



Judo Canada

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2026 Athlete Assistance Program

2026 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP)

Objective: To identify and support Canadian athletes performing at or having the greatest potential to achieve top 8 results at the Olympic/Paralympics Games and World Championships. Judo Canada's carding cycle runs from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

The quota of senior cards allocated by Sport Canada is TBC or its equivalent value of TBC. This amount is subject to change at any time by Sport Canada. Athletes will be recommended for 12 months of carding support, however, if upon the application of the carding criteria less than 12 months of carding is available, an eligible athlete may be recommended if there are four or more months of support remaining.

To be eligible for the AAP, an athlete must meet the requirements described in Section 2.3 of the "Athlete Assistant Program (AAP) Policies and Procedures": <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/athlete-assistance/policies-procedures.html>.

SCHEDULE A: CARDING OF ABLE-BODIED JUDOKA

Judo Canada's High-Performance Committee, upon the 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 procedures.

1. CONDITIONS FOR ALL CARDS

1.1 All carded athletes will be based at the National Training Centre at INS Québec in Montreal (NTC). Being based at the training centre (NTC) means that the carded athlete commits to train full-time at the NTC in Montreal. The carded athlete accepts to follow the yearly training plan designed by the High-Performance Director. This plan includes all NTC-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.

1.2 All carded athletes with a D card under the age of 18 on December 31, 2025, carded under priority no 2 (see 2, Prioritization) will be based at the National Training Centre at INS Québec in Montreal (NTC) or at one of the designated Regional Training Centres (RTC), i.e., Toronto, Ontario, Abbotsford, British Columbia





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or Lethbridge, Alberta. Being based at the National training centre (NTC) or designated RTC means that the carded athlete commits to train full-time at the NTC or RTC. The carded athlete accepts to follow the yearly training plan designed by the High-Performance Director and the RTC Coach. 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 and RTC Coach.

- 1.3 The years an athlete is carded while of Cadet or Junior IJF age, do not count towards the total years of carding as a senior-age athlete.
- 1.4 Carding selection and the continuation of carding are dependent upon the athlete's adherence to the obligations outlined in the Athlete Agreement (Policy 13). The athlete must agree to follow the Agreed Upon Training Plan and administrative policies of Judo Canada (National Team Handbook 2025). Judo Canada will notify Sport Canada to start carding payment only when the signed Athlete Agreement and Agreed Upon Training Plan have been received at Judo Canada's office.
- 1.5 Carded athletes must take part in all competitions, testing, medical examinations, and national training camps for which they are selected. Should extenuating circumstances arise that prevent participation in some of these events, athletes must apply to the High-Performance Committee of Judo Canada for an exemption (see Policy 12- Exemption request procedure).
- 1.6 Should an athlete fail to participate in a scheduled event as required per Agreed Upon Training Plan - Appendix A of the Athlete Agreement, the High Performance Committee will apply a sanction, as specified in the Athlete Agreement.
- 1.7 Cards are subject to termination during the carding season. The National Coaching Staff will evaluate the performance of the carded athlete, and if it is determined that the athlete does not respect the conditions of the Athlete Agreement, the card will be removed and possibly transferred to the next applicant (see section 7).

2. PRIORITIZATION

Cards will be allocated to eligible athletes in the following order of priority:

- 1) Athletes eligible for Sport Canada's "Senior International Performance" cards (SR1/SR2)
- 2) Athletes eligible for "Development" cards (D) U18 & U21- 6 D cards.

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Remainder of cards will be distributed in this order of priority until carding quotas are filled:

3) Athletes eligible for “Senior Performance” cards (SR).

****NEW For the following priorities all athletes must be based at the National Training Center since January 1, 2025, to be eligible.**

4) Two (2) highest ranked athletes eligible for “Development” cards (D) U23

5) One (1) Highest ranked athlete eligible for “Development” cards (D) U21

6) One (1) Highest ranked athlete eligible for “Development” cards (D) U18

7) One (1) highest ranked athlete eligible for “Development” cards (D) U23

8) One (1) Highest ranked athlete eligible for “Development” cards (D) U21

9) One (1) Highest ranked athlete eligible for “Development” cards (D) U18

10) Repeat priorities 7, 8 and 9 until quota is completed.

3. SENIOR INTERNATIONAL PERFORMANCE CARDING CRITERIA (SR1/SR2)

Sport Canada’s Senior International Performance Card (SR1/SR2) is awarded to an athlete placing in the top 8 and top 1/2 **at the 2025 Senior World Championships**. This card is valid for a two-year period (year one designated as SR1; year two designated as SR2). However, the second year of carding is not automatic. An athlete must be nominated to Sport Canada by Judo Canada, thus he/she must:

- Meet the minimum standard to qualify for the next Senior World Championships (or Olympics);
- Respect the conditions of Judo Canada’s Athlete Agreement.

4. DEVELOPMENT CARDING CRITERIA (D) U18 & U21

4.1 General information

Objective: To identify and support young Canadian judokas with a superior international potential, at an earlier time of their athletic development than is possible with the senior carding system. The program must allow for an enriched training and competitive schedule that will prepare selected athletes to gain skills critical for success at the senior level.

The Development Card U18 or U21 is valid for a one-year period. Only athletes under 21 years old (U21) as of December 31, 2025, and athletes under 18 years old (U18) as of December 31, 2025, are eligible for these cards. Judo Canada’s financial support provided for athletes carded at the D level is designated for training, equipment, and competition costs. The athlete may be required to cost share in some competitions and camps, based on the support received. Any cost-sharing requirements will be so noted in the Athlete Agreement.





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Six (6) Development Cards (U18 and U21) will be awarded.

4.2 Development Card Selection Procedure

Eligible athletes will be ranked according to Judo Canada ranking points as per National Team Policy 5. No minimum performance standard requirement is needed for those six development cards.

1. **Female:** The three (3) highest ranked eligible U21 athletes, with at least one being U18, will be nominated for carding.
2. **Male:** The three (3) highest ranked eligible U21 athletes, with at least one being U18, will be nominated for carding.

Note: Athletes who qualify for a Development Card and who also qualify for a Senior Performance Card have the choice of accepting any of these. If an athlete chooses to accept the Senior Performance Card, this card will count towards the total years of carding as a senior age athlete, unless the athlete is still an IJF Junior (i.e., U21) in 2025 (see 1.3). Athletes who elect to accept a Senior Performance Card will be eligible for a Development Card in future seasons if they meet the eligibility criteria for such card.

5. SENIOR PERFORMANCE CARDING CRITERIA (SR)

5.1 Senior Performance Carding Criteria (SR)

Senior Performance Cards (SR) are awarded for a one-year period to athletes according to their rank in the NATIONAL TEAM POINTS RANKINGS (NT Policies 3 to 5). To be eligible for a "Senior Performance" card nomination, athletes must meet the following criteria:

ENTERING year carded as a senior age athlete.	Performance Standards required for carding	National Championships Standard*
1st through 4th	Top 60 in world ranking position on the December 31, 2025 or; 750 Senior World Ranking Points on December 31, 2025 or; Top 5 in IJF Grand prix or Grand Slam in calendar year 2025.	Participate** in the 2025 Open Senior Nationals
5th through 7th	Top 40 in world ranking position on the December 31, 2025 or; 1000 Senior World Ranking Points on December 31, 2025 or;	Participate** in the 2025 Open Senior Nationals

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	Top 3 in IJF Grand prix or Grand Slam in calendar year 2025.	
8th and beyond	<p>Top 40 in world ranking position on the December 31, 2025 or; 1000 Senior World Ranking Points on December 31, 2025 or; Top 3 in IJF Grand prix or Grand Slam in calendar year 2025. AND has placed in the top 8 at Senior World Championships or Olympic Games within the past four years.</p>	Participate** in the 2025 Open Senior Nationals

* Unless cancelled or granted an exemption by the High Performance Committee (see Policy 12).

** Participation in a tournament is defined as taking part in the first bout of the tournament.

5.2 Carding Nomination Procedures for Senior Performance

- At the end of the carding qualification period (December 31, 2025), athletes will be prioritized for nomination based on National Team Points as per NT Policies 3 to 5. It is a possibility that there are not enough cards for all athletes meeting minimum standards.
- Athletes will be removed from the prioritized list if they:
 - do not meet the minimum Performance Standards.
 - did not fulfill the National Championships Standard.
 - are not involved in a High Performance training program.
 - Refuse in writing, prior or after the nomination, to respect relocation criteria or any other requirement.

6. REMAINING CARDS – PRIORITY 4 to 10 – Development Card (See “2. Prioritization,” above)

Objective: To identify and support young Canadian judokas with superior international potential, transitioning into the senior carding system. The program must allow for an enriched training and competitive schedule that will prepare selected athletes to gain skills critical to succeed at the senior level.

6.1 All the Development Cards are valid for a one-year period. Judo Canada’s financial support provided for athletes carded at the D level is designated for training, equipment, and competition costs. The athlete may be required to cost share in some competitions and camps, based on the support received. Any cost-sharing requirements will be so noted in the Athlete Agreement.





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6.2 As per the priority list presented above in point, “2. Prioritization,” once priorities 1, 2 and 3 are filled the remaining available cards will be distributed as per priorities 4 to 10 until the carding quota allocation is fully distributed. No maximum or minimum numbers of cards are reserved for each priority.

6.3 U23 is defined as athletes under 23 years old (U23) as of December 31, 2025.

6.4 The number of Development Cards available as per priorities 4 to 10 will depend on the following:

- a) Total quota of cards allocated by Sport Canada to Judo Canada.
- b) Total number of Senior International cards & Senior Performance cards allocated to eligible judokas.

The remaining available cards will be designated as Development Cards.

6.5 Eligibility Conditions for Development Cards:

- a) Participate u18 , u21 or Senior Open Nationals 2025*.
- b) Athletes must be involved in a High-Performance training program.

* Unless cancelled or granted an exemption by the High-Performance Committee (see Policy 10).

6.6 Selection and nomination procedures for Development Carding Criteria priorities 4 to 10:

- a) All U23, U21, U18 athletes, as specified prior and below who did not get nominated for a card, as per priority 1, 2 and 3, but meets the condition to be based at the National Training Center since January 1, 2025, will be ranked as per National Team Points (Policies 3 to 5 NT Handbook 2025).
- b) The highest ranked eligible athletes (Male and Female combined), as per available cards and respecting the priorities set in point 2 will be nominated for carding.

1. FAILURE TO MEET RENEWAL CRITERIA FOR HEALTH-RELATED REASONS (Illness, Injury or Pregnancy)

A carded athlete who, at the end of the carding cycle, has not achieved the standard required for the renewal of his/her carding status solely because of health-related reasons may be considered for renomination for the upcoming year provided the following conditions are met:

- The athlete had at least one past performance of top 8 at the Senior World championships or Olympic Games in the last four years.
- The athlete must have informed Judo Canada as soon as possible and, if the health issue happened prior the Elite Senior Nationals and requested an exemption as per Policy 10.
- 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.





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- 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 judgment 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.

If more than one athlete meets this clause, they will be ranked based on the previous season's international ranking.

8. WITHDRAWAL OF CARDING SUPPORT

In the situation that the athlete has failed to conform to its obligation under the athlete's agreement, Judo Canada, upon the recommendation from the High-Performance Director, may at any time recommend the withdrawal of an athlete's carded status to Sport Canada, provided that the following process has been followed:

- (a) Judo Canada will notify the athlete in writing of the particulars of the alleged default (the "Default Notice");
- (b) to indicate in the Default Notice, the steps to be taken to remedy the situation, and set out a reasonable period of time within which steps may be taken;
- (c) that the athlete receiving the Default Notice remedies the situation within the specified period of time, the dispute will be considered resolved and neither party will have any recourse against the other concerning the matter alleged; and
- (d) that Judo Canada alleges that the athlete has not remedied the situation within the period of time set out and Judo Canada still wishes recourse against the athlete concerning the matters alleged to comprise the default, the athlete will file an appeal through the process set out in Judo Canada's *Appeals Policy*.

9. ATHLETES REQUESTING CHANGE OF NATIONALITY

Judo Canada will NOT sign a release for athletes requesting a switch of nationality to compete internationally (IJF events) if they have been carded in the past. The three-year probation period requested by the IJF will have to be respected.

10. 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 (2019). This guide explains the details of





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

1. APPEALS TO CARDING NOMINATIONS

Appeals to carding nominations are limited to incorrect application of policy or procedures. In case of an appeal, the [Judo Canada Appeal Policy](#) will apply.

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