



**AAP CARDING CRITERIA
FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2026 - 2027 CARDING CYCLE**

SPORT CANADA CARDING – ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SPORT CANADA CARDING LEVELS

Tennis Canada will nominate players annually, based on the criteria below, for direct funding by Sport Canada. Support comes in the form of a monthly payment from Sport Canada that goes directly to the players. Eligibility for the Carding assistance program can commence once age eligible juniors are able to accrue the minimum required points over two years as listed on the D Carding Tables. Age eligible juniors may begin accruing D points in their second year in the U14 age division.

Players are nominated for a twelve-month period under this program unless they attend an NCAA school when the funding period is 4 months.

Carding Levels:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • International Senior (SR 1, 2), Senior (SR cards) | \$2,175/month |
| • Developmental (D Card) | \$1,305/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 Policies and Procedures, please consult the Sport Canada web site: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR NOMINATING PLAYERS FOR AAP SUPPORT:

Tennis Canada Director, High Performance Programs & Administration

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Information on the application process will be sent by Tennis Canada to all currently carded athletes, athletes who may be eligible for carding, and Provincial and Territorial Tennis Associations in December. To be considered for carding the athlete must apply in writing to the Tennis Canada Director of High-Performance Programs & Administration by the specified deadline.

SPORT CANADA CARDING CRITERIA

Minimum requirements for athletes to qualify for the AAP are:

- For the athlete's NSO to meet the minimum requirements listed in section 2.2 of AAP Policies and Procedures
- To be eligible to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games.
- To adhere to the Athlete/National Sport Organization (NSO) Agreement
- To 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 for a minimum period of one year before being considered for AAP support. The athlete would normally be expected to have participated in NSO-sanctioned programs during that time.

In addition to the criteria above, to be considered for carding, players must:

- Be a Davis or Billie Jean King Cup Squad member who meets the Senior carding criteria or;
- Be a Transition Player who meets the Senior carding criteria or,
- Be an age eligible junior as defined by our criteria who meets the Development carding criteria
- Participate in one indoor and one outdoor Junior Nationals annually (any age category) unless they meet the exemption clause in the Junior National Participation Policy: <https://www.tenniscanada.com/compete/juniors/resources/>.
- Be available for national camps when selected.
- Participate in one give-back action when requested and as determined by Tennis Canada

Carded athletes must maintain system eligibility throughout the carding cycle to retain their carding status. For the 2026 – 2027 carding cycle athletes must be in good standing for the 2025 season.

Maintaining system eligibility means to:

- Be a member in good standing with Tennis Canada
- Sign the Player Agreement and Tennis Canada Code of Conduct

- Be eligible to represent Canada in accordance with the ITF rules and regulations stipulated for the ITF World Team Championships (Davis Cup, Billie Jean King Cup, Olympics, Pan Am Games, Jr. Davis/Billie Jean King Cup and World Junior Tennis).

Tennis Canada is currently eligible to receive a maximum of ten (10) Senior Cards (\$261,000). This current quota number is subject to change at any time by Sport Canada.

General Guidelines:

- Players will be nominated by Tennis Canada to Sport Canada for carding assistance in April of each year. Applications will be evaluated in relation to the established carding criteria for their respective age/gender.
- The carding cycle will be based on a 12-month cycle, starting on May 1 and ending April 30 each year.
- Rankings for the Senior Card Criteria will be based on the official published 2025 Year-End ATP/WTa rankings. Results and rankings for the Development Cards criteria will be based on the current and previous calendar years (January 1 to December 31). For the 2026-2027 carding cycle this includes results and rankings from the 2024 & 2025 calendar years.

CARD DISTRIBUTION ORDER OF PRIORITY

PRIORITY #1: MEETING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Professional (ATP/WTa) Players:

Professional (ATP/WTa) players meeting the published Senior International criteria based on the Tennis Canada Performance Standards (singles) for their applicable age, gender and transition year will be eligible for Senior Cards (SR1, SR2, SR, SR Injury).

Junior (U18) Players: Junior (U18) players attaining the Tennis Canada Performance Standards (singles) will be eligible for a Development (D) card if they meet a combination of one ranking standard and one results standard.

*For both professional and junior players the ranking standard can be met based on rankings at any time throughout the year.

NCAA Players: NCAA players achieving a Top 8 year-end NCAA ranking (singles) as of March 15 will be eligible for SR cards.

Doubles: Provided there are no doubles-only players receiving an SR1/SR2 card, up to a maximum of 1 player (Professional-ATP/WTa) may be allocated an SR card (full or partial, depending on their playing status) who meets the following criteria:

- Top 51-150 ATP/WTa doubles ranking at any time during the year
- Age 26 or younger

A doubles card may be allocated to a player for a maximum of 2 years with one exception. A player may receive a doubles card for a 3rd year if the following is met:

- The player meets all the doubles criteria
- No other players meet the doubles criteria making them the only player eligible
- The player demonstrates a doubles ranking progression in which they have improved their doubles ranking by 50% from the previous year

Tiebreak Procedure:

- 1) If more than one player meets the doubles criteria, then the player with the highest doubles ranking regardless of gender will be allocated the card.
- 2) If players are tied based on ranking, then the player with the highest combined singles and doubles ranking will be allocated the card

Prioritization will be given to the athlete meeting the highest Tennis Canada Performance Standards for the previous calendar year. GOLD any year ahead of SILVER any year, ahead of BRONZE any year. For both junior and professional players the Performance Standards achieved at any time in 2025 will be utilized for the 2026 – 2027 carding cycle. The detailed Tennis Canada Performance standards are located in Appendix 1.

If the number of players meeting priority #1 exceeds the number of cards available, the following tie-break procedure will be followed:

Priority #1 Tie-Break Procedure (Senior Cards SR1, SR2, SR) :

- ✓ The first tiebreaker will be the highest Tennis Canada Performance Standard met (for age, gender and year) during the current competitive year (GOLD any year, ahead of SILVER any year ahead of BRONZE any year).
- ✓ For ties between professional players who have each met the same Tennis Canada Performance Standard (for age, gender and year) the player with lowest % difference between the official Year-end ATP or WTA ranking and their applicable Performance Standard breaks the tie. For example, player A achieves a year-end WTA ranking of #113. Her required ranking was #115. The difference is $\#113/\#115 = (.982\%)$. Player B achieves a year-end ATP ranking of #202. His required ranking was #225. $202/225 = (.897\%)$ Player B would be carded.

Priority #1 Tie-Break Procedure (Development Cards):

- ✓ The first tie-break will be the highest Tennis Canada Performance Standard met during the current competitive year (GOLD any year, ahead of SILVER any year, ahead of BRONZE any year)
- ✓ If still tied, then the tiebreak procedure used will be as outlined in the Tie-Break Procedure D Card Nominations.

PRIORITY #2: CLOSE TO PERFORMANCE STANDARDS (SR CARDS)

Based on the nominations made above, additional SR cards will be guaranteed to Senior Athletes who came the “closest” to meeting their published Tennis Canada Performance Standard (singles) (for age, year and gender), and for NCAA players who achieved a Top 20 NCAA ranking as of March 15. To attain the performance standards a U18 player must meet a combination of one ranking standard and one results standard. The ranking standard can be met based on rankings at any time throughout the year.

For eligible professional players who did not meet their published Tennis Canada Performance Standard, the carding order will be determined by the player with smallest % difference between their best official 2025 ATP or WTA ranking and their applicable Tennis Canada Performance Standard. Only players with a maximum differentiation of +2.0 or less will be considered.

For example, if 1 SR card is available for distribution then the order of priority will be determined as follows: Player A achieves a WTA ranking of #161. Her required Tennis Canada/ Performance Standard (for age, gender and year) was #142. The difference is $161/\#142 = (1.13\%)$. Player B achieves a year-end WTA ranking of #168. Her required Tennis Canada Performance Standard (for age, gender and year) was #115. The difference is $\#168/\#115 = (1.46\%)$. Player C achieved an ATP ranking of #492. His required Performance Standard was #200. The difference is $\#492/\#200 = (2.46\%)$. Player C would be ineligible for consideration; player A would be recommended for the 1 SR card available.

PRIORITY #3: INJURY CARD PROVISION (SR CARDS)

A player carded the previous year at the Senior card level (SR1, SR2, SR) may be considered for a health-related card if injury, illness or pregnancy prevented him/her from meeting the carding criteria. The player's best ATP/WTA ranking from the previous year will be utilized to determine his/her rank on the priority list. The requirements of Sport Canada's policy on the “Curtailed of Training and Competition for Health Related Reasons” must be met in order for a player to be nominated as an “injury” card. Injuries are not considered for the Development (D) card players as the two-year window of eligibility to accrue D card points provides flexibility to allow for injuries.

To be considered for a health-related card eligible players should apply in writing to the Director, High Performance Programs & Administration at Tennis Canada. The application should include detailed medical documentation outlining the health-related issues and list the competitions missed as a result. The nomination of athletes for health-related cards is at the discretion of Tennis Canada.

PRIORITY #4: D CARDS FOR AGE ELIGIBLE JUNIORS

Based on the nominations made above, any remaining SR cards will be available to age eligible junior players in order of priority based on the highest number of points earned via the D carding tables. Refer to Appendix #3 for the D Card Tables. If there is a tie, then the tiebreak will be determined based on the Tie-Breaking Procedure D Card Nominations on page 5 below.

PRIORITY #5: JUNIORS SIGNED WITH NCAA

If there is AAP carding support available following the application of Priority 1, 2, 3 and 4 above then “about to graduate juniors” who have signed a letter of intention to play in a college (NCAA) program may be considered at the D card level. The D Carding Tables will be used to determine the order priority of the nomination of college players. Priority will be given to players who earn the greatest number of points over the two-year eligibility period.

The overall carding criteria is reviewed and approved by the Tennis Canada High-Performance Committee, comprised of VP- High Performance, Senior Director-High Performance, and the Director-High Performance Programs & Administration. An athlete representative will provide feedback and input on the carding criteria. The criteria are recommended by Tennis Canada to Sport Canada annually for review.

SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CARDS (SR1 & SR2)

Sport Canada established the following performance standards for Tennis Canada for the allocation of International Senior Cards.

OLYMPIC YEAR:

- Eligible players who finish Top 8 and Top half in singles or doubles at the Olympic Games

NON-OLYMPIC YEAR:

- Eligible players who played on the team, and competed in at least one match, that finished Top 8, equivalent to the quarterfinals, at the Davis Cup (World Group draw) or Billie Jean King Cup (World Group draw).

Athletes who meet the Senior International criteria outlined above are eligible to be nominated by Tennis Canada for two consecutive years of SR carding with first year card referred to as a SR1 and the second-year card referred to as a SR2. The second year SR2 card is contingent on the athlete adhering to the following:

- ✓ Meeting all eligibility criteria as outlined previously in the carding criteria
- ✓ Maintaining the competitive plan as approved by Tennis Canada and Sport Canada
- ✓ Completing and submitting the AAP application
- ✓ Signing and returning the Tennis Canada Player Agreement and Tennis Canada Code of Conduct

SENIOR CARDS

SENIOR (SR)

- Senior cards are intended for Pro and Transition players who have the potential to achieve Senior International status.

Players whose ATP/WTB ranking declines from one year to the next will be eligible for AAP nomination should they meet the Tennis Canada Performance Standard requirement for the applicable age, year and gender.

Developmental D CARDS

Developmental D cards are intended for age eligible junior players who have the potential to achieve Senior (SR) card status. If a player is an age eligible junior in 2024 and turned 19 years of age in 2025 then they will not be considered an age eligible junior.

D Carding Criteria

Age eligible juniors are players under the age of 18 as specified by ITF rules defining U18 players during the evaluation years in question. The year a player turns 13 and is eligible to compete in ITF junior tournaments they become eligible to begin accruing points towards carding eligibility. The D Card point tables begin when a player is in second year U14. Therefore, a player who turns 13 will-only have one year to accrue points instead of two years.

Juniors are considered for Development (D) card status based on the points accrued from the D Carding Tables for their respective age and gender. Refer to Appendix 3 for the D Point Tables. Age eligible juniors have a two-year window to accrue points towards Development (D) cards. For the 2026-2027 carding cycle the two-year window is the 2024 and 2025 calendar year (January 1-December 31). The D Carding Tables will be used in determining the order of priority for Developmental (D) Cards. Age eligible juniors may only accrue points in the year in which they are 2nd year U14.

Priority #1 Tie-breaking Procedure (Development Cards):

After considering players who have met the Tennis Canada Performance Standards, priority will be given to players who earn the greatest number of points over the two-year eligibility period. The following order or priority will be used to break all D card ties (Tie-Break Procedure D Card Nominations):

- (1) Overall points achieved (singles and doubles) during the current competitive year. If still tied,
- (2) Overall points achieved (singles) in international events during the current competitive year. If still tied,
- (3) Overall points achieved (singles) in national events during the current competitive year. If still tied,
- (4) Overall points achieved (doubles) in international events during the current competitive year. If still tied,
- (5) Overall points achieved (doubles) in national events during the current competitive year.

The current competitive year is 2025 for tie-break purposes. All players applying for a D card, must earn a minimum of 10 points over two-year eligibility period to be eligible to receive Sport Canada carding support.

CARDING PROGRAM GRADUATION

A player who has reached any one of the ranking benchmarks listed below, or who has reached the maximum number of years of play on the professional tour as listed below, will graduate from the carding program and will therefore no longer be eligible to be nominated for carding at any level.

MEN

- Top 100 ATP singles ranking
- Top 50 ATP doubles ranking
- Men who have competed six (6) years or more on the professional tour

WOMEN

- Top 100 WTA singles ranking
- Top 50 WTA doubles ranking
- Women who have competed six (6) years or more on the professional tour

NOMINATION PROCESS:

Based on the above criteria, all athletes who apply will be notified via e-mail of the provisional carding nominations. Athletes will have a review period of seven (7) days, following the notification by e-mail, to appeal the decision not to nominate them for carding. Any appeal launched by an athlete will be expedited in accordance with Tennis Canada's Appeals Policy. Following the seven (7) day review period, the names of the eligible to be nominated for carding support will be submitted to Sport Canada for final approval.

Sport Canada reviews all nominations submitted by Tennis Canada and approves them in accordance with Athlete Assistance Program (AAP Policies). Athletes whose nominations are approved by Sport Canada must sign the Tennis Canada Player Agreement, Tennis Canada Code of Conduct, and complete the AAP Application Form and Anti-Doping educational requirement before they can begin receiving carding support.

APPEALS PROCESS

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) Section 13 <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html#a14>. Tennis Canada's appeals policies can be found here: <https://www.tenniscanada.com/about-tennis-canada/policy/>

APPENDIX #1 – SENIOR CARD PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
(For female players – 17 – 24)

AGE CATEGORY	BRONZE STANDARDS (#101 – 200)	SILVER STANDARDS (#51 – 100)	GOLD STANDARDS (#11 – 50)	PLATINUM STANDARDS (#1 - #10)
1st year U18	605	540	360	200
2nd year U18	465	305	225	135
(T1) Age 19	335	210	155	
(T2) Age 20	285	155	120	
(T3) Age 21	270	120		
(T4) Age 22	200			
(T5) Age 23	200			
(T6) Age 24	200			

APPENDIX #1 – SENIOR CARD PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
(For male players – 17 – 24)

AGE CATEGORY	BRONZE STANDARDS (#101 – 200)	SILVER STANDARDS (#51 - #100)	GOLD STANDARDS (#11 - #50)	PLATINUM STANDARDS (#1 – #10)
1st year U18	1136	1090	885	575
2nd year U18	915	720	595	235
(T1) Age 19	545	470	290	150
(T2) Age 20	425	310	210	
(T3) Age 21	355	255	130	
(T4) Age 22	295	205		
(T5) Age 23	230	112		
(T6) Age 24	206	111		

APPENDIX #1-TENNIS CANADA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

<https://www.tenniscanada.com/compete/u15-team-canada-club-support-program/>

APPENDIX #2- D CARDING TABLES

[BOYS EVENTS \(tenniscanada.com\)](https://www.tenniscanada.com/compete/u15-team-canada-club-support-program/)

APPENDIX #3 – JUNIOR NATIONALS PARTICIPATION POLICY

[Junior-Nationals-Participation-Policy-2024-EN.pdf \(tenniscanada.com\)](https://www.tenniscanada.com/compete/u15-team-canada-club-support-program/)