



Skate Ontario
Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2010-2011
ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2010-2011 (OAAP) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP), and operated through the Sport, Recreation & Community Programs Branch. The overarching goal of the *Quest for Gold* – OAAP is directly related to the Enhanced Excellence goals of 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. A PSO/MSO with a NSO-approved Long Term Athlete Development Model (LTADM) that identifies older athletes in the “Train to Train” and “Train to Compete” categories may apply to MHP for a variation to this 11-22 age range. A PSO/MSO may choose to allocate a maximum of 30% of it’s carding allotment to athletes older than 22 years of age who have been identified as a potential next generation national team athlete by the PSO/MSO’s selection process.

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 Skate Ontario 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 2010-2011. The Selection Criteria are approved by the Board of Directors and reviewed by MHP staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and Skate Ontario. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2010 ending March 31, 2011.

In 2010-2011, the MHP allocated a certain amount of OAAP Ontario Cards to each eligible Provincial Sport / Multi-Sport Organization (PSO/MSO). Skate Ontario has been allotted a total of 16 Ontario cards

	Male	Female
Full Cards –14	7	7
Half Cards – 2 full cards	2	2

The Selection Committee, which has been approved by the PSO/MSO Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:

Tracey McCague-McElrea, Chair Quest for Gold Committee, Skate Ontario
Janet Balkwill, President, Skate Ontario
Steve Scherrer, President, Western Ontario, Skate Ontario
Glenn Fortin, Program Committee Chair, Skate Ontario

How much funding is available?

The exact level of funding for the 2010-2011 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, 2011.

How will the Skate Ontario Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The Skate Ontario 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 for Ontario Card status in 2010-2011:

Ministry of Health Promotion Eligibility Criteria:

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

- Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status are not eligible for Ontario Cards.
- Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.
- Athlete must be a permanent resident of Ontario **for one year prior** to his/her nomination for carding status.
- Athletes must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions may be made **on a case specific basis by the PSO/MSO Selection Committee** providing that the athlete can substantiate in writing at the time of application/nomination for carding status that:
 - He/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);
 - He/She must attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province because the course of study is not offered by an Ontario institution;
 - 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;The onus is on the athlete to demonstrate that he/she needs to be out of province. This information must be received by the **Skate Ontario** Selection Committee by no later than **October 8th, 2010** in order to be considered.

- 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 his or her PSO/MSO and must be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of that agreement;
- Athlete must have met all terms and conditions of any previous *Quest for Gold* Sports Organization – Athlete Agreements to the satisfaction of the PSO/MSO in order to be eligible for consideration in 2010/2011;
- 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 a sanction that prohibits competition as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy;
- Athlete must be attending an educational institution full-time (i.e. elementary and secondary schools):
 - Exceptions will be made provided that the athlete can substantiate that his/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 considered;
- If eligible, the athlete must compete, and continue to compete solely 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;

- Athlete must not receive financial support from any other provincial/territorial athlete assistance program. This does not include academic scholarships, bursaries, student grants, student loans, social assistance, disability pensions, and other forms of financial assistance that have nothing to do with competitive sport.
- 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 athletes older than 22 years of age who have been identified as a potential next generation national team athlete by the PSO/MSO's selection process.

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 and who takes up residence in Ontario during the fiscal year. This means that eligible military family members now qualify for OAAP funding immediately upon becoming residents of Ontario. Please see the 2010-2011 *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.

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 during any part of MHP's fiscal year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010 and/or any part of fiscal year April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive *Quest for Gold* funding during fiscal year 2010-2011 (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011.) 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 by the Ministry on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions may include, but may not be limited to logistical or administrative changes (ex. reduction in Sport Canada carding allocation), 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.

National Collegiate Athletic Association

www.ncaa.org

NCAA Eligibility Center mailing address:

NCAA Eligibility Center

P.O. Box 7136

Indianapolis, IN 46207

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

Toll-free phone 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

- In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the MHP eligibility requirements detailed in the MHP binder provided to PSO/MSOs and duplicated in the Athlete Handbook provided to each nominated

athlete and the eligibility requirements listed in the PSO/MSO Athlete Selection Criteria Document prepared by the PSO/MSO, the MHP Binder/Athlete Handbook shall prevail.

Sport Specific Athlete Selection Criteria:

The following sport specific athlete selection criteria will be utilized in the identification, ranking and selection of athletes for Ontario Cards:

Athletes selected by the Skate Ontario Athlete Selection Committee for Ontario carding under the Ministry of Health Promotion's Quest for Gold program must meet the eligibility criteria detailed above. Selection will be based on the results of the 2010 Canadian Championships and Junior Nationals.

For pair teams and dance couples, Ontario cards will be awarded to both partners. Five Ontario cards for female athletes and five Ontario cards for male athletes will be designated for pair teams and dance couples. To be eligible for carding during the 2010/11 skating season, pair teams and dance couples must be competing in the 2010/11 skating season with the partner with whom he or she competed in the 2009/10 skating season.

Six Ontario cards will be designated for single skaters with the intention of three for females and three for males. To be eligible for carding, single skaters must be competing in the men's or ladies category during the 2010/11 skating season. Where there is not a full quota of eligible male or female athletes, up to one full card may be allocated to the other gender.

Athletes will be selected according to the ranking of the results of the Canadian Championships and Junior Nationals. For example, athletes ranked first will be selected first before athletes ranked second, and so on.

Skate Ontario is permitted to name alternate athletes to receive Ontario card status in the event that a nominated athlete becomes ineligible to receive all or the balance of his or her funding during the year. The list of alternates will be posted together with the list of nominated athletes on the Skate Ontario website.

Selection will be made based on the following priority:

A. Cards for Singles Athletes (3 Ontario cards for female athletes and 3 Ontario cards for male athletes)

- First priority will be given to medal winners in the Junior category at the 2010 BMO Financial Group Canadian Championships
- Second priority will be given to athletes finishing first through fifth in the Senior category at the 2010 BMO Financial Group Canadian Championships and who are not nationally carded
- Third priority will be given to athletes finishing fourth and fifth in the Junior category at the 2010 BMO Financial Group Canadian Championships
- Fourth priority will be given to athletes finishing sixth through tenth in the Senior category at the 2010 BMO Financial Group Canadian Championships
- Fifth priority will be given to athletes finishing first through fifth in the Novice category in the 2010 BMO Financial Group Junior Canadian Championships

B. Cards for Pair Teams and Dance Couples (4 Ontario cards for female athletes and 4 Ontario cards for male athletes, 2 half cards for female athletes and 2 half cards for male athletes)

- First priority will be given to medal winners in the Junior category at the 2010 BMO Financial Group Canadian Championships
- Second priority will be given to athletes finishing first through fifth in the Senior category at the 2010 BMO Financial Group Canadian Championships and who are not nationally

carded

- Third priority will be given to athletes finishing fourth and fifth in the Junior category at the 2010 BMO Financial Group Canadian Championships
- Fourth priority will be given to athletes finishing sixth through tenth in the Senior category at the 2010 BMO Financial Group Canadian Championships
- Fifth priority (1/2 cards) will be given to athletes finishing first through fifth in the Novice category in the 2010 BMO Financial Group Junior Canadian Championships

Athletes selected for Ontario carding by the above selection priority criteria will be advised by Skate Ontario to submit an online Ontario card application and to complete a Skate Ontario Quest for Gold Athlete Agreement. These must be completed and the agreement returned to the Chair of the Skate Ontario Athlete Selection Committee no later than **23:59 on Wednesday, October 20, 2010**. Late applications will not be accepted. Athletes will receive confirmation of their Ontario carding by the Ministry of Health Promotion in December 2010.

Alternates: Skate Ontario will 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, provided that:

- Alternate is substituted within 2010-2011 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).

To Apply:

All required information requested by Skate Ontario should be submitted to:

Tracey McCague-McElrea
carrot@rogers.com
55 Cassells Ave., c/o Fosters Forest, Beeton, ON L0G 1A0
b. 905 775-7803 f. 905 775-0273

no later than **October 20th, 2010**. The Skate Ontario Athlete Agreement will only come into effect if an athlete is selected and accepts carding status through the OAAP program.

Skate Ontario will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than **October 13th, 2010**.

Appeals

Appeals will be allowed from athletes who have not been nominated by a PSO/MSO for Ontario Card status. Appeals will only be accepted directly from athletes (or from their parent/guardian for athletes under 18 years of age). 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:

- A) Whether or not the PSO/MSO has completed the selection process in accordance with their own published selection criteria and related procedures;
- B) Whether or not the selection criteria applied by the PSO/MSO were fair, objective, transparent and free from discrimination or conflict of interest.

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

1. Direct the PSO/MSO to redo the selection process using the correct criteria/process and submit a new list of nominated athletes;
2. Deny the appeal; or
3. Allow the appeal and nominate the appellant for carding status.

Appeals will only be accepted on the MHP-provided template (typed or hand-printed, no hand-written entries) through regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person.

Appeals must be received by MHP by 5 p.m. on the deadline day as posted below. Appeals that are delivered personally or by courier shall be deemed to be received on the date of delivery. Appeals submitted by e-mail or fax will not be accepted. The Appeals Committee will discuss all appeals at once, after PSO/MSOs publish their list of nominated athletes. Appeals received in advance of the PSO/MSO announcing nominees will not be reviewed until after the Appeals deadline.

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

Cycle One: October 25, 2010.

Cycle Two: January 26, 2011.

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, Recreation and Community Programs Branch
Ministry of Health Promotion,
7th floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1S5

