

## **Paralympic Judo Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)**

### **ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP) Paralympic Judo - criteria for 2024 season**

Objective: To identify and support Canadian athletes performing at or having the greatest potential to achieve top 8 results at the Paralympics Games and World Championships. Judo Canada's carding cycle runs from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

The current number of senior cards allocated by Sport Canada is the equivalent of 3 SR Cards (TB Confirmed by Sport Canada) - \$ 63,540 for the Visually Impaired Program.

Athletes are generally recommended for 12 months of carding support but if upon the application of the carding criteria less than 12 months of carding is available, an eligible athlete may be recommended provided that there are 4 or more months of support remaining.

### **SCHEDULE B: CARDING OF VISUALLY-IMPAIRED (VI) JUDOKA**

Judo Canada's Paralympic Judo Head Coach, upon recommendation from the High Performance Director, will determine a priority ranking of all AAP eligible athletes based on the carding criteria presented in this document. Sport Canada approves nominations in accordance with the AAP policies and the published NSO approved AAP compliant carding criteria.

#### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

To be eligible for the AAP, the athlete must meet the requirements described in Section 2.3 of the Athlete Assistance Program Policies, Procedures and Guidelines

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>

##### **1.1 "Senior International Card" (SR1/SR2)**

A "Senior International Card" is awarded to those athletes who achieve a **Top 8 and top ½ of the field** performance at the Paralympic Games or World Championships:

Sport Canada sets these criteria for Senior International cards. Athletes who meet the international criteria are eligible to be nominated by the NSO for two consecutive years, with the card for the first year referred to as SR1 and the card for the second year referred to as SR2. The second year of carding is contingent on the athlete being re-nominated by JUDO CANADA and following an approved training and competitive program. The athlete must sign the Athlete Agreement and complete the AAP Application form for the year in question.

Such an athlete will receive \$1,765 per month, (\$21,180 a year tax-free) and payment of post-secondary tuition fees to eligible athlete at schools approved by Sport Canada.

##### **1.2 "Senior Card" (SR)**

A "Senior card" (SR) is awarded to those athletes who meet the "Senior card" criteria. Such an athlete receives \$1,765 per month, (\$21,180 a year tax-free) and payment of post-secondary tuition fees eligible athlete at schools approved by Sport Canada.

##### **1.3 "Development Card" (D)**

A "Development card" (D) is awarded to those athletes who meet the "Development card" criteria. Such an athlete receives \$1060 per month, (up to \$12,720 a year tax-free) and payment of post-secondary tuition fees eligible athlete at schools approved by Sport Canada.

#### 1.4 Commitment of Carded Athletes

AAP selection, and the continuation of carding, is dependent upon the athlete's acceptance and adherence to the obligations as outlined in the athlete agreement. The athlete must agree to adhere to the training, competitive and administrative policies of Judo Canada (NT Policy 16).

#### **All carded athletes must sign the Judo Canada Athlete Agreement. Failure to sign and respect the agreement will result in suspension of financial support by Sport Canada.**

If an athlete does not respect the conditions of the carding contract, JC may recommend to Sport Canada to withdraw the athlete carding support as described in section 4.

#### 1.5 Qualification Period for AAP 2024

The qualification period is from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

### **2. CRITERIA AND PRIORITIZATION OF ATHLETES FOR THE SPORT CANADA AAP**

Each year, Judo Canada meets with Sport Canada to determine which visually impaired judokas are eligible for nomination for the AAP. Athletes will be prioritized for carding based on the criteria which they have achieved during the qualification period, as follows:

#### 2.1 Senior International Card (SR1/SR2)

- 1) The eligible athlete who placed in the Top 8 and top ½ of the field performance in the 2023 IBSA World Championships.

#### 2.2 Senior National Card (SR):

- 2) Medal Performance at IBSA Grand Prix World Ranking Event.
- 3) 5th or 7th place at IBSA Grand Prix World Ranking Event with a minimum of one win
- 4) Medal Performance at the Pan-Am Championships or Games with a minimum of one win.
- 5) Medal Performance at an IBSA Judo Open, with a minimum of one win.

#### 2.3 Development Card (D)

- 6) Athlete classified as J1 or J2 who meet the SR AAP criteria defined in points 2.1 and 2.2 but whose life circumstances do not allow them to permanently move to the National Training Centre.
- 7) **Top 5 at IBSA Judo Open:** Athletes placing 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>, with a minimum of 1 win, at an International Judo Tournament for Visually Impaired sanctioned by IBSA (i.e. German Open).
- 8) Athletes with a reasonable judo experience and formally classified as eligible to compete in Paralympic judo may be recommended for a D card based on assessment of their future performance potential. Such recommendation will be made by the National coaching staff. The coaches will rank the eligible athletes based on the combination of the scores of the following elements:
  - Potential of the athlete to place in the top 8 at the next Paralympics Games
  - Dedication to training.
  - Evaluation of the athlete technical skills (with respect to T2C and T2W levels of the LTAD)
  - Evaluation of the athlete physical testing in comparison to standards recommended by the members of the IST;
  - Participation and performance of the athletes at the NT camps.
- 8) Athletes with no formal judo experience and formally classified as eligible to compete in Paralympic judo may be recommended for up to a 6 months Development card based on assessment of their future performance potential. Such recommendation will be made by the National coaching staff. The coaches will rank the eligible athletes based on the combination of the scores of the following elements:

- Potential of the athlete to place in the top 8 in a future Paralympics Games
- Dedication to training.
- Evaluation of the athlete technical skills (with respect to T2T and T2C levels of the LTAD)
- Evaluation of the athlete physical testing in comparison to standards recommended by the members of the IST.
- Participation and performance of the athletes at the NT camps.
- In case an athlete who is D carded based on the conditions in point 8 above, such athlete may become eligible for the D card for the remainder of this carding season upon Judo Canada application at the end of the initial 6 months carding period, providing that they meet the standard speculated on in point 6.2.6 of this policy.

## **NOTE:**

**Should more athletes qualify than cards available in any of the above categories**, athletes will be prioritized based on the following

- i) Season winning percentage (matches won/total matches fought) at IBSA/IJF Grand Prix; Pan-Am Championships and IBSA Open events (minimum 3 matches).

### **Restriction for Senior Card:**

An athlete is normally expected to improve each year to maintain a Senior Card based on the national criteria.

- An athlete may only be carded a maximum of seven (7) years at the Senior card level (SR/C1). After such time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive thoroughly documented review of the athlete's performance over the past four years in order to demonstrate progress toward performance equivalent to top 8 and top half at the World Championships or Paralympic Games, which then warrants nomination of "Senior" card status for an additional year. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level.

### **Restriction on Development card:**

Development Cards are intended to support the developmental needs of developing athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior Card international criteria. The financial support provided through Development Cards helps enhance conditions for athletes who have not had the same training, coaching, and competitive experience as experienced athletes. For these reasons:

- An athlete may only be carded a maximum of seven (7) years at the Development card level. After such time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive thoroughly documented review of the athlete's performance over the past four years in order to demonstrate progress toward performance equivalent to top 8 and top half at the World Championships or Paralympic Games, which then warrants nomination of "Development" card status for an additional year. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level.

## **3. WITHDRAWAL OF CARDING SUPPORT.**

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Judo Canada's Disciplinary Procedures will not apply in case of withdrawal of carding.

The High Performance Committee, upon recommendation from the High Performance Director/Head Coach, may at any time recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's carded status to Sport Canada, provided that the following steps have been followed:

1. The athlete was provided with a verbal warning, including the steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of a failure to heed the warning;
2. Where applicable a follow-up with a written warning is sent to the athlete.
3. If the above-mentioned steps are not successful in resolving the matter and Judo Canada still wishes to recommend withdrawal of carded status, Judo Canada must send a letter to their Sport Canada Program Officer and the AAP Manager, with a copy to the athlete, recommending withdrawal of the athlete's carded status. This letter must:
  - indicate the grounds on which the recommendation is being made;
  - indicate the steps already taken to address the issue (verbal warning followed by formal letter of warning), and
  - provide notice to the athlete of his/her right to contest through Judo Canada's internal appeal process, within the prescribed time, Judo Canada's recommendation to withdraw his/her carded status.

#### **4. CONDITIONS FOR ALL CARDS**

1. All senior carded athletes who are classified as J2 will be based in a training facility and environment approved by Judo Canada. The carded athlete accepts to follow the yearly training plan designed by the National Coach. This plan includes : performance tests, medical exams, tournaments, training camps, or training periods that may take place in Canada or abroad, as approved by the High Performance Director.
2. All senior carded athletes who are classified as J1 may be based at the preferred club of their choice if such arrangement is agreed on by Judo Canada. All such athletes must commit to train full-time at the designated location under supervision of designated coaches. The carded athlete accepts to follow the yearly training plan designed by the National Coach. This plan includes all daily judo training sessions, other types of training (e.g. strength training, mental training, etc.), performance tests, medical exams, tournaments, training camps, or training periods that may take place in Canada or abroad, as approved by the High Performance Director.
3. All carded athletes with a D card will be based at the approved by Judo Canada Training Location where the carded athlete has the ability to commit to train full-time training and adhere to the Yearly Training plan designed by the National Coaching Staff. This plan includes all NTC/RTC-based daily judo training sessions, other types of training (e.g. strength training, mental training, etc.), performance tests, medical exams, tournaments, training camps, or training periods that may take place in Canada or abroad, as approved by the High Performance Director.

#### **5. FAILURE TO MEET RENEWAL CRITERIA FOR HEALTH-RELATED REASONS (ILLNESS, INJURY OR PREGNANCY)**

A carded who at the end of the carding cycle has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of carding status because of strictly health related reasons may be considered for re-nomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:

- The athlete had at least one past performance of top 8 at the World championships or Paralympic Games in the last 4 years;
- The athlete must informed Judo Canada as soon as possible and if the health issue happens prior the Elite Senior Nationals requested an exemption as per Policy 12.
- 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 or is continuing a rehabilitation program approved by Judo Canada;

- In the view of Judo Canada, the athlete's failure to attain the applicable carding standards is strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy;
- Judo Canada, based on its technical judgement and that of a Judo Canada team physician or 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;
- 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.

An athlete may only be nominated to the AAP under this clause once in their career.

## **6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

General information on the Sport Canada - Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) can be found in the Athlete Assistance Program Athletes Handbook published by Sport Canada (2012). This guide explains the details of the AAP, the benefits to the athlete (monthly support, tuition payment, deferred tuition), and the athlete's rights.

For further information visit: Sport Canada at [http://canada.pch.gc.ca/DAMAssetPub/DAM-PCH2-financement-funding/STAGING/texte-text/athlete\\_assistance\\_program\\_2015\\_1449583292452\\_eng.pdf?WT.contentAuthority=13.0](http://canada.pch.gc.ca/DAMAssetPub/DAM-PCH2-financement-funding/STAGING/texte-text/athlete_assistance_program_2015_1449583292452_eng.pdf?WT.contentAuthority=13.0)

Or Judo Canada at: [www.judocanada.org](http://www.judocanada.org)

## **7. APPEALS TO CARDING NOMINATIONS**

Appeals of Judo Canada AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of a Judo Canada's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through the Judo Canada's review process, which includes an application to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC). Appeals of AAP Decision made under Section 6 (Application for and Approval of Cards) or Section 11 (Withdrawal of Carding Status) may be pursued through Section 13 of the AAP Policies, Procedures and Guidelines.