



2021-2022 Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Qualification Criteria

Purpose

The purpose of the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) is to identify and support Canadian amateur golfers who have the aspiration and greatest potential to reach the LPGA or PGA TOUR, as indicated by competitive results in amateur events.

The structure and objectives of the AAP funding program are being considered as part of an ongoing strategic review of Golf Canada's high-performance programs.

Prerequisites and background information

In order to be considered for AAP support, an athlete must be selected for one of Golf Canada's National Amateur Squads or National Junior Squads.

Athlete Assistance Program support is also known as "carding" and athletes who receive AAP support are known as "carded athletes". The carding cycle for Golf Canada runs from November 1st to October 31st on a one-year basis.

The equivalent of eight (8) senior cards (\$169,440 CAD) is available for distribution to male and female players for 2021-2022. Each gender will be allocated the equivalent of four (4) senior cards (\$84,720 CAD). Please note that Sport Canada may review the card quotas for all sports and that this exercise may affect the number of cards available to Golf Canada.

Funding will be allocated based on the priority order outlined below.

Levels of AAP funding and their associated qualification criteria

Senior International Criteria (SR1, SR2)

Athletes who place in the top 8 and top half of the field at the World Amateur Team Championships meet Sport Canada's "Senior International Criteria" and earn SR1 or SR2 status. These athletes are eligible to be nominated by Golf Canada to be carded for two consecutive years provided they remain members of the National Amateur Squad, with the card for the first year referred to as SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the athlete being re-nominated by Golf Canada and completing a training and competitive program approved by Golf Canada and Sport Canada. The athlete must also sign an Athlete/NSO Agreement and complete an AAP Application Form each year.

Senior Criteria (C1, SR)



Athletes who demonstrate potential for senior international success will be considered for C1 or SR cards. Athletes will be awarded these cards based on the National Amateur Selection Order that is used to select National Amateur Squads (specific criteria can be found at <https://www.golfcanada.ca/how-to-play-for-canada/>). In some cases, athletes may qualify for and receive C1 or SR cards but may be assigned to train for parts of the year with the National Junior Squad because they are still of junior age and/or would benefit from its coaching and training structure.

Development Criteria (D)

Athletes who are still of junior age (U19) at time of selection are eligible to receive D cards. These cards are assigned based on the National Junior Squad in order of selection (see National Junior Squad Selection Criteria – <https://www.golfcanada.ca/how-to-play-for-canada/>). A maximum of four (4) months (Feb – May) per athlete will be awarded.

Priority Order of Nominations

The equivalent of eight (8) senior cards (\$169,440 CAD) is available for distribution to male and female players for 2021-2022. Each gender will be allocated the equivalent of four (4) senior cards (\$84,720 CAD) in the following priority order.

1. Athletes who meet the Senior International Criteria (SR1/ SR2).
2. Athletes who were carded the previous year at the SR2 level who meet the Injury or Pregnancy Considerations criteria (see note below).
3. Remaining cards will be assigned according to the National Amateur Selection Order until funds are awarded to the final member of the National Amateur Squad. Should AAP resources (\$84,720 per gender) allocated to one gender not be fully allocated following this step, the remaining funds from that gender will then be allocated to athletes of the other gender according to its National Amateur Selection Order until funds are awarded to the final member of its National Amateur Squad. Redistribution to the other gender according to National Amateur Selection Order will occur prior to the consideration of Development cards for any National Junior Squad members.
4. Once all the athletes eligible for SR1, SR2, SR, and C1 cards have been nominated:
 - 4.1 Athletes selected to the Golf Canada girls and boys National Junior Squads will be nominated for D level AAP funding in order of their selection. Funding will be for 4 months (Feb – May) which covers the time period junior athletes will spend at Golf Canada's National Training Centre.



4.2 If a portion of the senior card quota from one gender was transferred to the other gender, the remaining AAP resources will be allocated on an equitable basis to National Junior Squad athletes of both genders.

4.3 If no transfer was done between genders for the allocation of senior cards, the remaining quota for each gender will be awarded to eligible National Junior Squad athletes of each gender until the \$84,720 per gender is used. A minimum of 4 months of AAP resources must be available for a D level athlete to receive any AAP support.

5. If there are funds remaining after the nomination of D cards:

5.1 If there is funding remaining from one gender, it will be allocated to a carded athlete of that gender who is eligible for additional months of carding support.

5.2 If after the application of 5.1 there is still at least four (4) months of funding remaining between both genders, it may be used to nominate an additional eligible athlete. To do so, the next eligible athlete between men and women must be identified. This athlete will be identified using the World Amateur Golf Ranking as of September 1, 2021.

Athletes on Athletic Scholarship

Athletes who are receiving an athletic scholarship in any sport and are attending any foreign post-secondary educational institution or an NCAA / NAIA institution based in Canada are not eligible to receive AAP support in the months in which they are attending the institution. These athletes may be nominated by Golf Canada for AAP support during the months they are involved in National Squad training and competition activities in Canada and are not attending the institutions noted above.

Maximum Number of Years for Carding

A golfer is eligible for six (6) years total at the Senior Card level (including C1). If the athlete does not advance to the Senior International level after this period, they will undergo a stringent review. To be carded at Senior Card level for more than six years, Golf Canada must be satisfied that the athlete's performance is progressing and that they still have the potential to advance to the Senior International level.

Injury or Pregnancy Considerations

Athletes carded at SR2 level who are injured or pregnant and fail to meet the criteria for re-nomination the following year may be considered for carding, based on the priority order for injured athletes, as outlined in this document and provided the following conditions are met:



1. The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements designed to facilitate an efficient return to full high-performance training and competition during the period of their injury, illness, or pregnancy. However, despite making every reasonable effort to attain the applicable carding standards during the year in which the injury, illness, or pregnancy occurred, has failed to do so, in the view of Golf Canada, for reasons strictly related to the injury, illness, or pregnancy.
2. Golf Canada, based on its technical judgment and that of a Golf Canada approved physician or equivalent, indicates in writing the expectation that the athlete will achieve at the least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.
3. The athlete demonstrated and continues to demonstrate their long-term commitment to high-performance training and competition goals, as well as their intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which they wish to be renewed despite not having met the carding criteria.