



ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO SNOWBOARDERS
Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2008-2009
ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2008-2009 (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 Association of Ontario Snowboarders (AOS) 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 2008-2009. 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 Association of Ontario Snowboarders. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2008 ending March 31, 2009.

In 2008-2009, the Ministry of Health Promotion allocated a certain amount of OAAP Ontario Cards to each eligible Provincial Sport / Multi-Sport Organization (PSO/MSO). The Association of Ontario Snowboarders has been allotted a total of 8 Ontario cards (split evenly as 4 male and 4 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 8 cards issued to the Association of Ontario Snowboarders will be allocated as follows:

	Male	Female
Full Cards – 8	4	4

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines the Association of Ontario Snowboarders is responsible for forming a Selection Committee and sport specific selection criteria to nominate the athletes for Ontario carding status in 2008-2009. This selection criteria has been approved by the Association of Ontario Snowboarders Board of Directors.

The Selection Committee is comprised of the following members:

Mr. Derek Nischan
Mr. Brendon Hune
Mr. Bob Joncas, HPP Manager, Canadian Snowboard Federation

How much funding is available?

The exact level of funding for the 2008-2009 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, 2009.

How will the Association of Ontario Snowboarders Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The Association of Ontario Snowboarders 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 Association of Ontario Snowboarders for Ontario Card status in 2008-2009.

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:
 - 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);
 - ▶ 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.
 - He/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 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 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))

- 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 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 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.
- An athlete that received Sport Canada Carding between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008 and/or April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive Quest for Gold funding during the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. 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.

Association of Ontario Snowboarders Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes are a current member of the AOS in good standing, have a current FIS license (note: minimum age criteria, minimum FIS age for Alpine and Snowboardcross is 15 years of age and minimum FIS age for Halfpipe is 13 years of age) and CAIP insurance.
- Athletes are not under sanction as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy
- Athletes train with a professional coach registered with the Canadian Snowboard Coaching Program who follows a Program that matches the Snowboard Long Term Athlete Development recommendations for minimum Stage 5: 'Train to Compete'.
- Athletes who train outside of the Province of Ontario must substantiate that he/she cannot receive the required level of training within Ontario. (ie. Facilities, coaching, competitions) as detailed in the "Residency Exceptions" section below.
- Athletes can demonstrate high performance potential through a recommendation letter from a Snowboard Coach licensed with the Canadian Snowboard Coaching Program.
- Athletes have participated in the most recent Ontario Provincial Snowboard Championships in their selected discipline (Barring extraordinary circumstances, ex. health, school)
- Athletes have participated in 2 FIS Nor-Am Cup events (1 being a Canadian event) in their selected discipline during the latest 12 month period (Barring extraordinary circumstances, ex. health, school)
- Athletes have participated in the latest annual Canadian National Championships (Barring extraordinary circumstances, ex. health, school).
- Athletes that received Quest for Gold funding in 2007-2008 must meet all the terms of the 2007-2008 Association of Ontario Snowboarders Quest for Gold Athlete Agreement before the PSO Selection Committee will consider their application for carding in 2008-2009.
- No athlete may receive Q4G funding if they are currently snowboarding for another Provincial Association.

Sport Specific Athlete Selection Criteria:

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

Selection Criteria:

From within the 'eligible' athletes who request nomination, selections will be based upon evaluation of criteria including:

- The top AOS athletes, eligible as detailed above, ranked according to combined best 2 point results as posted on the most current official FIS points list (currently dated October 1, 2008).

- Skill/ Development Potential (estimated by the calculated year over year change in overall FIS Discipline Ranking on that same date)
- Commitment to Excellence (measured by subjective ranking of submitted yearly plans and schedules relating to coaching, training and competitive activity compared to the Snowboard Long Term Athlete Development Program recommendations. Injury history and quality of competitions may be considered by the evaluators to the extent they may distort recorded results and development plans)
- Demonstrated high performance potential through a recommendation letter from a Snowboard Coach licensed with the Canadian Snowboard Coaching Program.
- Should a tie exist the Selection Committee will use the next best result in the same event at the highest point level in the past 12 months.

Athlete Obligations

Eligible athletes must enter into an athlete agreement with the Association of Ontario Snowboarders which will include commitments to:

- Identify Ontario and the AOS
- Participate in the current year Ontario Provincial Championships, barring extraordinary circumstances.
- Participate in at least two Canadian FIS NorAm COST competitions or two international FIS sanctioned events ranked senior to NorAm level events.
- Follow your submitted and approved annual plan/schedule for personal training, development and competitions.

Residency Exceptions:

Any athlete living/training outside of Ontario is required to **submit written documentation** to the Association of Ontario Snowboarders 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:
 - 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 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 by no later than **December 1, 2008** 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 2008-2009 *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 Association of Ontario Snowboarders 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, provide that:

- Alternate is substituted within 2008-2009 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)

Contact Address and Deadline

Athletes who meet the eligibility requirements must submit a written request to be 'Nominated' (letter or email) for an Ontario Card together with their proposed 12 month plan/schedule and letter of recommendation to the:

Association of Ontario Snowboarders
'Quest for Gold Nominating Committee'
251 Queen St. South Suite 536
Mississauga, ON L5M 1L7

aos@ontariosnowboarders.ca

All information must be submitted no later than **December 1, 2008**.

The Association of Ontario Snowboarders will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than **January 19, 2009**.

Appeals

Athletes who have not been nominated and who wish to appeal this decision can do so by filing an appeal *in writing only* with the *Quest for Gold* Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Appeals Committee. Appeals will be dealt with by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community and chosen by the Ministry.

Appeals must be submitted through regular post, registered mail, in person or by courier and on the form provided. 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.**

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

Grounds for appeals will be limited strictly to:

- 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.

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

- Direct the PSO/MSO 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 deadline for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is **February 2, 2009**.

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

**2008/2009 Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program
- Appeal Template –**

The date for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is February 2, 2009 for Cycle 2. 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 the Guidelines 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 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.