



**RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS – GCG GROUP
SPORT CANADA ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2018 CARDING CYCLE**

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 In 2018, 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 to the 2018 carding cycle will take place following the two-stage GCG Group Open Selection Activity. The first stage will take place October 27 to 28 2017 which will be open to GCG members in good standing who are Canadian citizens and who are born in 2002 or earlier. The second stage will take place from October 30 to November 11 2017, totaling 40 hours of training, which will be open to up to 10 athletes who took part in the first stage of the Open Selection Activity. The carding nomination will be based on the results of this two-part 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. The athlete may be recommended for less than twelve (12) months of support.
- 1.4 Should Sport Canada change the carding allocation provided to the RG Program after publication of this document, the RG National Team Director (NTD) in consultation with the High Performance Director (HPD) will adjust the prioritization system and publish the changes in a timely fashion.
- 1.5 The RG National Team Director (NTD) and High Performance Director (HPD) are responsible for nominating athletes to Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for consideration.
- 1.6 Sport Canada has final responsibility for confirming athletes for support 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 Activities, unless a request for an exemption due to injury, illness or other legitimate circumstance is approved in advance in writing by the RG National Team Director; and be selected as one of the members of the GCG Group for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2018 and;

- iv) 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 2017 Elite Canada, or designate, AND 2017 Canadian Championships, or designate, in the Senior High Performance Category, unless a request for an exemption due to injury, illness or other legitimate circumstance is approved in advance in writing by the RG National Team Director;
 - iii) be the first ranked GCG Senior National Team athlete as of June 1, 2017;
 - iv) have attended a minimum of one World Cup/World Challenge Cup and the 2017 World Championships during the period of January 1 2017 to October 31 2017.
 - v) must have received a personal best during one of the following events: 2017 Canadian Championships, World Cup, World Challenge Cup or World Championships, where personal best is defined as increasing the athlete's individual apparatus and/or All-Around total score from Elite Canada 2017, or designate;
 - vi) sign the GCG Carding Agreement, CADP Athlete Agreement and the GCG National Team Athlete Agreement

2.0 PRIORITIZATION

Priority 1 – Senior (SR) Card (Group)

Athletes selected to the 2018 GCG Group who were also members of the 2017 GCG Group and who received AAP carding in 2017 will have first priority for nominations and will receive SR cards.

Priority 2 – SR Injury Card (Group)

Athletes selected to the 2018 GCG Group who meet the injury card requirements (as stated in section 3.0) and were also members of the 2017 GCG Group will have second priority for nominations and will receive a SR card

Priority 3 – C1 Card (Group)

Athletes selected to the 2018 GCG Group who have never received AAP carding will have third priority for nominations and will receive C1 cards.

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 Activities and of the number of athletes selected to the 2018 GCG Group.

Priority 4– SR/C1 Card (Individual)

If carding funds remain after all named GCG Group athletes have been carded, the first-ranked Senior Individual athlete will have fourth priority for remaining funds and will receive either a C1 card (if not previously carded in 2017) or a SR card (if previously carded at the senior level).

Priority 5 – SR Injury Card (Individual)

If carding funds remain after all named GCG Group athletes have been carded, the first-ranked Senior Individual athlete, who meets the injury card requirements (as stated in section 3.0), will have fifth priority for remaining funds and will receive a SR card.

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 INJURY CARD

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 provided the following conditions are met:

- Athletes (Group and/or Individual) who are currently carded and who become injured must submit a Notification of Injury email to the RG National Team Director within 30 calendar days to maintain their carding status during the carding cycle.
- To renew carding, the athlete must submit a medical doctor's diagnosis and prognosis for the athlete's return to high performance training and competition, and must include a rehabilitation and training program prepared by the athlete, coach and coordinating therapist which is acceptable to the RG IST Lead.
- A request for an Injury Card does not guaranteed nomination. Athletes may be nominated for Injury Cards at the sole discretion of the RG National Team Director based on the number of cards available, the nature and details of the diagnosis and prognosis, the documentation provided, the quality of the athlete's rehabilitation and training plan, the advice of medical experts, and the realistic expectation that the athlete can continue to progress towards
- Athletes may only receive an Injury Card for an injury once over their rhythmic gymnastics career

4.0 COMMITMENT TO THE NATIONAL TEAM PROGRAM

In order to be considered for nomination 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, 2018;
- will take part in all training, monitoring and competition activities of the GCG Group Program

In order to be considered for nomination 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, 2018;
- 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 2018 to the GCG NTD no later than November 1, 2017. The plan must meet Gymnastic Canada requirements and must be received before any funds will be released.

5.0 ATHLETE WITHDRAWAL

The NTD and the HPD, or designate, 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.

6.0 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 2017 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.

7.0 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 NSO's internal 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.