



**RHYTHMIC GYMNSTICS – GCG GROUP
SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2017 CARDING CYCLE**

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 In 2017, the carding cycle for athletes named to the GCG Group in Rhythmic Gymnastics is from January 1 to December 31 (12 months).
- 1.2 The decision for nominating athletes for the 2017 carding cycle will take place following the GCG Group Open Selection Activity taking place October 14-15 2016. This Selection Activity will be open to GCG members in good standing who are Canadian citizens and who were born in 2001 or earlier. The carding nomination will be based on the results of this selection activity and on the athlete's stated commitment to the GCG Rhythmic Group Program.
- 1.3 Sport Canada has allocated a carding quota of the equivalent of 6 Senior cards (\$108,000) to the GCG Rhythmic Group program. The total available carding funds will be divided amongst the named GCG Group athletes, therefore the athletes may be recommended for less than twelve (12) months of support.
- If, after all named GCG Group members have been allocated appropriate carding, there are carding funds remaining in the overall GCG allocation, then remaining funds may be allocated to the top-ranked Senior Individual athlete. It is understood that this is subject to availability of the remaining funds and that the athlete may be recommended for less than twelve (12) months of support.
- 1.4 Should the carding allocation provided to the RG Program change, the RG National Team Director (NTD) in consultation with the Chief Technical Officer (CTO), or designate will adjust the prioritization system and publish the changes as soon as possible.
- 1.5 The RG National Team Director (NTD) and Chief Technical Officer (CTO), or designate are responsible to nominate athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP).
- 1.6 Sport Canada is responsible for approving nominations in accordance with AAP policies and the published GCG approved AAP compliant carding criteria.
- 1.7 In order for an athlete to be eligible for Carding as a GCG Group member, the athlete must:
- i) meet the requirements of Sport Canada's AAP regulations. The AAP Policies and Procedures and Guidelines can be found at <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1414514343755/1414514385181>;
 - ii) attend the GCG Group Open Selection Activity and be selected as one of the members of the GCG Group for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2017 and;
 - iii) sign the GCG Carding Agreement, the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) athlete agreement and the GCG Group Athlete Agreement.

- 1.8 In order for an athlete to be eligible for Carding as a Senior Individual Athlete, the athlete must:
- i) meet the requirements of Sport Canada's AAP regulations. The AAP Policies and Procedures and Guidelines can be found at <http://canada.pch.gc.ca/eng/1414514343755/1414514385181>;
 - ii) have competed at BOTH the 2016 Elite Canada, or designate, AND 2016 Canadian Championships in the Senior High Performance Category;
 - iii) be the first ranked GCG Senior National Team athlete as of June 1, 2016;
 - iv) have achieved a top 24 All-Around ranking at a minimum of 3 World Cup events during the period of January 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016 and;
 - iii) sign the GCG Carding Agreement, CADP Athlete Agreement and the GCG National Team Athlete Agreement

2.0 PRIORITIZATION

Priority 1 – Senior (SR) card

Athletes selected to the 2017 GCG Group who were also members of the 2016 GCG Group and who therefore received AAP carding in 2016 will have first priority for nominations and will receive SR cards.

Priority 2 – C1 card

Athletes selected to the 2017 GCG Group who have never received AAP carding will have second priority for nominations and will receive C1 cards.

Priority 3 – SR/C1 card

If carding funds remain after all named GCG Group athletes have been carded, the first-ranked Senior Individual athlete will have third priority for remaining funds and will receive either a C1 card (if not previously carded in 2016) or a SR card (if previously carded at the senior level).

The final decision on the number of months of carding the Group athletes will be recommended for, will be a function of the athlete national ranking base from the Open Selection Activity and of the number of athletes selected to the 2017 GCG Group.

The final decision on the number of months of carding an Individual athlete will be recommended for will be a function of the amount of carding funds remaining in the overall quota after all GCG Group athletes have been carded. A minimum of four (4) months of carding funds must remain to permit carding of an individual athlete.

3.0 COMMITMENT TO THE NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

In order to be nominated for carding as a GCG Group athlete, the athlete must provide a written statement to the effect that, during the carding cycle, the athlete:

- intends to continue to train and compete with the GCG Group at the level expected of a carded athlete until December 31, 2017;
- will take part in all training, monitoring and competition activities of the GCG Group Program

In order to be nominated for carding as an Individual athlete, the athlete must provide a written statement to the effect that, during the carding cycle, the athlete:

- intends to continue to train and compete as an Individual athlete at the level expected of a carded athlete until December 31, 2017;

- will take part in all required training, monitoring and competition activities of the GCG Senior National Team Program
- provides a complete yearly training and competition plan for 2017 to the GCG NTD no later than November 1, 2016. The plan must meet Gymnastic Canada requirements.

4.0 ATHLETE WITHDRAWAL

The NTD/PD, under the following conditions, may recommend the withdrawal of the carded status to Sport Canada:

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

In a situation where a carded Group athlete voluntarily resigns from the Group at any time during the carding cycle, Gymnastics Canada will notify Sport Canada that carding funds for this athlete will be discontinued as of the last day of the month of resignation.

5.0 GROUP ATHLETE REPLACEMENT

In the event that an athlete resigns or is removed from the Group during the carding cycle, Gymnastics Canada will determine if a replacement athlete is required and, if so, reserves the right to select a replacement athlete for the remainder of the carding cycle without conducting an open selection event.

When a replacement athlete is required, Gymnastics Canada will review the athlete rankings from the 2016 open selection event to identify any athletes who meet the specific needs of the Group with regard to the following criteria:

- Resident in Toronto area with accessibility to GCG training site or, if not a Toronto resident, agrees to relocate to Toronto within 2 weeks and within close proximity to the GCG training facilities
- Same visual fit and physical performance qualities as existing GCG Group members
- Possess matching technical skills with competitive apparatus using similar form and technique as existing group members
- Have demonstrated maturity, reliability, consistency and strong work ethic in training and in Senior national level competition
- Have recent experience in Group at a national level

- Willing to commit immediately to GCG Group program and begin training full routines
- No injury issues

Where no athletes from the open selection meet these criteria, GCG reserves the right to identify and rank other athletes from the High Performance and National Open categories who meet the above criteria.

When a replacement athlete is confirmed, this athlete will be nominated for carding for the remainder of the carding cycle, if the equivalent of 4 months of carding support is available.

6.0 APPEALS

Appeals of GCG's AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of a GCG's recommendation to withdraw carding may be pursued only through the WSWC'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.