



## SKATE CANADA

### 2019-2020 CARDING CRITERIA

Eligible athletes who meet the Skate Canada selection criteria to represent Skate Canada internationally in the Olympic disciplines of Ladies and Men’s Singles, Pairs, Ice Dance, and Team Event, are eligible for Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program. According to Sport Canada allocations, Skate Canada will be limited to a maximum full financial value of 30 **senior cards** (\$635,400).

Cards are designated as follows:

- Senior International: SR1 (year one) SR2 (year two)
- Senior National: SR/C1 (C1 allocated the first year of Senior eligibility)
- Development: D

Note: C1 carded athletes are funded at the Development Card level in the first year they meet the national criteria for a Senior Card even if they have previously been carded at the Development (D) level. If, however, the athlete has been previously carded at the SR1 or SR2 level has competed in an ISU World Championship and/or World Team Trophy before meeting the national criteria for the Senior Card for the first time, the athlete will be funded at the Senior Card (SR or SR1, dependent on placement) level rather than at the Development Card level.

#### **Minimum Eligibility Criteria**

In order to be eligible for nomination for carding, athletes must meet the following minimum eligibility criteria. The season best international score will be taken from the ISU Season Best Scores 2018/2019 as posted on the ISU website.

Card	Minimum Eligibility Criteria
Senior International SR1/SR2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top 8 placement plus a finish in the top 1/2 of the field (the “field” is defined as all entries participating in at least one portion of the competition including, where applicable, preliminary rounds) at the 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Championships.</li> <li>Top 1/2 of the field of all qualified teams in the World Team Trophy (applicable years the event is held)</li> <li>Athletes who do not meet the criteria but met SR1 criteria in the previous season are eligible for carding at the SR2 level.</li> </ul>
Senior National SR/C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Top three placement at the 2019 Canadian Tire National Skating Championships or</li> <li>Participation at the 2019 ISU World Figure Skating Championships or</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A 2018-2019 season best international score which is 80% (or more, rounded to the nearest whole number<sup>1</sup>) of the world win target.</li> </ul> <p>* C1 cards are awarded to athletes who meet the domestic criteria for Senior Cards for the first time. They are awarded for a period of one year and are funded at the Development Card level.</p>
<i>Restrictions to Senior National SR/C1 Cards</i>	An athlete is generally expected to be a SR Card for no more than 5 years (not necessarily consecutive), at which time it would be expected an athlete would have had an opportunity to reach the SR1/SR2 standards. However, an athlete may be carded at the (SR/C1) for 6 years or beyond if he/she continues to demonstrate continued progression toward achieving the SR1/SR2 card level. This is demonstrated through stronger performances/placements at international events throughout the competitive season, as reported by Skate Canada.
Development Cards D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participant in the ISU Grand Prix, ISU Challenger, ISU Junior Grand Prix series, and ISU Four Continents in the 2018-2019 season. The 2018-2019 season best score at such designated competitions must be 60% (or more, rounded to the nearest whole number) of the world win target in order to be eligible for nomination.</li> <li>• Top 8 at the 2019 ISU Junior World Championships</li> </ul>
<i>Exceptions to Development Cards</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any athlete who has previously achieved the SR 1, SR 2 or SR card level for 3 or more years and is now at an age exceeding the ISU definition of Junior age is not eligible for a Development Card.</li> <li>• Development cards are only available for 4 years while competing at the Senior International level. However, an athlete who competes in Pair Skating or Ice Dancing and has formed a new partnership may be eligible for a 5<sup>th</sup> year of Development carding if the new partnership demonstrates potential for improved results.</li> <li>• If two pair or ice dance athletes who have achieved the SR 1, SR 2 or SR card in past two seasons form a new partnership, they may be eligible for Development carding if the new partnership demonstrates the potential to achieve SR card or higher in the upcoming season.</li> </ul>

A minimum condition of carding in all cases is that the athlete has a Skate Canada approved yearly training plan and will be monitored by Skate Canada at an approved competitive event.

<sup>1</sup> Examples of “rounded to the nearest whole number” are: (a) 86.44 will be rounded to 86, (b) 86.50 will be rounded to 87, (c) 86.73 will be rounded to 87.

Definition: in all cases in this document the “world win target” is understood to be the average between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place scores (rounded down to the nearest whole number<sup>2</sup>) at the 2019 ISU World Championships.

## **Injury Policy**

*In the event that injuries, illness, pregnancy or other exceptional circumstances prevent a skater who is currently carded at the SR1/SR2 level from competing in relevant competitions or affect his/her performance, Skate Canada may, within the maximum number of cards available, make injury nominations for Sport Canada's consideration based on AAP policy on "Curtailment of Training and Competition for Health-Related Reasons" (policy attached as Appendix A). If an injury nomination is made, the athlete(s) nominated will receive the final card(s) after all SR1 and SR2 nominations for all disciplines are determined according to the quota made available by Sport Canada.*

### **Carding time Period**

Carding normally operates on a twelve-month cycle, beginning July 1 through to June 30.

**Senior International (SR1/SR2) Cards:** Athletes that qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 Card and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2 Card. The second year is subject to the athlete being re-nominated by Skate Canada, including training and competitive program approved by Skate Canada and Sport Canada and signing a Skate Canada Athlete agreement and completing the AAP application form for the year in question. Athletes who currently have an SR1 card and meet the international criteria in the next season are again carded at the SR1 level.

**Senior National (SR/C1) and Development (Dev)Cards** are generally granted for a one year period.

### **Special Considerations**

#### **Athletes Retiring**

1. ***Prior to Carding Nominations.*** Athletes who retire prior to the date of the annual carding nominations (May 1) forfeit carding. In such cases, the qualifying process outlined above shall be applied without moving lower placed athletes up the corresponding placement.
2. ***Following the Approval of Carding Nominations.*** In the event an athlete retires after having received carding support for the particular year the following will apply:
  - a) If retirement occurs before the end of their competitive season<sup>3</sup>, carding will immediately terminate. Sport Canada's normal policy is to not replace carded athletes in mid cycle. If, under special circumstances, an unforeseen retirement occurs, Sport

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<sup>2</sup> Examples of “rounded down to the nearest whole number” are: (a) 86.44 will be rounded to 86, (b) 86.50 will be rounded to 86, (c) 86.73 will be rounded to 86.

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of the carding regulations, the “end of competitive season” will be defined as the end of the National Championships or the last ISU championships for which the athlete/team has named as entry or alternate - whichever is later.

Canada *may* consider a reallocation using the approved carding criteria for the current carding criteria.

### **Returning Olympic/World Podium Athletes**

An athlete/team who is returning to international competition after a period of no more than 2 competitive seasons may be nominated for an SR or SR2 card if they demonstrate the following criteria:

- Has/have previously obtained a podium result at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and/or 2017 or 2018 World Championships,
- A commitment to international competition in the upcoming season, and
- An approved training and coaching plan.

In the case of an athlete in pair or ice dance returning with a new partner, only the medalist in question will be eligible for nomination for a SR card. The new partnership will be assessed as per the Athlete Changing Partners – Prior to carding nominations' clause below.

Returning athletes will be ranked at the end of all SR card nominations, in the discipline order for the given carding cycle. In the case of more than one such nomination within any discipline, the nominations will be ranked in order of their placement at the 2018 Olympic Winter Games. Those with no Olympic result will be ranked after the returning Olympic medalist(s) and ranked in order of their placement at the 2018 Worlds, followed by the 2017 Worlds. Placement in the team event will not be used in any of these cases.

### **Athletes Changing Partners**

#### **1. *Prior to Carding Nominations***

An athlete, in Pair or Dance, who was previously carded (at any level) in the previous season who separates for whatever reason and is continuing to skate and search for a partner while following a training program approved by Skate Canada, shall be included in the qualifying process. In all such cases, eligibility and ranking shall be determined according to their results with their previous partner. For an athlete carded at (or eligible for) the **Senior International Card** level any change in partners would result in forfeit of the potential for a "second year Senior card" (i.e., the athlete is not eligible for nomination at SR1).

- i. In the case that the athlete(s) in question form a new partnership prior to nomination then the nomination can only be considered if the new partnership receives a successful evaluation conducted by Skate Canada.
- ii. In the case that the athlete(s) in question do not form a new partnership prior to nomination, the athlete(s) in question must inform Skate Canada in writing by August 15<sup>th</sup>, if they have formed a new partnership. This new partnership must then receive a successful evaluation conducted by Skate Canada by September 30<sup>th</sup>. If all criteria are met by the deadlines outlined above, carding will continue. If deadlines are not met or the criteria are not successful, carding will cease. This carding position shall, in turn, be re-directed to another qualified athlete using the applicable steps outlined in the carding criteria.

## 2. ***Following the Approval of Carding Nominations***

- i. When an athlete, in Pair or Dance, who separates for whatever reason before the end of their competitive season and after having been carded for the particular year, and is continuing to skate and search for a partner while following a training program approved by Skate Canada, carding will be immediately put on hold. Skate Canada shall provide a maximum of four months from the date of the split, but no later than May 1, for the athlete to secure a new partner and undergo an evaluation conducted by Skate Canada.
  - a) If the evaluation is positive, the originally carded athlete will be carded retroactive to when carding had been suspended. The new partner will not be carded unless they otherwise qualified for carding independent of this new partnership. For an athlete carded at the Senior International card level this change in partners would result in forfeit of the potential for a "second year **Senior** International card (SR2)".
  - b) If, by May 1<sup>st</sup>, the athlete does not establish a new partnership in the same discipline or the evaluation is not considered positive by Skate Canada, carding will be terminated.

### **Allocation Procedure for Skate Canada cards:**

Cards will be allocated according to the following procedure until there are no remaining cards or there are no remaining eligible athletes. Note, if the last card(s) to be allocated are to a Pair or Dance team and the value remaining is less than the 2 full cards then the remaining value should be split by the Pair or Dance team. A minimum of 4 months of card support must be available to be allocated to an athlete.

Step 1.a: Ranking of disciplines: The disciplines will be ranked according to the highest finishing place at the 2019 World Figure Skating Championships. If a tie exists, then the priority will be given to the discipline whose top entry's total score represents a higher percentage of the winning score at the 2019 World Figure Skating Championships. At each stage of card allocation, this ranked order will be used. Note: In the case that two or more disciplines remain tied (eg. Multiple first placements at the 2019 World Figure Skating Championships), the tie will be broken by applying the same procedure to the second entries in those disciplines.

Step 1.b: Rotation of Ladies and Men in pair and dance teams: In regard to the order of the names listed of a pair or dance team on the carding nomination list; in even years the ladies will be listed first, and then the men. In odd years the men will be listed first, and then the ladies.

There are 4 steps of allocation, corresponding to the level of carding: a) SR1, b) SR2, c) SR or C1, and d) DEV. At each step, allocation begins with the highest ranked discipline and proceeds through each discipline by rank (beginning again at the first rank and continuing until there are no remaining cards or there are no remaining eligible athletes).

Step 2: Allocation of Senior International Cards (SR1)

As the maximum number of athletes who can possibly meet the Senior International criteria in any given year is 18 (less than the allocated 30), all athletes who meet the Senior International criteria will be nominated for SR1 carding, according to ranking at the 2019 World Figure Skating Championships.

Step 3: Allocation of Year two Senior International Cards (SR2)

Within the remaining cards, athletes who met SR1 carding in the previous season but who failed to meet the Senior International card criteria will be ranked for allocation of SR2 cards. Within disciplines, athletes/ teams will be ranked according to their finish at the 2019 National Championships.

Step 4: Allocation of Senior National Cards (SR/C1)

Of all athletes/ teams eligible for Senior National Cards a ranking within discipline will be determined through the following process

1. Those athletes who participated at the 2019 World Figure Skating Championships will be ranked highest. In the case of more than one athlete/ team, they will be ranked according to their placement at the 2019 World Figure Skating Championships
2. The remaining athletes will be awarded the subsequent rankings according to their top three placements at the preceding National Championships in the Senior event.
3. Eligible athletes who did not place in the top three placements at the preceding National Championships in the Senior event will be awarded the subsequent rankings according to their season highest score at Skate Canada designated international events.

Nominations for SR cards will be allocated (within the maximum number of cards) according to this ranking within by discipline ranking.

Step 5: Allocation of Development Cards (D)

The number of available development cards is determined by the number of Senior (SR1, SR2, SR and C1) cards which have been allocated by steps 2-5. Within each discipline, athletes who meet the minimum eligibility criteria for development cards will be ranked as follows:

1. The highest ranking is awarded to the top five finishers at the preceding World Junior Championships, according to placement
2. All remaining athletes will be ranked according to their season highest score at Skate Canada designated international events.

Nominations for D cards will be allocated (within the maximum number of cards) according to this ranking within by discipline ranking.

Special Cases:

- (A) In the case where there is only one card remaining and the next allocation is to a dance or pair team, and there is 12 months available, this last card will be allocated as 6 month cards to the two team members (i.e., each receiving 6 months of carding support)
- (B) In the case where there is only one card remaining and the next allocation is to a dance or pair team, and there is 8- 12 months available, this last card will be split equally.
- (C) In the case where there is only one card remaining and the next allocation is to a dance or pair team, and there is less than 8 months available, it will be given to one member of the pair or dance team. In even years the ladies will be the recipient, and in odd years the men will be the recipient.

Note: in any case in which a card is forfeited after allocation and a provision exists for the card to be reallocated to the next qualified athlete, it is understood that the next qualified athlete will be as follows:

- (i) In the case that the card quota becomes available in the carding cycle, and the card is at the SR/C1 level, the next qualified athlete(s) will be according to the overall ranking.
- (ii) In the case that the card quota becomes available in the carding cycle, and the card is at the Development level, the next qualified athlete(s) will be the next ranked athlete(s) within the discipline of the forfeited card.

The athlete carding nomination list will be published by Skate Canada on or before June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Upon publication, athletes have 5 days to notify Skate Canada, through the High Performance Director, if there have been any errors or omissions in the calculation of scores.