



**INDOOR NATIONAL TEAMS
2023-2024 SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

1. Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP):

The Sport Canada AAP is intended to financially support our National Team athletes to assist with living & training expenses enabling their participation in year-round training and competition regimes, to facilitate the attainment of their immediate and long-range goals of excellence at Olympic or world competition.

Athletes who are approved for funding and are financially supported through the AAP are referred to as Carded Athletes. AAP support is referred to as Carding.

All athletes being supported by Sport Canada's AAP must sign an athlete agreement with Volleyball Canada. In addition, to be eligible for selection to a National Team, all athletes must meet FIVB Nationality requirements, in addition to having a valid Canadian Passport as validation of Canadian Citizenship.

2. AAP Carding Quota, Levels & Cycle:

Sport Canada currently provides Volleyball Canada the equivalent of 21 SR cards (\$444,780) for the Men's Indoor National Team, and 12 SR cards (\$254,160) for the Women's Indoor National Team. Sport Canada regularly reviews the carding quotas; therefore, the allocation provided to Volleyball Canada is subject to change. Carding Levels are as follows:

SR: Athletes in their second year or beyond who meet the SR criteria (\$1765/month)

C1: First year athletes who meet the SR criteria will normally be designated as C1 (\$1060/month) (see note below)

D: Athletes selected to the NextGen (Senior B) Team or other Developmental Team (U21, U19, U17) and who meet the minimum carding criteria (\$1060/month)

*NOTE: An athlete who, while carded at the development level, is selected to the Senior National Team for a **major event** during that carding year, and who is subsequently eligible to be nominated for a Senior Card in the following carding year, **MAY** be nominated to be funded at the SR level rather than the C1 level. The term "Major event" refers to the Olympic Games and the World Senior Championship*

The number of cards may vary from year to year depending on the prior year's performance of the national team program(s).

Volleyball Canada's Indoor carding cycle is from May 1 through April 30 of the following year. Athletes approved by Sport Canada will receive AAP funding for a maximum of a 12-month period. The AAP cards are, with Sport Canada agreement, also able to be divided into portions (minimum 4 months) which is intended to provide enough carding to support at a minimum level the 'B' or Extended Senior Team athletes and Developmental National Team athletes, in addition to the core Senior Team athletes.

Tuition vouchers for post-secondary schools are also included with each card. Athletes attending an NCAA institution may be eligible for AAP assistance if they fit within the following criteria and if they abide by the NCAA eligibility policies and restrictions. A tuition voucher is not valid with NCAA institutions.

The Centre Athlete Assistance Program (CAAP) from the Team Canada Volleyball Centre also contributes to the monthly support provided to athletes who are training full time for the Senior Teams. This amount of support for athletes from CAAP is determined each season and is dependent on annual budgets for the program.

3. Nomination Timelines & Procedures

The nomination of athletes for AAP generally takes place between May 15 and June 15 of each year for Senior

Programs, and in July for developmental team athletes once those teams are selected for the summer.

The AAP submission document along with athlete carding nominations is completed and submitted to Sport Canada annually according to the above timelines by the High-Performance Director, along with the Indoor National Team Head Coaches. Prior to submission to Sport Canada, the Volleyball Canada High-Performance Director in conjunction with the NT Head Coach and the respective Volleyball Canada Athlete Representative will review the carding nominations and approve on basis of the selection criteria.

4. AAP Nomination & National Team Selection Criteria

To receive a Sport Canada Card athletes must not only be committed to the current year of the national team program but must also be thinking long term about being a member of the Senior National Team. Athletes selected for a National Team must possess the ability or potential to support Canada's performance at the international level.

As indicated in section 2 above, the National Team programs only have a limited number of Sport Canada cards that can be allocated to all athletes, from the Senior level down to the Youth level. In addition, an athlete may receive a minimum of 4 months and a maximum of 12 months of carding, and this is generally determined by the athlete position on the team's depth chart and number of days the athlete is involved with full time training at the national team centre or within their respective program, and not all members of each program will necessarily be carded.

Carding level and number of carding months will be given in the following order of priority; (a) Senior athletes committed to full time training and availability to participate in major international competitions, (b) Senior athletes committed to training periods and availability to participate in major international competitions, (c) National B (NextGen) athletes, (d) U21 National program athletes, and (e) U19/U17 National program athletes.

Carding levels are also based on an athlete's overall position in the National Team depth chart, as determined by the athlete's current performance and expertise in the criteria areas as outlined below. Furthermore, national team programs and athlete involvement must last for a minimum of thirty (30) days to be eligible for carding.

Athletes will be selected to a National Team program and rated within the athlete depth chart by the Head Coach following the annual selection camp (early May – Mid June), based on present expertise and/or demonstrated potential in the following areas:

- Present technical skill level - high level of ball control skills, application of skills to the game and competitive situations, position specific skills.
- Tactical abilities - abilities to 'read' and respond to game situations, ability to make correct decisions under pressure, and ability to incorporate individual, positional and team tactics as detailed by coaching staff.
- On court physical skill aspects – Overall physical conditioning, height, jumping ability, speed, strength, agility.
- The dynamics of the team as a whole.
 - Ability to work effectively within the team concept.
 - Level of commitment to communication with other players and team staff.
 - Willingness to alter individual preferences and to change to meet the needs of the group and the strategies of the coaches.
 - Willingness to work within the assigned role(s) for that team.
 - Willingness to comply with Team and program rules & expectations.
- Mental Skills - strong work ethic evidenced in training and physical preparation, assertiveness, and leadership evidenced by the ability to work well with others.
- Personal characteristics – self-motivated and responsible, determined and committed to personal and program goals.

5. Athlete Appeal Process

If an athlete wishes to appeal a decision of Volleyball Canada's athlete selection and nomination procedures, the appeal will be dealt with as follows. The detailed process is documented in VC's Appeals Policy, a copy of which can be found on VC's web-site at the following link:

http://www.volleyball.ca/uploads/About/Governance/Policies/EN/VC_Appeal_Policy_FEB_28_2017.pdf

1. Before any appeal proceeds, the dispute will be referred first to the Volleyball Canada Ethics Committee for review. This referral and review will be done within seven (7) days, with the objective of resolving the dispute at an early stage.
2. Should the review by the Ethics Committee not resolve the dispute, Volleyball Canada will appoint a Case Manager to oversee management and administration of an appeal under this Policy. The Case Manager has an overall responsibility to ensure procedural fairness is always respected in this Policy, and to implement this Policy in a timely manner.
3. Finally, if the appellant is still not satisfied with the outcome, they may then appeal through the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada. This process can only be accessed once the Volleyball Canada internal appeal process as outlined above in points (a) and (b) has been completed. The Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada information can be found on their web site at the following address:
<http://www.crdsc-sdrcc.ca/eng/home.jsp>

Notwithstanding the above paragraphs, for any matters related to the Athlete Assistance Program Nomination or de-carding, all appeals must follow the Policies and Procedures of Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html#a14>

Updated May 2022