

Paralympic Judo Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

2026 ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AAP) Paralympic Judo.

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, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

The current number of senior cards allocated by Sport Canada is the equivalent of \$52,200 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 Para Head Coach, upon recommendation from the CEO, 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](#)

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 Judo 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 Judo Canada and following an approved training and competitive program (Agreed Upon Training Plan). The athlete must sign the Athlete Agreement and complete the AAP Application form for the year in question.

Such an athlete will receive \$2,175 per month, (\$26,100 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 \$2,175 per month, (\$26,100 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 **\$1,305 per month, (up to \$15,660 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 a **Agreed Upon Training Plan** and administrative policies of Judo Canada, with exception of those policies that are designated specifically for able body athletes. (NT Handbook).

1.5 Qualification Period

The qualification period is from January 1, **2025**, to December 31, **2025**.

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 **2024 Paralympic Games**.

2.2 Senior National Card (SR):

- 2) Medal Performance at IBSA approved World Ranking Event.
- 3) 5th or 7th place at IBSA approved 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 4th or 5th, with a minimum of 1 win, at an International Judo Tournament for Visually Impaired sanctioned by IBSA (i.e. German Open).
- 8) Athletes with 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 a 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 future 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.
- 9) Athletes with no formal judo experience and formally classified as eligible to compete in Paralympic judo may be recommended for up to a 6-month Development card based on assessment of their future performance potential. Such a 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 World Cups; Pan-Am Championships and IBSA Open events (minimum 3 matches).
- ii) Dedication to training at their designated training location (Home base coaches, Para Head Coach and **CEO** will make this evaluation).

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). 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. It is expected that after such length of time the supported athlete meets the SR carding criteria.

3. 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 Para Head Coach with the approval of the CEO, 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.

4. CONDITIONS FOR ALL CARDS

- a. All senior carded athletes who are classified as a J2 will be based in a training facility and environment approved by Judo Canada. The carded athlete accepts to follow the **Agreed Upon Training Plan**. This plan includes all), performance tests, medical exams, tournaments, training camps, or training periods that may take place in Canada or abroad, as approved by the Para-Head-Coach.
- b. 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. The carded athlete accepts to follow the **Agreed Upon Training Plan**. 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 Para-Head-Coach.
- c. 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 **Agreed Upon Training Plan**. 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 Para-Head-Coach.

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 inform Judo Canada as soon as possible and if the health issue happens.

- 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 (**Pregnancies do not count towards this total**).

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%20assistance%20program%202015%201449583292452_eng.pdf?WT.contentAuthority=13.0)

Or Judo Canada at: 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.