

This document is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

CURLING CANADA
ABLE-BODIED NATIONAL TEAM/CARDING PROGRAM
2023/2024 STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES



The National Team Program exists for the purpose of training athletes with the potential to represent Canada in the World Championships and the Olympic Games.

CARD QUOTA

Sport Canada provides the equivalent of 13 Senior cards to the Men's program (\$275,340) and 13 Senior cards to the Women's program (\$275,340). After every Olympic Games, Sport Canada reviews carding allocations for all sports. As a result, the number of cards allocated to the curling men's and women's programs is subject to change.

ACCESS

Access to the program shall be gained as a result of national/international performance, agreeing to meet National Team Program standards and guidelines and upon signing the athlete agreement forms (attached).

Only the teams with at least one player carded could be eligible to be part of Curling Canada's National Team Program.

ELIGIBILITY

In the carding year/cycle (July 1st, 2023 to June 30th, 2024), the athlete must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated. Permanent residents must live in Canada for the full year preceding the carding cycle for which the athlete is being considered for AAP support;
- Meet the eligibility requirements of the sport's International Federation as it pertains to citizenship or residency status, the athlete must be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, including World Championships and Olympic Games.
- Participate in national team preparatory and annual training programs during the time period in which they qualifying for AAP support;

Note 1: Athletes can only be carded in one discipline, either able bodied or mixed doubles.

PRIORITY ACCESS

Priority for Nomination

Priority #1: Sport Canada International Criteria SR1.

Priority #2: Sport Canada International Criteria SR2.

Priority #3: SR1/SR2 - Health related cards.

Priority #4: Sport Canada National Criteria SR.

For carding details, see Appendix 1

PROGRAM INCLUSION

National Team Program members who meet established criteria and sign all pertinent agreements shall be eligible to be nominated by Curling Canada to the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP).

APPEALS

- Any appeals related to carding shall be heard pursuant to Curling Canada's Appeal Policy.
- Upon receiving a notice of an appeal and the athlete's appeal, Curling Canada and the athlete may first attempt to resolve the dispute pursuant to Curling Canada's *Dispute Resolution Policy* or through the Early Resolution Facilitation services offered by the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC); and
- Notwithstanding the aforementioned, by agreement of the parties, the internal appeal process may be bypassed and the appeal may be heard directly before the SDRCC.

COMPETITION

All athletes with carding status shall compete in a minimum of 8 regional, national or international competitions as approved by Curling Canada, unless an exception is granted by Curling Canada. Each year an athlete is selected to the National Team Program, the athlete shall enter and compete in all levels of competition that lead to Provincial/Territorial Championships, Canadian Championships (Canadian men's or Canadian women's) and Canadian Curling Trials. The Athlete shall make every effort to qualify and participate in the World Championships and Winter Olympics. National Team Program competitions may, as well, include events on the Men's and Women's Tour or Canada Cup Bonspiel Series events, international invitational events, national invitational events, "made-for-television" competitions, and other events as approved by Curling Canada.

TRAINING

- National Team Program athletes shall submit an individualized Annual Competition and Training Plan for a year-round training program which involves scheduled training in the following competitive components:
 - skill analysis and development
 - fitness - general and sport specific under the guidance of an exercise physiologist
 - mental toughness under the guidance of a certified sports psychologist strategic/tactical analysis and development
 - team dynamics
 - nutritional counselling under the guidance of a nutritionist
 - other as required
- A comprehensive planning, training and assessment resource will be provided by Curling Canada to assist the athlete, Team Coach and National Team Program Manager in implementing a year-round training program which includes significant daily training activities. This resource will be particularly beneficial in facilitating the off-season training requirements.

- All National Team Program athletes shall make themselves available to participate in high performance camps or training sessions as identified in the Annual Competition and Training Plan. These initiatives will be formatted based on national team athlete/coach input.
- All National Team Program athletes will be provided access to sport science support as determined by the athlete and National Team Program Manager and will be based on the National Team Program budget.

FITNESS STANDARDS

- Each athlete shall meet or surpass the physical fitness standards previously agreed to by the athlete, national team program manager and sport science consultant. These fitness standards shall be documented in the athletes' individualized Annual Competition and Training Plan and achieved within a time frame agreed to by the athlete and National Team Program Manager.
- Fitness testing shall be scheduled by the athlete in consultation with the National Team Program Manager.

TRAINING/PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Curling Canada, in consultation with the National Program athletes, shall assign a National Program consulting coach to monitor each athlete's training regimen, competitive performance and fitness over the program season. A consulting coach shall be assigned for each of the men's and women's programs.

DRUG TESTING REQUIREMENT

Each athlete shall make themselves available to drug testing procedures as and when requested to do so by an authorized person/agency in Canada and overseas, as required by Curling Canada/athlete agreement and as stated in the AAP Policies and Procedures Manual.

CURLING CANADA/ATHLETE AGREEMENT

Each athlete seeking access to the National Team Program and Sport Canada carding shall study, sign and return the agreement to the Curling Canada office. The agreement shall be considered valid for the period of National Program inclusion and for the carding period of one year. The agreement shall be returned to the Curling Canada office on or before June 15th of the appropriate year. (Agreement attached)

SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Each athlete's specific Sport Canada carding status shall be determined by their national/international performance and sport specific carding guidelines as determined by Sport Canada in consultation with Curling Canada (Appendix 1 attached). Information on Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program is available at the following web site:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>

If you do not have internet access, please request a hard copy.

TEAM COMPONENT

Athletes who are in the National Team Program and nominated for carding are not obligated to compete with the team whose success earned them the National Team and carding opportunity. (Except if nominated under priority number 4 above)

To qualify for the 12-month SR1 or SR2 card, the team must retain a minimum of 3 of the 4 players they earned their carding status with. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM APPLICATION

Curling Canada will endeavor to provide each athlete who meets program access requirements with the program application package at the conclusion of the competitive season and prior to May 30th.

NOTIFICATION TO ATHLETE ON REQUEST FOR SPORT CANADA CARDING

Curling Canada will endeavor to meet with appropriate Sport Canada representatives to present each athlete's application for carding prior to June 15th and as a result notify each athlete in writing of their carding status prior to June 30th.

I have read, understand and agree to the Standards and Guidelines as outlined in this document.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____

National Team Program
ATHLETE AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT made this ____ day of _____, 2023.

BETWEEN

Curling Canada, having its national office at 1660 Vimont Court, Orleans, Ontario

AND

_____ (hereinafter referred to as “the Athlete”), residing at

_____ (street address)

_____ (city and province)

_____ (postal code) Date of birth: _____

Telephone: _____ (residence) _____ (business)

Mobile: _____ e-mail address: _____

WHEREAS the National Team Program exists for the purpose of training athletes with the potential to represent Canada in the World Championships and the Olympic/Paralympic Games in the year in which the athlete is selected to the National Team Program;

AND WHEREAS the selection of an athlete to the National Team Program presupposes the athlete’s availability to represent Canada in such major international competitions and presupposes the athlete’s participation in all provincial/territorial and national competitions forming part of Curling Canada’s play-down process leading to the selection of Canada’s representation at such major international competitions;

AND WHEREAS the athlete and Curling Canada recognize that the National Team Program eligibility and priority access criteria, program access criteria and the criteria governing Curling Canada’s decisions to recommend/not recommend the athlete for carding are the same;

AND WHEREAS the parties recognize that compliance with the aforesaid criteria is not only necessary for the athlete’s initial eligibility to participate in the National Team Program, thereby qualifying to be recommended by Curling Canada to Sport Canada for inclusion within their Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), but also ongoing compliance with said criteria throughout the one year carding cycle is essential for the athlete to maintain National Team Program status and as a result, their continued eligibility to maintain Sport Canada carding;

AND WHEREAS the Athlete wishes to be a member of Curling Canada’s National Team Program with his or her rights and obligations clearly defined;

AND WHEREAS Curling Canada is recognized by the World Curling Federation, Sport Canada and the Canadian Olympic Committee as the sole National Federation governing amateur curling in Canada;

AND WHEREAS Curling Canada and the Athlete recognize the need to clarify the relationship between Curling Canada and the National Team Program Athlete by establishing their respective rights and obligations;

AND WHEREAS the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (hereinafter referred to as “the AAP”) requires these rights and obligations to be stated in a written agreement to be signed by Curling Canada and the Athlete who is being nominated to receive assistance with the AAP;

NOW THEREOF the parties agree to the following:

CURLING CANADA OBLIGATIONS

1. Curling Canada shall:

- a) assist athletes and coaches to train within a National Team Program in an endeavor to represent Canada in the sport of curling at the Olympics/Paralympics and World Championships;
- b) communicate selection criteria for all national teams at least three (3) months before the selection for any particular team leading to the Olympics/Paralympics and World Championships;
- c) publish criteria for the selection of athletes to the AAP three (3) to five (5) months before the start of the AAP eligibility cycle;
- d) communicate with athlete both verbally and in writing in the official language of preference;
- e) nominate athletes who have met the AAP criteria (Appendix 1) for the AAP and thereafter ensure that all Athletes accepted are made aware of all the benefits to which they are reasonably entitled thereunder;
- f) organize programs and provide funding for the development and provision of coaching expertise at regional training centres in Canada in accordance with the National Plan and budget of Curling Canada;
- g) assist the Athlete in obtaining quality medical care and advice;
- h) regularly provide National Team program information (training and competition) to the Athlete;
- i) provide a formal review of the Athlete’s annual training program and fitness standards;
- j) provide funding support to the Athlete for training camps and competitions in accordance with the National Team Program budget of Curling Canada.
- k) provide a dispute settlement mechanism with regard to any dispute the Athlete may have with Curling Canada with respect to clauses in this agreement or any disputes related to selection or carding or otherwise and such dispute settlement mechanism shall be in conformity with the generally accepted principles of natural justice and due process.

ATHLETE'S OBLIGATIONS

2. The Athlete Shall:

- a) complete the CCES on line anti-doping education courses "True Sport Clean" and "Sport Canada - Athlete Assistance Program" at the beginning of each new carding cycle. Failure to do so will result in AAP payments being kept on hold until this requirement is satisfied;
- b) provide the National Team Program Manager or his or her designate either in person or by mail sent to the National Office, with an individualized National Team Program Competition and Training Plan and other appropriate information that Curling Canada may request. The completed Plan shall be submitted along with the signed Athlete Agreement and shall be subject to Curling Canada's approval;
- c) submit a request to Curling Canada for approval of any desired changes to the National Team Program Competition and Training Plan one month in advance of the proposed change;
- d) follow the individualized National Team Program Competition and Training Plan as approved by Curling Canada;
- e) subject to paragraph 2(d), make themselves available to participate in all mandatory training camps and competitions as described in the Competition and Training Plan including entering all levels of competition leading to a Canadian and World Championship, as required by Curling Canada;
- f) notify Curling Canada immediately in writing of any injury or other legitimate reason beyond the Athlete's control that will prevent the Athlete from participating in an upcoming event included in the National Team Program Competition and Training Plan and ensure, in the case of an injury, that a certificate from a medical doctor setting out the specific nature of the injury and expected recovery time is forwarded to Curling Canada as soon as possible prior to the event. In the case of 'other legitimate reason beyond the Athlete's control', the Athlete shall submit such evidence as Curling Canada deems reasonable to corroborate the legitimacy of the reason. Any dispute concerning the legitimacy of the Athlete's injury shall, if possible, be resolved by the dispute settlement mechanism made available by Curling Canada;
- g) avoid any action or conduct that would reasonably be expected to significantly disrupt or interfere with a competition or the preparation of any Athlete for a competition;
- h) Avoid any action or conduct that would in any way (in the opinion of the Team Program Management) reflect detrimentally upon the image of the National Team Program, Curling Canada or Canada;
- i) during or at National Team Program training camps and competitions, avoid the consumption of alcoholic or any other substance to a level which would reasonably be expected to impair the Athlete's ability to perform competently, cause impairment in the Athlete's ability to speak, walk or drive, or cause the Athlete to behave in a disruptive manner;

- j) avoid the use of prohibited substances or methods which are in contravention to the rules of the IOC, the World Curling Federation (WCF) and Canadian Policy on doping in sport. Agree to submit to, without prior warning, unannounced doping control tests in addition to other prior notice tests and at other times to doping control testing upon request of the WCF, Curling Canada, Sport Canada, the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, COC or any other authority designated to do so by Curling Canada or with authority to do so;
- k) avoid the possession of prohibited substances or methods and neither supply such substances or methods to other athletes directly or indirectly, or encourage or condone their use by knowingly aiding in any effort to avoid detection of the use of prohibited substances or methods;
- l) participate, if asked by Curling Canada to do so, in any Doping Control/Education Program developed by Curling Canada in cooperation with Sport Canada and the CCES;
- m) avoid living in an environment that is not conducive to high performance achievements or taking any deliberate action that involves significant risks for the Athlete's ability to perform or that limits the Athlete's ability to perform or that limits the Athlete's performance;
- n) avoid participating in any competitions where federal government policy has determined that such participation is not permitted;
- o) participate in sport-related, non-commercial promotional activities on behalf of the Government of Canada. Curling Canada will usually make such requests for participation and arrange the activities. Unless supplementary compensation is arranged, these activities do not normally involve more than two working days per athlete per year;
- p) actively participate in all AAP evaluation activities. Athletes will cooperate fully in any evaluation of the AAP that may be conducted by the Minister or anyone authorized to act on the Minister's behalf and provide such data as the person conducting the evaluation considers necessary for the proper conduct of the evaluation;
- q) follow the advice of National Program medical expertise in relation to injury prevention and rehabilitation, etc.;
- r) At all times, agree to acquaint themselves with and strictly abide by, Curling Canada's Code of Conduct and Ethics, Discipline and Complaints Policy, Appeal Policy and the various other policies, rules and regulations of Curling Canada, which may be amended and updated from time to time by Curling Canada;
- s) utilize the dispute settlement mechanism made available by Curling Canada to remedy any complaints and issues related to potential breaches of this Agreement (if they are unable to resolve them in accordance with Section 3 below) or in relation to any other disputes related to carding, selection or otherwise;
- t) promptly furnish to the Curling Canada National Office or National Team Program Manager any and all particulars which may from time to time be requested; and

- u) be a member in good standing of a Provincial/Territorial Association with Curling Canada to be eligible for AAP (carding).

Default Notification Provisions

- 3. (a) Where one of the parties to this Agreement is of the opinion that the other party has failed to conform with its obligations under this Agreement, it shall forthwith
 - (i) Notify that party in writing of the particulars of the alleged default;
 - (ii) If there exists a reasonable opportunity to remedy the default, and if the default is not so fundamental as to amount to repudiation of this Agreement, the notifying party shall indicate in the notice the steps to be taken to remedy the default and a reasonable period of time to complete the remedial steps.
 - (iii) The parties agree that the giving of the above referred to notice by a party will not prevent that party from later asserting that the default was so fundamental as to amount to a repudiation of this agreement.
- (b) If the party receiving the notice remedies the breach within the specified time, the dispute shall be deemed resolved and neither party shall have any recourse against the other concerning the matters alleged to comprise the default. If the party receiving the notice fails to remedy the breach within the specified time and either party wishes to take recourse against the other concerning the matters alleged to comprise the default, that party shall use the dispute settlement mechanism(s) made available by Curling Canada to resolve the differences between the parties. Neither party shall have recourse to the courts or elsewhere to resolve such differences.

DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement comes into force on the 1st day of July 2023 and terminates on the 30th day of June, 2024.

UNDERSTANDING/VOLUNTARINESS

Each of the parties has read thoroughly the terms of this agreement, has had ample opportunity to reflect upon and question the meanings of the provisions, and has either had independent legal advice concerning the agreement or the opportunity to receive same. Each party acknowledges that they fully understand the meanings and consequences of all the provisions of this Agreement. Each party is signing this agreement freely and voluntarily without pressure or coercion from anybody.

ATHLETE DECLARATION – requires athlete signature & witness signature

I hereby declare that in return for any financial assistance provided by the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program, I undertake to fulfil all commitments and responsibilities outlined in the booklet *Athlete Assistance Program Policies, Procedures and Guidelines* and posted on the Sport Canada website (http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/sc/prog/paa-aap/info_e.cfm) and my Athlete/NSO Agreement. I agree to refund any assistance provided to me, payable to the Receiver General of Canada, should my eligibility status change or my carded status be withdrawn, effective the withdrawal/change of status date.

Athlete signature

Date

Witness signature

Curling Canada:

Curling Canada Representative

Date

Witness signature

APPENDIX 1

Curling Canada Able-Bodied National Team/Carding Program

Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program (Carding) Criteria

Sport Canada provides the equivalent of 13 Senior cards to the Men's program, 13 Senior cards to the Women's program (\$275,340 each). After every Olympic Games, Sport Canada reviews carding allocations for all sports. As a result, the number of cards allocated to the Curling Men and Women Programs is subject to change.

The AAP carding status of National Team Program athletes shall be based on their national/international performance, ability to meet National Team Program standards and Sport Canada carding guidelines and adhere to the National Team Program Athlete Agreement.

Priority for Nomination

Priority #1: Sport Canada International Criteria SR1.

Priority #2: Sport Canada International Criteria SR2.

Priority #3: SR1/SR2 - Health related cards.

Priority #4: Sport Canada National Criteria SR.

SENIOR CARD CRITERIA

Priority #1 - Sport Canada International Criteria (SR1)

Olympic Games Must finish top 6 and ties, and top ½ of the field to be eligible

World Championship Must finish top 6 and ties, and top ½ of the field to be eligible

Athletes that qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are potentially eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as an SR1 Card (12 months) and the card for the second year referred to as an SR2 card. In an Olympic year, only the athletes competing at the Olympics are eligible for the SR1 cards. To qualify for the 12-month SR1 card, the team must retain a minimum of 3 of the 4 players they earned their carding status with.

If an athlete changes teams, their new team must have been ranked within the top 6 from the Canadian Team Ranking System (CTRS) as at May 1, 2023 and retain 3 of 4 players for the 2023/2024 season in order for the athlete to retain their 12-month card.

Athlete's must also be re-nominated for AAP carding by Curling Canada and submit a training and competitive program to be approved by Curling Canada and Sport Canada and sign the AAP application and Curling Canada/Athlete agreement and complete the online anti-doping courses.

Note 1: If a card is unable to be assigned to an athlete(s), the card(s) will be allocated to the Sport Canada National Team based criteria (Priority #4).

Note 2: If the team does not finish top 6 as described above, the team will be nominated to receive an SR 12-month cards. You must retain 3 of 4 players for the 2023/2024 season to be awarded these cards.

The 5th player is not eligible for this card. However, a 5th player may be considered for carding if all 5 players on a team, designating as having a 5th player, all play a minimum of 50% of the team's games throughout the curling season. (Based on games where CTRS points are awarded)

Priority #2 – Sport Canada International Criteria (SR2)

The 4 men and 4 women athletes on the teams that were selected to compete in the 2022 Winter Olympics and who have not already qualified for SR1 card for the 2023/2024 season.

To qualify for the 12-month SR2 card, the team must retain a minimum of 3 of the 4 players they earned their carding status with and be ranked within the top 6 on the CTRS as at May 1, 2023. If an athlete(s) formed a new team, their new team must be a top 6 team on the CTRS as at May 1, 2023.

The 5th player is not eligible for this card.

Note 1: If a card is unable to be assigned to an athlete(s), the card(s) will be allocated to the Sport Canada National Team based criteria (Priority #4)

Priority #3 - Failure to meet criteria for health-related reasons (SR1, SR2 athletes)

An SR1 or SR2 carded athlete who, at the end or the beginning of the carding cycle, has not achieved the standard required for carding status because of health related reasons may be considered for nomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met: The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high performance training and competition during the period of his or her injury, illness or pregnancy or is continuing a rehabilitation program approved by the Curling Canada;

In the view of the Curling Canada, the athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy;

Curling Canada, based on its technical judgement and that of a Curling Canada team physician or equivalent, indicates in writing to Sport Canada the expectation that the athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period;

The athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate his or her long-term commitment to high performance training and competition goals, as well as his or her intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which he or she wishes to be renewed despite not having met the carding criteria.

Priority #4 – Sport Canada National Criteria (SR)

The top ranked men's and women's teams from the CTRS as at May 1, 2023 and who have not already qualified for a SR1 or SR2 card for the 2023/2024 season. Athletes will be nominated to receive a 6-month SR card. To be awarded the card you must retain 3 of 4 players for the 2023/2024 season. If the team is unable to retain 3 of 4 players, the card(s) will be allocated to the next team on the CTRS as at May 1, 2023. (meaning: if you retain 3 of 4 players, the 3 people staying with the team will receive a card, the person leaving the team will not receive a card)

The cards will be awarded in CTRS order until all available cards have been consumed. For the last team eligible to receive a card(s) they will be distributed to maximize the number of players receiving cards on that team. The number of months for each card awarded to these players will be based on how many 6-month cards are remaining to distribute. (the carding months distributed could range from 4 to 6 months per player awarded).

The 5th player is not eligible for this card. However, a 5th player may be considered for carding if all 5 players on a team, designating as having a 5th player, all play a minimum of 50% of the team's games throughout the curling season. (Based on games where CTRS points are awarded)

Note 1: Normally, an athlete is expected to improve each year to maintain a Senior National Card and eventually achieve the international criteria. Therefore; an athlete is generally expected to hold a Senior National Card for no more than 5 years (not necessarily consecutive). In that time, it is expected that an athlete would have had an opportunity to reach the International Senior Card standards. However, an athlete may be carded at the Senior National Card level (SR) for 6 years or beyond if he/she continues to demonstrate continued progression toward achieving the Senior International card level. This is demonstrated through stronger performances/placements at national/international events throughout the competitive season as reported by Curling Canada.

Note 2: If an athlete earns a card under both the 4-person team carding criteria and the MD carding criteria, they will be awarded the card with the greatest value and the other card will be reassigned.