



ONTARIO TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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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 OTTA 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 OTTA. 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). OTTA has been allotted a total of 8 Ontario cards (split evenly as 4 male and 4 Female Cards).

OTTA has also decided to exercise the option made available by MHP to split up to 30% of its carding allotment (i.e. issue ½ cards in designated categories).

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 OTTA will be allocated as follows:

	Male	Female
Full Cards – 6	3	3
Half Cards – 2 full cards = 4 half cards	2	2

Cards will be specifically allocated to the following categories/disciplines:

Category	Number of cards
Youth Senior Level (U21, Athletes born in, or before 1987)***	6 Full Cards (3 male, 3 female)
Youth Development (U18, Athletes born in, or before 1990)***	4 Half Cards (2 male, 2 female)

*** NOTE: Athletes must be eligible to play in the aforementioned categories (i.e. U21 and U18), as of the application date, December 10, 2008, according to the I.T.T.F. and T.T.CAN rules.

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines OTTA 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 OTTA Board of Directors.

The Selection Committee is comprised of the following members:

Larry Laughlen, President OTTA
 Dejan Papic, Development Manager for Q4G
 Attila R. Mosonyi, Secretary OTTA, Program Coordinator Q4G

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 OTTA Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The OTTA 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 OTTA for Ontario Card status in 2008-2009:

A. 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 OTTA’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 OTTA and Table Tennis Canada for at least 6 months prior to the application deadline, Dec. 10, 2008.
- Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program. Only athletes who commit to a minimum of 10 training hours/week are eligible for this program. Athlete and his/her coach and/or club agree to accept monitoring program. Monitoring program will consist of 5 unscheduled visits to scheduled training. If athlete fails to be present on scheduled training, he/she will receive a letter of warning. After 3 warning letters athlete will lose the opportunity to be candidate for Ontario card next year. After 5 warning letters athlete will lose any financial support from MHP or OTTA.
- Athlete must work with a coach who has been trained and certified in the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) at least Level 2 or equivalent. Written contract or agreement should be presented between coach and player or between club, their coach or coaches and player.
- 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.

B. Sport Specific Athlete Selection Criteria: Table Tennis

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

DEADLINE FOR ATHLETES TO SEND IN APPLICATION FORMS TO OTTA FOR REVIEW IS December 10, 2008.

1. Coach has obligation to submit plans and reports (yearly and monthly).
 - It has to be done not later than 30 days after announcing holders of “Ontario Card” for yearly plan, and not later than 30 days after completing yearly cycle (August 31st, 2008).
 - Monthly plans with clearly stated activities (scheduled training and competitions) should be given before 25th of previous month. Monthly reports should be given between 1st and 10th of the following month.
 - Reports and plans should be submitted to the Athlete Selection Committee and Development Manager.
 - Failure to submit signed agreement or contract with coach that is submitting with athlete a yearly plan will lead to losing any financial support from MHP or OTTA.
 - Failure to submit monthly plans or report will lead to issuing a warning letter. After three warning letters athlete will lose opportunity to be candidate for Ontario Card next year. After five warning letters athlete will lose any financial support from MHP or OTTA.
 - Failure to submit yearly report will lead to the loss of the opportunity to be a candidate for Ontario Card next year.
2. Players are obliged to participate in the following competitions till August 31, 2009:
 - Ontario championships (all applicable categories)
 - Ontario Games (if they qualify)
 - Ontario Selection tournaments (if they are invited)
 - Canadian Championships (all applicable categories)
 - North American Championships (If selected by national team)
 - North American Championships (If rules allow free entry and competition is in Canada)
 - At least on two competitions organized in Canada where players from more than one province are participating
 - At least 3 sanctioned events in Ontario.
 - Any competition in North America where players are invited as part of Canadian National Team
 - Absence from competitions can be justified by a recognized sports doctor or by the Athlete Selection Committee excuse after written request.
3. Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status are not eligible for Ontario Cards.
4. Athletes have minimum 1000 Canadian ranking point (male), 750 ranking points (female) ranking for full card and 800 Canadian ranking points (boys), 500 ranking points (girls) for half card.

Athletes who submit an application for the **Ontario Card and WHO MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS STATED ABOVE** will be ranked according to down mentioned points system before the deadline for OTTA to send Athlete Nomination Form to MHP for review – **January 9, 2009.**

5. The Selection Committee will determine the athlete's eligibility according to Section B (1 to 6) of this document. **ONLY ATHLETES WHO MEET ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS IN SECTION 'B' ARE ELIGIBLE FOR FURTHER EVALUATION.**
- **All applicants will be evaluated first for 6 full cards.**
 - **Those applicants who do not qualify for full cards and are born in 1990 or thereafter at the time of application will be evaluated for 4 half cards.**
6. **Canadian Championships** – The Selection Committee will award points to the athletes based on the results at the Canadian Championships.

7.1 Full Card:

Women/Men's Singles –	Champion	100 points
	Finalist	75 points
	Semi Finalist	50 points
	Quarter Finalist	25 points
Youth 21 Singles (Women/Men)	Champion	60 points
	Finalist	45 points
	Semi Finalist	30 points
	Quarter Finalist	15 points
JR18 Singles (Women/men)	Champion	25 points
	Finalist	20 points
	Semi Finalist	15 points
	Quarter Finalist	10 points
U15 (CA15 Women/Men)	Champion	10 points
	Finalist	5 points

7.2 Half Card for (U18):

U18	Champion	100 points
	Finalist	75 points
	Semi Finalist	50 points
	Quarter Finalist	25 points
U15 (CA15 Singles Girls/Boys)	Champion	25 points
	Finalist	20 points
	Semi Finalist	15 points
	Quarter Finalist	10 points
U13 (CA13)	Champion	10 points
	Finalist	5 points

7. **Ontario Games** – The Selection Committee will award points to the athletes based on the results at the Ontario Games:

8.1 Full Card:

Athletes have earned points by achieving following results:

U19 Singles (Women/men)	Champion	15 points
	Finalist	10 points
	Semi Finalist	8 points
	Quarter Finalist	4 points

8.2 Half Card (for U18):

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

U19	Champion	25 points
	Finalist	19 points
	Semi Finalist	13 points
	Quarter Finalist	7 points

CA15 Singles (Girls/Boys)	Champion	15 points
	Finalist	10 points
	Semi Finalist	8 points
	Quarter Finalist	4 points

8. Ranking Positions

ITTF Ranking (Full and Half Card)

For positioned on last WRL before application date

- In first 100 players	500 points
- between 101-300	150 points
- between 301-700	75 points
- above 700	50 points

9. Canadian Rating (Full and Half Card)

Rating on December 1, 2008 divided by 50 = number of points (Example: athlete has Canadian ranking of 2500 it will earn him 50 points)

10. In the case of tie:

- athlete that has competed in more ITTF sanctioned competition would have advantage
- if there is still a tie, athlete that has competed in more NATTU sanctioned competitions would have advantage
- if there is still a tie, athlete that has competed in more CTTA sanctioned competitions would have advantage
- if there is still a tie, athlete that has competed in more OTTA sanctioned competitions would have advantage
- if there is still a tie, younger athlete would have advantage (only year when they are born would be taken into consideration)
- if there is still a tie, there would be conducted a draw with obliged participation of athletes or their representatives (coach, parents) and delegated member of Selection Committee

C. Athlete Agreement

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

The Athlete Agreement will be available before the application deadline (Dec. 10, 2008).

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 OTTA can request receipts on an ongoing basis if this requirement is stipulated in the OTTA – Athlete Agreement.**

Carded athletes receiving funding under the *Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program can spend funding obtained on the following items:

- Normal living costs
- Costs directly associated with training (e.g. coaching, facility fees, other athlete services)
- Costs 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)

D. Residency Exceptions:

Any athlete living/training outside of Ontario is required to **submit written documentation** to the OTTA 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.

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.

E. Failure to Meet Selection Criteria for Health-related Reasons

Athletes that, for strictly health-related reasons, have not achieved the standards required for nomination of carded status and who have achieved outstanding results in the past, **may** be considered for nomination under the following conditions:

- The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high-performance training and competition during the period of his or her injury, illness or pregnancy and, despite making every reasonable effort to attain the applicable carding standards during the year in which the injury, illness or pregnancy occurred, has failed to do so, in the view of the OTTA, for reasons strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy.

- The OTTA, based on its technical judgement and that of a sports physician or equivalent, indicates in writing the expectation that the athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.
- The athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate his or her long-term commitment to high-performance training and competition goals, as well as his or her intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which he or she wishes to be renewed despite not having met the carding criteria.
- To meet the selection criteria OTTA will be using results from the same events from the previous competitive season.

F. Alternates:

OTTA 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)

G. Contact Address and Deadline

All information must be submitted no later than **December 10, 2008** and must be sent to:

Attila R. Mosonyi (attila.mosonyi@gmail.com)
 Secretary OTTA
 P.O. Box 42040, Conestoga Post Office,
 550 King Street North, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 6K5

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

H. 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 OTTA by the Appeals Committee.

Grounds for appeals will be limited strictly to:

- Whether or not the OTTA 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 OTTA 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 OTTA 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 .

Cycle Two: **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 October 27, 2008 for Cycle 1 and 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 OTTA 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 OTTA 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 OTTA by the Appeals Committee.

