



ATHLETES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - “CARDING”

TABLE TENNIS CANADA

(To qualify for AAP support for the carding cycle)

1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

1. 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 \$63,540. (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	\$ 1765/month
Senior National:	SR	\$ 1765/month
Senior National 1 st year	C1	\$ 1060/month
Training Center:	D	\$ 1060/month
Development:	D	\$ 1060/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: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance.html>

The carding quota may be changed by Sport Canada, which could affect the number of cards available to TTC.

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.

2. HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMISSION (HPC)

TTCAN’s High Performance Commission (TTCAN HPC) is solely responsible, on behalf of TTCAN’s Board of Directors, for all matters concerning national team athletes and the AAP; the Commission may seek advice from experts outside the Commission if required.

3. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 Table Tennis is a sport with Olympic disciplines in singles, mixed doubles and teams. Table Tennis Canada’s vision in guiding its national team program is to develop TEAM CANADA (Men’s and Women’s Team, Men’s and Women’s Singles and Mixed Doubles) to reach the following specific OLYMPIC objectives:

- 3.1.1 TOP-8 in Olympic Mixed Doubles.
- 3.1.2 TOP-16 in Olympic Team competition, as a lead to a Top-8 finish.
- 3.1.3 TOP-16 in singles Olympic ITTF Ranking, as a lead to a Top-8 finish.
- 3.2 Due to the depth of international Table Tennis, top 16 finishers are podium contenders. The “top 8” and “top-16” objectives fulfill 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.
- 3.3 The probability as well as the opportunity to meet this objective is considerably higher in the team and mixed doubles 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.

4. BASIC ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for carding, athletes must:

- 4.1 apply for consideration for AAP support to Table Tennis Canada’s HPC by the December 1st deadline. A complete application includes:
 - 4.1.1 the athletes annual training and competition plan which includes international competition and significant daily training activities (based on TTCAN’s LTAD Model);
 - 4.1.2 proof that the athlete meets the criteria to be accepted for AAP support (as outlined in this policy)
- 4.2 be a Canadian citizen
- 4.3 be a member in good standing of TABLE TENNIS CANADA
- 4.4 be eligible to represent Canada at Major International competitions including Olympic Games **or** World Championships at the beginning of the carding cycle.
- 4.5 All athletes applying for AAP support:
 - 4.5.1 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.)
 - 4.5.2 must be available for major events, Games and/or World Championships
 - 4.5.3 must be available for national team training camps (to be planned between the HPC and the athlete)
 - 4.5.4 must have a played in a minimum number of matches in Canada and internationally within the previous 12 months, as established and announced in advance by the HPC. The matches may be verified in the Canadian Ranking System, ITTF World Ranking and/or in the US Rating System.
 - 4.5.5 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 HPC.

- 4.6 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 Card Criteria.

5. ATHLETE LIVING OUTSIDE CANADA

- 5.1 Athletes living outside Canada are **not** eligible for AAP support without obtaining an exception from the HPC
- 5.2 Athletes residing abroad for training and competition may have their annual program approved by the HPC that may give such approval only in exceptional cases. To achieve Table Tennis Canada's program performance objectives (Item 3) it is imperative that the national team members have the best possible training conditions as approved by the HPC within Canada or abroad.
- 5.3 Only athletes who have obtained approval from the HPC and who otherwise meet the criteria to be nominated for carding will be nominated for AAP support. Such exceptional cases must be approved by Sport Canada.

6. PROCESS OF SELECTION OF CARDS

- 6.1 The HPC makes final recommendations on nomination to the Sport Canada AAP.
- 6.2 The HPC is comprised of 5 persons as follows:
- High Performance Consultant (Commission Chair)
 - Coaching and Athlete Development Consultant
 - Professional Coach (Male)
 - National Level Coach (Female)
 - TTCAN Athlete's Representative

Note: The TTCAN President is an ex-officio member without voting rights

- 6.3 Card distribution:
- 6.3.1 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) cards will be allocated as Development (D) cards.
- 6.3.2 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.
- 6.3.3 Should fewer than two athletes qualify for support under the Senior Card criteria the remaining cards will be allocated as Development Cards.
- 6.3.4 One of the D cards may be allocated to Training Center Card support. Should no athlete qualify for support under the Training Center Cards criteria, the remaining cards will be allocated under the Development Criteria. The decision whether to

allocate one D card as a Training Center card rests with the HPC.

6.4 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 World Ranking. If more athletes than senior cards available are ranked in the top 50 in the ITTF World Ranking, athletes will be selected in order of performance excellence (see Appendix I).

6.5 Card prioritization

The HPC will decide on and reserve the number of Training Center Cards (0 or 1) , and then will make nominations in the following priority order:

- 6.5.1 Athletes that meet the Senior International card criteria (SR1 & SR2)
- 6.5.2 Athletes that meet the 1st Priority - National Senior card criteria(SR/C1)
- 6.5.3 Athletes that meet the 2nd Priority - National Senior card criteria(SR/C1)
- 6.5.4 Athletes carded the previous year at a Senior level that meet the Injury Card Criteria
- 6.5.5 Athletes that meet the Age Group Development Criteria
- 6.5.6 Athletes that meet the Development Training Centre Criteria as a "must have".
- 6.5.7 The HPC will allocate any remaining cards to the athletes that meet the Development Training Centre Card criteria.

6.6 Tie breaking procedure

- 6.6.1 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.
- 6.6.2 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):

6.6.2.1 Same Gender

- a. ITTF Olympic Ranking (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 Canadian Ranking

6.6.2.2 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 Canadian Ranking

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

7. SENIOR CARD CRITERIA

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

7.3 INTERNATIONAL CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

- 7.3.1 Athletes qualifying under the Senior Criteria must be “active”. To be considered “active” these athletes must be eligible and available to 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 and Mixed Doubles
Olympic Games	Top 8 and top ½ of field
On Non-Olympic Year:	
World TT Championships	Top 8 and top ½ of field

- 7.3.2 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.

7.4 NATIONAL SENIOR CRITERIA (SR/C1)

- 7.4.1 Funding to athletes qualifying under the National Senior criteria is intended to support athletes with a demonstrated potential to reach International Senior status).
- 7.4.2 Specific eligibility requirements: All athletes applying for AAP National Senior Card support must attend a recognized TTCAN Training Centre during the carding cycle for which the athlete is applying and fulfill the training and competition requirement of the Training Centre unless the athlete has obtained approval from the HPC to train outside Canada (see Athletes Living Outside Canada section).
- 7.4.3 Criteria:

1st Priority – Top 50 ITTF Olympic Ranking

Excluding athletes who meet the international criteria, the top man and the top woman athlete who achieve a top 50 ITTF Olympic Ranking in September, October, November, December or January ranking list.

2nd Priority – Progressive yearly indicator table

Athletes who achieve the progressive yearly indicators set forth by the progressive yearly indicator table below will be eligible for nomination for a SR/C1 card. The yearly progression is based on meeting the ITTF Olympic Ranking indicator in the in August, September, October, November or December ranking list.

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

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

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

- 7.5.1 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.
- 7.5.2 To demonstrate improvement toward International Senior card status an athlete must maintain: Men/ Women: top 50 ITTF Olympic Ranking.
- 7.5.3 An athlete may only be flagged twice in her/his career.
- 7.5.4 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 10 of this Policy.)

8 DEVELOPMENT CARD CRITERIA

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 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 National Team list.
- 8.3 Athletes applying for Development Cards who are no longer eligible for the Junior-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 National Team list.

8.4 Athletes applying for Development Cards who are eligible for the Junior-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 list.

8.5 Specific eligibility requirements:

8.5.1 Athletes who are no longer eligible for the Junior-18 age category must be based at a TTCAN recognized Training Center.

8.5.2 Athletes who are eligible for the Junior-18 age category for the entire carding cycle must train at a TTCAN recognized Training Center or at a carding-eligible Center under close supervision of a designated TTCAN Coach (a coach enrolled in NCCP or a coach with international equivalency) to be considered for a Development Card.

8.4 AGE GROUP DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA

To be considered for Age Group Development carding the athletes must meet the minimum ITTF Olympic Ranking as per their age category in table below in one ITTF World Ranking period of August, September, October, November or December ranking list.

Year of D carding	ITTF Olympic Rankings
JR 18 (year 1)	JR 18 OWR Top 100
JR 18 (year 2)	JR 18 OWR Top 80
JR 18 (year 3)	JR 18 OWR Top 60
YO 21 (year 1)	YO 21 OWR Top 150
YO 21 (year 2)	YO OWR Top 120
YO 21 (year 3)	YO OWR Top 100
YO 21 (+1)	OWR Top 125
YO 21 (+2)	OWR Top 110
YO 21 (+3)	OWR Top 100
YO 21 (+4)	OWR Top 90

9 TRAINING CENTER CARD CRITERIA

9.1 Training Center Cards are intended for high-level athletes who are considered by the HPC 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.

9.2 To be considered for Training Center carding athletes:

9.2.1 must attend the TTCAN recognized Training Center and participate in all training sessions as outlined by the HPC; and

9.2.2 must undergo an assessment by the HPC (see section 10)

9.2.3 may be carded under the Training Center criteria for a maximum of five (5) years.

10 ASSESSMENT OF ATHLETES

- 10.1 Athletes applying for a Development Training Center Card, or Flagged, undergo an assessment by the HPC to determine their eligibility for support under Sport Canada's AAP program
- 10.2 Specific eligibility requirements: The athlete must have reached the quarter finals at the most recent Canadian Championships (Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's U21, Women's U21) or must be on the most recent National Team list.

10.3 ATHLETE ASSESSMENT

The athlete must meet all assessment points. In the opinion of the HPC:

- 10.3.1 the athlete is an asset to the National Team Program and elevates the quality of training at the recognized Training Center through her/his participation in the training sessions with the National Team;
- 10.3.2 the athlete demonstrates "professional" training and competitive habits; and
- 10.3.3 the athlete must have a minimum of 30 matches in the CAN, US and ITTF World Ranking in the 12 months preceding the assessment.

11 INJURY, ILLNESS OR PREGNANCY CARDING CRITERIA

- 11.1 Should an athlete carded in the previous carding cycle miss the basic condition for re-nomination due to injury, illness or pregnancy, the HPC will examine an athlete's submission and render a decision, which is final.
- 11.2 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:
- 11.2.1 The athlete must be ranked in the top 50 of the last available ITTF Olympic Ranking.
- 11.2.2 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 the HPC, for reasons strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy.
- 11.3 The HPC, 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.

- 11.4 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.
- 11.5 In the group of athletes eligible for AAP support, the athlete will be ranked based on his/her last available ITTF Olympic Ranking.