1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 In 2020, the carding cycle for athletes nominated for carding in Rhythmic Gymnastics is from January 1 to December 31 2020 (12 months).

1.2 The decision for nominating athletes to the 2020 carding cycle in the GymCan Group program will take place following the two-stage GymCan Group Open Selection Activity and the subsequent assessment period as described below. The open training stage (Stage 1) will take place October 7, 8 and 10 totaling 12 hours of training, which will be open to GymCan members in good standing, who are Canadian citizens and born in 2004 or earlier. The testing stage (Stage 2) will take place October 11 and 12 2019, totaling 10 hours of testing, which will be open to up to 8 athletes who took part in Stage 1 of the Open Selection Activity. The carding nomination will be based on Stage 1, the results of Stage 2 selection activity and on the athlete's stated commitment to the GymCan Rhythmic Group Program. All selected athletes will be subject to up to a three week probation period (October 15 – November 5 2019). Athletes will be assessed by the two group coaches, National Team Director –RG (NTD-RG) and Brevet Judge(s) on a weekly basis in the following areas: body and apparatus difficulties, exchanges, collaborations, routine work and team comradery. Having achieved a favorable result during the probation period, the athlete nominations will then proceed:

- Final group athlete list confirmed
- Calculation of number of months per athlete determined
- Nominations provided to AAP
- Review meeting held no later than December 15 2019
- Once nominations are approved by Sport Canada, AAP living and training support will be provided from January 1 2020

The decision for nominating athletes to the 2020 carding cycle in the Individual Program will be based on 2019 World Championships results.

1.3 Sport Canada has allocated a carding quota of the equivalent of 5 Senior Cards ($105 900) to the GymCan Rhythmic Program:

- SR Card (athlete previously carded): $1765/month
- SR Injury Card (athlete previously carded meeting the criteria for nomination for an injury card): $1765/month
- C1 Card (athlete not previously carded): $1060/month

The total available carding funds will be divided amongst the named GymCan Group athletes and senior individual athlete(s) who competed at the 2019 World Championships, therefore the athletes nominated for carding may be recommended for less than twelve (12) months of support. If the first priority, individual athletes will receive 12 months of carding.

Please refer to section 2.0 in regards to prioritization of the carding allocations.
1.4 Should Sport Canada change the carding allocation provided to the RG Program after publication of this document, the NTD-RG will adjust the prioritization system and publish the changes in a timely fashion.

1.5 The NTD-RG is 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 GymCan approved AAP compliant carding criteria.

1.7 In order for an athlete to be eligible for Carding as a GymCan 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 GymCan 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 NTD-RG; and be selected as one of the members of the GymCan Group for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2020 and;
   iv) sign the Canadian Anti-Doping Program (CADP) athlete agreement and the GymCan 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 2019 Elite Canada, or designate, and 2019 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 NTD-RG;
   iii) have attended a minimum of one World Cup/World Challenge Cup and the 2019 World Championships during the period of January 1 2019 to October 31 2019.
   iv) sign the CADP Athlete Agreement and the GymCan National Team Athlete Agreement.

2.0 PRIORITIZATION

Prioritization of the carding nominations for the Group Program and the Individual Program will be based on the 2019 World Championship All-Around Results:

2.1 GYMCAN GROUP

If the GymCan Group finishes ahead of the top-ranked senior individual athlete in the All-Around final event at the 2019 World Championships, priority of carding nominations will be as follows:

Priority 1 – Athletes selected to the 2020 GCG Group
Athletes selected to the 2020 GymCan Group will have first priority for nominations and will receive either a C1 card (if not previously carded in 2019) 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 ranking from the Open Selection Activities and the number of athletes selected to the 2020 GymCan Group. Note, if a Group athlete previously carded in 2019 applies for an injury card, her athlete ranking would be determined based on the scoring of her overall performance during the 2019 World Championships through video review.

Priority 2 – SR/C1 Card (Individual)
If carding funds remain after all named GymCan Group athletes have been carded, the top-ranked senior individual athlete at the 2019 World Championships will have second priority for remaining funds and will receive either a C1 card (if not previously carded in 2019) or a SR card (if previously carded at the senior level).

Priority 3 – SR Injury Card (Individual)
If carding funds remain after all named GymCan Group athletes have been carded, and there was not a Priority 2 Individual Card nominated, the first-ranked senior individual athlete, who meets the injury card requirements (as stated in section 3.0), will have third priority for remaining funds and will receive a SR card.

The number of months of carding for which an athlete is nominated for will be a function of the amount of carding funds remaining in the overall quota after all GymCan Group athletes have been carded. A minimum of four (4) months of carding funds must remain to permit carding of an individual athlete.

2.2 INDIVIDUAL

If a senior individual athlete finishes ahead of the All-Around ranking of the GymCan Group at the 2019 World Championships in the All-Around final, priority of carding nominations will be as follows:

Priority 1 – SR/C1 Card (Individual)
A senior individual athlete will have first priority for nomination and will receive a SR/C1 card if she is the top-ranked athlete in the All-Around final event at the 2019 World Championships AND finishes ahead of the GymCan Group in the All-Around event at 2019 World Championships.

Priority 2 – Athletes selected to the 2020 GCG Group
Athletes selected to the 2020 GymCan Group will have second priority for nominations and will receive either a C1 card (if not previously carded in 2019) 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 ranking from the Open Selection Activities and the number of athletes selected to the 2020 GymCan Group. Note, if a Group athlete previously carded in 2019 applies for an injury card, her athlete ranking would be determined based on the scoring of her overall performance during the 2019 World Championships through video review.

2.3 If there is more than one Senior Individual athlete ranked ahead of the GymCan Group in the All-Around final event at the 2019 World Championships, priority of carding nominations will be as follows:
Priority 1 – SR/C1 Card (Individual)
A senior individual athlete will have first priority for nominations and will receive a SR/C1 card if she is the top-ranked athlete in the All-Around final event at the 2019 World Championships AND finishes ahead of the GymCan Group in the All-Around event at 2019 World Championships.

Priority 2 – SR/C1 Card (Individual)
A senior individual athlete will have second priority for nominations and will receive a SR/C1 card if she is the second ranked athlete in the All-Around final event at the 2019 World Championships AND finishes ahead of the GymCan Group in the All-Around event at 2019 World Championships.

Priority 3 – Athletes selected to the 2020 GymCan Group
Athletes selected to the 2020 GymCan Group will have third priority for nominations and will receive either a C1 card (if not previously carded in 2019) 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 ranking from the Open Selection Activities and the number of athletes selected to the 2020 GymCan Group. Note, if a Group athlete previously carded in 2019 applies for an injury card, her athlete ranking would be determined based on the scoring of her overall performance during the 2019 World Championships through video review.

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 NTD-RG 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 guarantee nomination. Athletes may be nominated for Injury Cards at the sole discretion of the NTD-RG 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 GymCan 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 GymCan Group at the level expected of a carded athlete until December 31, 2020;
• will take part in all assigned training, monitoring and competition activities of the GymCan 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, 2020;
• will take part in all required training, monitoring and competition activities of the GymCan Senior National Team Program
• provides a complete yearly training and competition plan for 2020 to the NTD-RG no later than December 1, 2019. The plan must meet Gymnastic Canada requirements and must be received before any funds will be released.

5.0 ATHLETE WITHDRAWAL

The NTD, in conjunction with the GymCan CEO, 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 2019 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 GymCan training site or, if not a Toronto resident, agrees to relocate to Toronto within 2 weeks and within close proximity to the GymCan training facilities
- Same visual fit and physical performance qualities as existing GymCan 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 GymCan Group program and begin training full routines
- No injury issues

Where no athletes from the open selection meet these criteria, GymCan 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 GymCan’s AAP nomination/re-nomination decision or of a GymCan’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.