



## **ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

### **2025 NOMINATION CRITERIA**

**Cycle from  
January 1st, 2025, to December 31st, 2025**

(aussi disponible en français)

powered by

Canadian Cerebral Palsy  
Sports Association



L'Association canadienne de sports  
pour paralytiques cérébraux

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this document is to describe the criteria that will be used by the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sport Association (CCPSA, also known as 'Boccia Canada') for nominating athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2025 carding cycle, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 – December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

**Purpose of the Athlete Assistance Program (Carding)** - The purpose of the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP, also known as 'carding') is to ensure that athletes who have demonstrated outstanding abilities and commitment to excelling in the sport of boccia are afforded the necessary opportunities in order to achieve future international success. It is intended to allow athletes to enter into a training and competitive schedule which, by design, is intended to lead to consistent improvement with respect to future international results.

An athlete's carding status is subject to the obligations and commitments as detailed in the CCPSA's Athlete-NSO agreement and Sport Canada AAP Policies and Procedure.

- 1.1 **Guiding Principles** - The 2025 criteria are intended to allow fair and equitable treatment for all athletes while ensuring that the system and criteria will be as objective and transparent as possible.
- 1.2 **Funding** - The Athlete Assistance Program is funded by Sport Canada. The maximum number of cards for each cycle is determined by Sport Canada.
- 1.3 **Maintaining Carded Athlete Status Within a Cycle** - The athlete status is dependent upon athlete adherence to the obligations as outlined in the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association Carded Athlete Agreement and Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program Policy and Guidelines.
- 1.4 **Carding Cycle** – The Carding Cycle will begin January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, and will end December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- 1.5 **Carding quotas** – Sport Canada regularly reviews its carding quotas. After the revision made in 2021, Boccia is currently eligible to receive the equivalent of 10 Senior cards. The cards will be awarded based on the priorities outlined in Section 3. Sport Canada will be reviewing carding quotas again after the 2024 Paralympic Games.
- 1.6 **Qualification Period** – The qualification period for earning results towards nominations for the 2025 carding cycle begins January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and ends December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

## 2. BASIC ELIGIBILITY FOR CARDING

In advance of nomination all athletes must:

**Boccia Canada National Program** - In order to be considered for AAP nomination, athletes must be selected to the Boccia National Program during the Qualification Period.

**Eligibility** – Athletes must be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada, on the date of the beginning of the carding cycle, and the athlete shall have been a legal resident in Canada (student status, refugee status, work visa or permanent resident) for a minimum period of one year before being considered for AAP support, and meet all other eligibility requirements outlined in section 2.3 of the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures.

**Membership** - The athlete must be a member in good standing of the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association; including all fees paid up to date.

**Canadian Residency** – The athlete must normally maintain their residence within Canada during the carding period to remain eligible for carding. Athletes living outside Canada for athletics or academic purposes must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association and Sport Canada that

appropriate training programs are in place and are being maintained at an appropriate level. The Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association reserves the right to reject such a request.

**National Representation** – Athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international events, including but not limited to: Paralympic Games, World Boccia World Championships, Boccia America’s Championships, Boccia Regional Championships, World Boccia Paralympic Qualification Tournament, World Boccia Cup, World Boccia Challenger.

**Training Program** - Have a training program that is approved by the CCPSA/Boccia Canada and Sport Canada

**Athlete Agreement** - Sign an Athlete/NSO agreement.

**Commitment to Anti-Doping** - Complete online anti-doping training

**Completed Application** - Complete the AAP application form for the year in question and submit to CCPSA/Boccia Canada within agreed time limits.

### 3. OVERVIEW

#### CRITERIA

Priority	Criteria
1	Athletes who meet the SR1 - <b>Senior International Criteria (first year)</b>
2	Athletes who meet the SR2 - <b>Senior International Criteria (second year)</b>
3	Athletes who meet the SR1/2 - <b>Return from health-related circumstances - Senior International Criteria</b>
4	Athletes who meet the SR - <b>Dependable High-Performance Criteria</b>
5	Athletes who meet the SR - <b>High Performance Criteria</b>
6	Athletes who meet the SR – <b>Demonstrated High Performance Criteria</b>
7	Athletes who meet the SR - <b>Capacity for High Performance Criteria</b>
8	Athletes who meet the SR - <b>Return from health-related circumstances Criteria</b>

#### CCPSA, Athlete and Sport Canada Responsibilities

In addition to what is covered in this document all Sport Canada policies and rules apply:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>

#### Living and Training Allowance

Athletes approved by Sport Canada for the AAP are eligible to a living and training allowance. This assistance is usually paid in advance every other month. The support paid varies as follows:

- i. Senior international Cards (SR1, SR2) \$1765/months
- ii. Senior National Cards (SR, SR1) \$1765/months

### 4. Performance Criteria

#### SR Cards

#### 4.1 Priority 1: SR1/SR2 Cards – Senior International Criteria

Athletes that qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 Card and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2 Card.

- Top 8 **and** top ½ of the field in Individual, Team or Pairs at the World Championships or Paralympic Games; the field includes countries involved in the World Championships or Paralympic Games qualification process.

#### **4.2 Priority 2: SR2 Cards – Senior International Criteria (second year)**

Athletes who in the previous carding season qualified for the SR1 Card are eligible for an SR2 card provided they:

- Are selected to the Boccia National Team during the Qualification Period of each year.
- Had competed at the most recent World Championships in Individual, Team, or Pairs.
- Had a positive Win/Loss ratio for all attended “World Boccia” competitions combined in the qualifying year.

#### **4.3 Priority 3: SR1/2 Injury/Illness Cards – Return from health-related circumstances Senior International Criteria**

Athletes who were carded in the previous year at SR1 or SR2 and were unable to meet the carding criteria strictly due to injury, illness, or pregnancy, may be considered for nomination by CCPSA/Boccia Canada for the upcoming carding period if they meet the criteria outlined below.

The CCPSA/Boccia Canada must receive and accept a written request as outlined in below. The athlete will then receive the same number of points as he or she got at the events in the previous year and will be ranked by points with all the other eligible athletes eligible for SR1/2.

In any health-related circumstances request, the CCPSA/Boccia Canada reserves the right to obtain a second and third medical opinion at any time.

The athlete must submit the following to the High-performance director or National Office, as soon as possible after the health-related circumstances occurred:

- i. A doctor’s medical certificate indicating the date and nature of the health-related circumstance with the prescribed rehabilitation program and estimated recovery period. A full recovery must be possible within the next carding period.
- ii. Agreement that for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfill the National Team Program commitments which are part of the normal carded Athlete’s Agreement, that the athlete will train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of the Head Coach (or a person designated by Head Coach) at a level which minimizes risk to the athlete’s personal health, and ensures optimum return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date.
- iii. A written intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the health-related circumstance.

The final decision on eligibility for carding nomination based on the health-related circumstance clauses rests with the High-performance director in consultation with the Boccia Canada Council Chair of High Performance.

#### **4.4 Priority 4: SR Cards – Senior National Criteria “Dependable High-Performance”**

Athletes who have achieved the following in 2024:

- Won one medal in individual, team, or pairs events at a “World Boccia” World Cup competition; and
- Won one medal in individual, team, or pairs events at a second “World Boccia” World Cup competition

#### **4.5 Priority 5: SR Cards – Senior National Criteria “High Performance”**

Athletes who have achieved the following in 2024:

- Won one medal in individual, team, or pairs events at a “World Boccia” World Cup competition.

#### **4.6 Priority 6: SR Cards – Senior National Criteria “Demonstrated High Performance”**

Athletes who have achieved the following:

- Won one medal in individual, team, or pairs events at a “World Boccia” “Challenger” event; and ...
- Won a medal at either: Defi Sportif national event, Boccia Blast or the Canadian Boccia Championships

#### **4.7 Priority 7: SR Cards – Senior National Criteria “Capacity for High Performance”**

Athletes who have achieved the following in 2024:

- Boccia Canada 2024 “Gold Medal Profile” Results

#### **4.8 Priority 8: SR Cards – Health-related circumstances and Potential Return to High Performance**

Athletes who were carded in the previous year at the SR level and were unable to meet the carding criteria strictly due to health-related circumstances, may be considered for nomination by CCPSA for the upcoming carding period if they meet the criteria outlined below.

The CCPSA must receive and accept a written request as outlined in below. The athlete will then receive the same number of points as he or she got at the events in the previous year and will be ranked by points with all the other eligible athletes eligible for SR health-related circumstances.

In any injury provision request, the CCPSA/Boccia Canada reserves the right to obtain a second and third medical opinion at any time.

The athlete must submit the following to the High-performance director, as soon as possible after the health issue occurred:

- i. A doctor’s medical certificate indicating the date and nature of the injury with the prescribed rehabilitation program and estimated recovery period. A full recovery must be possible within the next carding period.
- ii. Agreement that for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfill the National Team Program commitments which are part of the normal carded Athlete’s Agreement, that the athlete will train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of the Head Coach (or a person designated by Head Coach) at a level which minimizes risk to the athlete’s personal health, and ensures optimum return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date.
- iii. A written intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness or injury.

The final decision on eligibility for carding nomination based on health-related circumstances clauses rests with the High-performance director in consultation with the Boccia Canada Council Chair of High Performance.

#### **4.9 Determination of ranking**

Within priority 1, 2, 4, 5, 6:

The points accumulated for each event are the same that are used for World Boccia (BISFed) ranking, with the first year “weighting” but without the participation point given at each event. For every win that an athlete achieves, they will receive a specific number of points. The number of points awarded will depend on the stage of competition of the match. Any match a side loses, no matter what round that loss occurs in, will not earn any points for a side. The system considers the number of wins and the progress done within each event.

The points obtained at events are cumulative, at the end of the year the accumulated points prevail on priority 7 (Gold Medal Profile).

Athletes will be assigned points, as outlined below, for the results they achieved at events.

ROUND OF PLAY	POINTS AWARDED
Final (Gold)	3
Bronze	2
Semi-final	4
Quarter-final	4
Round of 16	2
Direct advance to elimination stage *	2
Playoff match	1
Advance to playoff stage	1
Pool match	1

*\*This means either a bye is awarded for the playoff round or that no playoff round is required. No side can earn more than 2 points by progressing to an elimination round (i.e., either 1+1 from advancing to the playoff and winning the match or 2+0 for advancing directly).*

Within priority 7 :

Athletes will be ranked based on the scores received from their most updated “Gold Medal Profile”.

Within priority 3, 8:

If there are fewer cards available than athletes who meet this criteria, athletes will be ranked based on performances at a past “World Boccia” events in the following order of priority:

- 2023 World Boccia Regional Championship (2023 ParaPan Am)

If there is still a tie:

In the event of a tie, the athlete with the best individual results at the 2024 Canadian Championships will prevail. In the event two athletes with the exact same results are in different classifications the CCPSA/Boccia Canada will use the differential between points for and points against in all the games played at the 2024 Canadian Championships by the tied athletes (including finals) divided by the total number of games that they have played. Points scored in extra ends (overtime) will not be taken into consideration. The athletes with the highest differential (highest score) will have the advantage.

## 5. Additional Performance Requirements

### 5.1 Maximum number of years at SR level:

After an athlete has been carded for five (5) consecutive years at the “Senior National Cards (SR)” level, the High-performance director will conduct a comprehensive documented review of the Athlete’s performance over the past two years. To recommend the athlete for carding, the High-performance director must demonstrate progression of the athlete toward performance equivalent to Senior International. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the Athlete is nominated under the Senior National team criteria. Only those athletes who have demonstrated consistent measurable progress may be recommend for AAP carding support. Consistent measurable progress is defined as:

- Improving or maintaining individual results at the Canadian Boccia Championships
- Improving or maintaining individual, Team or Pairs results at “World Boccia events”
- Improving tracking results (measured by average shot percentage) in Individual, Team or Pairs
- Improving Gold Medal Profile scores

*\*Note: Years carded under health-related circumstances do not count when totalling years of carding in the above situations.*

## 6. MAINTENANCE OF Carding ELIGIBILITY

Once approved for carding by Sport Canada, to maintain carding during the approved carding cycle, the following conditions must be met by carded athletes:

### **6.1 Continued upholding of the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association Athlete-NSO Agreement.**

- Failure to comply with the agreement will result in CCPSA/Boccia Canada immediately notifying Sport Canada of non-compliance and could result in loss of carding.

### **6.2 Participate in the National Team Program - Take part in targeted activities as specified in the Athlete Agreement. Examples could include:**

- Training Events – When invited, athletes must attend CCPSA/Boccia Canada Training Camps and Training Sessions.
- Competitions – Athletes must participate in domestic and international competitions as determined by the High-performance director and the National coaches.
- Training and data Reports – Carded athletes must have a yearly training plan on file with the Head Coach and must submit training and data reports (HEXFIT).

Extenuating Circumstances for Non-participation – Should extenuating circumstances arise to prevent an athlete participation in National Team Program activities the athlete or his/her personal coach/performance partner should present written documentation to the High-performance director outlining the extenuating circumstances. If possible, in advance of the event in question. The High-performance director, in consultation with the Head coach and the High-Performance Chair, reserves the right to reject the submission.

### **6.3 Medical Examinations**

- Carded athletes must participate in medical examinations as requested by CCPSA/Boccia Canada staff.

## **7. NOMINATION PROCESS**

The Canadian Cerebral Palsy Sports Association will determine which athletes are eligible for nomination to Sport Canada for carding based on the carding criteria.

- The CCPSA/Boccia Canada will present the final list to Sport Canada for review and approval. All nominations are subject to approval by Sport Canada.
- The athlete carding nomination list will be published by the CCPSA/Boccia Canada in December 2024 or January 2025.
- Upon publication, athletes have ten (10) days to notify the CCPSA if there have been any errors or omissions in the calculation of scores.

## **8. APPEAL PROCESS**

Appeals of CCPSA nomination/re-nomination decisions or of a CCPSA recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued through CCPSA's appeal process, which includes the option to apply to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC).

CCPSA policy related to Disputes Resolutions and Appeals, can be found on [www.ccpa.ca](http://www.ccpa.ca).

Appeals of AAP decisions 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#a14>.