



Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) 2015-2016 Funding Criteria

AAP Program Purpose – To provide financial support to speed skaters who are participating in the BC Speed Skating Association (BCSSA) Provincial Performance (PP) Program, as determined by the BCSSA Athlete Development Committee (ADC).

Background Information*

The BC Athlete Assistance Program (BC AAP) is an athlete-centred program of financial assistance funded by the Province of British Columbia through the Sport Branch of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and administered through ViaSport British Columbia. The program seeks to recognize high performance athletes who are participating in programs offered through a provincial sport organization or post secondary institution and competing in recognized national or international competitions to relieve some of the pressures associated with training and competition needs.

The intent of the BC Athlete Assistance Program (BC AAP) is to provide support to BC high performance athletes striving to represent the Province and Canada in athletic competition. The program seeks to relieve some of the pressures associated with training and competition needs association with participation in national and international sport. The focus of BC AAP funding is for those athletes who are in the position to compete for Team BC at the Canada Games and are just below those receiving Sport Canada Athlete Assistance Program funding (S1/S2 carding levels), however athletes in receipt of Sport Canada funding may be eligible for BC AAP funding.

Program Objectives*

- To focus support to athletes in the “training to compete” and “training to win” stages of Canadian Sport for Life – Long Term Athlete Development Model;
- To contribute to improved performances of Team BC athletes at the Canada Games;
- To increase the number of BC athletes reaching federal carding status thus expanding BC representation on national teams and at eligible major international multi-sport Games; and
- To assist BC athletes reach their athletic potential.

Athlete Eligibility

Skaters must demonstrate a commitment to performance sport and excellence, and must have potential to compete for BC and Canada. Eligibility will be reviewed by a BCSSA BC AAP Selection Committee, which is comprised of the members of the 2015-2016 ADC (including the BCSSA Technical Director).

- Skaters must be registered members of BCSSA and must not have a debt with BCSSA.
- Skaters must be participating in the SSC NextGEN Pool or the BCSSA PP Program. Those skaters who did not confirm their intention to participate in the PP Program (via the online Athlete Agreement form) are ineligible for AAP funding.
- Skaters must be competing within the LTPAD stages of “training to compete” or “training to win”.
- Skaters must be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident and a resident of BC for at least one year prior to receiving AAP funding. BC skaters (i.e. those registered with BCSSA) who are training outside of BC will be eligible if:
 - They are enrolled in a specialized program of study and/or
 - They are training at a National Sport Centre or other speed skating program exceeding the level of training available in BC.
- Skaters must be involved in year-round training and appropriate provincial, national and international competitions. Please see the [Athlete Development Committee Bulletin #1.0](#) for expectations (including a list of competitions) for skaters at each PP Program level.
- Skaters must be regularly working with a Level 3 (or higher) NCCP Coach, where access is available. Skaters who do not have regular access to a Level 3 NCCP Coach must periodically consult with a Level 3 NCCP Coach. Skaters may contact the BCSSA Technical Director to obtain the names of Level 3 NCCP Coaches.
- Skaters who are suspended for the use of banned substances are permanently ineligible for AAP funding.
- Skaters who are suspended for the consumption of alcohol while representing BCSSA at competition or at camps are ineligible for AAP funding.
- Skaters who receive AAP funding must be available for provincial team selections unless made unavailable due to national program commitments. If selected, skaters must commit to train and represent BC in applicable competitions including, but not limited to, the Canada Winter Games.

Selection Criteria and Skater Funding Levels

- The skater’s educational/working environment and required time/financial commitment of the skater to excel may be considered.
- SSC NextGEN Pool and BCSSA PP Program skaters in Levels 1, 2 and 3 may receive funding.
- Provincial, national and international results/ranking from the current season will be considered.
- Funding levels for skaters will range from \$500 to a maximum of \$3500.
- **Note: Not all athletes that meet the eligibility criteria are guaranteed to receive BC AAP Funding.**

Schedule and Athlete Appeal Process

- Funding will be released per the following schedule:
 - Athlete Selection List will be posted on the BCSSA website on Monday, February 8, 2016.
 - Athlete Appeal deadline is February 15, 2016 (15:00 PST)- see below for details.
 - Review of Athlete Appeals and response to athlete will be completed by February 22, 2016.
 - Final list of selected athletes will be posted on the BCSSA website by February 24, 2016.
- Athlete Appeal Process: athletes have a right to submit an appeal regarding the BC AAP if they believe that:
 - The award level for which they have been selected does not meet the BCSSA ranking and selection criteria.
 - The athlete has not been selected for an award, and they believe that they qualify for ranking and deserve to be included as a nominated athlete.

Athletes should appeal following the established BCSSA Appeals Policy, available on the BCSSA website (<http://www.speed-skating.bc.ca/about-us/governance/>).

2015-2016 Athlete Development Committee (bcssa.athletedev@gmail.com)

Carol, Thomas, Mae and Chris (BCSSA Technical Director)