



Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2007/2008

Announcement of Sport Specific Athlete Selection Criteria

TABLE TENNIS

APPLICATION DEADLINE – December 10, 2007

The Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program ** (OAAP) is a new program for Table Tennis athletes in Ontario; the program is funded by the Provincial Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion.

This is a great opportunity for young athletes to enhance their training and competition program and aim for the highest level in table tennis.

In order to be considered for the OAAP, an application for OAAP must be received by the application deadline - December 10, 2007. The application form will be available on the OTTA website by November 15, 2007 and/or by request from MargueriteJane Won at mjkw@rogers.com

Applications must be sent to:

**OTTA c/o MargueriteJane Won
308-2211 Riverside Dr.
Ottawa, ON K1H 7X5**

Objectives:

Quest for Gold is directly related to Enhanced Excellence of both ACTIVE 2010 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;
- 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 provides direct financial assistance to individual athletes from Ontario through a “Canada Card” and an “Ontario Card” designation.

It is 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 competition.

1. Canada Card – eligibility is limited to Ontario athletes who are carded by Sport Canada. Canada Card will provide up to an additional 33% in funding over and above the full value of the carding designation the athlete is receiving from Sport Canada – the actual amount is dependant on funding available

2. Ontario Card - provides direct financial assistance to Ontario junior athletes – junior athletes are athletes who at the time of application (the application deadline) are eligible to compete in the Junior 18 age category.

The OTTA has also decided to exercise the option available in 2007-2008 to split up to 30% of its carding allotment (i.e. issue 4 cards in designated developmental categories):

**In total Table Tennis has been allotted 8 full cards – 4 boys and 4 girls:
6 cards will be awarded on the junior level – athletes born in 1989 or thereafter.
2 cards will be converted to 4 half cards or development cards – 2 boys and 2 girls; the half cards will be awarded on the Cadet level – athletes born in 1992 or thereafter.**

3. Minimum Eligibility (APPLIES TO ONTARIO CARD)

- 3.1 Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident.
- 3.2 Athlete must be a resident of Ontario for one year prior to his/her nomination for carding status
- 3.2 Athletes must be training and continuing to train in Ontario.
[Exceptions will be made 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, and 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.
- 3.3 Athlete must be a member in good standing with the OTTA and TABLE TENNIS CANADA.
- 3.4 Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program.
Only athletes who commit to a minimum of 12 table tennis training hours per week are eligible for this program
- 3.5 Athlete must work with a coach who has been trained and certified in the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Level 2 or equivalent.
- 3.6 Athlete must not be under sanction as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy.
- 3.7 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,
- 3.8 Athletes who have completed their area of study at the secondary level and who continue to train towards participation in major national or international competitions will also be given consideration.
 - 3.9 If eligible, the athlete must compete, and continue to compete for Ontario during the carding year at Canada Games and other national competitions involving provincial team competitions. An athlete receiving OAAP is eligible if he or she competed for Ontario in all these competitions during the 12 months prior to application deadline.
 - 3.10 At the time of application, the athlete must be eligible to compete in the Junior 18 age category – the Canada Winter games age category - and the athlete must submit an outline of an annual training plan, identify his/her coach and an outline of an annual competition plan. It is the responsibility of the identified coach to monitor and report the athletes training and competition activity to the OTTA on a quarterly basis.
 - 3.11 Athletes applying for the first time must have a minimum of 50 matches in the Canadian Rating System during the twelve months prior the application deadline. Athletes, already receiving OAAP must have a minimum of 100 matches during the twelve months in the Canadian rating System prior to application deadline date. These matches are verified through the Canadian Rating System.
 - 3.12. Athletes must have competed in at least three sanctioned events/tournaments/ competitions in Ontario (this includes competitions hosted by clubs in the National Capital Region) – the results must be verifiable through the Canadian Rating System.
 - 3.13 Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status are not eligible for Ontario Cards.

4. Sport Specific Selection Process – Table Tennis

- 4.1 athletes who submit an application for the **Ontario Card** and WHO MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 3 will be ranked according to the Canadian Computer Rating System – and the results of the last Canadian Championships before **the application deadline – December 10, 2007**
- 4.2 the Selection Committee will determine the athlete’s eligibility according to Section 3 (3.1-3.12 of this document). **ONLY ATHLETES WHO MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 3 ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER EVALUATION.**
- 4.2.1. All applicants will be evaluated first for 6 full cards.**
- 4.2.2. Those applicants who do not qualify for full cards and are born in 1992 or thereafter at the time of application will be evaluated for 4 development cards.**
- 4.3 **Canadian Computer Rating System** - The Selection Committee will record the rating points of the three Ranking Periods, average the points and establish a ranking of the eligible candidates. The Canadian Rating periods used will be: September, October, November. (see Appendix)
- 4.4 **Canadian Championships** – The Selection Committee will establish a ranking of the athletes based on the results at the Canadian Championships.

4.4.1 Full Card:

Athletes will be ranked by earning points in the events below as follows:

Women/Men’s Singles –	Champion	100 points
	Finalist	80 points
	Semi Finalist	60 points
	Quarter Finalist	40 points
Youth 21 Singles (Women/Men)	Champion	60 points
	Finalist	50 points
	Semi Finalist	40 points
	Quarter Finalist	30 points
JR18 Singles (Women/men)	Champion	50 points
	Finalist	40 points
	Semi Finalist	30 points
	Quarter Finalist	20 points

4.4.2 Development Card (Half Card for U15) :

Athletes will be ranked by earning points in the events below as follows:

CA15 Singles (Girls/Boys)	Champion	100 points
	Finalist	80 points
	Semi Finalist	60 points
	Quarter Finalist	40 points
CA13 Singles (Girls/Boys)	Champion	90 points
	Finalist	70 points
	Semi Finalist	50 points
	Quarter Finalist	30 points
CA11 Singles (Girls/Boys)	Champion	80 points
	Finalist	60 points
	Semi Finalist	40 points
	Quarter Finalist	20 points

- 4.5 The Selection Committee will average the two rankings – the ranking based on the Computer Rating System and the ranking based on points earned at the Canadian Championships giving 50% weight to the ranking based on the Canadian Rating System and 50% based on the ranking based on the Canadian Championship points – and establish the final ranking.
- 4.6 To achieve international excellence in table tennis at the senior level, athletes must acquire high technical skills and competitive level at a young age. Therefore, in case of a tie the younger athlete will be ranked higher.
- 4.7 **ALTERNATES**
The OTTA will nominate one alternate per gender and per age category. The Alternates will be those athletes who are ranked directly behind those athletes nominated for the allotted of Ontario Cards in a particular category (gender/age). The names of the alternates will be published along with the names of nominated athletes.

5. Athlete Agreement

Athletes nominated for an Ontario Card must sign an Athletes Agreement which outlines the obligations of the athlete and the OTTA.

The Athlete Agreement will be available by the application deadline – December 10, 2007

The terms and conditions of the *Quest for Gold* program (contained within athlete application) require athlete recipients to retain all records and documents related to 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 PSO/MSO can request receipts on an ongoing basis if this requirement is stipulated in the PSO/MSO – 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)

6. Appeals

From the Appeals Policy of the Quest For Gold OAAP:

“Appeals will be allowed in writing from athletes who have not been nominated by a PSO ... 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:

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

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

- a) Direct the PSO ... to redo the selection process using the correct criteria/process and submit a new list of nominated athletes;
- b) Deny the appeal;
- c) Allow the appeal and nominate the appellant for carding status.

The deadline for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee ... is Feb 8, 2008... The appeals will only be accepted 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.”

OTTA Selection Committee for Athlete Assistance Program

OTTA President

OTTA Program Coordinator

OTTA Team Selection Committee Chair

Appendix

Rating Period clarification:

The carding criteria are designed to offer as many athletes as possible the opportunity to apply for OAAP and to have the most up-to-date information on an athlete's progress for the purpose of qualifying for the OAAP.

It has been pointed out to us that the current wording of the OAAP - Table Tennis Announcement is open to interpretation when it comes to the Canadian Rating Period. While the date on the Canadian Rating website is the date of publication, e.g., November 1, the actual results are the results of the months of October. Therefore, the current wording can be interpreted either as meaning that the ratings published on November 1 refer to the October Rating period, or - as another interpretation would have it, the November period (despite the fact that no November results are included.)

To avoid any confusion, the periods used September, October, November refer to the results of these months, Therefore, a more clear description would be either "the last three available rating periods published before the application deadline" or," the rating periods including the results of September, October, November.