

ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM February 2006

Quest for Gold



Ministry of Health Promotion



ACTIVE2010

Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Ministry of Health Promotions
Quest for Gold
Ontario Athlete Assistance Program
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Ontario Athlete Assistance Program

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1. What are the goals and objectives of the *Quest for Gold* - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program?

The Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) is one of three funding streams being implemented in 2005-06 under the *Quest for Gold* Program. In addition to the OAAP the *Quest for Gold* Program will also provide funding to enhance access to high performance coaching and to provide enhanced competitive opportunities and services for Ontario athletes. Funding for the *Quest for Gold* Program will be obtained from net revenues generated by the *Quest for Gold* lottery game being established by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC).

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* – i.e. 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 during summer school break;
- d) To enable athletes to successfully pursue excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals;
- e) To increase athlete access to high performance coaching;
- f) To enhance training and competitive opportunities available to athletes.

2. How will the *Quest for Gold* - OAAP achieve its Objectives?

The *Quest for Gold* - OAAP achieves its objectives by:

- Providing additional direct financial assistance (Canada Card designation) to athletes from Ontario who are carded at the national level by Sport Canada;
- Providing standards for the identification and support of eligible sports and Ontario athletes to be carded at the Provincial level (Ontario Card);
- Ensuring that Provincial Sport and Multi-Sport Organizations (PSO/ MSOs) have appropriate selection procedures and criteria in place for the nomination of Ontario athletes to be carded at the Provincial level (Ontario card);
- Providing OAAP carding support in a consistent and timely manner to Ontario athletes who meet their sport-specific carding criteria in those sports that meet OAAP eligibility requirements;
- Focusing support on younger athletes to assist in their transition from junior to senior national and international competition;

- Providing a living and training allowance to help offset some of the costs athletes incur as a result of their involvement in high-performance sport;
- Allowing financial assistance provided to be used to offset tuition costs to allow athletes to attain academic goals;
- Ensuring, in conjunction with the PSO/ MSO, that appropriate training and competitive opportunities are in place and providing annual, ongoing and long-term evaluation of athlete performance and potential.

3. How will direct financial assistance be provided to Ontario athletes?

Direct financial assistance will be provided to eligible athletes from Ontario in the form of a living and training allowance. Assistance will be provided through two carding designations – Canada Card and Ontario Card.

Canada Card - Eligibility limited to athletes from Ontario who are carded by Sport Canada. Canada Card will provide up to an additional 33% in funding over and above what an athlete is receiving from Sport Canada – dependant on funding available.

Ontario Card - Ontario card will provide direct financial assistance to Ontario junior level athletes identified by PSO/ MSOs.

Financial assistance provided will go directly to athletes (referred to as “carded” athletes).

Both the sport and athlete eligibility criteria must be met before financial assistance can be awarded.

4. What are the eligible expenses that a carded athlete can spend funding on obtained through the *Quest for Gold* Ontario Athlete Assistance Program?

Carded athletes receiving funding under the Ontario Athlete Assistance Program can spend funding obtained only on the following items:

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

5. Payments in 2005-2006 and Review of OAAP for 2006-2007

For 2005-2006 Eligible athletes will receive carding status for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Athletes will receive one payment representing one quarter of a full carding year. Payments will be processed before March 31, 2006.

The OAAP is new for 2005-2006. Program staff will review the 2005-2006 Program in consultation with PSO/MSOs and will make the necessary adjustments to improve the Program for 2006-2007.

Card Allotment

- [How many Ontario Cards will be allotted to each eligible sport?](#)

The number of Ontario cards allotted to each sport will be based primarily on the following (in priority order):

- 1) The number of athletes (male and female) that the sport is eligible to send to the Canada Games as per the most current Canada Games technical package.
- 2) The Ontario Women's Hockey Association has been allotted twenty (20) cards.

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2005/2006

The *Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2005/2006 Program (OAAP)* is funded by the Provincial Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion. The Program will provide direct financial assistance to individual junior level athletes from Ontario through an “Ontario Card” designation. 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 2005-2006, the Sport and Recreation Branch, Ministry of Health Promotion, allocated a certain amount of OAAP Ontario Cards to each eligible Provincial Sport/ Multi-Sport Organization (PSO/ MSO).

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines the (name of PSO/ MSO) is responsible for forming a Selection Committee and sport specific selection criteria to select the athletes who will be awarded Ontario Card status in 2005/2006.

How much funding is available?

The exact level of funding for the remainder of the 2005/2006 fiscal year will be determined by the Ministry after the total number of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status has been determined.

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than March 6, 2006.

Athlete Selection Requirements and Process

- [How are athletes selected for Canada Cards and Ontario Cards?](#)
- [How will the selection process work for Canada Cards and Ontario Cards?](#)
- [Appeals process](#)

1. How are athletes selected for Canada Cards and Ontario Cards?

Canada Cards:

All athletes from Ontario funded through Sport Canada's AAP and continuing to meet AAP eligibility requirements will automatically qualify for Canada Card status under the OAAP.

Note: Athlete will be required to submit proof of Ontario residency.

Ontario Cards:

Athletes will be nominated for Ontario cards by their PSO/ MSO using an objective sport specific selection criterion developed by a "Selection Committee" appointed by the PSO/ MSO. The sport specific selection criteria will be approved by the PSO/MSO's Board of Directors in advance of the selection process. The selection criteria must be objective, transparent and free of conflict of interest.

2. How will the selection criteria process work for Canada Cards and Ontario Cards?

Canada Cards:

- Sport and Recreation Branch, MHP, will send athletes from Ontario identified by Sport Canada an application for Canada card status.
- The athlete will complete the application, return to MHP.
- MHP will verify information and then place athlete on Canada card list.

Note: Athlete will have right to appeal decision by MHP not to provide Canada Carding status.

Ontario Cards:

Step by step process:

- 1) PSO/ MSO receive and complete PSO/ MSO High Performance Questionnaire from Sport and Recreation Branch staff, MHP.
- 2) MHP staff determines if PSO/ MSO high performance program meets minimum sport eligibility requirements.
- 3) MHP meet with PSO/ MSO to review Program criteria and requirements
- 4) PSO/ MSO establishes Athlete Selection Committee
 - The Athlete Selection Committee should include a minimum of three members, including the high performance coordinator/ Director or a high performance provincial level coach.
- 5) Athlete Selection Committee established "sport specific athlete selection criteria" for Ontario Card allotment (must be approved by PSO/ MSO Board of Directors). The selection criteria must be objective, transparent and free of conflict of interest.
- 6) PSO/ MSO must publish the selection criteria and appeal process so that it is known to athletes and members (i.e. on website, in newsletter or through communications to athletes and members (mailing, e-mail)).
- 7) PSO/ MSO distributes Ontario card application to athletes who are nominated or who are on PSO/ MSOs short list of possible eligible athletes.
- 8) Athlete Selection Committee applies criteria and selects athletes for Ontario cards.

Note: PSO/ MSOs can determine order of steps 7 and 8.
- 9) PSO/ MSO ensures that Ontario card application is completed and signed by the PSO/ MSO and athlete. PSO/ MSO also signs with the selected athlete a "PSO/ MSO – Athlete Agreement" (See Tab 5 for further explanation and template agreement/ examples).
- 10) MHP meets with PSO/ MSO to review list of nominated athletes, receive completed applications and confirm that PSO/ MSO – Athlete Agreements have been signed.
- 11) PSO/ MSO publishes or makes known to members the nominated list of athletes and appeals procedures and timelines.
- 12) Appeals – must be submitted by athletes directly to Appeals Committee by March 14, 2006.
- 13) MHP enters athlete's name onto Ontario carded list and processes payment. **Note:** Funding levels for Canada and Ontario Carded athletes will not be known until total funding available and number of athletes eligible for carding is determined.

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 2006 Olympic Winter Games.
 - ii. The 2007 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. These procedures are provided in TAB 6 of these guidelines.
- The OWHA will have an Athlete-OWHA agreement signed by each individual athlete that is being nominated for an Ontario card. The Athlete-OWHA agreement contains in writing the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the athlete and the OWHA.

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 training and continuing to train in Ontario.
- Athlete must be a member in good standing with Ontario Women's Hockey Association and with Hockey Canada where applicable
- Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program.
- Athlete must be instructed by a coach that has been trained and certified in the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) or equivalent.
- Athlete must not be under sanction as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy.

Additional Canada Card Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Eligibility will be limited to athletes from Ontario who have carded status under Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program.
- Canada Card will provide up to an additional 33% in funding over and above what an athlete is receiving from Sport Canada – dependant on funding available.

Additional Ontario Card Athlete Eligibility Criteria:

- Eligibility will be limited to athletes from Ontario who have been identified as a next generation national team athlete as demonstrated by:
 - Identification within the Hockey Canada and/or the Ontario Women's Hockey Association pool of identified next generation national team athletes for the last two competitive seasons; OR
 - Results at provincial championships, senior national championships, under 18 national championships or other recognized national/international competitions over the last two competitive seasons; OR
 - Representation on the National Women's Team and/or National Under 22 Team. Athletes training for Canada Games or provincial teams may also be considered.
- Athlete must be attending an educational institution full-time
 - 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. Paralympic athlete)
- Athletes who have completed their area of study and who continue to train towards participation in major national or international competitions will be given consideration.
- If eligible, athlete must compete, and continue to compete for Ontario, if selected, at Canada Games and other national competitions involving provincial team competitions.
- Athletes who have achieved Canada card status are not eligible for Ontario cards. However, members of Sr. National Teams not carded by Sport Canada are eligible for Ontario Cards. No more than 30% of the OWHA's Ontario Card allotment can be utilized for athletes in this category.

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 for Ontario cards.

These athletes are eligible for Sport Canada funding in the months in which they are not attending the foreign post-secondary educational institution. These athletes *may* be nominated by Hockey Canada for Sport Canada AAP support during the months they are involved in National Team training and competition activities and not attending the foreign post-secondary institution (during summer break). In these cases these athletes will be eligible for Canada Cards through the OAAP during the temporary period that they are carded by Sport Canada.

What if Athletes are under 18?

All athletes under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian sign their AAP application form (funding will be sent directly to 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 Ontario Card OAAP support. The responsibility is on the athlete to prove that this eligibility criteria is met.

What about Sports where there is no women's or men's event in one of the three sets of Games designated for sport qualification (i.e. Olympic/ Paralympic Winter Games, Canada Games, Ontario Games)?

Where there is no comparable event for women or men in one of the qualifying Games women or men will still be eligible for Ontario cards at the discretion of the Ministry of Health Promotion. However, these cards will only be awarded if the sport organization can demonstrate that there is a high performance program for the gender in question and high performance competitions available to the athlete throughout the competition continuum (e.g. provincial, national, international competitions).

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 two cards will be allotted to the Competitive Card athletes and a minimum of two cards will be allotted to the Development Card athletes.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

Athlete must meet the general eligibility requirements

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

Athletes must be 22 or under as of December 31, 2005

LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION – COMPETITIVE CARDS

Athletes 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, 2003 Canada Winter Games

Team Ontario Red, 2004/05 Under 18 National Challenge

Team Ontario Blue, 2004/05 Under 18 National Challenge

Team Ontario Red, 2005/06 Under 18 National Challenge

Team Ontario Esso Women's National Championship 2002/03

Team Ontario Esso Women's National Championship 2003/04

Team Ontario Esso Women's National Championship 2004/05

LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION - DEVELOPMENT CARDS

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

Team Ontario Blue, 2005/06 Under 18 National Championship

OWHA Intermediate Provincial Championships 2004/05

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Exemplifies the Values of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association

FAIR PLAY

FUN

EXCELLENCE

GOOD CITIZENSHIP

INTEGRITY & HONESTY

EQUITY

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 and 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 her 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

Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Process and Deadlines

- The OWHA Athlete Selection Committee shall be made up of no less than three (3) members
- The OWHA Athlete Selection Committee shall be approved by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Board of Directors
- The OWHA Athlete Selection Committee shall establish the Athlete Selection Criteria for the Ontario card nomination process.
- The OWHA will publish the Athlete Selection Criteria by posting it on its web site.
- The OWHA will distribute the Ontario card application and the OWHA Athlete Agreement to athletes who are on the potentially eligible athletes list.
- The Athlete Selection Committee applies the criteria and selects athletes for Ontario Cards.
- The OWHA ensures Ontario Card applications are complete and signed copies of the OWHA Athlete Agreements have been received by February 28, 2006.
- 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 – deadline not later than March 3, 2006-02-18
- The OWHA releases the final list and makes it known to its members and the nominated list of athletes – deadline no later than March 6, 2006.
- Requests for appeals must be submitted, in writing from athletes, directly to the Ministry of Health Promotion – deadline no later than March 14, 2006
- Appeal ruling deadline – no later than March 17, 2006.
- Names of OWHA Carded Athletes submitted for payment – no later than March 31, 2006
- The OWHA will publish the Final Selections by posting them on its web site, issuing a press release and publishing the list in its annual report

NOTE: The Ontario Women's Hockey Association is using the criteria outlined in this document for the selection of athletes for the initial phase of the carding program which is to the end of March 2006. The criteria will be reviewed and updated for subsequent selections.