

ATHLETES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - "CARDING"

TABLE TENNIS CANADA

(To qualify for AAP support for the carding cycle 1 January, 2013 to 31 December 2013)



GENERAL INFORMATION

Table Tennis Canada (TTCAN) nominates athletes annually for funding under Sport Canada's Athletes' Assistance Program (AAP). Funding goes directly to the athletes to allow athletes to maintain a long-term commitment to training and competition and to further their athletic goals.

Table Tennis is currently eligible for 8 cards at the Senior Level. (Senior Cards may be converted to Development/Training Center Cards at a ratio of 2 Senior Cards = 3 Development Cards.)

The amount of funding is based on the following carding levels:

Senior International:	SR1, SR2,	\$ 1500/month
Senior National:	SR	\$ 1500/month
Senior National 1 st year	C1	\$ 900/month
Training Center:	D	\$ 900/month
Development:	D	\$ 900/month

Sport Canada also provides tuition support to athletes able to attend school and meet the high performance training and competition requirements. For more information on the AAP program, please consult the Sport Canada Web site: http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/sc/prog/index_e.cfm

Table Tennis Canada's High Performance (TTCAN HP) Committee is solely responsible for all matters concerning table tennis athletes and AAP; the Committee may seek advice from experts outside the Committee if required.

NOTE: whenever there is mention in this document to the ITTF World Ranking it refers to the Olympic World Ranking (OWR) – two (2) athletes per national association.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Table Tennis is a sport with Olympic disciplines in singles and teams. Table Tennis Canada's primary objective guiding its national team program is to develop TEAM CANADA (Men's Team, Women's Team) to reach a top 8 finish in either the World Team Table Tennis Championships or the Olympic Games Team competition. Due to the depth of international Table Tennis top 8 finishers are podium contenders; hence, the goal is essentially a podium result.

The "top 8" objective fulfils the basic premise of the AAP program for all 'card' levels that, from the Development Card level on, AAP support is intended for athletes "who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve Senior Card international level." (*Athlete Assistance Program. Athlete Handbook. Sport Canada, 2009*)

The probability as well as the opportunity to meet this objective is considerably higher in the team competition than in the singles competition. Therefore, this policy is conceived in a manner that positions Table Tennis Canada in the best possible way to fulfill the mandate set out by Sport Canada in its Athletes Assistance Program.

BASIC ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for carding, athletes must

- apply for consideration for AAP support to Table Tennis Canada's office by the December 1 deadline. A complete application includes:
 - the athletes annual training and competition plan which includes international competition and significant daily training activities (based on TTCAN's LTAD Model);
 - proof that the athlete meets the criteria to be accepted for AAP support (as outlined in this policy)
- be a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident in Canada
- be a member in good standing of TABLE TENNIS CANADA
- be eligible to represent Canada at Major International competitions including Olympic Games or World Championships at the beginning of the carding cycle.

All athletes applying for AAP support

- must compete in the Canadian Championships. (The TTCAN HP Committee may waive this requirement only in exceptional circumstances such as injury, illness, national team activity, etc.)
- must have a minimum of 70 matches between January 1, 2012 and November 30, 2012. The matches may be in the Canadian Ranking System, ITTF World Ranking and/or in the US Rating System (note: for the US Rating system only matches played in US *****/US ***** competitions are counted)

or

athletes residing abroad for training and competition must have an equivalent number of matches, between January 1, 2012 and November 30, 2012, in other national or international competition systems (leagues, tournaments) approved by the TTCAN HP Committee.

- in addition, athletes carded at any level the previous year, must have competed in a minimum of two international events (only events registered in the ITTF World Ranking are considered).
- Should an athlete previously carded fail to meet any one requirement under the basic athlete eligibility the athlete is considered 'flagged' and in order to be considered for AAP support the athlete must meet the Training Center Criteria.

SENIOR CARDS

Athletes applying for Senior cards must reach the quarterfinals at the Canadian Championships (Men's Singles, Women's Singles) or achieve top 8 in the Canadian Ranking System (in any published monthly rating between September and December) of athletes eligible to represent Canada as a member of the National Team at World Championships or Olympic Games.

DEVELOPMENT CARDS

Athletes applying for Development Cards who are no longer eligible for the Youth 21 category must reach the quarter finals at the Canadian Championships (Men's Singles, Women's Singles) or achieve a top 10 ranking in the Canadian Ranking System (in any published monthly rating between September and December) of athletes eligible to represent Canada as a member of the National Team at World Championships or Olympic Games.

Athletes applying for Development Cards who are no longer eligible for the JR 18 age category but eligible for the Youth 21 category must reach the quarter finals at the Canadian Championships (Youth 21 Men's Singles, Youth 21 Women's Singles) or achieve top 10 ranking in the Canadian Ranking System in the Youth 21 category (in any published monthly rating between September and December) of athletes eligible to represent Canada as a member of the National Team at World Championships or Olympic Games.

Athletes applying for Development Cards who are eligible for the JR 18 age category must reach the quarter finals at the Canadian Championships (JR 18 Boys' Singles, Girls' Singles) or achieve a top 10 ranking in the Canadian Ranking System in the JR 18 category (in any published monthly rating between September and December) of athletes eligible to represent Canada as a member of the National Team at World Championships or Olympic Games.

Athletes applying for a development Card under the Training Center criteria must reach the quarter-final at the Canadian Championships (Men's Singles, Women's Singles) or achieve top 10 in the Canadian Ranking System (in any published TTCAN Ranking between September and December in the year of the AAP review) of athletes eligible to represent Canada as a member of the National Team at World Championships and Olympic Games;

To activate AAP payments, athletes must complete and sign the TTCAN Athletes Agreement for carded athletes.

ATHLETE LIVING OUTSIDE CANADA

Athletes living outside Canada are normally **not** eligible for AAP support.

Athletes residing abroad for training and competition may have their annual program approved by the TTCAN HP Committee. The TTCAN HP Committee will give such approval only in exceptional cases. To achieve Table Tennis Canada's goal of a top 8 finish at World Team Table Tennis Championships and/or at the Olympic Games team competition it is imperative that the team train together in one location – at the National Training Center – to achieve the best possible quality of training for the team.

Only athletes who have obtained approval from the TTCAN HP Committee and who otherwise meet the criteria to be nominated for carding under the National Senior criteria will be nominated for AAP support. Such exceptional cases must be approved by Sport Canada.

1. PROCESS OF SELECTION OF CARDS:

- 1.1 The TTCAN HP Committee makes final recommendations on nomination to Sport Canada AAP. The TTCAN HP Committee will be comprised of 4 or 5 persons in the following manner:
- National Team Head Coach / National Team Coach
 - 1 TTCAN Athlete's Representative
 - 1 National Team Coach - Level IV (*in progress*)
 - TTCAN High Performance Director or Director General (Committee Chair)
 - TTCAN President
- 1.2 Card distribution:
- 1.2.1 Six Senior cards (of the current 8 available Senior Cards) will be allocated to Senior Cards (International or National) for athletes qualifying under the International Senior (SR1/SR2) or National Senior (SR/C1) criteria. The remaining Senior (SR) cards will be allocated as Development (D) cards, at a conversion ratio of 2SR cards converting to 3D cards.
- 1.2.2 Should fewer than six athletes qualify for support under the Senior Card criteria (described in 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of this policy) the remaining cards will be allocated as Development Cards.
- 1.2.3 Up to two of the D cards will be allocated to Training Center Card support as per Section 3 of this policy. Should fewer than two athletes qualify for support under the Training Center Cards criteria (described in 3. of this policy), the remaining cards will be allocated under the Development Criteria.
- 1.2.4 Sport Canada is currently reviewing the card quotas for all sports. If TTCAN card quotas changes, the TTCAN HP Committee will review the above card distribution.
- 1.3 Gender
- To ensure competitiveness in international women's as well as men's competitions, AAP support will be split along gender lines as equally as possible for athletes who are ranked in the top 60 in the ITTF Men's or Women's Olympic World Ranking. If more athletes than senior cards available are ranked in the top 60 in the ITTF Olympic World Ranking, athletes will be selected in order of performance excellence (see Appendix I).
- 1.4 Card prioritization
- 1.4.1 The TTCAN HP Committee will decide on and reserve the number of Training Center Cards (0, 1 or 2) and then will make nominations in the following priority order:
- a) Athletes that meet the Senior International card criteria (SR1 & SR2)
 - b) Athletes that meet the 1st Priority - National Senior card criteria (SR/C1)
 - c) Athletes that meet the 2nd Priority - National Senior card criteria (SR/C1)
 - d) Athletes carded the previous year at a Senior levels that meet the Injury Card Criteria;
 - e) Athletes that meet the Age Group Development Criteria
 - f) Athletes that meet the Development Training Centre Criteria

The TTCAN HP Committee will allocate any remaining cards to the athletes that meet the Development Training Centre criteria.

1.5 Tie breaking procedure

Should more athletes qualify for support under any of the above card levels than the number of card available, the athletes will be selected in order of their Performance Excellence ranking as outlined in Appendix I and/or II of this policy.

Should two or more athletes end up with the same number of points (according to Performance Excellence, Appendix I), the following process shall be used to break ties (in the priority stated):

1.5.1 Same Gender

- a) ITTF OWR (latest available at the time of the assessment);
- b) If the tie remains - Placement in the most recent Canadian Championships – Men’s/Women’s Singles;
- c) If the tie still remains - Placement in the North American Championships – Men’s/Women’s Singles

1.5.2 Different Gender

If a tie needs to be broken between athletes of different gender, the sequence in priority outlined below will be used:

- a) ITTF OWR (latest available at the time of the assessment);
- b) If the tie remains - Placement in the most recent Canadian Championships – Men’s/Women’s Singles;
- c) If the tie still remains - Placement in the most recent North American Championships – Men’s/Women’s Singles.

2. SENIOR CARD CRITERIA

To be considered under the Senior criteria athletes must apply for a Senior Card no later than December 1, 2012, and sign the application agreement indicating that the athlete is prepared to follow the National Team Training and Competition Program.

2.1 INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

Athletes qualifying under the Senior Criteria must be “active”. To be considered “active” these athletes must be eligible and available to represent Canada at the World Team Championships, the World Individual Championships, the North American Championships, the Pan-American Games, the Commonwealth Games and the Olympic Games.

On Olympic Year:	Singles	Teams
At the Olympic Games	Top 16 and top ½ of field	Top 8 and top ½ of field
On Non-Olympic Year:		
At the World Table Tennis Championships	Top 16 and top ½ of field	Top 8 and top ½ of field

Athletes who meet the international criteria are eligible to be nominated by TTCAN for two consecutive years, with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the athlete being re-nominated by TTCAN and a training and competitive plan approved by TTCAN and Sport Canada being maintained. The athlete must also sign an Athlete/TTCAN agreement and complete the AAP application form for the year in question.

2.2 NATIONAL SENIOR CRITERIA (SR/C1)

Funding to athletes qualifying under the National Senior criteria is intended to support athletes with a demonstrated potential to reach International Senior status (see 2.1 of this document).

Specific eligibility requirements: All athletes applying for AAP National Senior Card support must attend the National Training Centre during the carding cycle for which the athlete is applying and fulfill the training and competition requirement of the National Training Centre unless the athlete has obtained approval to train outside Canada from the TTCAN HP Committee (see Athletes Living Outside Canada section).

Criteria:

1st Priority – Top 60 ITTF OWR

Excluding athletes who meet the international criteria, the top 2 men and the top 2 women athletes who achieve a top 60 ITTF OWR between May 1, 2012 and December 15, 2012.

2nd Priority – Progressive yearly indicator table

Athletes who achieve the progressive yearly indicators set forth by the progressive yearly indicator table (Tab 1) below will be eligible for nomination for a SR/C1 card. The yearly progression is based on meeting the ITTF OWR indicator in 2 published rankings between May 1, 2012 and December 10, 2012 or once, at the last ranking available on December 10, 2012.

Number of years carded at the Senior Card levels (SR1, SR2, SR & C1, excluding Senior Injury cards)	ITTF OWR Men	ITTF OWR Women
1 st year	Top 100	Top 90
2 nd year	95	85
3 rd year	90	80
4 th year	85	75
5 th & 6 th year	80	70
7 th & further	70	60

Tab 1

Should an athlete previously carded at the Senior level fail to meet the progressive yearly indicator the athlete is considered ‘flagged’ and must successfully undergo the Flagged Athlete Assessment (Section 5 of this Policy.)

Starting in 2011, an athlete may only be flagged two times in her/his career.

2.3 MAXIMUM NUMBER YEARS OF AAP SUPPORT UNDER THE NATIONAL SENIOR CRITERIA

Normally, the maximum number of years an athlete may remain carded at the National Senior Card (SR/C1) status is seven (7). In order to be carded for additional years at that level, the athlete must demonstrate improvement toward International Senior Card status (SR1/SR2) and be recommended by TTCAN.

To demonstrate improvement toward International Senior card status an athlete must maintain:

Men : top 65 ITTF OWR Men
 Women: top 55 ITTF OWR Women

3. DEVELOPMENT CARD CRITERIA

Development Cards are intended for developing players (MEN: ITTF Youth age plus 4 years and younger; WOMEN: ITTF Youth age plus 3 years and younger;) who have the potential to achieve carding under the Senior International criteria.

Specific eligibility requirements:

Athletes who are no longer eligible for the Junior 18 age category for the entire carding cycle must attend the National Training Center.

Athletes who are eligible for the Junior 18 age category for the entire carding cycle must train at the National Training Center or at a carding-eligible Center/Club of Excellence* under close supervision of a National Team Coach and a TTCAN approved coach (a coach enrolled in NCCP Level 4 or a coach with international equivalency) to be considered for a Development Card.

**To become a carding-eligible Center/Club of Excellence a detailed season plan as per TTCAN's LTAD model including training hours, competition planning and National Training Center Exchange must be submitted to the National Team Head Coach or the Director General no later than December 1 prior to the start of the new carding cycle.*

3.1 AGE GROUP DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

To be considered for Age Group Development carding the athletes must meet the minimum ITTF OWR as per their age category in table below (Tab 2) in at least two ITTF World Ranking periods between May 1, 2012 and December 15, 2012, or once, at the last ranking available on December 10, 2012.

Year of D carding	ITTF OWR – MEN	ITTF OWR – WOMEN
CA 15	CA15 OWR Top 100	CA15 OWR Top 100
JR 18 (year 1)	JR 18 OWR Top 150	JR 18 OWR Top 150
JR 18 (year 2)	JR 18 OWR Top 100	JR 18 OWR Top 100
JR 18 (year 3)	JR 18 OWR Top 60	JR 18 OWR Top 60
YO 21 (year 1)	OWR Top 200	OWR Top 130
YO 21 (year 2)	OWR Top 180	OWR Top 125
YO 21 (year 3)	OWR Top 160	OWR Top 120
YO 21 (+1)	OWR Top 140	OWR Top 115
YO 21 (+2)	OWR Top 130	OWR Top 110
YO 21 (+3)	OWR Top 120	OWR Top 105
YO 21 (+4)	OWR Top 110	

Tab 2

4. TRAINING CENTER CARD CRITERIA

Training Center Cards are intended for high-level athletes who are considered by the TTCAN HP Committee as essential to the Canadian National Team and its success at World Championships and Olympic Games due to their contribution to the team in training and in competition.

To be considered for Training Center carding athletes:

- 3.2.1 must attend the National Training Center and participate in all training sessions as outlined by the National Team Coaches (minimum of 20 table tennis training hours per week); and
- 3.2.2 must undergo an assessment by the TTCAN HP Committee, see section 5
- 3.2.3 Athletes may be carded under the Training Center criteria for a maximum of five (5) years.

5. ASSESSMENT OF ATHLETES

Athletes applying for a Development Training Center Cards or Flagged undergo an assessment by the TTCAN HP Committee to determine their eligibility for support under Sport Canada's AAP program

Specific eligibility requirements: The athlete must have reached the quarter finals at the most recent Canadian Championships (Men's Singles, Women's Singles) or achieve a top 10 ranking in the Canadian Ranking System (in any published monthly rating between September and December 2012) of athletes eligible to represent Canada as a member of the National Team at World Championships or Olympic Games.

5.1 ATHLETE ASSESSMENT

The athlete must meet all assessment points.

5.1.2 Points of Assessment:

In the opinion of the TTCAN HP Committee:

- the athlete is an asset to the National Team Program and elevates the quality of training at the National Training Center through her/his participation in the training sessions of the National Team;
- the athlete demonstrates "professional" training and competitive habits;

and

- the athlete must have a minimum of 75 matches in the CAN, US and ITTF World Ranking in the 12 months preceding the assessment.

6. INJURY, ILLNESS OR PREGNANCY CARDING CRITERIA

Should an athlete carded in the previous carding cycle miss the basic condition for re-nomination due to injury, illness or pregnancy, TTCAN HP Committee will examine an athlete's submission and render a decision, which is final.

An athlete may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming carding period if at the end of a carding cycle during which an athlete has, for strictly health-related reasons, not achieved the standards required for renewal of carded status, he/she meets the following requirements:

- 6.1 The athlete must be ranked in the top 60 of the last available ITTF OWR.
- 6.2 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 and, 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 TTCAN HP Committee, for reasons strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy.
- 6.3 TTCAN HP Committee, based on its technical judgment and that of a TTCAN team physician or equivalent, indicates in writing the expectation that the athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 In the group of athletes eligible for AAP support, the athlete will be ranked based on his/her last available ITTF Senior World Ranking.

APPENDIX I

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE (SENIOR CARD)

To determine performance excellence ranking, athletes accumulate points for results in national and international competitions.

In Canadian competitions with international participation of players ranked in the Top 60 of the ITTF World Ranking OWR, the points for performance excellence ranking will be established by removing these players from the final results.

Points are accumulated only in Singles events:

ITTF PRO TOUR EVENTS		WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (individual)	
Top 32	10 points	Top 128	10 points
Top 16	20 points	Top 64	20 points
Top 8	30 points	Top 32	30 points
Semi Final	40 points		
Final	80 points		
Champion	160 points		
COMMONWEALTH / PANAM CHAMPIONSHIPS/GAMES		ITTF SENIOR WORLD RANKING (most recent available on December 10 in the year of the application)	
Quarter Final	10 points	CAN 1*	40 points
Semi Final	20 points	CAN 2*	35 points
Final	30 points	CAN 3*	30 points
Champion	50 points	CAN 4*	25 points
		CAN 5*	20 points
		*of athletes eligible to represent Canada at World Championships or Olympic Games with no inactivity marks To earn points in this category, an athlete must have at least 10 matches in the ITTF World Ranking between May 1 and November 30 of the carding cycle.	
CANADIAN RANKING (December 2012)		NATIONAL TEAM CHALLENGE	
5th	3 points	5th	2 points
4th	5 points	4th	5 points
3rd	10 points	3rd	10 points
2nd	20 points	2nd	20 points
1st	30 points	1st	30 points
*of athletes eligible to compete for Canada at Major International Competitions such as World Championships or Olympic Games.			
CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (MS, WS)		NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Top 8 (5-8)	4 points	Quarter Final	5 points
Semi-Finals	6 points	Semi Final	10 points
Final	10 points	Final	20 points
Champion	20 points	Champion	30 points

APPENDIX II

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE (DEVELOPMENT CARD):

Performance excellence ranking is determined by accumulating points for results in national and international competitions. Points are accumulated only in Singles events:

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS				ITTF JUNIOR CIRCUIT				
Champion	60 points			Champion	30 points			
Final	50			Final	20			
Semi Final	40			Semi Final	10			
Top 8	30			Top 8	5			
Top 16	10			Top 16	2			
Top 32	5							
ITTF PRO TOUR – Youth 21				ITTF JUNIOR CIRCUIT – PREMIUM				
Champion	50 points			Champion	50 points			
Final	40			Final	40			
Semi Final	30			Semi Final	30			
Top 8	20			Top 8	20			
				Top 16	10			
CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS				NORTH AMERICAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS				
JR18 –Singles M/F:	1st	2nd	3rd	JR18 –Singles M/F:	1st	2nd	3rd	
	5	3	1		10	5	3	
U21 – Singles M/F:	1st	2nd	3rd					
	8	4	2					
				CANADIAN JUNIOR RANKING (December 2012)				
				JR18	M/F:	1st	2nd	3rd
						15	10	5
				*of athletes eligible to compete for Canada at Major International Competitions such as World Championships or Olympic Games.				

- For competitions, in which entry into a Youth / Junior or B category is restricted to athletes who have not qualified to the Senior or A category, i.e., Canada Cup, athletes who have qualified for the Senior or A event earn the same number of points as the winner of the Youth/Junior /B event. In addition, these athletes earn the points allotted to the Senior events.

If national junior competitions provide points for AAP, an athlete who is selected for a senior national team competition for the same time period earns the same points as the winner of the national junior competition.

- For Development Carding, all points earned in Appendix I are added to points earned in Appendix II.

Competition Calendar:

- World Championships, Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games/Championships, ITTF PRO Tour, Pan-American Games/Championships, North American Championships, ITTF World Ranking - see ITTF calendar (www.ittf.com)
- Canadian Championships, Canadian National Team Challenge, Canada Cup, Canadian Ranking (for calendar updates see www.ttcn.ca)

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