

ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



ATHLETE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM **October 2010**

Quest for Gold

Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport



Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport

Quest for Gold

Ontario Athlete Assistance Program

Table of Contents

| | |
|--------|---|
| Page 1 | Table of Contents |
| Page 2 | Program Overview – Quest for Gold |
| Page 3 | Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport Eligibility Criteria |
| Page 5 | OWHA Athlete eligibility Requirements |
| Page 6 | OWHA Athlete Selection Criteria |
| Page 9 | Selection Process and Deadlines |
| Page11 | Appeal Template |

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2010-2011 (OAAP) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport (MHPS), 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 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. In addition, the OWHA may allocate up to 30% of its carding allotment to athletes older than 22 years of age who have been identified as a potential next generation national team athlete by its 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 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 2010-2011. The Selection Criteria are approved by the Board of Directors and reviewed by MHPS staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association. 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). 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 MHP 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 2010-2011. 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 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 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 and Sport 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 and Sport Eligibility Criteria:

All athletes must also meet the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport'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 her nomination for carding status.
 - Athletes must be living and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions may be made on a case specific basis by the OWHA Selection Committee providing that the athlete can substantiate in writing at the time of application/nomination for carding status 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 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 she needs to be out of province. This information must be received by the OWHA Selection Committee by no later than December 15, 2010 in order to be considered.
- Athlete must be a member in good standing with the OWHA 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 have met all terms and conditions of any previous Quest for Gold Sports Organization-Athlete Agreements to the satisfaction of the OWHA 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 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 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 considered.
- 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. 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 OWHA 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 dependent 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 on 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 MHPS' fiscal year April 1, 2009 and 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 but may not be limited to logistical or administrative changes (ex. Reduction in Sport Canada carding allocation)..
- 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 Centre mailing address:

NCAA Eligibility Center

P.O Box 7136

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

- In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the MHPS eligibility requirements detailed in the MHL binder provided to the PSO/MSOs and duplicated in the Athlete Handbook provided to each nominated athlete and the eligibility requirements listed in the OWHA Athlete Selection Criteria Document prepared by the OWHA, the MHPS Binder/Athlete Handbook shall prevail

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 and Sport 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.

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.

Ontario Women's Hockey Association Athlete Selection Criteria

The following sport specific 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. Ties will be broken by a majority vote of the OWHA Selection Committee.

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
 - 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 MHPS
- The OWHA ensures Ontario Card applications are complete and signed copies of the OWHA Athlete Agreements have been received.
- The OWHA meets with MHPS 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 and Sport – deadline no later than January 26, **2011**
- Appeals Committee reviews appeals – **February 3, 2011**
- Appeals Committee notifies athletes and PSO/NSO's of outcome of appeals – **February 10, 2011.**
- MHPS to finalize list of 2010-2011 carded athletes and send to PSO/MSO for final review – **February 21, 2011**

NOTE: The Ontario Women's Hockey Association is using the criteria outlined in this document for the selection of athletes for the **2010/2011** 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, 2010**. The application must include:

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

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 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)

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than **January 14, 2011**.

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 only be accepted directly from athlete (or from her 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 Ontario Women's Hockey Association 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 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:

- 1) Direct the Ontario Women's Hockey Association to redo the selection process using the correct criteria/process and submit 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 MHPS-provided template (typed or hand-printed, no hand-written entries), in writing through regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person.. 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

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 and Sport,
7th floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1S5

2010/2011 *Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Appeal Template

The date for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is January 26, 2011. The appeals will only be accepted on the MHPS-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.