**ATHLETES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - "CARDING"**
**TABLE TENNIS CANADA**
(To qualify for AAP support for the carding cycle
1 January, 2018 to 31 December 2018

## 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 3 cards at the Senior Level which represents a value of $54,000. (Senior Cards may be converted to Development/Training Center 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 1st 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/eng/1267374509734

TTCAN 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 of the ITTF World Ranking (ITTF WR) it refers to the Olympic World Ranking (OWR): the OWR represents the ITTF WR taking into consideration Olympic entry restrictions, i.e., two athletes per NOC.

## 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 fulfills 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, Policies, Procedures and Guidelines 2012)*

  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 15 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
- 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, professional league obligation, etc.)
- must have a minimum of 40 matches between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2017. 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 and December 31 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 outside North America (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.

## 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 or at a TTCAN affiliated training center abroad – 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 the 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 Two Senior cards (of the current three 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) card will be allocated as a Development (D) card.

1.2.2 Should more than two athletes qualify for Senior cards, the athletes will be ranked according to the Performance Excellence point system in Appendix 1. Athletes who qualify for a Senior card, but rank below the quota of 2 cards, are eligible for Development card support.

1.2.3 Should fewer than two 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.

1.2.4 The D card may be allocated to Training Center Card support as per Section 3 of this policy. Should no athlete qualify for support under the Training Center Cards criteria (described in 4. of this policy), the remaining card will be allocated under the Development Criteria. The decision whether to allocate one D card as a Training Center card rests with TTCAN's High Performance Committee.

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 50 in the ITTF Men's or Women's Olympic World Ranking. If more athletes than senior cards available are ranked in the top 50 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 or 1) 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 cards 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.

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

## 2. SENIOR CARD CRITERIA

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

Athletes applying for Senior carding must reach the quarterfinals at the Canadian Championships (Men's Singles, Women's Singles) or must be on the most recent Olympic, World Championships or Shadow National Team Squad list.

### 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 represent Canada at Major International competitions including PANAM Games, Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games or World Championships at the beginning of the carding cycle.

| **On Olympic Year:** | Singles | Teams |
|---|---|---|
| At the Olympic Games | Top 8 and top ½ of field | Top 8 and top ½ of field |
| **On Non-Olympic Year:** | | |
| At the World Table Tennis Championships | Top 8 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 50 ITTF OWR
Excluding athletes who meet the international criteria, the top man and the top woman athlete who achieve a top 50 ITTF OWR between May 1 and January 1.

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 and January 1 or once, at the last ranking available on January (ITTF annual year end ranking).

| Number of years carded at the Senior Card levels (SR1, SR2, SR & C1, excluding Senior Injury cards) | **ITTF OWR Men** | **ITTF OWR Women** |
|---|---|---|
| 1st year | Top 80 | Top 80 |
| 2nd year | 75 | 75 |
| 3rd year | 70 | 70 |
| 4th year | 65 | 65 |
| 5th & 6th year | 60 | 60 |
| 7th & further | 55 | 55 |

Tab 1

Note: only active players with an ITTF World ranking will be counted for the OWR.

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/ Women: top 55 ITTF OWR

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

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.)

## 3. DEVELOPMENT CARD CRITERIA

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

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 must be on the most recent Olympic, World Championships or Shadow National Team Squad list.

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 must be on the most recent Olympic, World Championships or Shadow National Team Squad list.

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 must be on the most recent Junior National Team Squad list

**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 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 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 TTCAN head office no later than December 1 prior to the start of the new carding cycle.*

### 3.1 AGE GROUP DEVELOPMET 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 and January 1 or once, at the ITTF annual year end ranking available on January 5.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Year of D carding | ITTF OWR – MEN | ITTF OWR – WOMEN |
| | | |
| JR 18 (year 1 or younger) | JR 18 OWR Top 150 | JR 18 OWR Top 150 |
| JR 18 (year 2) | JR 18 OWR Top 125 | JR 18 OWR Top 125 |
| JR 18 (year 3) | JR 18 OWR Top 100 | JR 18 OWR Top 100 |
| YO 21 (year 1) | OWR Top 200 | OWR Top 200 |
| YO 21 (year 2) | OWR Top 180 | OWR Top 180 |
| YO 21 (year 3) | OWR Top 160 | OWR Top 160 |
| YO 21 (+1) | OWR Top 140 | OWR Top 140 |
| YO 21 (+2) | OWR Top 120 | OWR Top 120 |
| YO 21 (+3) | OWR Top 100 | OWR Top 100 |
| YO 21 (+4) | OWR Top 90 | OWR Top 90 |

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:

4.1 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
4.2 must undergo an assessment by the TTCAN HP Committee, see section 5
4.3 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 must be on the most recent Olympic, World Championships, Shadow or Junior National Team Squad list

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 60 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 50 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 50 of the ITTF Olympic 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 WORLD TOUR EVENTS** | **ITTF – CHALLENGE SERIES** |
| Top 16 20 points | Top 16 10 points |
| Top 8 30 points | Top 8 20 points |
| Semi Final 40 points | Semi Final 30 points |
| Final 80 points | Final 50 points |
| Champion 160 points | Champion 80 points |
| **CANADIAN RANKING** (January 2017)<br>5th 3 points<br>4th 5 points<br>3rd 10 points<br>2nd 20 points<br>1st 30 points<br><br>*Olympic Games eligible | **ITTF SENIOR WORLD RANKING**<br>(most recent available on December 10 in the year of the application)<br>CAN 5* 10 points<br>CAN 4* 25 points<br>CAN 3* 50 points<br>CAN 2* 75 points<br>CAN 1* 100 points<br><br>*Olympic Games eligible |
| **COMMONWEALTH / PANAM CHAMPIONSHIPS/GAMES**<br>Quarter Final 25 points<br>Semi Final 50 points<br>Final 75 points<br>Champion 100 points | **CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (MS, WS)**<br>Top 8 5 points<br>Semi-Finals 10 points<br>Final 20 points<br>Champion 30 points |
| **CANADA CUP FINALS**<br>4th 5 points<br>3rd 10 points<br>2nd 20 points<br>1st 30 points | **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (MS, WS)**<br>Top 128 10 points<br>Top 64 40 points<br>Top 32 80 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 WORLD/CHALLENGE TOUR – U21** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Champion | 60 points | Champion | 60 points |
| Final | 40 | Final | 40 |
| Semi Final | 20 | Semi Final | 20 |
| Top 8 | 10 | Top 8 | 10 |
| Top 16 | 5 | Top 16 | 5 |
| **ITTF JUNIOR CIRCUIT** | | **CANADIAN JUNIOR RANKING (January 2017)** | |
| Champion | 30 points | JR18 M/F: | **1st 2nd 3rd** |
| Final | 20 | | 5 3 1 |
| Semi Final | 10 | *of athletes eligible to compete for Canada at major international competitions such as World Championships or Olympic Games. | |
| Top 8 | 5 | | |
| **CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS** | | **PANAM JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS** | |
| JR18 –Singles M/F: | **1st 2nd 3rd** | JR18 –Singles M/F: | |
| | 5 3 1 | **1st 2nd 3rd** | |
| | | 10 5 3 | |
| U21 – Singles M/F: | **1st 2nd 3rd** | | |
| | 8 5 2 | | |

- 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, 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, 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, ITTF North America Championships/Cup, ITTF World Ranking - see ITTF calendar (www.ittf.com)
- Canadian Championships, Canada Cup Finals, Canadian Ranking (for calendar updates see www.ttcan.ca)

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