

ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM **October 2009**

Quest for Gold

Ministry of Health Promotion



Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Ministry of Health Promotions

Quest for Gold

Ontario Athlete Assistance Program

Table of Contents

Page 1	Table of Contents
Page 2	Program Overview – Quest for Gold
Page 5	Card Allotment
Page 6	Athlete Selection Requirements and Process
Page 6	Ontario Women's Hockey Association Athlete Eligibility Requirements
Page 9	National Collegiate Athletic Association
Page 12	Ontario Women's Hockey Association Athlete Selection Criteria
Page 15	Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Process and Deadlines
Page 16	Conflict of Interest

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2009-2010 (OAAP) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP), and operated through the Sport and Recreation Branch. The overarching goal of the *Quest for Gold – OAAP* is directly related to the Enhanced Excellence goals of both *ACTIVE2010* and the *Canadian Sport Policy* – to improve the performance and number of Ontario athletes performing at the national and international level; thereby contributing to the improved performance of Canada at international competitions. Specific objectives of the program are:

- a) To help athletes continue their pursuit of athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition;
- b) To encourage athletes to stay in Ontario to live and train;
- c) To compensate athletes for earnings lost while training;
- d) To enable athletes to successfully pursue excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals;
- e) To increase athlete access to improved high performance coaching; and
- f) To enhance training and competitive opportunities available to athletes.

The program will provide direct financial assistance to Ontario junior-aged athletes through an “Ontario Card” designation. “Junior-aged athlete” is defined as those athletes who fall within the eligible age range for the Canada Games - 11 to 22 years of age. (Consideration will be given to older junior-aged athletes if a PSO/MSO’s NSO-approved Long Term Athlete Development model (LTAD) identifies older athletes in the “Train to Train” and “Train to Compete” categories). The intent of the OAAP is to provide funding to individual athletes based on their demonstrated commitment to high performance sport, allowing them to pursue athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition.

How does it work?

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, the Ontario Women's Hockey Association is responsible for developing sport specific selection criteria and forming a Selection Committee that will apply the criteria to select those athletes who will be awarded Ontario Card status in 2009-2010. The Selection Criteria is approved by the Board of Directors and reviewed by MHP staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2009 ending March 31, 2010.

In 2009-2010, the Ministry of Health Promotion allocated a certain amount of OAAP Ontario Cards to each eligible Provincial Sport / Multi-Sport Organization (PSO/MSO). The Ontario Women's Hockey Association has been allotted a total of 20 Ontario Female Cards.

A minimum of 70% of the Ontario cards will be allocated to what the Ministry of Health Promotion defines as junior-aged athletes (11 to 22 years of age). A maximum of 30% of the Ontario cards may be allocated to athletes no longer eligible for "junior athlete" status, (athletes 23 and over).

As a result, the Ontario Women's Hockey Association cards will be allocated 20 full female cards.

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines the Ontario Women's Hockey Association is responsible for forming a Selection Committee and sport specific selection criteria to nominate the athletes for Ontario carding status in 2009-2010. This selection criteria has been approved by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Board of Directors.

The Selection Committee is comprised of the following members:

Brian Hart, Head Scout, Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Nathalie Rivard, Former High Performance Player, Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Bryan Chappell, Chairperson, Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Pat Nicholls, Vice Chairperson, Ontario Women's Hockey Association

How much funding is available?

The exact level of funding for the 2009-2010 carding year will be determined by the Ministry after the total number of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status has been determined. Funding will be released prior to March 31, 2010.

How will the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Committee will use both the Ministry of Health Promotion Eligibility Criteria and the Sport Specific selection criteria detailed below to determine which athletes will be nominated by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association for Ontario Card status in 2009-2010:

Ministry of Health Promotion Eligibility Criteria:

All athletes must also meet the Ministry of Health Promotion's minimum athlete eligibility criteria:

- Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant;
- Athlete must be a resident of Ontario for one year prior to his/her nomination for carding status, with the following exception:
The residency requirement will be waived if the athlete is a direct family member of:
 - a regular force member, or
 - a reservist as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* who is deployed under a circumstance described in clause 50.2 (1) (a) or (b) of that Act, or who is deployed or in any other way placed on active duty under a circumstance described in regulations made for the purposes of clause 50.2 (1) (c) of that Act.
- Athletes must be training and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions ("Residency Exceptions") will be made on a case specific basis providing that the athlete can substantiate that:
 - She cannot receive the required level of training in Ontario and is out of the province **temporarily** during the year (i.e. due to lack of facilities, coaching, competitions);
 - ▶ The onus is on the athlete to demonstrate that he/she needs to be out of province. The athlete will submit written documentation to their PSO/MSO's Selection Committee clearly indicating how they meet these exceptions. The Ministry may require that the athlete provide supporting documentation from the athlete's PSO/ NSO, National Sport Organization (NSO) or other sources to verify reasons for athlete's absence from the Province of Ontario.
 - She must attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province because the course of study is not available to him/her in Ontario;
 - It is more financially feasible to attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province, or other extenuating circumstances that require the athlete to be out of the province.
- Athlete must be a member in good standing with PSO/MSO and NSO where applicable.
- Athlete must have entered into a Sports Organization – Athlete Agreement with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and must be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of that agreement.
- Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program.
- Athlete must be instructed by a coach who has been trained and certified in the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Level 2 or equivalent.
- Athlete must not be under sanction as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy.
- Athlete must be attending an educational institution full-time (i.e. primary and secondary schools)
 - Exceptions will be made providing that the athlete can substantiate that her training will not allow for full-time attendance or if an athlete requires special needs that preclude full or part-time attendance (e.g. Athlete with a disability (AWAD))
- Athletes who have completed their area of study at the secondary level (i.e. high school) and who continue to train towards participation in major national or international competitions will also be given consideration.
- If eligible, the athlete must compete, and continue to compete for Ontario and/or Canada for one year from the date of the Minister's letter informing the athlete of acceptance into OAAP program, at Canada Games and other national competitions involving provincial team competitions. Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status are not eligible for Ontario Cards.
- Eligibility will be limited to Ontario junior-aged athletes ("junior-aged" refers to chronological age, not a sport's specific age category - only exception is for PSO/MSOs using 30% of Ontario Card allotment for Sr. level athletes not funded by Sport Canada – see note below) who have been identified as a next generation national team athlete as demonstrated by:
 - Identification within the NSO pool of identified next generation national team athletes for the last two competitive seasons; OR
 - Results at regional championships, national championships (junior and/or senior) or other recognized national/international competitions over the last two competitive seasons; OR
 - Representation on a Canadian National Team (developmental and/or junior). Athletes training for Canada Games or provincial teams may also be considered.

Important Notes:

- To be deemed a potential next generation national team athlete, the athlete must be age-eligible to compete on the national team in the year following receipt of Ontario Card funding.
- All athletes under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian sign their OAAP application form. Cheques will be processed in the name of the eligible athlete.
- Athletes who are attending any foreign post-secondary educational institution (including NCAA institutions) and are receiving an athletic scholarship in any sport are not eligible to receive OAAP support.
- An athlete that received Sport Canada Carding between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and/or April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive *Quest for Gold* funding during fiscal year 2009-2010 (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.) The intent of this rule is to prevent athletes whose performance levels and rankings no longer qualify them for Sport Canada carding from taking an Ontario Card from a future national-level athlete. However, exceptions may apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions may include, but may not be limited to logistical or administrative changes, injuries, etc.
- An athlete can only be nominated to receive *Quest for Gold* funding in one sport.
- The onus is entirely on the athlete to determine the impact of accepting OAAP funding on current or future NCAA eligibility and to decide whether or not to accept OAAP funding. The athlete will be required to acknowledge this onus and responsibility when signing the OAAP Ontario Card application form and agreeing to the related terms and conditions of the program. Athletes are strongly encouraged to contact the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine the impact of *Quest for Gold* - OAAP funding on current or future eligibility for a NCAA scholarship or on eligibility to compete in a non-scholarship NCAA sport.
- In the event of a conflict or inconsistency, the selection criteria established by the Ministry and set out the Athlete Handbook provided to each nominated athlete shall prevail over the selection criteria established by the PSO/MSO.
- An athlete who previously received *Quest for Gold* funding and entered into a Sports Organization – Athlete Agreement must have complied with the terms of that agreement to the satisfaction of the PSO in order to be considered for funding in fiscal 2009-2010.

Ontario Women's Hockey Association Athlete Eligibility Requirements

1. The Ontario Women's Hockey Association meets the minimum eligibility requirements for Canada and Ontario cards.

- The Ontario Women's Hockey Association is a provincial governing body that has jurisdiction for all female hockey in the province of Ontario and is formally recognized by the Ministry of Health Promotion as per the Ministry's *Sport Recognition Policy*.
- The Ontario Women's Hockey Association is a participant in the regular program of:
 - i. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games.
 - ii. The 2011 Canada Winter Games.
 - iii. Ontario Games (youth).

Additional Ontario Card Sport Eligibility Criterion and Responsibilities:

To be eligible for an allotment of Ontario cards, the Ontario Women's Hockey Association meets the following criterion and program requirements:

- The OWHA has sanctioned provincial and national championships that are held at least biennially;
- The OWHA has a clearly articulated provincial team program with appropriate training and competitive opportunities for each of the proposed carded athletes;
- The OWHA provincial team program is based on ongoing training principles that include significant daily training activities;
- The OWHA formally monitors and evaluates the training of athlete and competitive programs;
- The OWHA conducts a formal process for selecting athletes for Ontario Cards. Rules and procedures for selection are published and made known to all concerned, along with procedures for appealing decisions.
- The OWHA will have an Athlete-OWHA agreement signed by each individual athlete that is being nominated for an Ontario card. The Sports Organization - Athlete Agreement contains in writing the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the athlete and the OWHA.
- The OWHA has a signed agreement with the Ministry in which it agrees to the terms and conditions of the OWHA's participation in the program as stipulated by the Ministry.

2. What are the minimum eligibility requirements for female hockey athletes?

General Athlete Eligibility Criteria (applies to Ontario cards):

- Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant
- Athlete must be a current resident of Ontario
- Athlete must be a resident of Ontario for one year prior to her nomination for carding status
- Athletes must be living and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions will be made **on a case specific basis** providing that the athlete can substantiate in writing at the time of application/nomination for carding status that:
 - o She cannot receive the required level of training in Ontario and is out of the province **temporarily** during the year (i.e. due to lack of facilities, coaching, competitions);
 - o She must attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province because the course of study is not available to her in Ontario;
 - o It is more financially feasible to attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province, or other extenuating circumstances that require the athlete to be out of the province;
 - o The onus is on the athlete to demonstrate that she needs to be out of province. **The athlete will submit written documentation to the Ontario Women's Hockey Association's Selection Committee by the posted deadline, clearly indicating how they meet these residency exceptions.** The Ministry may require that the

athlete provide supporting documentation from the Ontario Women's Hockey Association, Hockey Canada or other sources to verify reasons for athlete's absence from the Province of Ontario.

- Athlete must be a member in good standing with Ontario Women's Hockey Association and with Hockey Canada.
- Athlete must have entered into a Sports Organization – Athlete Agreement with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and must be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of that agreement.
- Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program.
- Athlete must be instructed by a coach who has been trained and certified in the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Level 2 or equivalent.
- Athlete must not be under sanction as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy.
- Athlete must be attending an educational institution full-time (i.e. primary and secondary schools)
 - o Exceptions will be made providing that the athlete can substantiate that her training will not allow for full-time attendance or if an athlete requires special needs that preclude full or part-time attendance (e.g. Athlete With a Disability (AWAD) athlete)
- Athletes who have completed their area of study at the secondary level (i.e. high school) and who continue to train towards participation in major national or international competitions will also be given consideration.
- If eligible, the athlete must compete, and continue to compete for Ontario and/or Canada for one year from the date of the Minister's letter informing the athlete of acceptance into OAAP program, at Canada Games and other national competitions involving provincial team competitions.
- Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status are not eligible for Ontario Cards.
- Eligibility will be limited to Ontario junior aged athletes, ages 11 – 22 ("junior-aged" refers to chronological age, not a sport's specific age category - only exception is for PSO/MSOs using 30% of Ontario Card allotment for Senior level athletes not funded by Sport Canada – see below) who have been identified as a next generation national team athlete as demonstrated by:
 - o Identification within the NSO pool of identified next generation national team athletes for the last two competitive seasons; OR
 - o Results at regional championships, national championships (junior and/or senior) or other recognized national/international competitions over the last two competitive seasons; OR
 - o Representation on a Canadian National Team (developmental and/or junior). Athletes training for Canada Games or provincial teams may also be considered.

Age of athletes:

The primary purpose of the Ontario Card designation is to provide direct financial assistance to "junior aged" high performance athletes. Age criterion is different for able bodied athletes and AWAD athletes.

Able Bodied Athletes:

A minimum of 70% of a PSO's Ontario Card allotment must be distributed to junior-aged athletes (11 to 22 years of age) in able bodied sports (consideration will be given to older junior-aged athletes if a PSO's NSO-approved LTAD identifies older athletes in the "Train to Train" and "Train to Compete" categories). The onus will be on the PSO/MSO to demonstrate that the athlete in question is still competing and training at the "junior" level.

The Ministry recognizes that athletes who have graduated from the junior level but have not yet received funding support from Sport Canada are also in need of funding support. Therefore, the

Ministry will allow PSOs to provide a maximum of 30% of its Ontario carding allotment to able bodied athletes no longer eligible for “junior athlete” status. This is contingent on the following: The athlete must be identified by the sport’s NSO as a national team athlete or potential next generation national team athlete.

The onus is on the PSO to provide supporting documentation from the NSO to demonstrate that the athlete has been identified as per above. Documentation to be provided could include a letter from NSO documenting/identifying athlete as being on national development team or pool.

To be deemed a potential next generation national team athlete, in the year following receipt of Ontario Card funding the athlete must not surpass the maximum age limit for national team qualification. Example: If an NSO has a rule which states national team athletes must not exceed 30 years of age, an athlete that turns 30 during the fiscal year April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 would not be eligible for an Ontario card in fiscal year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.

NOTE: The Ministry reserves the right to request additional documentation/information at its discretion.

What if athletes are under the age of 18?

All athletes under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian sign the OAAP application form. Cheques will be processed in the name of the eligible athlete.

What about professional / semi-professional athletes or athletes who have normal living and training costs covered?

Athletes who receive or who have received funding in excess of normal living and training costs through exercising their skills as a professional or semi-professional athlete, or have these costs covered by virtue of involvement on a team through a formal agreement, within the same sport as the one for which they wish to receive OAAP funding, will not be eligible for OAAP support. The onus is on the athlete to prove that she meets the eligibility requirements.

Can an athlete be nominated for Ontario Card status in two sports? (i.e. receive two cards)?

No. If an athlete is nominated in two separate sports the athlete will have to decide which sport he/she wishes to receive carding support from.

Does the Ministry of Health Promotion require receipts from the carded athletes?

The terms and conditions of the *Quest For Gold* program (contained within athlete application) require athlete recipients to retain all records and documents related the grant (e.g. receipts) for a three year period and must make them available for inspection by the Ministry of Health Promotion when requested.

However, the Ministry will not be requesting receipts from carded athletes on an ongoing basis. The Ontario Women’s Hockey Association can request receipts on an ongoing basis if this is a requirement stipulated in the OWHA – Athlete Agreement.

Carded athletes receiving funding under the *Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program can spend funding obtained on the following items:

- a. Normal living costs
- b. Costs directly associated with training (e.g. coaching, facility fees, other athlete services)
- c. Costs associated with attending training camps and competitions (e.g. entry fees, travel costs)
- d. Sport specific equipment
- e. Tuition and education related expenses (e.g. books, fees, commuting costs)

If a sport doesn't have enough high performance athletes to fill the carding allotment, what happens to the cards that are not used?

Sport organizations should only be carding athletes that are in a high performance program and that have been identified as next generation senior team national athletes (see minimum eligibility requirements for athletes). If a PSO/MSO does not have enough high performance calibre athletes to use its total allotment of Ontario Cards it should not award them to athletes who are not participating in the sport's high performance program.

Unused Ontario Cards will not be allotted to other sports. The number of Ontario Cards distributed will decrease, thereby increasing the monetary value of the Ontario Cards awarded to all other eligible athletes.

Does my Ontario Card allotment include the cards for our Sport Canada carded athletes?

No. If an athlete is listed on the Sport Canada list, is a resident of Ontario, or has had the one year residency requirement waived because she is a member of a military family and their sport meets the MHP general sport eligibility criteria, they will be eligible to apply for a Canada Card. This is a completely separate allotment from the Ontario Card. If a PSO/MSO Selection Committee is uncertain which athletes are in receipt of Sport Canada carding, this information can be obtained from MHP staff. and their sport meets our general sport eligibility criteria, they will be eligible to apply for a Canada Card. It is a completely separate allotment from the Ontario Card.

Is an athlete previously funded by Sport Canada eligible for an Ontario Card?

An athlete that received Sport Canada Carding between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and/or April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive Quest for Gold funding during the fiscal year 2009-2010 (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010).

The intent of this rule is to prevent athletes whose performance levels and rankings no longer qualify them for Sport Canada carding from taking an Ontario Card from a future national-level athlete. However, exceptions may apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions may include, but may not be limited to logistical or administrative changes, injuries, etc.

What about Athletes Attending Foreign Post-Secondary Educational Institutions?

Athletes who are attending any foreign post-secondary educational institution (including NCAA institutions) and are receiving an athletic scholarship in any sport are *not* eligible to receive OAAP support.

How does receipt of *Quest for Gold* OAAP funding impact on an athlete's current or future eligibility for a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) scholarship or their eligibility to compete in a non-scholarship NCAA sport?

The onus is entirely on the athlete to determine the impact of accepting OAAP funding on current or future NCAA eligibility to decide whether or not to accept OAAP funding. The athlete will be required to acknowledge this onus and responsibility when signing the OAAP Ontario Card application form and agreeing to the related terms and conditions of the program. The Ministry and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association accept no responsibility for any consequences that may follow, or losses that may be sustained in connection with an athlete's eligibility or ineligibility for a NCAA scholarship, or in connection with an athlete's eligibility or ineligibility to compete in a non-scholarship NCAA sport.

The Ministry and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association strongly urge the individual athletes to contact the NCAA Clearinghouse to determine the impact of *Quest for Gold* OAAP funding on current or future eligibility for a NCAA scholarship or on eligibility to compete in a non-scholarship NCAA sport.

National Collegiate Athletic Association www.ncaa.org

NCAA Eligibility Center PO Box 7136

Indianapolis, IN 46207

NCAA Eligibility Centre overnight mailing address:

NCAA Eligibility Center

1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive,

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Customer service hours – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday

Toll-free number (U.S. callers) – Customer service line – 877/262-1492

Phone number (International callers) – Customer service line – 317/223-0700

Fax number: 317-968-5100

It is the Ministry's general understanding that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) stipulates that any athlete who accepts direct funding from a provincial or state government run program will likely forfeit their eligibility for an NCAA scholarship and their eligibility to participate in that sport or to participate in a non scholarship NCAA sport. This understanding is based on the information currently available to the Ministry, which could change.

IMPORTANT: Female hockey is a full NCAA scholarship sport.

Information provided is for the general assistance of prospective *Quest for Gold* applicants and is based on the information currently available to the Ministry. The NCAA eligibility rules are entirely outside the Ministry's control and could change.

The Ministry makes no representations or warranties regarding the possible impact of a *Quest for Gold* - OAAP funding on an athlete's eligibility or ineligibility for a NCAA scholarship, or on an athlete's eligibility or ineligibility to compete in a non-scholarship NCAA sport.

How does the acceptance of *Quest for Gold* –OAAP funding impact on an athlete's eligibility for disability pensions, other social assistance programs or academic scholarships?

The Ministry cannot offer any definitive opinion on how acceptance of OAAP funding will impact on current or future eligibility for any other income programs or scholarships (see NOTE below). The onus is on the athlete to check the terms and conditions of such programs or scholarships to determine potential impacts. The Ministry makes no representations or warranties regarding the possible impact of *Quest for Gold* OAAP funding on such programs, pensions or scholarships and accepts no responsibility for any consequences that may follow, or losses that may be sustained in relation to such programs, pensions or scholarships.

Please note:

Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services has determined that all direct financial assistance provided to athletes under the OAAP is not to be included as income and assets for purposes of social assistance effective retroactively to January 11, 2006 when OAAP was first launched. Athletes who may be affected are encouraged to contact the nearest regional office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

Ontario Women's Hockey Association Athlete Selection Criteria

The following athlete selection criteria will be utilized in the identification, ranking and selection of female hockey players for Ontario cards. The resulting top ranked players will be awarded Ontario Cards. A minimum of 70% of the cards will be allotted to able-bodied 11 to 22 year old female hockey players who meet the criteria.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Athletes must meet the general eligibility requirements

Athletes must have been registered with the OWHA for a minimum of three seasons

LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION

Athletes who have been evaluated through the OWHA evaluation process and may have been selected to and participated in at least one of the following events for the OWHA:

Team Ontario, Canada Winter Games

Team Ontario, Under 18 National Challenge

Team Ontario, Under 18 National Championship

Team Ontario Esso Women's National Championship

Ontario Women's Hockey Association Provincial Championships/Playdowns

Athletes who have been identified through the OWHA and/or Hockey Canada evaluation process and may have participated in a camp and/or event with at least one of the following:

National Women's Team

National Women's Under 22 Team

National Women's Under 18 Team

National Women's Player Pool

Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Camp

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Exemplifies the Values of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association

FAIR PLAY

FUN

EXCELLENCE

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

EQUITY

INTEGRITY & HONESTY

Commitment to the Code of Conduct of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association

Demonstrated positive attitude to female hockey

Commitment to playing female hockey in Ontario

Respect for the players, officials, sponsors, and others

FEMALE HOCKEY SKILLS

Players are evaluated on their skills and their potential to be part of present and/or future national teams (U18 & CWG). The general scale is 1 to 5 to rate the players: 1 = weak 2 = below average 3 = average 4 = above average 5 = exceptional (top level of the National Women's Team).

Players have been evaluated through the Ontario Women's Hockey Association's evaluation process and/or by Hockey Canada.

SKATING

Ability to skate at the national level. Ability to skate the game. Timing. Support.

Taking into consideration

Quickness & Agility

Speed and acceleration in the neutral zone

Power and strength on skates

PUCK SKILLS: INDIVIDUAL & TEAM

Ability with the puck to score and pass. Do they try beat people 1 vs. 1?

Taking into consideration Individual Skills:

Puck handling: moves, protection, control

Ability to do all of this with speed

Passing : accuracy, variety, reception

Ability to do all of this with speed

Shooting : accuracy, variety, strength & power , touch around the net

Ability to do all of this with speed

GOAL SCORER

TEAM SKILLS

Vision: Sees ice, sees the options, creates options, playmaking, support & timing, anticipation

Puck Control: Risk vs. Reward, creativity

OFFENSIVE TEAM PLAY

Ability to anticipate & support the play On the forecheck, Breaking out, On the attack.

Take into consideration Read & react, positioning, timing

Is a factor without the puck

Puck Control: Works to keep control of puck for her team through intelligent puck possession & movement

Is able to play within the team system in all three zones

DEFENSIVE TEAM PLAY

Ability to read the rush properly. Ability in defensive zone. Responsible defensively.

Take into consideration Defensive support

Ability to her job in her area of the ice:

Defensive side

Can angle and steer

Uses stick effectively

Ability to make a good transition (both ways)

Is able to play within the team system in all three zones

PHYSICAL

Possess the physical abilities to compete at the national levels

Take into consideration Size & strength

Ability to play when the game is physical

Fitness level (does performance decline over the course of the game)

INTANGIBLES

Ability to COMPETE. Intensity. Courage. Unquestionable work ethic.

Take into consideration Emotional Control

Does not overreact emotionally

Not easily frustrated,

Performs under pressure

Does whatever it takes

Work ethic

Extra effort

Determination

Blocks shots

Does all of this within the rules

Plays with class

Is respectful

GOALTENDERS:

SKATING

Ability to skate at the international level.

Take into consideration

- Balance
- Coordination
- Strength
- Speed
- Quickness
- Shuffle
- Lateral post to post movement
- Recovery
- Use of feet

PUCK CONTROL

Possesses the necessary puck skills to compete at the international level.

Take into consideration

- Ability to clear the puck
- Play the rim
- Set for Defence
- Strong, accurate, well timed passes

STOPS THE PUCK/REBOUND CONTROL

Consistently stops the puck.

Taking into consideration

- Control of rebounds
- Save selection
- Use of gloves, feet, stick, poke check
- Focus & concentration
- Success in a crowd
- Control of rebounds of gloves, pads, stick

ANGLE PLAY-READ & REACT

Consistency in the shot lane.

Taking into consideration

- Ability to read the attack
- Challenges appropriately
- Square to shooter
- Aware of position to net
- Reads options available to opponent
- Anticipates

PHYSICAL

Possesses the size and physical abilities to allow her to compete at the international level.

Take into consideration

- Physical size
- Athletic ability
- Fitness level
- Ability to play in demanding game
- Ability to play back to back games

Ontario Women's Hockey Association

Selection Process and Deadlines

- The Athlete Selection Committee shall be made up of no less than three (3) members. Members of the OWHA selection committee are Bryan Chappell, Brian Hart, Nathalie Rivard and Pat Nicholls.
- The OWHA Athlete Selection Committee has been approved by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Board of Directors.
- The OWHA Athlete Selection Committee has established the Athlete Selection Criteria for the Ontario card nomination process.
- The OWHA publishes the Athlete Selection Criteria by posting it on its web site.
- The Athlete Selection Committee applies the criteria and selects athletes for Ontario Cards. The Athlete Selection Committee will
 - review the depth charts submitted by OWHA coaches at the Senior, Intermediate and Midget competitive levels as well as the OUA level
 - review the evaluations completed at OWHA events including, but not limited to the Team Ontario Under 18 try outs, the Under 18 National Championships, the Canada Winter Games, the OWHA Provincial Championships, the Esso National Championships and various games in OWHA sanctioned tournaments, league and exhibition competition
 - consultation with Hockey Canada Head Scout
 - review other pertinent information
 - rank players according to data collected
 - recommend selections for presentation and approval of the OWHA Executive Committee
 - the approved list will be forwarded to the MHP
- The OWHA ensures Ontario Card applications are complete and signed copies of the OWHA Athlete Agreements have been received.
- The OWHA meets with MHP to review the list of nominated athletes, deliver completed applications and confirm that the OWHA Athlete Agreements have been signed.
- The OWHA releases the final list and makes it known to its members and the nominated list of athletes.
- Requests for appeals must be submitted, in writing from athletes, directly to the Ministry of Health Promotion – deadline no later than **February 1, 2010**
- Appeals Committee reviews appeals – **February 9, 2010**
- Appeals Committee notifies athletes and PSO/NSO's of outcome of appeals – **February 15, 2010**.
- MHP to finalize list of 2009-2010 carded athletes and send to PSO/MSO for final review – **February 24, 2010**

NOTE: The Ontario Women's Hockey Association is using the criteria outlined in this document for the selection of athletes for the **2009/2010** Quest For Gold Ontario Athlete Assistance Program. The criteria will be reviewed and updated for subsequent selections.

To Apply in Order to Ensure Consideration (application is not mandatory for consideration):

If any eligible OWHA player wishes to make sure she is identified for consideration in the process, she may send an email application to the OWHA Athlete Selection Committee c/o info@owha.on.ca to be received no later than December 15, 2009. The application must include:

Name, Address, Email Address, Telephone Number(s), Outline of how athlete feels she meets the criteria.

Residency Exceptions:

Any athlete living/training outside of Ontario is required to **submit written documentation** to the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Committee clearly identifying how they meet the following residency exceptions, identified in the Ministry of Health Promotion's General Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes must be living and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions will be made on a case specific basis providing that the athlete can substantiate that:
 - She cannot receive the required level of training in Ontario and is out of the province **temporarily** during the year (i.e. due to lack of facilities, coaching, competitions);
 - She must attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province because the course of study is not available to him/her in Ontario;
 - It is more financially feasible to attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province, or other extenuating circumstances that require the athlete to be out of the province.

This information must be received by the Selection Committee, c/o the OWHA office, no later than December 15, 2009 in order to be considered.

Residency Exemption for Military Families: The one-year Ontario residency requirement is waived for any Ontario Card or Canada Card applicant who is a spouse or dependant of a: Regular Force member of the Canadian Forces; or Reservist currently deployed by the Canadian Forces into active service. This means that eligible military family members now qualify for OAAP funding immediately upon becoming residents of Ontario. Please see the 2009-2010 *Quest for Gold* Athlete Handbook for details of this exemption, including a list of documents needed to verify eligibility for this waiver of the one-year Ontario residency requirement .

Alternates:

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association may, at the discretion of the selection committee, also nominate alternates to those athletes nominated for Ontario Card status. Alternates will be those athletes who are ranked directly behind those athletes nominated for the allotment of Ontario Cards in a particular category/discipline. The names of alternates will be published along with the names of nominated athletes. If an athlete drops out or is removed from the OAAP an alternate will be substituted into that athlete's position, provide that:

- Alternate is substituted within 2009-2010 fiscal year
- An alternate is available from the same category/discipline/card level (Full/Half)
- Funding for athlete being substituted is still available within fiscal year (e.g. full funding for card has not already been paid out to athlete no longer in program)

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than **January 18, 2010**.

Appeals

Appeals will be allowed in writing from athletes who have not been nominated by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association for Ontario Card status. Appeals will be dealt with by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community and chosen by the Ministry. Grounds for appeals will be limited strictly to issues related to:

- Whether or not the Ontario Women's Hockey Association has completed the selection process in accordance with their own published selection criteria and related procedures;
- Whether or not the selection criteria developed and applied by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association were fair, objective, transparent and free from discrimination or conflict of interest.

After hearing an appeal the Appeals Committee will have the authority to:

- Direct the Ontario Women's Hockey Association to redo the selection process using the correct criteria/process and submit new list of nominated athletes;
- Deny the appeal;
- Allow the appeal and nominate the appellant for carding status.

The appeals will only be accepted on the MHP-provided template, in writing through regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person. Appeals that are delivered personally or by courier shall be deemed to be received on the date of delivery. Appeals that are delivered by regular post or registered mail shall be deemed to be received three days after the date of mailing. Appeals submitted by e-mail or fax will not be accepted. The Appeals Committee will discuss all appeals at once, after the Ontario Women's Hockey Association publishes its list of nominated athletes. Appeals received in advance of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association announcing its nominees will not be reviewed until after the Appeals deadline.

The deadline for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is

February 1, 2010.

Appeals must be completed on the template below and will be directed to:

Quest for Gold Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Appeals Committee
c/o Sport and Recreation Branch
Ministry of Health Promotion,
18th floor, 393 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S1

2009/2010 Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Appeal Template

The date for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is October 26, 2009 for Cycle 1 and February 1, 2010 for Cycle 2. The appeals will only be accepted on the MHP-provided template, in writing through regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person. **Please refer to the appeals section of your PSO/MSO's Athlete Selection Criteria document prior to completing this form.**

Full Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____
Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
Sport / PSO: _____

Reason for Appeal (Check one only):

- Whether or not the PSO/MSO has completed the selection process in accordance with their own published selection criteria and related procedures;

- Whether or not the selection criteria developed and applied by the PSO/MSO were fair, objective, transparent and free from discrimination or conflict of interest.

Provide a two-line summary of the reason for the appeal:

In the space below (continue on to next page as needed) provide a detailed account of the situation to allow the Appeals Committee to understand the basis of the appeal (please submit additional pages/supporting documentation if necessary):

Print Name of Appellant Signature of Appellant Date

Any/all information provided to the Appeals Committee may be shared with the athlete's PSO by the Appeals Committee.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Definitions

“**Family Member**” includes a parent, spouse or partner including same-sex spouses or partners, child, sibling, uncle, aunt, niece or nephew, parents-in-law, sister or brother-in-law and includes a step relative of any of the foregoing;

“**Ministry**” means the Ministry of Health Promotion;

“**Sports Organization**” means the Provincial Sports Organization (PSO), Multi-Sports Organization (MSO) or National Sports Organization (NSO) responsible for governing the specific sport in which the Applicant or Recipient competes.

What is the Purpose of a Conflict of Interest?

It is important for the public and athletes to have confidence that PSO/MSOs are administering the Ontario Card – *Quest for Gold* - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) in an objective manner that is fair to the athlete. Sometimes situations may occur where PSO/MSOs may have a conflict of interest that could damage public and stakeholder confidence in a sports organization’s administration of the Ontario Card - *Quest for Gold* - OAAP.

What is a Conflict of Interest?

Any situation where the PSO/MSOs interests, or the interests of individual members of a PSO/MSO are in conflict with its responsibilities as delineated in the Letter of Agreement between the Ministry and the Sports Organization.

What is a Perceived Conflict of Interest?

While a PSO/MSO may not be in an actual conflict of interest, the public perception that a conflict of interest exists or may exist can be equally harmful to the integrity of the Ontario Card - *Quest for Gold* – OAAP and its administration. The test question for determining whether or not a perceived conflict of interest exists is as follows:

Would an in formed person, having thought the situation through, think it possible that a PSO/MSO might be adversely influenced in its administration of the Ontario Card - Quest for Gold - OAAP under the Letter of Agreement with the Ministry by its other interests?

Examples

(Examples provided for illustration purposes only. Conflict of interest can occur in other scenarios not illustrated in following example)

An example of an actual conflict of interest situation is:

A PSO has appointed an Athlete Selection Committee to develop its sports specific athlete selection criteria (this criteria is used to nominate athletes for Ontario carding status).

One member of the Athlete Selection Committee is the paid coach of five of the sport's high performance athletes. The coach purposely influenced the development of the sport specific athlete selection criteria so that his or her athletes would be nominated for carding status. As a result, once the sport specific athlete selection criteria were applied, all five of the coaches' athletes were nominated for carding status.

The coach sitting on the Athlete Selection Committee is in a conflict of interest. The coach stands to benefit financially if his or her athletes were awarded carding status because they could use their funding to pay for extra coaching costs.

The coach did not act in the PSO/MSO's best interests when the Committee was developing the sport specific athlete selection criteria. This Committee member should have declared a conflict and removed himself or herself from the process. Athletes who were not nominated for carding status could complain that the conflict on the part of one Committee member might have impacted on the development of the sport specific athlete selection criteria, thereby preventing them from being nominated for Ontario Card status.

An example of a perceived conflict of interest situation is:

A PSO/MSO has appointed an Athlete Selection Committee to develop its sports specific athlete selection criteria (this criteria is used to nominate athletes for Ontario carding status). One of the Committee members is an aunt of one of the sport's female high performance athletes. The aunt was completely objective and did not purposely influence the development of the sport specific athlete selection criteria so as to increase the chances of her niece being nominated for carding status. However, it could be "perceived" or suspected by an outsider or other athlete that the aunt would have exercised some influence over the development of the criteria to favour selection of her niece.

It would be best for the PSO/MSO to avoid even the perception of conflict (or actual conflicts) by not having family members of prospective OAAP recipients sitting on the Selection Committee or taking part in board meetings when the selection criteria is being discussed and approved.

Procedures

Declaration of Interest

If any director or officer of the PSO/MSO, or if any Family member of a director or officer of the Sports Organization has a material interest in the Ontario Card - *Quest for Gold* – OAAP, the director or officer shall declare such interest to the board and shall not participate in the discussion or vote on any resolution relating to the matter.

Other PSO/MSO representatives involved in the *Quest for Gold* - OAAP shall declare such interest to the PSO/MSO which shall determine whether such interest creates either an actual or perceived conflict of interest situation for the PSO/MSO – then take the appropriate action to rectify the conflict (e.g. remove individual from selection committee).