



ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION
***Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2011-2012**
ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA - DRAFT

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2011-2012 (OAAP) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport (MHPS), and operated through the Sport, Recreation & Community Programs 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. A PSO/MSO with a NSO-approved Long Term Athlete Development Model (LTAD) that identifies older athletes in the "Train to Train" and "Train to Compete" categories may apply to MHPS for a variation to this 11-22 age range. A PSO/MSO may choose to allocate a maximum of 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 the PSO/MSO's 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 CYCLING ASSOCIATION 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 2011-2012. 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 ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2011 ending March 31, 2012.

In 2011-2012, the MHPS allocated a certain amount of OAAP Ontario Cards to each eligible Provincial Sport / Multi-Sport Organization (PSO/MSO). ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION has been allotted a total of 16 Ontario cards (split evenly as **8** male and **8** Female Cards).

The Selection Committee, which has been approved by the PSO/MSO Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:

1. Glenn Meeuwisse – VP High Performance
2. John Holman –MTB Member at Large
3. David Jack – R/T/C Coach Rep
4. Rob Good – R/T/C Member at Large
5. TBA– R/T/C Athlete Rep
6. Rob Fex – MTB Coach Rep
7. Kyle Douglas – MTB Athlete Rep

How much funding is available?

The exact level of funding for the 2011-2012 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, 2012.

How will the ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The ONTARIO CYCLING 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 2011-2012:

Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport Eligibility Criteria:

All athletes must 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 his/her nomination for carding status.
- Athletes must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions may be made **on a case specific basis by the PSO/MSO Selection Committee** providing that the athlete can substantiate in writing at the time of application/nomination for carding status 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 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 he/she needs to be out of province. This information must be received by the ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION Selection Committee by no later than **Friday September 23rd, 2011.**

- Athlete must be a member in good standing with PSO/MSO and NSO where applicable;
- Athlete must have entered into a Sports Organization - Athlete Agreement with his or her PSO/MSO 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 PSO/MSO in order to be eligible for consideration in 2011/2012;
- 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 a 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 provided 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) 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 solely 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 PSO/MSO's 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 dependant 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 of Ontario. Please see the 2011-2012 *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's fiscal year April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 and/or any part of fiscal year April 1, 2011 and March 31, 2012 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive *Quest for Gold* funding during fiscal year 2011-2012 (April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.) 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 and will be considered by the Ministry on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions may include, but may not be limited to logistical or administrative changes (ex. reduction in Sport Canada carding allocation), injuries, etc.
- 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 Center mailing address:

NCAA Eligibility Center

P.O. Box 7136

Indianapolis, IN 46207

Customer service hours - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday.

Toll-free phone 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 MHPS binder provided to PSO/MSOs and duplicated in the Athlete Handbook provided to each nominated athlete and the eligibility requirements listed in the PSO/MSO Athlete Selection Criteria Document prepared by the PSO/MSO, the MHPS Binder/Athlete Handbook shall prevail.

Sport Specific Athlete Selection Criteria:

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



2011/12 Quest for Gold Selection Criteria
 Ontario Cycling Association
 Ontario Athlete Assistance Program

In order for athletes to be selected for the Quest for Gold (QFG) Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) they must first meet Quest for Gold Eligibility criteria and secondly meet the OCA’s Quest for Gold Criteria (see charts below).

There are 16 Cards available – 8 Male and 8 Female athletes are selected.

Athlete Quest for Gold Eligibility

(Athletes must meet the below criteria to be eligible for OAAP)

- Must be an athlete in an Olympic or Canada Games discipline to be eligible
- Must hold current OCA license
- Athletes cannot be Nationally Carded
- Must meet the Automatic/Minimum Eligibility Criteria in the current OCA athlete coaching subsidy program in the athlete’s discipline and **must be coached by an NCCP Certified Coach Level 2 or equivalent.**
- Eligible athletes must compete and continue to compete for Ontario for one year from the date of acceptance.

Espoir Priority Chart (8 Cards)

Athletes will be selected based on their highest level of priority achieved

| | Three or more automatic criteria | Two or more automatic criteria | One Automatic criteria met | At least two or more minimum criteria |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Espoir 4 Women / 4 Men | 1st priority | 2nd priority | 3rd priority | 4th priority |

Junior Priority Chart (6 Cards)

Athletes will be selected based on their highest level of priority achieved

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Three or more automatic criteria | Two or more automatic criteria | One Automatic criteria met | At least two or more minimum criteria |
| Junior 2 Women / 2 Men | 1st priority | 2nd priority | 3rd priority | 4 th priority |

Senior Priority Chart (2 Cards)

Athletes will be selected based on their highest level of priority achieved

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Three or more automatic criteria | Two or more automatic criteria | One Automatic criteria met | At least two or more minimum criteria |
| Senior* 1 Women / 1 Men | 1st priority | 2nd priority | 3rd priority | 4 th priority |

Selection Process Notes

- Criteria must be met within one discipline. Road, Road TT, Mountain Bike XC, BMX, Track Sprint and Track Endurance are separate disciplines and criteria met in one will not be combined with another. Meeting multiple criteria from separate disciplines or events does not increase priority. Road race and time trial are separate and will not be combined. Track sprint events and track endurance events are separate and will not be combined.
- *Male Athletes 23 – 26 yrs and Female athletes 23-29 yrs inclusive will be eligible. Athletes in this age category will be considered only if the athlete has been identified in writing by the Canadian Cycling Association as being in the national development team or pool.
- If cards from any category are not allocated due to riders not meeting automatic criteria, cards will be moved to the espoir category.
- If there is a tie based upon the established criteria and more than eight eligible women or men have qualified, the OCA's High Performance Committee will determine final selection. In case of a 'tie', National Championships will take precedence over Worlds selection, which will take precedence over Provincial Championships.
If a tie still remains the priority will occur in the following order:
 1. Overall placing at National Championships
 2. Overall placing at World Championships
 3. High Performance committee of 7 members will take a tie-breaking vote to decide final selection.
(Any High Performance Committee members who have a conflict of interest will not participate in the "tie" breaking decision)
- Carding period is one year from the acceptance of the Minister's letter.
- Amount of funding may be subject to change.
- Athletes do NOT need to apply; athletes will be nominated based upon selection criteria.



OCA Quest for Gold Carding Criteria 2011/12

Important Notes

- A minimum of 5 competitors must be present and the rider's time must be within 10% of the winning time for the result to be considered.
(In exceptional cases this may be waived by discretion of the High Performance Committee)
- A minimum of three provinces/territories and five riders must be represented at the starting line to recognize a National Championship.
- Results are based on the 2011 season; January – September inclusive.
- A DNF is considered a non-result
- Match sprint and Kierin events are separate and will not be combined
- Individual pursuit and Points race events are separate and will not be combined

| Discipline | Automatic Eligibility | Minimum Eligibility |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Road Race | In no particular order | In no particular order |
| Elite Women/Men | a) Provincial Champion b) O-Cup series winner* c) Top 5 at National Championships d) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Win an O-Cup b) Top 10 overall at National Championships or top Ontario rider c) Top 5 at Provincial Championships |
| Espoir Women/Men | a) Provincial Champion b) Top Espoir of O-Cup series* c) Top 5 at National Championships d) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Win an O-Cup b) Top 10 Espoir at National Championships or top Ontario Espoir rider c) Top 5 at Provincial Championships |
| Junior Women/Men | a) Provincial Champion b) Top 5 at National Championships c) Represent Canada at World Championships | |

*Please note Overall O-Cup points in Road do NOT include Provincial Championships

| Discipline | Automatic Eligibility | Minimum Eligibility |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Individual Time Trial | In no particular order | In no particular order |
| Elite/Espoir/Junior | a) Provincial Champion | a) Win an O-Cup |

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| Women/Men | b) Top 5 at National Championships c) Represent Canada at World Championships | b) Top 10 overall at National Championships or top Ontario rider c) Top 5 at Provincial Championships |
|-----------|--|--|

| Discipline | Automatic Eligibility | Minimum Eligibility |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| MTB Cross Country | In no particular order | In no particular order |
| Elite Women/Men | a) Provincial Champion b) O-Cup series winner c) Top 5 at National Championships d) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Win an O-Cup b) Top 10 overall at National Championships or top Ontario rider c) Top 5 at Provincial Championships |
| Espoir Women/Men | a) Top Espoir at Provincial Championships b) Top Espoir of O-Cup series c) Top 5 Espoir at National Championships d) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Win an O-Cup b) Top 10 Espoir at National Championships or top Ontario Espoir rider c) Top 5 Espoir at Provincial Championships |
| Junior Women/Men | a) Provincial Champion b) Top 5 at National Championships c) Represent Canada at World Championships | |

| Discipline - Event | Automatic Eligibility | Minimum Eligibility |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| BMX – 20" | In no particular order | In no particular order |
| Elite/Junior Women/Men | a) Provincial Champion b) UCI Canadian Championships Champion c) Top 3 at National Championships d) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Provincial Champion b) Top 3 at UCI Canadian Championships c) Top 3 at National Championships c) Top Ontario rider at Eastern Nationals |

| Discipline - Event | Automatic Eligibility | Minimum Eligibility |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| TRACK SPRINT - Match Sprint | In no particular order | In no particular order |
| Elite Women/Men | a) Top 3 at the National Championships b) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Provincial Champion b) Top 5 at National Championships |
| Junior Women/Men | a) National Champion b) Represent Canada at World Championships | |

| Discipline - Event | Automatic Eligibility | Minimum Eligibility |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| TRACK SPRINT - Keirin | In no particular order | In no particular order |
| Elite Women/Men | a) Top 3 at the National Championships b) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Provincial Champion b) Top 5 at National Championships |
| Junior Women/Men | a) National Champion b) Represent Canada at World Championships | |

| Discipline - Event | Automatic Eligibility | Minimum Eligibility |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| TRACK ENDURANCE - Points race | In no particular order | In no particular order |
| Elite Women/Men | a) Top 3 at the National Championships b) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Provincial Champion b) Top 5 at National Championships |
| Junior Women/Men | a) National Champion b) Represent Canada at World Championships | |

| Discipline/Event | Automatic Eligibility | Minimum Eligibility |
|---|--|--|
| TRACK ENDURANCE - Individual Pursuit | In no particular order | In no particular order |
| Elite Women/Men | a) Top 3 at the National Championships b) Represent Canada at World Championships | a) Provincial Champion b) Top 5 at National Championships |
| Junior Women/Men | a) National Champion b) Represent Canada at World Championships | |

Alternates: ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION 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, provided that:

- Alternate is substituted within 2011-2012 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 CYCLING ASSOCIATION – Athlete Agreement will only come into effect if an athlete is selected and accepts carding status through the OAAP program.

ONTARIO CYCLING ASSOCIATION will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than **October 13, 2011.**

***Note: Number of cards and available funds is subject to funding.**

Appeals

Appeals will be allowed from athletes who have not been nominated by a PSO/MSO for Ontario Card status. Appeals will only be accepted directly from athletes (or from their 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 PSO/MSO 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 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:

1. Direct the PSO/MSO to redo the selection process using the correct criteria/process and submit a 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) through regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person.

Appeals must be received by MHPS by 5 p.m. on the deadline day as posted below. Appeals that are delivered personally or by courier shall be deemed to be received on the date of delivery. Appeals submitted by e-mail or fax will not be accepted. The Appeals Committee will discuss all appeals at once, after PSO/MSOs publish their list of nominated athletes. Appeals received in advance of the PSO/MSO announcing nominees will not be reviewed until after the Appeals deadline.

The deadline for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is

Cycle One: October 25, 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 Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport,
777 Bay Street, Suite 702
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1S5

**2011/2012 *Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program
Appeal Template**

The deadline for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is October 25, 2011 for Cycle 1 and January 26, 2012 for Cycle 2. Appeals will only be accepted on the MHPS-provided template. **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 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.