

**SECTION 14.1**

**CARDED ATHLETE PROGRAM**

## ARTICLE I

## INTRODUCTION

The CAWA carding program is funded by Sport Canada through the Athlete Assistance Program. The purpose of the carding program is to ensure that athletes identified with international potential are afforded the necessary opportunities in order to achieve international success.

Carded athlete status is a privilege designated for athletes that have demonstrated, and continue to demonstrate, outstanding abilities and commitment to the sport of wrestling. The card is not a reward for past work, but rather, it is intended to allow the athlete to enter into a training and competitive schedule which, by design, will lead to consistent improvement with respect to international results.

An athlete's carding status is subject to the obligations and commitments as detailed in the CAWA's Carded Athlete Contract and Sport Canada's Guide to Athlete Assistance.

### Overview of the Carding System

#### Senior Card

**International Criteria:** awarded to athletes who place in the top 8 in the Senior World Championships or Olympic Games and top one half (1/2) of the field. These cards should be awarded for two years. However, the athletes must be nominated by CAWA for the second year, must sign an athlete agreement and must meet all requirements of a carded athlete.

**National Team Criteria:** awarded to athletes in Men's and Women's Freestyle who demonstrate the potential to become SR1 or SR2 cards. Such athletes qualify through the CAWA carding identification system. These cards are awarded for a one year period and are designated as SR cards. First year recipients are awarded "C1" cards to identify that they have been carded for the first time and are funded at the development card level.

#### Development Cards

There will be two Junior Men's National Team D cards and three Post-Junior Men's National Team D cards awarded each year. These developmental cards will allow for a smooth transition for the top up-and-coming wrestlers from the CAWA Junior Men's National Team Program to the Senior Men's National Team Program and the Senior carding program

## ARTICLE II

## ELIGIBILITY

### 2.1 RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT

**Prior:** Athletes must be a resident of Canada for a minimum of one year prior to carding.

Athletes that qualify for carding but have not reached the one year residency requirement as of June 1st, may be nominated for carding with the understanding that the card will not be activated until the one year residency period has been served.

**During:** Athletes must maintain their residence within Canada during the carding period to remain eligible for carding. Athletes that relocate to attend foreign educational institutions are not eligible to receive funding during the actual time that they are living outside of Canada.

### 2.2 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

To be eligible for carding an athlete must be currently eligible to represent Canada at the Olympic Games or World Championships. An athlete must be eligible to represent Canada at World Championships or Olympic Games in order to earn carding points. Athletes would start to earn carding points from the day they become eligible to represent Canada at World Championships or Olympic Games.

### 2.3 PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENT

If an athlete has been carded four years in Freestyle at the SR/C1 card level and is 27 years of age or older, they must achieve SR1 card status or equivalent in order to be eligible for carding. An athlete who has achieved SR1 card status or equivalent in Freestyle, will have a maximum of four additional consecutive years at the SR card level following the year at which they were most recently carded at the SR1 or SR2 card level or equivalent.

An athlete may demonstrate the equivalent SR1 card standard and therefore, continue as a SR card by achieving an international tiering index of 1.0 or greater combined with a reasonable progression in international results.

### 2.4 SPORT CANADA

Athletes are nominated for carding by the CAWA to the Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program.

Sport Canada limits the number of carded athletes in a weight class to a maximum of three (excluding D cards). In addition, Sport Canada reserves the right to further limit the number of cards awarded each year.

## 2.5 CARDING CYCLE

The carding cycle, which includes Junior and Post-Junior D Cards for men, will run from June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. Since some of the D card criteria fall within the summer months, nominations to Sport Canada for D cards will take place at the end of the summer once the final ranking has been established and these cards will be retroactive to the beginning of the current carding cycle (i.e. June 1<sup>st</sup>).

### ARTICLE III CARDING IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

The CAWA Carding Identification System is a totally objective method used to rank order athletes in terms of an athlete's potential to perform at the elite level of international wrestling. The identification system will be the same for both women and men. The distribution of the number of SR cards that women and men each receive is based upon the number of Olympic freestyle weight categories that currently exist (i.e. 7 categories for men and 4 categories for women). For the 2005-2006 Carding Year, the allocation will be 15 SR/C1 cards for men, 8 SR/C1 cards for women, 2 Development cards for women (one Post-Junior, one Junior) and 3 Development Cards for men (two Post Junior and one Junior).

With the exception of the events identified for D cards, results are measured from the end of one Senior Nationals to the end of the following years' Senior Nationals. Results are specific to the weight class in which they were obtained. Example: an athlete winning the 63 kilogram weight class at the Guelph Open will earn 15 carding points at 63 kilograms only.

There are five factors used to obtain an athlete's ranking.

- the athlete's international tiering index in Freestyle only
- the athlete's domestic results at either the Clansman or the Guelph Open
- placement at the National Senior Freestyle Championships
- the number of years the athlete has been carded
- competing in self-funded freestyle international (FILA) tournaments outside of Canada

The weighting and scale of each factor is summarized in Table 3.1 below.

**TABLE 3.1 CARDING POINT STRUCTURE**

| International |       |        | Domestic Result 15 |        | Senior Nationals |        | Years Carded | Self-funded FILA event |     |     |
|---------------|-------|--------|--------------------|--------|------------------|--------|--------------|------------------------|-----|-----|
| Tier          | MPts* | WPts** | Place              | Points | Place            | Points | Yrs          | Pts                    | #   | Pts |
| 1.7           | 35    | 17.5   | 1st                | 15     | 1st              | 25     | <3           | 5                      | 2 - | 4   |
| 1.6           | 33    | 16.5   |                    |        |                  |        |              |                        |     |     |
| 1.5           | 30    | 15     | 2nd                | 11     | 2nd              | 18     | <4           | 4                      | 1 - | 2   |

|     |    |      |     |   |     |    |      |
|-----|----|------|-----|---|-----|----|------|
| 1.4 | 27 | 13.5 |     |   |     |    |      |
| 1.3 | 24 | 12   | 3rd | 7 | 3rd | 12 | <5 3 |
| 1.2 | 21 | 10.5 |     |   |     |    |      |
| 1.1 | 18 | 9    | 4th | 3 |     |    | <6 2 |
| 1.0 | 15 | 7.5  |     |   |     |    |      |
| .9  | 12 | 6    | 5th | 2 |     |    | <7 1 |
| .8  | 9  | 4.5  |     |   |     |    |      |
| .7  | 6  | 3    |     |   |     |    |      |
| .6  | 3  | 1.5  |     |   |     |    |      |
| .5  | 0  | 0    |     |   |     |    |      |

\*Mpts: Men's Points

\*\*Wpts: Women's Points

In the event of athletes that are not eligible for carding points placing in Domestic Freestyle Tournaments or Senior Freestyle National Championships, these athletes will be removed from the placement (for carding purposes) and eligible athletes will be moved up in the ranking and receive corresponding points.

### 3.1 INTERNATIONAL TIERING - MAXIMUM 35 POINTS

The international tiering index indicates the overall success of the athlete at international competitions. The calculation of the index is outlined in Section 14.2 - "The International Tiering System". Table 3.1 converts the index value into carding points.

The equivalent formula:  
 (Tiering Index - .50) x 30 = Carding Points

### 3.2 COMPETING AT SELF-FUNDED FILA TOURNAMENTS OUTSIDE OF CANADA

Any athlete that attends and competes in a self-funded (CAWA funded events are excluded) Senior FILA International tournament outside of Canada, will be awarded two points. Athletes can only score a maximum of two points in this category. To score points, an athlete must also win at least one match against a foreign competitor.

### 3.3 DOMESTIC CARDING TOURNAMENTS - MAXIMUM 15 POINTS

Carding tournaments must hold a certified weigh-in using F.I.L.A. weight classes with a maximum of 2 kilograms weight allowance. For all national carding tournaments, any athletes who are attempting to gain carding points must weigh in on site; all other domestic athletes may weigh in off-site provided the weigh-in is carried out by a nationally accredited official or Athletic Director.

#### **15 point tournaments - only best result counted**

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| SFU Clansman | November / West |
| Guelph Open  | January / East  |

The top six Canadian placers at the domestic carding tournaments will be identified and receive points. Athletes who win the Olympic Trials will be awarded 15 domestic points in the carding system.

### **3.4 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - MAXIMUM 25 POINTS**

The results of National Championships are counted up to 3rd place.

### **3.5 YEARS CARDED - MAXIMUM 5 POINTS**

Athletes that have been carded for several years are expected to perform and gain points through international tiering results. Athletes are expected to have better results as they gain international experience as National Team members. An athlete that has been carded less than 3 years will receive the full 5 points, whereas an athlete that has been carded for more than 6 years will not receive any points.

## **ARTICLE IV AUTOMATIC CARD SELECTION**

Based on exceptional international results an athlete can automatically qualify for carded status as follows:

**SR1/SR2 Cards** - awarded to athletes who place in the top 8 in the Senior World Championships or Olympic Games and top one half (1/2) of the field. These cards are awarded retroactive to June 1st and are valid for two years

**SR Cards** - For Men's Freestyle an international tiering index of 1.0 or greater (based on at least 12 consecutive matches, as of January 1st) will automatically qualify an athlete for the next carding cycle with the following conditions:

- a maximum of one automatic SR card per weight class can be allocated (using the tiering index),
- in weight classes with SR1 or SR2 cards, there will be no automatic SR cards
- an athlete must be carded for a minimum of 2 years to be eligible.

- The purpose of automatic SR cards is to permit outstanding athletes the opportunity to plan an international competitive schedule during the months January to May as a priority over domestic competition and to serve as an incentive for athletes to perform at the international level.

- Women are not eligible for automatic SR Cards,

**Olympic** - an athlete qualifying for the Olympic Games in Freestyle, as per the CAWA Olympic Team Selection Policy will be automatically carded at the point in time at which they

qualified for the Olympic Freestyle Team. Athletes that plan to retire after the Olympic Games will not be carded beyond the month in which the Games take place.

## **ARTICLE V**

## **INJURY PROVISION**

Injury may prevent a currently carded athlete from attending a sufficient number of competitions in order to re-qualify for carding. Injury provision will not be considered for non-carded athletes. Athletes will only be carded for one year due to an injury provision. When using the injury provision, athletes may only receive 50% of the points for an event. For example, if a wrestler won the 2003 Guelph Open, they would receive 15 points. If the same wrestler is injured and unable to compete in the 2004 Guelph Open, they would only be eligible to receive 7.5 points using the injury provision for this event. An athlete placing in the top 10 at the previous year's World Championships, or an athlete, who has achieved a tiering index of 1.00 or greater will receive full points for these events.

If the athlete is unable to complete twelve international matches due to injury (only), he will be credited with the international tiering points he achieved based on the most recent twelve consecutive international matches.

If the athlete is unable to compete in the Clansman and Guelph Open due to injury (only), then he will be credited with the result obtained in the Guelph or Clansman from the previous year.

If the athlete is unable to compete at the Senior National Championships due to injury, he will be credited with the result achieved at the previous year's Nationals.

The injured athlete will then be ranked with all other athletes using the points obtained through the injury provision.

In addition to the requirement that the injured athlete re-qualify for carding based on his point total, the coach must submit a written petition prior to the May High Performance Coaches Meeting. The petition must include the following:

- a doctor's medical certificate indicating the date and nature of the injury with the prescribed rehabilitation program and an estimated recovery period. A full medical recovery must be possible within the next carding period. CAWA reserves the right to have a second medical opinion;
- for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfil the training and competition commitments which are part of the normal carded athlete's contract, the athlete undertakes in writing to train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of the CAWA at a level which minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health, and ensures optimum return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date;
- the athlete signifies in writing their intention to return to full high performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following



## 9.1

## INTRODUCTION

The rationale for the following developmental cards is to allow for a smooth transition for the top up-and-coming wrestlers from the CAWA Junior National Team Program to the Senior National Team Program and the Senior carding program. This program would assist these wrestlers during this critical period of time when many of the top young wrestlers drop out of the sport (or have to focus a significant amount of time and effort on a part-time job). There are two categories of D cards. There are two Junior National Team D cards and three Post-Junior National Team D cards awarded each year.

The development carding level recognizes the importance of, and allows the CAWA to take on responsibilities and a leadership role in the development process of our exceptionally talented younger athletes.

The D card level provides a means and the opportunity for identified athletes to embark on an enriched training and competitive schedule designed to ensure that the athlete is exposed to and gains the necessary skills that are critical to international success at the senior level.

## 9.2

## IDENTIFICATION

The following criteria has been developed in order to identify only those athletes with superior international potential. The tie-breaking criteria for carding in Article VII, will apply to D cards as well.

### *Automatic Selection - Junior National Team D Cards*

Athletes will be automatically selected for the Junior National Team D cards by an athlete finishing top 8 and top half at the Junior World Championships **with a minimum of two wins**.

If there are two or more athletes qualifying through automatic selection, the below criteria (Table 9.1 Carding Point Structure - Junior National Team D cards) will rank the athletes to determine the two Junior National Team D cards.

### *Additional Selection Criteria - Junior National Team D Cards*

If the automatic selection process does not identify two Junior National Team D cards, the remaining cards will be selected using the following criteria;

**TABLE 9.3 CARDING POINT STRUCTURE - JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM D-CARDS**

| <b>Canada Cup</b>   | <b>Domestic Events*</b> | <b>Senior Nationals</b> | <b>Junior World Championships</b> | <b>International Potential</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Place Points</b> | <b>Place Points</b>     | <b>Place Points</b>     | <b>Place Points</b>               | <b>Points</b>                  |

|     |    |     |   |     |    |                  |    |        |
|-----|----|-----|---|-----|----|------------------|----|--------|
| 1st | 10 | 1st | 6 | 1st | 10 | 1st              | 15 | 10-1** |
| 2nd | 8  | 2nd | 5 | 2nd | 8  | 2nd              | 14 |        |
| 3rd | 7  | 3rd | 4 | 3rd | 7  | 3rd              | 13 |        |
| 4th | 6  | 4th | 3 | 4th | 6  | 4th              | 12 |        |
| 5th | 5  | 5th | 2 | 5th | 5  | 5th              | 11 |        |
| 6th | 4  | 6th | 1 | 6th | 4  | 6th              | 10 |        |
| 7th | 2  |     |   | 7th | 2  | 7th              | 8  |        |
| 8th | 1  |     |   | 8th | 1  | 8th              | 6  |        |
|     |    |     |   |     |    | 9 <sup>th</sup>  | 4  |        |
|     |    |     |   |     |    | 10 <sup>th</sup> | 3  |        |
|     |    |     |   |     |    | 11 <sup>th</sup> | 2  |        |
|     |    |     |   |     |    | 12 <sup>th</sup> | 1  |        |

\* Domestic Events are defined as the two Carding Tournaments (Clansman and Guelph).

\*\* A maximum of 10 points will be allocated to each eligible athlete by a committee composed of the coaches from the most current Junior Worlds Men's Team, the Senior Worlds Men's Team and the National Program Director (5), based on this committee's assessment and opinion of the athlete's potential to compete successfully at the senior international level.

The minimum criteria for a Junior National Team D card will be winning the most recent Junior National Championships or being a World Team member at the most recent World Championships. Athletes must also demonstrate a commitment to training and be located at a National Training Centre or a CAWA approved high performance club with a fully certified NCCP level four coach.

#### *Selection Criteria - Post-Junior National Team D Cards*

The three Post-Junior National Team D cards will be selected using the following criteria;

**TABLE 9.4 CARDING POINT STRUCTURE - POST-JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAM**

| <b>D-CARDS</b>    |               |                         |               |                         |               |                                |  |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Canada Cup</b> |               | <b>Domestic Events*</b> |               | <b>Senior Nationals</b> |               | <b>International Potential</b> |  |
| <b>Place</b>      | <b>Points</b> | <b>Place</b>            | <b>Points</b> | <b>Place</b>            | <b>Points</b> | <b>Points</b>                  |  |
| 1st               | 10            | 1st                     | 6             | 1st                     | 10            | 10-1**                         |  |
| 2nd               | 8             | 2nd                     | 5             | 2nd                     | 8             |                                |  |
| 3rd               | 7             | 3rd                     | 4             | 3rd                     | 7             |                                |  |
| 4th               | 6             | 4th                     | 3             | 4th                     | 6             |                                |  |
| 5th               | 5             | 5th                     | 2             | 5th                     | 5             |                                |  |
| 6th               | 4             | 6th                     | 1             | 6th                     | 4             |                                |  |
| 7th               | 2             |                         |               | 7th                     | 2             |                                |  |

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\* Domestic Events are defined as the two Carding Tournaments (Clansman and Guelph).

\*\* A maximum of 10 points will be allocated to each eligible athlete by a committee composed of the coaches from the most current Junior Worlds Men's Team, the Senior Worlds Men's Team and the National Program Director (5), based on this committee's assessment and opinion of the athlete's potential to compete successfully at the senior international level.

The minimum criteria for a Post-Junior National Team D card will consist of a former Junior National Champion, or a top six placement at the Senior National Championships. The Post-Junior National Team D card may not be awarded to an athlete older than 22 years of age as of the 31st of December in the year in which the card is initiated. Athletes must also demonstrate a commitment to training and be located at a National Training Centre or a CAWA approved high performance club with a fully certified NCCP level four coach. Juniors with enough points, who have not qualified for a Junior D card, may qualify for a Post-Junior card.

## **9.5 Carding Cycle**

For both the Junior National Team D cards and the Post-Junior National Team D cards, the carding cycle will run from June 1st to May 30th.

## **9.6 CAWA RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a) CAWA will ensure that the personal coach of the athlete submits an annual training and competitive plan. The plan will include performance and training objectives.
- b) Support for the Development Card will be a monthly training allowance and tuition fees where applicable.

## **9.7 ATHLETE RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a) D carding status is subject to all obligations and duties required of carded athletes as detailed in the CAWA's carded Athlete Contract and Sport Canada's Guide to Athlete Assistance.
- b) The athlete must be located or must relocate to a training environment suitable to achieve the stated objectives of his program.
- c) The financial support provided for D cards is earmarked for training, equipment and competition cost. The athlete may be required to cost share in some competitive opportunities based on the support received. Any cost sharing requirements will be so noted in the athlete's contract.

## **ARTICLE X CARDING ALLOCATION BY GENDER**

### **10.1 ALLOCATION OF CARDS**

The number of SR/C1 cards that the CAWA will distribute in each carding cycle will, as close as possible, reflect the percentage of Olympic freestyle categories that we support for each gender. Therefore, with the current Olympic distribution of seven men's weight classes and four women's weight classes, women would receive 4/11 of the SR/C1 cards and men would receive 7/11 of the SR/C1 cards.

The same allocation principle would apply to the number of D cards. This principle will be applicable should the international federation and IOC make changes to the number of weight classes at the international level.

## **10.2 TIE-BREAKING CRITERIA**

In the event that there is one extra SR/C1 card spot due to both a male and female qualifying for an SR1 at the World Championships or Olympic Games the following tie-breaking criteria will be applied in order:

- 1) Placement at the World Championships or Olympic Games of the persons earning the SR1 position in that year,
- 2) Placement at the most recent Senior National Championships (as per carding policy) of the individuals, male and female, being considered,
- 3) Placement at the most recent Canada Cup for the individuals, male and female, being considered, and
- 4) Technical Committee decision.