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## Introduction

This document aims to describe the criteria that will be used by KARATE CANADA for nominating athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP).

The carding cycle for karate is from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024.

The Sport Canada quota available to KARATE CANADA is the equivalent of four (4) Senior cards (\$84,720). Monthly stipends are \$1,765.00 for Senior Cards, and \$1,060.00 for C1 / D Cards. Sport Canada frequently reviews the card quota for all sports; these numbers are therefore subject to change.

The Sport Technical Leader (STL) or designated substitute are responsible to nominate athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) based on the approved published AAP compliant carding criteria. Sport Canada reviews and may approve nominations of eligible athletes, based on the published NSO approved AAP-compliant Carding Criteria and the policies and procedures of the AAP.

The AAP policies, procedures and guidelines are found on the Sport Canada website at <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1414514343755>.

## Eligibility

To qualify for AAP carding nomination and support, an athlete must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The athlete, under the karate eligibility requirements of the World Karate Federation, must currently be eligible to represent Canada at major international events, including Olympic Games and World Championships, in mainstream divisions (para-athletes are currently not eligible for AAP carding nominations). This requirement means that the athlete must possess a Canadian passport at the beginning of the carding cycle.
- The athlete must complete and sign both the Athlete Agreement and Athlete Assistance Program Application Form for the year in question.
- The athlete must be a member in good standing of the Senior or Junior National Team Roster.
- All other athlete eligibility requirements listed in the AAP policies and procedures.

## Prioritization

Nominations for AAP support will be made in the following order of priority:

1. Athletes eligible for "Senior International" cards;
2. Athletes carded the previous year at the SR1 or SR2 levels, eligible for Injury/Illness/Pregnancy cards;
3. Athletes eligible for "Development" (D) cards based on Priority 1
4. Athletes eligible for "Senior National" (SR/C1) cards;
5. Athletes eligible for "Development" (D) cards based on Priority 2

## Senior Carding Criteria

### Senior International Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)

International Criteria recognize and reward Canadian athletes for outstanding performance at World Championships or the Olympic Games.

Athletes who meet the International Criteria are eligible to be nominated by Karate Canada for two consecutive years: the first year card is referred to as SR1; the second, SR2. Eligibility for an SR2 card is contingent on the athlete maintaining a training and competitive program approved by Karate Canada, on being re-nominated by Karate Canada, on signing an Athlete Agreement and completing an AAP Application Form.

Sport Canada establishes the performance standards for International Criteria used to determine eligibility to be nominated for senior cards. The following are the current standards for international criteria.

- Finish in the top eight, counting a maximum of three entries per country; and
- Finish in the top half of the field.

Following Olympic years, SR1 cards will be awarded in Olympic sports based on results achieved in the Olympic Games only; results achieved at World Championships in Olympic years will not be used for awarding SR1 cards (or for awarding Supplementary Excellence support).

### Tie-Breaking for Senior International Cards (SR1 & SR2):

If there are fewer cards than the number of athletes that meet the above Senior International carding criteria, or if two athletes meet the above Senior International carding criteria in any given identified Olympic Games category, the following process will apply to determine the athletes eligible for nominations:

1. The athlete holding the highest-ranking point sub-total from their performance at the highest priority competition of the season (as per the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Criteria) will be ranked higher;
2. If the tie persists, the athlete holding the highest-ranking point sub-total from their performance at the second-highest priority competition of the season (as per the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Criteria) will be ranked higher;
3. The same process of comparing points earned at each decreasing priority competition (as per the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Criteria) will be followed until the tie is broken or until all ranking point sub-totals (earned from competitions) have been compared, and a tie still exists.
4. If, after the application of this ranking process, a tie still exists, a final decision will be taken by the Senior National Team Head Coaches (or appointed substitutes). The Coaches' (or appointed substitutes) decision may include a challenge match, in the case of athletes of the same gender and the same division. Karate Canada's High-Performance Committee must approve this final selection and process.

### Senior National Carding Criteria (SR/C1)

To be eligible for nomination under the Senior National Card criteria:

- The athlete must hold a National A, an International C, an International B or an International A status.
- The athlete must hold Senior National Team Roster member status.

Eligible athletes will be prioritized for nomination based on the following sequence. Where applicable, the number of earned national team ranking (status) points held as of April 1st, 2023, will be utilized to determine individual athlete ranking.

1. Highest ranked International A status-holding athlete;
2. Next highest ranked International A status-holding athlete;
3. Highest ranked International B status-holding athlete;
4. Next highest ranked International B status-holding athlete;
6. Highest ranked International C status-holding athlete;
7. Next highest ranked International C status-holding athlete;
8. Highest ranked National A status-holding athlete having won a total of at least two matches (in the same discipline where the status is held) in one event at either of the following international competitions of Karate Canada's 2022-2023 season: Any WKF Karate-1 Premier League or Series A Championships occurring between May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023;
9. Next highest ranked National A status-holding athlete having won a total of at least two matches (in the same discipline where the status is held) in one event at either of the following international competitions of the 2022-2023 season: or any WKF Karate-1 Premier League or Series A Championships occurring between May 1st 2022 and April 1st 2023;
10. Highest ranked National A status-holding athlete having won at least one match (in the same discipline where the status is held) in any of the following international competitions of the 2021-2022 season: Any WKF Karate-1 Premier League or Series A Championships occurring between May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023;
11. Next highest ranked National A status-holding athlete having won at least one match (in the same discipline where the status is held) in any of the following international competitions of the 2019-2020 season: or any WKF Karate-1 Premier League or Series A Championships occurring between May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

Please note that for all ranking of National level status holding athletes indicated above, matches won at any of the competitions listed will be subject to relative weighting, using the "Strength of Field" Criteria described in Appendix A.

Note: A minimum of 4 months of AAP support must be available to recommend an athlete.

Note: Senior National cards awarded to athletes who meet the SR card criteria for the first time are called C1 cards and are funded at the development card level (\$1,060/month). C1 carded athletes are funded at the Development Card level in the first year they meet the national criteria for a Senior Card even if they have previously been carded at the Development (D) level. If, however, the athlete has been previously carded at the SR1 or SR2 level, has been named to the Senior National Team or has competed in WKF Senior World Championships, before meeting the national criteria for the Senior National Card for the first time, the athlete will be funded at the Senior Card (SR) level rather than at the Development Card level.

Tie-Breaking for Senior National Cards (SR and C1):

If two or more athletes who meet the Senior National Carding Criteria hold the same amount of ranking points, the following process will be applied to determine the ranking of these athletes:

1. The athlete holding the highest-ranking point sub-total from their performance at the highest priority competition of the season (as per the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Criteria) will be ranked higher;
2. If the tie persists, the athlete holding the highest-ranking point sub-total from their performance at the second-highest priority competition of the season (as per the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Criteria) will be ranked higher;

The same process as described in points 1 and 2 immediately above will be followed until the tie is broken, or until all ranking point sub-totals (earned at Karate Canada prioritized competitions) have been compared, and a tie still exists;

3. If the tie persists, the athlete having won the most matches (after consideration of the “Strength of Field” criteria listed below priority 6 above) in his / her top 2 performances of the season at any WKF Karate-1 Premier League Championship occurring between May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 will be ranked higher.
4. If the tie persists, the athlete has won the most matches at point-earning international competitions of the 2022-2023 season (as listed in the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Criteria) will be ranked higher (after consideration of the “Strength of Field” criteria).
5. If, after the application of this ranking process, a tie still exists, a final decision will be taken by the Senior National Team Head Coaches (or appointed substitutes). The Coaches’ (or appointed substitutes) decision may include a challenge match, in the case of athletes of the same gender and in the same division. Karate Canada’s High-Performance Committee must approve this final selection and process.

#### Maximum number of years at SR/C1 level

This criterion applies once the athlete reached the WKF post-junior (21 years and older) age category. Since the WKF’s “Junior” divisions include U21 (18-20-year-old), the designation “WKF post-junior age category,” in this document, refers specifically to athletes 21 years of age and older.

Once the athlete reaches the WKF post-junior age category, he /she can be carded at the SR/C1 Card level for a maximum of four (4) years, after which the Senior National Team Head Coach in the respective discipline (or appointed substitute) will review the athlete's past performances to determine the potential to progress to the Senior International Card level, and establish clear and specific performance benchmarks/standards and indicators for the athlete to achieve within the ensuing season(s) to be deemed eligible for future nominations towards SR level Cards. These performance benchmarks, once approved by Sport Canada, must be communicated in writing to the athlete at the start of the Carding cycle for which he/she may be considered for future Carding nominations at the SR level. If approved by Sport Canada, such an athlete will be eligible for a maximum of two more years at the SR level subject to meeting the annual performance standards and an annual review.

## Development Carding Criteria

Nomination under the Development Carding criteria will occur in the following priority sequence.

### Priority 1:

The athletes who placed in the top 8 in a U21 individual division at the 2023 WKF Junior World Championships with at least one win (bye and absence of an adversary do not count as a win).

### Tie-Breaking for Development Cards allocated according to Priority 1

If there are fewer Development cards available than the number of athletes who meet the Priority 1 of the Development carding criteria, the following process will apply to determine the athletes eligible for nominations:

1. The athlete with the highest placing (in the same discipline) at the 2023 WKF Junior World Championships with at least one win (Bye and absence of an adversary do not count as a win) will be ranked higher;
2. If two or more athletes have the same placing at the 2023 WKF Junior World Championships, the athlete with the most matches won (in the same discipline; bye and absence of an adversary do not count as a win) at the Junior World Championships will be ranked higher;
3. If two or more athletes still have the same number of wins at the 2023 WKF Junior World Championships, any athlete who won gold (in the same discipline) in an individual U21 division at the 2023 Junior Pan American Championship will be ranked higher;
4. If two or more athletes have won gold in an individual U21 division at the 2023 Junior Pan American Championship, any athlete who is also a current Senior National Team member (in the same discipline) at the time of the athlete selection for Carding nomination will be ranked higher;
5. If, after the application of this ranking process, a tie still exists, a final decision will be taken by the Senior National Head Coaches (or appointed substitutes). The Coaches' (or appointed substitutes') decision may include a challenge match, in the case of athletes of the same gender and in the same division. The High-Performance Committee must approve this final selection.

Note: A minimum of 4 months of AAP support must be available to recommend an athlete.

### Priority 2:

U21 age-eligible kumite athletes holding Senior National Team Roster member status, and Junior (16-17) and U21 age-eligible kata athletes holding Senior National Team Roster member status.

### Tie-Breaking for Development Cards allocated according to Priority 2

If there are fewer Development cards available than the number of athletes who meet Priority 2 of the Development card criteria, the process below will be applied in the following order:

1. The athlete having achieved the best finish (in the discipline where he/she is both a Junior and Senior National Team Roster member at the time of the carding nomination) with at least one win (bye and absence of an adversary do not count as a win) at the highest priority competition of the season (as per the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Criteria) will be ranked higher;
2. If the tie persists, the athlete holding the having achieved the best finish (in the discipline where he/she is both a Junior and Senior National Team Roster member at the time of the carding

nomination) with at least one win (bye and absence of an adversary do not count as a win) at the second-highest priority competition of the season (as per the 2022-2023 Senior National Team Criteria) will be ranked higher;

3. The same process as described in points 1 and 2 immediately above will be followed until the tie is broken, or until all finishes in point-earning competitions of the season have been compared and a tie still exists;

If, after the application of this ranking process, a tie still exists, a final decision will be taken by the Senior National Team Head Coaches (or appointed substitutes). The Coaches' (or appointed substitutes') decision may include a challenge match, in the case of athletes of the same gender and in the same division. Karate Canada's High-Performance Committee must approve this final selection and process.

Note: A minimum of 4 months of AAP support must be available to recommend an athlete.

### Injury/Illness/Pregnancy Carding Criteria

Athletes carded the previous year at SR1, or SR2 level who have failed to meet renewal criteria strictly due to health-related reasons may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming carding period under the following conditions:

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 their 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 the KARATE CANADA, for reasons strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy.

KARATE CANADA, based on its technical judgment and that of a KARATE CANADA team physician or KARATE CANADA approved 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.

KARATE CANADA, based on its technical judgment and that of KARATE CANADA National Team Coaches, determines that the athlete has satisfactorily demonstrated and continues to demonstrate a 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.

### Tie-Breaking for Injury/Illness/Pregnancy Cards

If there are fewer cards than the number of athletes that meet the Injury carding criteria, the athletes will be ranked as per the previous year's AAP nomination ranking.

Athletes should familiarize themselves with the policy explained in Section 9 of the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program Policies and Procedures. This document can be found online at:

[https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/services/funding/athlete-assistance/athlete\\_assistance\\_program\\_2015-eng.pdf](https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/services/funding/athlete-assistance/athlete_assistance_program_2015-eng.pdf)

## Notification of Nomination

The list of athletes being nominated for the AAP Carding support will be posted on Karate Canada's official website. Athletes will have a review period of seven days commencing on the date of announcement to advise Karate Canada of any omissions or errors in the nomination list. Sport Canada determines the final approval of nominations.

## Appeal of Procedure

Appeals of Karate Canada's AAP nomination / re-nomination decision or of a Karate Canada recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through Karate Canada's Appeal process, as described in its Appeals Policy.

Appeals of AAP Decisions made under Section 6 (Application for and Approval of Cards) or Section 11 (Withdrawal of Carding Status) of the AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines may be pursued through Section 13 of these same AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines



## Appendix A – Examples of Strength of Field Criterion Application

For won matches to be considered as having full value, the athlete having won them must have been positioned on the same side of the draw/pool as at least 2 opponents from any 1 of the 5 “Strength of Field” categories listed below:

Strength of field categories:

- An athlete in Top 8 at the most recent World (WKF) Championships
- An athlete in the Top 5 at the most recent Pan American (PKF) Championships (not including 2021 Pan American Championships)
- An athlete in the Top 5 at the most recent European (EKF) Championships
- An athlete in the Top 5 at the most recent Asian (AKF) Championships
- An athlete in the World Top 20 in the WKF Sport Data rankings

If only 1 opponent from any one of the 5 “Strength of Field” categories below was on the same side of the draw/pool as the athlete, then matches won by the athlete at that event will be weighted at only 75% of their full value. If no opponents from the categories below are on the same side of the pool/draw as the athlete, then matches won at that event will be weighted at only 50% of their full value. See examples and table in Appendix A.)

Below are examples of how the ‘Strength of Field’ criterion may apply to specific hypothetical situations and be used to determine the relative value of matches won at specific international competitions:

Example 1:

An athlete wins his first match, loses his second match, but then wins another match in repechage at the Senior Pan American Karate Championships. On his side of the draw, 2 athletes meet the ‘Strength of Field’ criterion (both rivals are ranked amongst the world’s top 20 in this division, as per the current WKF SportData athlete rankings). Whether our athlete has faced one of these rivals or not, his won matches are therefore weighted at full value, and he is considered as having won two (2) matches at the Senior Pan American Championships.

Example 2:

An athlete wins her first two matches only at the Paris Open Karate-1 Premier League Championships. On her side of the draw, there is only 1 athlete who meets the ‘Strength of Field’ criterion (this rival had finished amongst the top 8 in this division at the latest Senior World Championships). Whether our athlete has faced this rival or not, her two won matches are; therefore, both weighted at only 75% of their full value, and she is considered as having won a total of 1.5 (one and a half) matches at the Paris Open Karate-1 Premier League Championships.

Example 3:

An athlete wins his first two matches only at the Berlin Open Karate-1 Premier League Championships. On his side of the draw, there are unfortunately no athletes who meet the ‘Strength of Field’ criterion. Our athlete’s two won matches are; therefore, both weighted at only 50% of their full value, and he is considered as having won a total of only one match at the Berlin Open Karate-1 Premier League Championships.