

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2007/2008



Field Hockey Ontario, in partnership with the Ministry of Health Promotion, announces the Quest for Gold Ontario Athlete Assistance Program for 2007-2008.

The *Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) is funded by the Provincial Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion. The Program will provide direct financial assistance to Ontario athletes through an “Ontario Card” designation. 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. In addition, all athletes from Ontario funded through Sport Canada's AAP and continuing to meet AAP eligibility requirements will automatically qualify for “Canada Card” status under the OAAP. The Canada Card will provide up to an additional 33% in funding over and above what the athlete is receiving from Sport Canada – dependent on funding.

The Sport and Recreation Branch, of the Ministry of Health Promotion, allocated a certain amount of OAAP Ontario Cards to each eligible Provincial Sport / Multi-Sport Organization (PSO/ MSO). A total of 22 Ontario full cards (11 male and 11 female) and 16 half cards (8 male and 8 female) have been approved for allocation by Field Hockey Ontario.

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, Field Hockey Ontario is responsible for forming a Selection Committee and sport specific selection criteria to nominate the athletes for Ontario carding status in 2007/2008.

Field Hockey Ontario's Selection Committee will use the selection criteria in Appendix A, approved by the Board of Directors on August 27, 2007, to determine which athletes will be nominated by Field Hockey Ontario for Ontario Card status in 2007/ 2008. Once the Selection Committee has completed its selection of athletes nominated for Ontario Cards, these athletes will be sent the carding package and be required to return all documents by October 10, 2007. The list of nominated athletes will be posted on the Field Hockey Ontario website no later than November 2, 2007.

Appeal Procedure

Athletes wishing to appeal must submit a Request for Appeal in writing directly to the Ministry of Health Promotion by November 16, 2007. Appeals will be allowed in writing from athletes who have not been nominated by Field Hockey Ontario for Ontario Card status. Appeals will be dealt with by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community. Grounds for appeals will be limited strictly to issues related to whether or not Field Hockey Ontario has completed the selection process in accordance with their published selection criteria and related procedures.

Appendix A

Criteria for Quest for Gold Carding – Field Hockey – 2007-08

The following criteria for nomination of athletes for athlete assistance will be utilized by Field Hockey Ontario for the Ontario Quest for Gold Athlete Assistance Program 2007-2008. This criteria recognizes the Ministry of Health Promotion's direction that the primary purpose of the Ontario Card designation is to provide direct financial assistance to "junior aged" high performance athletes, and that a minimum of 70% of the Ontario Card allotment must be distributed to junior aged athletes with a maximum of 30% allotment to eligible athletes over the age of 22 years. Keeping this direction in view, Field Hockey Ontario will be focusing on junior athletes eligible to participate in the next two Junior World Cup events, i.e. 2009 and 2013. The distribution of cards will be as follows:

Canada Cards:

All athletes from Ontario funded through Sport Canada's AAP and continuing to meet these AAP eligibility requirements will automatically qualify for "Canada Card" status under the OAAP. These athletes will receive direct communication from the Ministry of Health Promotion.

Ontario Full Cards: (Total to be Issued: 22)

Up to a maximum of 8 cards (4 male and 4 female) to eligible athletes born in 1987 or earlier

Up to a maximum of 22 cards (11 male and 11 female) to eligible athletes born between 1988 and 1991

Ontario Half (Split) Cards: (8 full cards will be split into 16 half cards)

16 half cards (8 male and 8 female) to eligible athletes born in 1992 or later

General Eligibility Criteria:

- Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or a landed immigrant
- Athlete must be a resident of Ontario for one year prior to his/her nomination for carding status
- Athlete must be a member in good standing with Field Hockey Ontario and Field Hockey Canada
- Athlete must either:
 - be born in 1988 or later and be identified as having potential for competing in either of the next two Junior World Cup events; or
 - born in 1987 or earlier and be identified by the respective national coaches as a national team developmental athlete or potential next generation national team athlete not in receipt of carding funds under Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program.
- Athlete 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 (due to lack of facilities, coaching, competition)
 - He/she must attend a post secondary institution out of province because the course of study is not available 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 province.
- Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program and will be required to join a fitness centre that provides access to a running track and strength / conditioning equipment.
- Athlete must be instructed by a trained and certified NCCP coach or equivalent.
- Athlete must not be under sanction as per the Canadian Anti Doping Policy
- Athlete must not be under any current sanctions under Field Hockey Ontario's Discipline Policy
- Athlete must be attending an educational institution full time. Exceptions may be made providing 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.
- An athlete who has completed his/her area of study and who continues to train towards participation in a major national or international competition will be considered
- Athlete must have represented Ontario at the 2007 Field Hockey Canada National Championships or other peak competitive event identified for the age group through the High Performance Program, and continue to be available to compete for Ontario at Field Hockey Canada National Championships for at least one year after nomination

- Athletes who have achieved Canada card status are not eligible for Ontario cards.
- 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 funding under this program.
- The ATHLETE will spend funding obtained from the OAAP program only on the following items:
 - Normal living costs
 - Costs directly associated with training (coaching, facility fees, other athlete services)
 - Costs associated with attending training camps and competitions (eg. entry fees, travel costs)
 - Sport specific equipment
 - Tuition and education related expenses (eg. books, fees, commuting costs).

Specific Eligibility Criteria:

A. GENERAL SKILLS:

- High level of ball skills
- Ability to apply skills to games
- Passing under pressure / with deception
- Maintaining possession in confined area
- Executing decisions under pressure

B. SPECIFIC POSITIONAL SKILLS:

Attackers:

- Scoring goals
- Eliminating defenders
- Closing down opposing defenders
- Creating space for midfielders

Midfielders:

- Wide range of passing skills
- Scoring goals
- Sound tackling skills
- Marking ability

Defenders:

- Reading the game
- Sound tackling skills
- Marking ability
- Passing under pressure / with deception

Goalkeepers:

- Keeping the ball out of the net
- Making sound clearances
- Strong reflexes
- Taking charge of the circle

C. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

- Beep Test (based on set standards)
- Fitness demonstrated during game play
- Strength on and off the ball
- Power / flexibility in use of advanced techniques

D. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Works effectively within a team unit
- Focused during practices
- Level-headed during games
- Executes game plan
- Positive attitude
- Communication

Process:

- There will be an ongoing evaluation of each athlete within the Field Hockey Ontario High Performance Program. This evaluation will be based on the above noted criteria. The VP overseeing the High Performance Program will receive ranked lists of athletes from each of the age group provincial coaches based on the 2007 Outdoor High Performance Program. These lists will be reviewed by Field Hockey Ontario's Quest for Gold Selection Committee (comprising of Rhonda Lewis, Ann Doggett and Satpal Singh), who will nominate athletes based on the above noted criteria.
- The carding nomination package will be sent to the nominated list of athletes. It will contain the Athlete Agreement, Criteria for Provincial Carding document (Appendix A) and the Athlete Information Form.
- Once the completed Carding Packages have been returned by the athletes, these will be reviewed by the FHO Quest for Gold Selection Committee and the Ministry of Health Promotion.
- The final list of nominated athletes will be published on FHO's website by November 2, 2007.