



BIATHLON ONTARIO

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

Biathlon Ontario has also decided to exercise the option made available by MHP to split up to 30% of its carding allotment. BION will issue 4 half cards to identified Development aged athletes. (i.e. issue 2 half cards in Sr. Boys category and 2 half cards in Sr. girl category)

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 BION will be allocated as follows:

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

BION will assign these cards in the following athlete categories:

Category	Number of Cards		
Junior	6 Full Cards	3 Male	3 Female
Development	4 Half cards	2 Male	2 Female

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines BION 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 criterion has been approved by the BION Board of Directors.

The Selection Committee is comprised of the following members:

Rick Dory, Past President
 Dan Mallett, BION Level III Coach
 Jamie Kallio, BION Head Coach

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 Biathlon Ontario Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The BION 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 BION 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.

BION Basic Eligibility Criteria

- The athlete must meet the above Ministry of Health Promotion OAAP Criteria.
- Athlete must be a BION member in good standing for 2007/08 and remain such throughout the duration of the 2008/09 carding year.
- Athlete must sign the 2008/09 OAAP BION Athlete Agreement.
- Athlete must keep personal training records as instructed by the Head Coach of BION and submit these records to the supervising coach using the assigned internet log system.
- Carded athletes must have been under an annual training plan consistent with their age and years in Biathlon in accordance with the LTAD model.
- Athlete must own their own rifle, and ensure that they have all the necessary permits and licenses for it.
- Current card holding athletes must have been compliant with the 2007/08 Carding Status expected level of commitment requirements: in particular, with respect to participation and attendance at training camps, races through the year, and the National Championships.

Sport Specific Athlete Selection Criteria:

The sport specific athlete selection criteria will be utilized in the ranking of selected athletes that meet the MHP and BION basic criteria.

- Biathlon Ontario will use the following age categories for athlete rankings and card assignment.
 - Junior athletes age 17-22 BION Youth, Junior and Senior Men & Women

- Development athletes age 15-16 BION Senior Boys & Girls
- Junior aged athletes: will be ranked in their actual IBU race category by using results from the 2008 National Championships (Nationals) and North American (Nor-Am) Cup races attended.
 - Nationals: The percentage off the lead for the Sprint and Individual competitions will be averaged. The percentage is as posted in the official results.
 - Nor-Am Cups: Reference Times will be calculated from the Sprint and Pursuit results of the top 4 Canadian athletes in their categories from all 2007/08 Nor-Am Cups. The average times of each BION athlete from their Nor-Am events will be used to calculate a Nor-Am percentage with respect to the Reference Times for their categories.
 - A final percentage rating will be calculated using the Nor-Am Cup percentage and a double weighting of the National percentage. The National Championship results are given a double weighting since this is the primary event of the season and the only one at which all athletes (both provincial and national level) race.
 - Athletes are then ranked by gender and final percentage.
 - Athletes must attain a minimum ranking of 75% in their IBU category to be eligible for OAAP funding.
- If a tie exists between athletes in the above ranking calculation, the selection committee will use head to head results from the National Championships. An average percentage from Sprint and Individual competitions will be used to determine the final ranking order.
- Development-aged athletes: A selection list will be generated by the selection committee using the following:
 - The athletes must meet MHP and BION basic eligibility criteria.
 - All athletes will be ranked by using an average percentage of Sprint and Individual results from 2008 National Championships.
 - If the cards cannot be assigned as per above, the committee will look at athletes that did not meet all the BION basic eligibility requirements, but did, however compete at the Ontario Winter Games (OWG). The athlete's average percentage from the Sprint and Individual OWG events will then be used to determine their ranking for card assignment.

Process for Application:

Athletes are automatically considered for funding and need not apply in advance to BION selection committee. If a currently funded athlete plans on ceasing training for whatever reason they should inform the selection committee so their name can be removed from the eligibility list.

Residency Exceptions:

Any athlete living/training outside of Ontario is required to **submit written documentation** to the BION VP Technical 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 September 22, 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:

BION will not select alternate athletes for 2008/2009 carding year.

Contact Address and Deadline

All residency exemption letters must be received no later than September 22, 2008 and must be sent to: Tim Hurley, BION VP Tech, 613-443-5402 894 Chemin Du Castor, St. Albert, Ontario K0A 3C0 or e-mailed to tim.hurley@ae.ge.com

BION will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than Oct 13, 2008.

The deadline for athletes to complete the Ontario Card Application online at www.questforgold.ca is October 23, 2008.

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

Cycle One: **October 27, 2008.**

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 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.