIONS

The following priorities constitute the sequential order for nominating eligible paddlers until there are no funds remaining. Eligible paddlers will be ranked according to the following

prioritization system to determine the carding recommendations. Cards will be awarded in a top-down fashion until the total allocation of cards is exhausted.

PRIORITY 1	Paddlers eligible for SR1/SR2 cards who meet the Performance Benchmarks identified under International Card Criteria
PRIORITY 2	Paddlers carded the previous year at SR1 or SR2 and who meet the Injury, illness, or Pregnancy Card Criteria .
PRIORITY 3	Paddlers eligible for SR or C1 cards who meet the National Card Performance Standards Level 1 identified under National Card Criteria .
PRIORITY 4	Paddlers eligible for D cards who meet the Development Card Performance Standards Level 1 or 2 under Development Card Criteria .
PRIORITY 5	Paddlers eligible for SR or C1 cards who meet the National Card Performance Standards Level 2 or 3 identified under National Card Criteria .
PRIORITY 6	Paddlers carded the previous year at SR or C1 who meet the Injury, illness, or Pregnancy Card Criteria .
PRIORITY 7	Paddlers eligible for D cards who meet the Development Card Performance Standard Levels 3 or 4 identified under Development Card Criteria .
PRIORITY 8	Paddlers eligible for D cards who meet the Development Card Performance Standard Level 5 identified under Development Card Criteria .

5. INTERNATIONAL CARD CRITERIA

Paddlers who meet the International Card Performance Standard will be eligible for carding support for two consecutive years provided there are sufficient carding quotas available. The card for the first year is referred to as an SR1, while the second-year card is referred to as an SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the paddler maintaining a training and competitive program that is approved by the CTO.

5.1. *International Card Performance Standard*

International Card Performance Standard

Paddlers who finish Top-8 and top-half of the competitive field at the Senior World Championships in the final standings of a Canoe Slalom or Extreme Slalom Olympic event.

5.2. *International Card Prioritization Procedure*

5.2.1. Paddlers who satisfy the International Card Performance Standard will be ranked in a top-down fashion and prioritized for SR1 nominations based on their respective result relative to the competitive field size at the Senior World Championships.

- 5.2.2. In the event of a tie, paddlers will be ranked and prioritized according to the [Senior National Interclass Ranking System](#).
- 5.2.3. After the application of all SR1 nominations, paddlers eligible for SR2 cards may be ranked and prioritized for carding based on their result at the Senior World Championships.
- 5.2.4. In the event of a tie, paddlers will be ranked and prioritized according to the [Senior National Interclass Ranking System](#).

6. NATIONAL CARD CRITERIA

National Cards may be allocated subject to availability in a top-down fashion to eligible paddlers who satisfy any of the National Card Performance Standards according to the [Prioritization of Carding Nominations](#) procedures.

6.1. National Card Performance Benchmarks

National Card Performance Standard Level 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers who finish Top-20 in a Canoe Slalom Olympic event the final standings at the Senior World Championships.
National Card Performance Standard Level 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers who finish Top-half in a Canoe Slalom Olympic event in the final standings of the competitive field at any eligible World Cup or at the Senior World Championships; or • Paddlers who qualify for and compete in a Semi-Final in a Canoe Slalom Olympic event at any eligible World Cup or at the Senior World Championships.
National Card Performance Standard Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers who finish Top-16 in an Extreme Slalom Olympic event at any eligible World Cup or at the Senior World Championships.

6.2. National Card Prioritization Procedures

- 6.2.1. Paddlers eligible for carding based on the National Card Performance Standards will be ranked and prioritized in a top-down fashion within each Performance Standard level according to their respective result relative to the competitive field size in the event at which they satisfied the Performance Standard. In the event of a tie, paddlers will be ranked and prioritized according to the [Senior National Interclass Ranking System](#).

7. DEVELOPMENT CARD CRITERIA

Development Cards may be allocated subject to availability in a top-down fashion to eligible paddlers who satisfy any of the Development Card Performance Standards according to the [Prioritization of Carding Nominations](#) procedures.

7.1. Development Card Performance Benchmarks

Development Card Performance Standard Level 1

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers who qualify for and compete in the Final in a Canoe Slalom Olympic event at the ICF Canoe Slalom Junior or U23 World Championships.
Development Card Performance Standard Level 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers who qualify for and compete in the Final in an Extreme Slalom Olympic event at the ICF Canoe Slalom Junior or U23 World Championships.
Development Card Performance Standard Level 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers who finish Top-half in a Canoe Slalom Olympic event in the final standings of the competitive field at the Junior or U23 World Championships; or • Paddlers who qualify for and compete in a Semi-Final in a Canoe Slalom Olympic event at the Junior or U23 World Championships.
Development Card Performance Standard Level 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers who finish Top-32 in an Extreme Slalom Olympic event at any eligible World Cup or at the Senior World Championships.
Development Card Performance Standard Level 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paddlers selected to the Junior and U23 team will be ranked and prioritized according to the Senior National Interclass Ranking System. For nominating paddlers for Development cards under Performance Standard Level 5, cards will be allocated to paddlers sequentially alternating by gender to eligible paddlers, with the paddler with the best Interclass Ranking to be nominated first regardless of gender.

7.2. *Development Card Prioritization Procedures*

7.2.1. Paddlers eligible for carding based on the Development Card Criteria Level 1-5 will be ranked and prioritized in a top-down fashion within each Performance Standard level according to their respective result relative to the competitive field in the event at which they satisfied the Performance Standard. In the event of a tie, paddlers will be ranked and prioritized according to the [Senior National Interclass Ranking System](#).

8. PROGRESSION CRITERIA

8.1. *Senior Card Progression Criteria*

A paddler who otherwise satisfies the [National Card Criteria](#) will only be re-nominated for a SR card according to the following guidelines:

- 8.1.1. All paddlers are expected to make progress in their results to maintain carding status. Normally, seven years is the maximum that a paddler will be carded at the senior level (SR or C1) based on the [National Card Criteria](#).
- 8.1.2. If a paddler, who has reached the maximum number of years for support is nominated for a Senior Card based on [National Card Criteria](#), the paddler's year-to-year improvement, progression toward the [International Card Criteria](#) and future potential will be reviewed by the CTO.
- 8.1.3. This seven-year period may be extended if a paddler is demonstrating improvement towards SR1/SR2 status, and after a thorough review (Conducted by the CTO), is recommended by CKC and approved by Sport Canada.

8.1.4. Paddlers who place Top-20 in an Olympic event at an eligible World Cup or the World Championships identified in section 3.3 will not be subject to a Progression Criteria review and may be recommended by CKC for an additional year of SR carding.

8.2. Development Card Progression Criteria

A paddler who otherwise satisfies the [Development Card Criteria](#) will only be re-nominated for a D card according to the following guidelines:

- 8.2.1. A U23 eligible paddler can be nominated for a D card for a maximum of **4 years** after which point, the paddler must meet the [National Card Criteria](#) or [International Card Criteria](#) to be re-nominated for carding.
- 8.2.2. A U23 eligible paddler previously carded at the Senior Card level (C1, SR, SR1, SR2) can be nominated for a D card for an additional **2 years** after which point, the paddler must meet the [National Card Criteria](#) or [International Card Criteria](#) to be re-nominated for carding.

9. INJURY, ILLNESS OR PREGNANCY CARD CRITERIA

Canoe Kayak Canada will consider nominating paddlers for an injury card in accordance with section 9.1.3 of [Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program - Policies and Procedures](#).

A SR1/SR2 or a Senior National Card paddler 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 carding cycle provided that the following conditions are met:

- 9.1. The paddler 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 CTO will assume responsibility for the assessment and management of such injuries, medical conditions or illnesses and for the determination of whether such injuries or illnesses are career-ending;
- 9.2. In the case of injury or illness, no carding nominations will be made for injuries that are determined by the CTO in consultation with medical professionals to be career-ending;
- 9.3. If a paddler competes in a qualifying event(s) while injured or ill, they must accept the race result(s) that they have achieved, and they may not invoke their injury or illness as a justification for not achieving superior results and/or results that may have allowed them to otherwise be nominated for carding under the standard nomination procedures. The intention of this provision is to ensure that paddlers who are injured, suffering from an illness, or medical condition do not compete, which could cause further ill health, or harm. However, the paddler may still be nominated for an injury card pursuant to Section 9.4 below;
- 9.4. A paddler may be nominated for a Senior Card on the grounds of injury, illness or pregnancy at the sole discretion of the CTO based on the following factors and according to the prioritization of carding nominations described in section 4 of this document:
 - 9.4.1. the number of Cards available;
 - 9.4.2. the nature and details of the diagnosis and prognosis;

- 9.4.3. assessment and training data provided by the paddler that is verifiable by the paddler's coach and IST;
- 9.4.4. evidence of the paddler's level of performance prior to injury;
- 9.4.5. the strength of the paddler's training plan as evaluated by the CTO in conjunction with the paddler's coach;
- 9.4.6. the advice of medical experts provided to the CTO;
- 9.4.7. the paddler has previously demonstrated the potential to achieve a Top-8 international-level performance; and
- 9.4.8. a reasonable expectation that the paddler can, after a return to full fitness and continue to demonstrate the potential to perform at the top-8 level and progress toward the podium.

10. 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.

With the approval of Sport Canada, CKC reserves the right to modify the published AAP criteria based on the best available information. An example of such modifications could include but are not limited to adding or removing events from the competition schedule that are used for performance evaluations subject to a unique risk assessment for each event. Any modifications will be made promptly and will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

In the event of such unforeseen circumstances as determined by CKC staff, the CTO will, where possible, consult with the Slalom High Performance Manager 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.

11. 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 Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). Appeals of AAP Decision made under Sport Canada's AAP Policy Section 6 (Application for and Approval of Cards) or Section 11 (Withdrawal of Carding Status) may be pursued through Section 13 of the "[Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program - Policies and Procedures](#)".

APPENDIX

1. SENIOR NATIONAL INTERCLASS RANKING SYSTEM

- 1.1. The Senior National Interclass Ranking will be used to establish an overall ranking for all eligible paddlers that compete in any of the four national selection races. As a result, it allows for assessment of paddlers across the Canoe Slalom events on an absolute basis. The four races will include selection races #1, # 2, #3, and #4.
- 1.2. The interclass rankings will be compiled by CKC and verified by the HPC and published as a final ranking following the national selection races.
- 1.3. The three best interclass percentage scores from the four national selection races for each paddler will be used to determine Senior National Interclass Ranking for all eligible paddlers who competed in any of the four selection races.
- 1.4. The Senior National Interclass Ranking will be determined by averaging the best 3 of 4 adjusted interclass percentage scores. The paddler with the lowest total is ranked ahead of the second lowest, and so on.
- 1.5. All ties for ranking will be broken and won by the competitor with the best interclass percentage score in selection race # 4.
- 1.6. The interclass ranking coefficients are as follows:

Event	Interclass Ranking Coefficient
K1M	1.00
K1W	1.13
C1M	1.06
C1W	1.26

[Example of Senior National Interclass Rankings](#)

2. RESULT RELATIVE TO THE COMPETITIVE FIELD

- 2.1. Result relative to the Competitive Field will be determined based on the following formula:

$$\left(\frac{\text{Athletes or Crews' Final Result}}{\text{Competitive Field}} \right) \times 100\% = \text{percentage relative to the Competitive Field}$$

- 2.2. Calculations will be rounded to the nearest 100th and 1, 2, 3, 4 are rounded down and 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 are rounded up.
- 2.3. The paddler with the lower percentage relative to the Competitive Field will rank higher.

Example Calculations

Calculation of the result relative to the Competitive Field for a K1M paddler who places 15th in a field of 101 paddlers.

$$\left(\frac{15}{101} \right) \times 100\% = 14.85\% \text{ of Competitive Field}$$

Calculation of the result relative to the Competitive Field for a C1W paddler who places 9th in a field of 67 paddlers.

$$\left(\frac{9}{67}\right) \times 100\% = 13.43\% \text{ of Competitive Field}$$

In this example, the C1W paddler placing 9th ranks higher relative to the competitive field size compared to the K1M paddler placing 15th.