

2026 TRIATHLON CANADA

TRIATHLON AAP NOMINATION CRITERIA

For nominations for the 2026 Athlete Assistance Program carding cycle
(Financially supported by Sport Canada)

A. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to outline the qualification and selection procedures (the “Selection Process”) that will be used by Triathlon Canada to select athletes to be nominated for Sport Canada’s Athlete Assistance Program (AAP).

The objective of the AAP is to identify and support Canadian athletes who have demonstrated the potential to achieve a top eight (8) result at the Olympics and World Championships. Sport Canada evaluates the number of athletes that will be supported for each sport and issues “cards” under the AAP program. The AAP is commonly referred to as the “carding” program hence the term “carded” for AAP supported athletes.

B. POLICY DETAILS

Sport Canada determines the card quotas for eligible NSOs (National Sport Organizations) and sport disciplines. Each eligible sport discipline is allotted a certain number of senior cards with a corresponding monetary amount. The annual allocation for Triathlon Canada is currently 6 senior cards, the equivalent of \$156,600. Sport Canada regularly reviews its allocation of cards; this quota is therefore subject to change.

Demonstrated performance is the primary requirement of the carding process. International and/or domestic results will be used to evaluate performance and determine eligibility under the carding criteria as collaboratively developed and agreed to by Sport Canada and Triathlon Canada.

DEFINITIONS

Carding Cycle refers to the period January 1st to December 31st.

Current Carding Cycle refers to the period January 1st of the current year and ending December 31st of the current year.

A Card is a general term for several types of Cards that exist:

- Senior International Card (SR1/SR2)
- Senior National Card (SR)
- Senior Health Related Circumstances Card (SRI)
- Development Card (D)
- Development Health Related Circumstances Card (DI)

TRIATHLON CANADA’S AUTHORITY FOR DECISIONS

All matters relating to the nomination of athletes for AAP are the sole authority of Triathlon Canada. Triathlon Canada makes decisions relating to the approval of AAP nominations on the basis of the approved Triathlon Canada AAP Criteria and requirements. If an athlete does not meet the criteria or requirements set out in the Triathlon Canada AAP Criteria, the athlete will not be eligible for nomination by Triathlon Canada.

SECTION 1: CARDING ALLOCATION

- 1.1 Carding is only available for results obtained in World Triathlon Standard, Sprint, Super Sprint or Mixed Relay events in the Elite, U23 and Junior categories. Any eligible athlete must show that he/she is specializing in World Triathlon Standard, Sprint, Super Sprint or Mixed Relay racing.
- 1.2 The annual carding qualification period is defined by the schedule of World Triathlon points scoring events between January 1st to December 31st of the current year.
- 1.3 Cards will be allocated based on the following priority ranking:
 - i. Senior cards –SR1, SR2, SR and SRI cards
 - a. Athletes eligible for “Senior International” cards;
 - b. Athletes eligible for “Senior National” cards;
 - ii. Development cards – Athletes eligible for “Development” cards
- 1.4 Triathlon Canada’s High-Performance Director in consultation with the High-Performance Advisory Committee makes final recommendations on nomination to Sport Canada’s AAP, based on Triathlon Canada’s carding criteria. The High-Performance Director is responsible for the implementation of this policy.
- 1.5 Athletes who wish to be considered for nomination are required to submit an AAP Expression of Interest to the High Performance Director by November 14th 2025.
- 1.6 Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with the AAP policies and the published Triathlon Canada approved and AAP compliant carding criteria.

SECTION 2: MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated. Permanent residents must live in Canada for the full year preceding the carding cycle for which the athlete is being considered for AAP support.
- 2.2 Under the eligibility requirements of the sport’s International Federation (IF) as it pertains to citizenship or residency status, the athlete must be eligible to represent Canada at major international competitions, including World Championships, at the beginning of the carding cycle for which the athlete is being nominated.
- 2.3 The athlete must be available to represent Canada in major international competitions, including World Championships and Olympic Games.
- 2.4 For athletes who have been permanent residents of Canada for three years or more, continued eligibility to receive AAP support is contingent on the athlete becoming eligible to represent Canada at the Olympic Games.
- 2.5 The athlete must be in a Triathlon Canada approved training environment. Approval must be received from Triathlon Canada’s High-Performance Director prior to February 1st of the nomination year. A Triathlon Canada approved training environment is one that includes or is considered, but is not exclusive to, the following,

- A Triathlon Canada endorsed Provincial High-Performance Program
- Full-time direct coaching a consistent manner
- A High-Performance programming and competition focus (not age group or long-distance)
- Alignment with Triathlon Canada's Podium Pathway

2.6 The athlete must adhere to an approved competition schedule that reflects the strategic direction of Triathlon Canada's High-Performance program. Approval must be received from Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Director prior to February 1st of the nomination year. Adjustments and direction of the competition schedule is under the guidance of the High-Performance Director and are guided by the following principles,

- Appropriate level of racing for the athlete
- Criteria achieved as communicated in Triathlon Canada's Event Selection Policies
- Proven evidence of ability to maximize World Triathlon individual Ranking Points
- Race Profile including terrain, environment and field of competitors anticipated
- Strategic initiatives (i.e. relay, World Triathlon quota acquisition and prioritization of Triathlon Canada's High-Performance strategies.

2.7 The athlete must be in a Triathlon Canada approved training environment and have a coach-of-record for the entirety of the AAP carding cycle that;

- Is in good standing with the Coaching Association of Canada or,
- Is in good standing with their respective home country's recognized coaching association/National Federation and,
- The coach regularly attends training or competition events in person where the athlete is present.
- Agrees to share, in writing, all training logs or plans with Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Director upon request,
- Agrees to commit to and prioritize Triathlon Canada's strategic initiatives as directed by Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Director
- Communicates on a regular basis, or upon request, with Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Director in regard to the athlete and,
- Is not the athlete.

SECTION 3: SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CARDING CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

The allocation of Senior International Cards will be based on the following performance criteria set by Sport Canada:

Non - Olympic Year	
2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals Wollongong – Individual	Top 8 and top ½ of the field
2025 World Triathlon Mixed Relay Championships – Hamburg	<p>Eligible athletes must meet both the Team and Individual Performance Benchmarks.</p> <p>Team Performance Benchmark: Top 5 and Top ½ of the field</p> <p>Individual Performance Benchmarks (penalties will be adjusted to the penalized athlete):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Finishing within 3.5% of the fastest overall time in their relay leg;

Athletes who meet the Senior International criteria are eligible to be nominated by Triathlon Canada 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 Triathlon Canada and a training and competitive program approved by Triathlon Canada and Sport Canada being maintained. The athlete must also;

- Sign an Athlete/ Triathlon Canada Agreement and complete an AAP Application Form for the year in question
- Compete in the Triathlon Canada National Championships for the year of the carding cycle. Note, the requirement to participate at the National Championships may be waived by the Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director (see Appendix A Exemption request procedures).
- Be in an approved Triathlon Canada training environment (as defined in Section 2.7)
- Continue to demonstrate world class ability by achieving at least one of the following results in the season prior to the carding cycle being considered for nomination to the AAP.
 - Podium at a Major Games other than the Olympic Games
 - Top 8 at a World Triathlon Championship Finals
 - Top 12 at a World Triathlon Championship Series Event
 - Top 5 at a World Triathlon Mixed Relay Series Event
 - OR at the sole discretion of Triathlon Canada’s High-Performance Director in consultation with the High-Performance Advisory Committee based on a comprehensive assessment of an athlete’s results and/or physical testing.

SECTION 4: SENIOR NATIONAL CARDING CRITERIA (SR)

4.1 Senior carded athletes will normally have a maximum of 5 years, excluding the year(s) in which Health Related Circumstances cards are awarded, to achieve International Card status (SR1) from the year they were first Senior carded, as a senior aged athlete. An athlete may be nominated for a 6th year or beyond at the SR level if the athlete meets the SR Card criteria 4.5 Priority #1, and/or if in the opinion of Triathlon Canada’s High-Performance Director based on a stringent review of past performance, future potential, and demonstrated improvement, it is determined that the athlete has the potential to qualify for a Senior International card (SR1/SR2), and/or assist other targeted athletes; in their role as a team athlete, in achieving SR1/SR2 status.

4.2 To be considered for an SR card, an athlete must have:

Requirements for World Triathlon Senior age athletes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participated in a minimum of three (3) 2025 World Triathlon Standard, Sprint, or Mixed Relay Series events in the Elite categories. Note: the requirement to participate in three (3) World Triathlon Events may be waived by the Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director (see Appendix A Exemption request procedures). AND Participated in the 2025 Triathlon Canada National Championship. Note: the requirement to participate at the Canadian Championship may be waived by the Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director (see Appendix A Exemption request procedures).

4.3 Unless otherwise stated in the Senior National carding criteria, all results herein refer to the season prior to the carding cycle being considered for nomination to the AAP.

4.4 SR Cards will be allocated regardless of gender and prioritized by the order of the criteria below.

4.5 The remaining number of Senior cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the following priority order:

Senior Priority #1 - World Triathlon Championship Series Top 8 – Podium Track

Athletes who finish in the Top 8 at a 2025 World Triathlon Championship Series Event

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior National Priority #1 criteria, the athlete with the best performance as determined through Triathlon Canada’s Performance Analysis Model (Appendix B)

Senior Priority #2 - World Triathlon Championship Series Top 12 – Podium Potential

Athletes with a minimum of two (2) Top 12 finishes at 2025 World Triathlon Championship Series or Finals Events

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior National Priority #2 criteria, the athlete with the best performance as determined through Triathlon Canada’s Performance Analysis Model (Appendix B)

Senior Priority #3 - World Triathlon Championship Series Top 20 – Podium Potential

Athletes with a minimum of two (2) Top 20 finishes at 2025 World Triathlon Championship Series or Finals Events and one (1) Top 5 finish in a World Triathlon Cup event.

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior National Priority #3 criteria, the athlete with the best performance as determined through Triathlon Canada's Performance Analysis Model (Appendix B)

Senior Priority #4 – Top 30 World Triathlon World Ranking

Athletes ranked within the Top 30 World Triathlon Individual World Ranking on November 30th, 2025.

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Senior National Priority #4 criteria, the athlete with the highest (best) World Triathlon Individual World Ranking will be ranked higher.

Senior Priority #5 – SR2 Health Related Circumstances

Athletes carded the previous year at SR2 levels who meet the health related circumstances carding criteria.

Senior Priority #6 – SR Health Related Circumstances

Athletes carded the previous year at SR levels who meet the health related circumstances carding criteria.

Senior Priority #7 – SR Health Related Circumstances 2nd Year

Remaining Senior Cards will be awarded to athletes carded the previous year at SR health related circumstances levels that still meet the health-related circumstances carding criteria.

SECTION 5: DEVELOPMENT CARD CRITERIA

The focus and guiding principle of the Development Card is to assist the transition towards achieving international excellence of development athletes who clearly demonstrate the potential to achieve the Senior International card criteria. Athletes born on or before December 31st 2000 are eligible for Development Card nomination in the 2026 carding cycle. This is inclusive of Junior and U23 eligible athletes.

Athletes previously carded at the Senior Card level (C1, SR, SR1, SR2) for more than two years are no longer eligible for to be nominated for Development cards unless they achieved the senior carding level at junior ages.

5.1 To be considered for a Development Card, an athlete must have:

- Participated at the Junior, U23 and/or Elite 2025 Triathlon Canada National Championship following a draft legal format, in the year of nomination for AAP support. The requirement to participate at the National Championships may be waived by the Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director (see Appendix A - Exemption request procedures).
- Have a World Triathlon Individual World Ranking as of December 1st, 2025
- For Junior athletes, participated in a provincial program activity as directed by their Provincial Sport Organization (if applicable) and approved by the High-Performance Director or, is officially involved with their Provincial Sport Organizations' provincial High-Performance program (if applicable) as confirmed by the PSO Executive Director.

5.2 The remaining number of Development cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the following

priority order:

Development Priority #1 – World Triathlon Cup Event Performances

Athletes with a minimum of two (2) Top 12 finishes at a 2025 World Triathlon Cup Event.

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Development Priority #1 criteria, the athlete with best World Triathlon Cup Event performance as determined by Triathlon Canada's Performance Analysis Model (Appendix B) will be prioritized.

Development Priority #2 – World Triathlon Cup Event Performances

Athletes achieving a minimum of one (1) top 12 and one (1) top 20 finished at a 2025 World Cup Event.

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Development Priority #2 criteria, the athlete with best performance as determined by Triathlon Canada's Performance Analysis Model (Appendix B) will be prioritized.

Development Priority #3 – World Triathlon Championship Finals U23 Top 12

Athletes finishing in the Top 12, and Top ½ of the field, at the 2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals U23.

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Development Priority #3 criteria the athletes who achieved a higher finish will rank higher.
- If two or more athletes achieved the same finish, the athlete with the best run percent will be ranked higher.

Development Priority #4 – World Triathlon Cup Event and Continental Cup Event Performances

Athletes with a minimum of one (1) Top 20 2025 World Triathlon Cup Event and one (1) Top 5 2025 Americas Triathlon Continental Cup finishes.

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Development Priority #4 criteria, the athlete with best World Triathlon Cup performance as determined by Triathlon Canada's Performance Analysis Model (Appendix B) will be prioritized.

Results achieved at Americas Triathlon Continental Cup Events must have 25 or more athletes on the start list.

Development Priority #5 – 2025 U23/JR World Triathlon Relay Championships

Athletes competing in the 2025 U23/JR World Triathlon Relay Championships Event that finish in the Top 5, and Top ½ of the field, and meeting the following individual performance benchmarks:

- Finishing within 3.5% of the fastest overall time on their relay leg;

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Development Priority #5 criteria, the athlete with the highest percentage of the fastest time for their relay leg (i.e., closest percentage to winner of leg 1, etc.) will be ranked higher.

- If two or more athletes have the same overall percent difference of the fastest overall time on their relay leg, then the athlete with the highest percent run then swim leg of their relay leg will be ranked higher

Development Priority #6 – World Triathlon Championship Finals Junior

Athletes finishing in the Top 12, and Top ½ of the field at the 2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals Junior

Prioritization:

- If there are fewer cards than athletes meeting the Priority #6 criteria, priority will be given to the athlete(s) with the higher finish in their 2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals Junior event.
- If athletes remain tied (e.g., two silver medallists), then the best run percentage of the 2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals Junior event will be ranked higher.

Development Priority #7 – Selected Athletes

Prioritization:

- Athletes in the Junior and U23 age categories or within 2 seasons of their last year in U23, will be ranked against each other to determine their priority for Development Carding. The High-Performance Director in consultation with the High-Performance Advisory Committee will evaluate the athletes, based on this group's expert assessment and opinion, on the following criteria:
 - a. A review by Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Advisory Committee of an athlete's best two 2025 World Triathlon race results taking into consideration the following:
 - Triathlon Canada's Performance Analysis Model
 - Placing
 - % of Race Winner (%RW)
 - b. Placing at 2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals U23 event relative to other eligible athletes
 - c. Placing at 2025 World Triathlon Championship Finals Junior event relative to other eligible athletes

Development Priority #8 – D Health Related Circumstances

Athletes carded the previous year at D levels, who meet the health-related circumstances carding criteria may be considered for Development Carding – Health Related Circumstances exemption.

SECTION 6: HEALTH-RELATED CIRCUMSTANCES CARDING CRITERIA

- 6.1 A carded athlete, 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. In this circumstance, the athlete may make written application for a health related circumstances card to the High-Performance Director, supported by a medical certificate, no later than five (5) calendar days after the conclusion of the World Triathlon Championship Finals of the current year as outlined in 1.2 above in order to be considered for selection.
- 6.2 The basic philosophy for selecting an athlete by granting a health-related circumstances request is that all things being equal, the athlete nominated has clearly demonstrated superior performances in previous competition to other athletes being considered for AAP nomination.
 - A health-related circumstances request is considered as the last means by which an athlete can

earn selection and is intended to provide for exceptional circumstances outside the normal selection criteria rather than being part of the normal means by which an athlete can earn selection.

- 6.3 The athlete will be considered for nomination for a health related circumstances card at the discretion of the High-Performance Director in consultation with the High-Performance Advisory Committee's, subject to the following conditions:
- In the view of the High-Performance Director in consultation of the High-Performance Advisory Committee, the athlete has made reasonable efforts, through rehabilitation and training, to return to full high-performance training and competition as soon as possible after acquiring health-related circumstance. Despite these reasonable efforts, the athlete failed to meet the selection criteria as outlined in this Selection Criteria document.
 - A qualified sport medicine physician, approved by Triathlon Canada, provides a written report to the High-Performance Director indicating: (i) the scope of the injury, (ii) the rehabilitation required, (iii) the normal recovery term, and (iv) the prognosis of a full recovery by the athlete (the "Physician's Report"). The Physician's Report must indicate to the High-Performance Director that the athlete will be ready to compete and achieve equal or superior performances to those achieved by the athlete prior to the athlete's injury by no later than five (5) calendar days after the conclusion of the World Triathlon Championship Finals of the current year as outlined in 1.2 above. Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Director will review the Physician's Report and this individual may obtain a peer-reviewed evaluation of the applicant's information and readiness to return to full-time training and competition.
- 6.4 In the event that an athlete is nominated to receive Sport Canada AAP support on the basis of a successful health-related circumstances request they will be required to prove recovery, both from a medical perspective and also a performance perspective on or before March 15th.
- The determination of what performance benchmarks, and/or health indicators will be utilized to constitute recovery will be made by the Triathlon Canada medical team, coaching staff and High-Performance Director, and will be communicated to the individual athlete and their coach before January 15th. These performance benchmarks, and/or health indicators will be based upon assessing the athlete's ability to perform at the same performance level that earned them selection to Sport Canada AAP support.
- 6.5 If an athlete is subsequently deemed medically unfit and/or is unable to meet the required performance benchmarks on or before March 15th, their nomination will be withdrawn by Triathlon Canada for the remaining months of carding cycle.
- 6.6 The request must be made in writing, signed by the personal coach, stating the circumstances with supporting evidence faxed or mailed to the Triathlon Canada office. Injury requests must include a medical certificate that indicates the type of injury, severity and estimated recovery time. Triathlon Canada has the right to seek a second medical opinion.
- 6.7 The Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director will accept or reject all requests and deliver the decision in writing within two weeks of receiving the request.

SECTION 7: ATHLETES TRAINING OUTSIDE OF CANADA

- 7.1 All athletes training outside of Canada are required to support the National program as outlined in

this document.

- 7.2 Triathlon Canada will, at its sole discretion, determine if Canadians who achieve the carding criteria while living and training outside of the country will be nominated for AAP funding. The decision will be based on a number of factors which shall include, but not be limited to, the available daily training environment, ability to support the National program as outlined in this document, current and past health status, performance potential and other objective or subjective factors. Triathlon Canada is not obliged to nominate any athletes training outside of Canada.
- 7.3 As per Sport Canada policy (2.5.1), Athletes living outside Canada are not normally eligible for AAP support. Any exceptions to this requirement must be approved by Sport Canada. An athlete leaving Canada should be fully aware that an exception will be made only through special submissions by the NSO concerned to Sport Canada. Athletes living outside Canada for athletic or academic purposes must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of Sport Canada, that appropriate training programs are in place and are being monitored by their NSO. Athletes who have been living full-time outside Canada for more than two successive years will not normally be considered eligible for AAP benefits, unless these athletes are competing within the Canadian sport system and representing Canada at international competition.
- 7.4 As per Sport Canada policy (2.5.2), Triathlon Canada will nominate athletes who are attending a foreign post-secondary educational institution and are receiving an athletic scholarship for AAP funding provided that they commit to support the National Team Program activities. These athletes will be nominated by Triathlon Canada for AAP support during the months they are not attending the foreign post-secondary institution. It is the responsibility of the individual athlete to notify Triathlon Canada of the applicable time period for which they will not be attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution.
- 7.5 If an athlete intends to change their daily training environment to one outside of Canada, they are required to notify the Triathlon Canada High Performance Director in writing at least 60 days prior to the beginning of the carding cycle. The daily training environment/coach-of-record must continue to meet the requirements in Section 2.7.
- 7.6 If an athlete decides to train in a daily environment outside of Canada AFTER being nominated for AAP, Triathlon Canada at its sole discretion can recommend AAP support withdrawal to Sport Canada. The daily training environment/coach-of-record must continue to meet the requirements in Section 2.7.

SECTION 8: NCAA-BASED CARDED ATHLETES

- 8.1 Sport Canada policy states that athletes attending a foreign post-secondary educational institution and who are receiving an athletic scholarship are not eligible to receive AAP support in the months in which they are attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution.
- 8.2 It is the responsibility of the NCAA-based athlete who is nominated for AAP support to notify Triathlon Canada of the time period that the athlete will not be attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution. Once notified, Triathlon Canada will request that Sport Canada activate the athletes AAP support for that period. AAP support will only be activated if the athlete has submitted all the required documentation to Triathlon Canada by the prescribed deadline in the fall of 2025.
- 8.3 It is the responsibility of the NCAA-based athlete to notify their institutions compliance department

to confirm that they are eligible to receive AAP support. It is also NCAA-based athlete responsibility to determine any procedures that they must follow in order to meet the requirements of the institution's compliance department.

SECTION 9: ATHLETES RECEIVING ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS FROM FOREIGN POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- 9.1 Sport Canada policy states that athletes attending a foreign post-secondary educational institution and who are receiving an athletic scholarship are not eligible to receive AAP support in the months in which they are attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution.
- 9.2 As per Sport Canada policy (2.5.2), Triathlon Canada will nominate athletes who are attending a foreign post-secondary educational institution and are receiving an athletic scholarship for AAP funding provided that they commit to support the National Team Program activities. These athletes will be nominated by Triathlon Canada for AAP support during the months they are not attending the foreign post-secondary institution.
- 9.3 It is the responsibility of the individual athlete to notify Triathlon Canada of the applicable time period for which they will not be attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution. Once notified, Triathlon Canada will request that Sport Canada activate the athletes AAP support for that period. AAP support will only be activated if the athlete has submitted all the required documentation to Triathlon Canada by the prescribed deadline in the fall of 2025.
- 9.4 It is the responsibility of the athlete who is attending a foreign post-secondary educational institution to notify their institution's compliance department to confirm that they are eligible to receive AAP support. It is also the athlete's responsibility to determine any procedures that they must follow to meet the requirements of the institution's compliance department.

SECTION 10: NATIONAL PROGRAM MANDATORY EVENTS

Once carded, all athletes must attend Triathlon Canada competitions for which they are deemed eligible and selected, and any Triathlon Canada camps for which they are selected.

Mandatory events are as follows;

- Triathlon Canada National Championships (unless a written exemption is provided by Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Director)
- Any and all events as communicated by Triathlon Canada as 'targeted' or 'mandatory'
- Camps or testing that is communicated by Triathlon Canada as 'targeted' or 'mandatory'

Athletes that do not attend mandatory events after being nominated and approved for AAP funding may be recommended for withdrawal of said AAP funding.

SECTION 11: CARDING REQUIREMENTS

- 11.1 All carded athletes must complete and submit all required documentation by the specified deadline in their carding notification letter. Failure to do so will result in Triathlon Canada delaying or rescinding the athlete's nominations to Sport Canada for AAP funding. Funding will not be activated until such time that all required documentation is returned to Triathlon Canada.

- 11.2 All carded athletes shall be expected to attend to an appropriate standard of training suitable to progress their competitive standard.
- 11.3 All carded athletes AND personal coaches of carded athletes will be required to submit a Triathlon Canada approved training plan to Triathlon Canada by January 31st, 2026.
- 11.4 All carded athletes will be required to track daily training and daily monitoring/readiness in Training Peaks or similar. These records must be available for review upon request by the High Performance Director. It is understood that the athlete's personal coach is primarily responsible for ensuring the progression of the athlete's training and development throughout the year. If the athlete experiences any issues related to injury, illness, over-training, RED-S or other hinderance to training or racing, the athlete and/or their personal coach must report this to the High Performance Director as soon as possible so that IST services may be arranged to support the athlete's performance, health and wellness and return to play progression.
- 11.5 All personal coaches of carded athletes will be required to submit updates of athletes upon request from Triathlon Canada.
- 11.6 All athletes AND personal coaches of carded athletes will be expected to submit testing and monitoring data when requested by Triathlon Canada.
- 11.7 All personal coaches of carded athletes will be required to attend Carded Coaches Meetings as determined by the Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director.
- 11.8 If for any reason other than injury and illness (see Section 6) an athlete is unable to sustain or otherwise maintain a suitable level of training/racing, their carding status will be reviewed. Should the review provide a negative result, a recommendation for withdrawal of carding will be made to Sport Canada.
- 11.9 Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director in consultation with the High-Performance Advisory Committee retains decision making authority in recommendations to withdraw carding to Sport Canada.

SECTION 12: WITHDRAWAL OF CARDING

Triathlon Canada retains the right to recommend the withdrawal of AAP support at any time during the AAP funding cycle if an athlete is found to be in violation of the following;

- Triathlon Canada Athlete Agreement
- Triathlon Canada Code of Conduct
- Canadian Safe Sport Program
- Sport Canada AAP Agreement
- WADA or CCES (Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport) requirements
- Training or competition commitments
- Any requirements as defined in this document

Failure to meet agreed upon training or competition commitments may include the following:

- A decision by the carded athlete to live in an environment not conducive to high-performance achievement;
- Any deliberate action by the carded athlete that significantly risks or limits performance;
- An inability to meet the training and competition obligations outlined in the carded athlete's annual training/competition plan or the Triathlon Canada Athlete Agreement for the particular carding cycle.

If there is a change in the carded athlete's coaching, competition and training status/environment, it is the athlete's responsibility to request approval from Triathlon Canada's High-Performance Director within 48 hours of the change. Approval of the changes is at the sole discretion of Triathlon Canada.

Should Triathlon Canada wish to recommend withdrawal of carded status for a failure to meet agreed upon training and competition requirements, Triathlon Canada will first:

- Provide an oral warning to the athlete, including steps and timelines to remedy the situation and the consequences of a failure to heed the warning;
- Follow-up with a written warning to the athlete if the oral warning is not heeded.

If the above steps are not successful in resolving the matter, Triathlon Canada will provide written notice to Sport Canada, with a copy to the athlete, recommending the withdrawal of the athlete's carded status.

SECTION 13: APPEAL PROCESS

Appeals of Triathlon Canada AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of Triathlon Canada's recommendation to withdraw carding will be facilitated through Triathlon Canada's [appeal policy](#).

APPENDIX A EXEMPTION REQUEST AND PROCEDURES

As a condition of nomination to the AAP, athletes are required to compete in a minimum of five (5) World Triathlon International events (i.e. Olympic Games; Paralympic Games; Commonwealth Games; Pan American Games; World Triathlon Championship Series; World Triathlon Cup; and Continental Cup events as posted on www.triathlon.org) and the Triathlon Canada National Championships. Exemptions can only be requested for exceptional circumstances to the Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director.

1. Exceptional circumstances for exemption may include but are not limited to: a death in the immediate family, an injury, an academic conflict, or a calendar conflict with another competition that is deemed more appropriate, by the Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director. Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director has the sole authority to determine what an exceptional circumstance is.
2. Request must be made as soon as the problem/issue is known.
3. In an injury case:
 - a) unless the injury occurs within 1 weeks of the event, the request must be received at Triathlon Canada office within 1 weeks of occurrence of the injury;
 - b) when the injury occurs within 1 weeks of the event, the request must be received at the Triathlon Canada office prior to commencement of the event;
 - c) when the injury occurs at the event, the injury must be reported to the Triathlon Canada appointed chief medical officer within a week of the end of the event, who will be responsible to report it to Triathlon Canada office.
4. Except for 3 (c): the request must be made in writing, signed by the personal coach, stating the circumstances with supporting evidence faxed or mailed to the Triathlon Canada office. Injury requests must include a medical certificate that indicates the type of injury, severity and estimated recovery time. Triathlon Canada has the right to seek a second medical opinion.
5. The Triathlon Canada High-Performance Director will accept or reject all requests and deliver the decision in writing within two weeks of receiving the request.

APPENDIX B

Triathlon Canada Performance Analysis Model

INTRODUCTION

Triathlon Canada has developed an analytical model to compare athletes' results by considering both their capability levels and the uncertainty in their performance. This novel approach offers a dynamic and precise method of evaluating competitors, surpassing the limitations of traditional ranking systems.

The calculation involves two key metrics for each athlete: a performance score and a variance measure (uncertainty). The performance score estimates the athlete's capability level based on their historical race results, while the variance measure reflects the reliability of this rating, varying based on the number and type of races competed in.

The algorithm updates an athlete's capability ratings after each race. It calculates changes based on the outcome of the race relative to the expected outcomes. If the result is surprising (e.g., a lower-rated athlete wins against a higher-rated one), the changes in the ratings will be more substantial. Conversely, expected outcomes (such as a higher-rated athlete winning against a lower-rated one) result in smaller adjustments. The system is designed to be dynamic, adjusting both the capability level and the confidence in that level as more data is accumulated.

In this model, each athlete starts with an initial default rating and a significant level of uncertainty due to the limited information available about their capabilities. As athletes compete in more races, the accumulation of performance data enables the model to refine their ratings with greater accuracy and reduce the uncertainty associated with their performance. This nuanced approach not only adds context and depth to the analysis but also ensures an objective comparison of results across competitors. The benefit of this system is that it allows Triathlon Canada leadership to make well-informed decisions based not just on past finishes but through a comprehensive, data-informed comparison of potential future performances. This framework turns athlete selection for races into a strategic decision-making process, enhancing fairness and precision in choosing competitors.

DEFINITIONS**Performance Score**

Represents the perceived **overall capability level of an athlete**. In triathlon, a performance score would be an aggregate indicator of a competitor's performance relative to the field across their entire racing history. After each event, the performance score would be updated to reflect the triathlete's performance: it would increase following better-than-expected results and decrease following poorer-than-expected results. This parameter adjusts as the athlete shows improvements or declines in their performance relative to the field.

Variance

Indicates the **uncertainty or variability in the triathlete's capability estimation**, or performance score. In triathlon, a higher variance would suggest that the athlete's results are inconsistent across different events, leading to greater uncertainty about their capability level.

Position Score

This score is used to **objectively compare the results of athletes in an individual event** by mapping each athlete's placing in a race to their capability level based on the distribution of scores in the start list. It enables a direct comparison of race performance by accounting for the quality of the competition and the athlete's relative position in the event.

Predicted Position

The predicted position is calculated based on the distribution of performance scores within a specific race. This metric **anticipates where an athlete is expected to finish given their current performance score relative to the other competitors.** The prediction is derived from the model’s assessment of an athlete’s adjusted capability level and the variance associated with their past performances.

Confidence Interval

The confidence interval provides **a range within which the predicted position is likely to fall**, expressing the uncertainty associated with the prediction. This interval is influenced by the athlete’s variance, which reflects the consistency of their performances. A wider confidence interval indicates greater variability in the athlete’s results, suggesting less certainty in the predicted outcome. This statistical measure helps in assessing the reliability of the predictions made by the model, allowing for more informed strategic decisions.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Within-Race & Athlete Analysis

Outlined in the table below is a series of performances by Athlete A, highlighting the impact of race result (position score) on overall rating (performance score). In this example, results at different levels of racing are objectively compared through the position score, whilst the performance score is dynamically changing as an outcome of these results. Athlete A’s 37th placing at the 2023 World Triathlon Sprint Championships Hamburg is scored higher than the 9th placing at the 2023 World Triathlon Cup Tangier, which is higher than the 9th placing at the 2021 Americas Triathlon Cup La Paz.

Event	Performance Score	Variance	Upset Score	Position	Position Score
2023 World Triathlon Sprint Championships Hamburg	3.2816	0.2845	-0.0313	37	3.8477
2023 World Triathlon Olympic Games Test Event Paris	3.2485	0.2817	-0.0157	48	3.8383
2023 World Triathlon Championship Finals Pontevedra	3.1903	0.2885	-0.0450	44	3.6463
2023 World Triathlon Cup Tangier	3.1734	0.2921	-0.0169	9	3.5812
2023 World Triathlon Cup New Plymouth	3.3880	0.3022	-0.0051	34	3.5381
2021 Americas Triathlon Cup La Paz	3.0391	0.4192	0.0796	9	2.7801

Between Race Analysis

The table below outlines the position score for the same 10th placing at a range of World Triathlon Cups. Although all placings are the same (10th), the position score varies significantly between races. This difference is due to the quality of the field in each race; a higher position score in a race with more competitive participants reflects a higher level of competition. For example, in the 2023 World Triathlon Cup in Tiszaujvaros, Athlete A achieved a position score of 3.691765, while in the 2023 World Triathlon Cup in Yeongdo, Athlete B scored 2.948648 for the same 10th placing. This indicates that the competition in Tiszaujvaros was tougher, resulting in a higher position score for the same rank. Thus, even within the same race category, the score for a given placing can vary depending on the performance of other competitors.

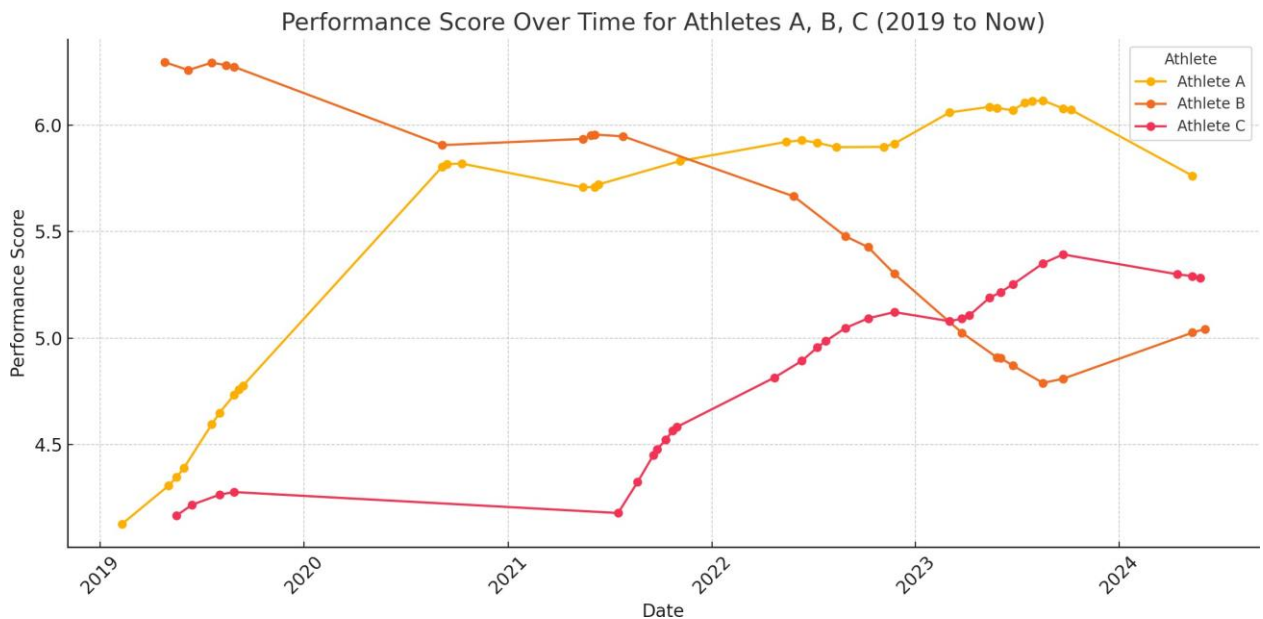
Race Name	Position Score	Position	Performance Score	Athlete
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2023 World Triathlon Cup Tiszaujvaros	3.691765	10	3.789154	A
2023 World Triathlon Cup Yeongdo	2.948648	10	2.878972	B
2023 World Triathlon Cup Tongyeong	3.462770	10	4.123066	C
2023 World Triathlon Cup Tanger	4.107320	10	4.175800	D
2024 World Triathlon Cup Hong Kong	4.073045	10	4.007698	E
2024 World Triathlon Cup Wollongong	3.498246	10	3.772439	F
2024 World Triathlon Cup Huatulco	3.311146	10	3.310101	G
2023 World Triathlon Cup Weihai	2.843895	10	2.964460	H
2024 World Triathlon Cup Chengdu	3.620499	10	3.999556	I

Analysis Over Time

The chart below tracks the performance score over time for Athlete A, B and C from the 2019 season to 2024.

- Athlete A shows a significant improvement in performance score from around 4.5 in early 2019 to over 6.0 by mid-2020, followed by fluctuations and a slight decline towards the end of 2024.
- Athlete B exhibits a high and consistent performance score around 6.0 initially, with a gradual decline starting from mid-2020, reaching below 5.5 by 2024.
- Athlete C starts with a performance score below 5.0 in early 2019, shows a brief improvement, and then declines until early 2021. From mid-2021 onwards, Athlete C demonstrates a steady increase in performance, peaking at over 5.5 by late 2023.



This visualization highlights the different performance trajectories of each athlete, with Athlete A showing strong initial improvement, Athlete B experiencing a gradual decline, and Athlete C demonstrating a significant recovery and improvement over the observed period.

CONCLUSION

This statistical model provides a robust framework for estimating and updating the capability levels of athletes in competitive sports like triathlon. Its probabilistic nature allows for a more nuanced understanding of performance differences and offers predictive capabilities for future races, ensuring a fair and objective comparison of athletes.

