

Quest for Gold



Program Overview – *Quest for Gold* Ontario Athlete Assistance Program

- What are the goals and objectives the *Quest for Gold* - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP)?
- How will the *Quest for Gold* - OAAP achieve its objectives?
- How will direct financial assistance be provided to Ontario athletes?
- What are the eligible expenses that a carded athlete can spend funding on obtained through the *Quest for Gold* - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program?

1. What are the goals and objectives of the *Quest for Gold* - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program?

The Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) is one of three funding streams being implemented in 2005-06 under the *Quest for Gold* Program. In addition to the OAAP the *Quest for Gold* Program will also provide funding to enhance access to high performance coaching and to provide enhanced competitive opportunities and services for Ontario athletes. Funding for the *Quest for Gold* Program will be obtained from net revenues generated by the *Quest for Gold* lottery game being established by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLGC).

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* – 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 during summer school break;
- d) To enable athletes to successfully pursue excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals;
- e) To increase athlete access to high performance coaching;
- f) To enhance training and competitive opportunities available to athletes.

2. How will the *Quest for Gold* - OAAP achieve its Objectives?

The *Quest for Gold* - OAAP achieves its objectives by:

- Providing additional direct financial assistance (Canada Card designation) to athletes from Ontario who are carded at the national level by Sport Canada;
- Providing standards for the identification and support of eligible sports and Ontario athletes to be carded at the Provincial level (Ontario Card);
- Ensuring that Provincial Sport and Multi-Sport Organizations (PSO/MSOs) have appropriate selection procedures and criteria in place for the nomination of Ontario athletes to be carded at the Provincial level (Ontario card);
- Providing OAAP carding support in a consistent and timely manner to Ontario athletes who meet their sport-specific carding criteria in those sports that meet OAAP eligibility requirements;
- Focusing support on younger athletes to assist in their transition from junior to senior national and international competition;
- Providing a living and training allowance to help offset some of the costs athletes incur as a result of their involvement in high-performance sport;
- Allowing financial assistance provided to be used to offset tuition costs to allow athletes to attain academic goals;
- Ensuring, in conjunction with the PSO/MSO, that appropriate training and competitive opportunities are in place and providing annual, ongoing and long-term evaluation of athlete performance and potential.

3. How will direct financial assistance be provided to Ontario athletes?

Direct financial assistance will be provided to eligible athletes from Ontario in the form of a living and training allowance. Assistance will be provided through two carding designations – Canada Card and Ontario Card.

Canada Card - Eligibility limited to athletes from Ontario who are carded by Sport Canada. Canada Card will provide up to an additional 33% in funding over and above what an athlete is receiving from Sport Canada – dependant on funding available.

Ontario Card - Ontario card will provide direct financial assistance to Ontario junior level athletes identified by PSO/MSOs.

Financial assistance provided will go directly to athletes (referred to as “carded” athletes).

Both the sport and athlete eligibility criteria must be met before financial assistance can be awarded.

4. What are the eligible expenses that a carded athlete can spend funding on obtained through the *Quest for Gold* Ontario Athlete Assistance Program?

Carded athletes receiving funding under the Ontario Athlete Assistance Program can spend funding obtained only on the following items:

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

5. Payments in 2005-2006 and Review of OAAP for 2006-2007

For 2005-2006 Eligible athletes will receive carding status for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year. Athletes will receive one payment representing one quarter of a full carding year. Payments will be processed before March 31, 2006.

The OAAP is new for 2005-2006. Program staff will review the 2005-2006 Program in consultation with PSO/MSOs and will make the necessary adjustments to improve the Program for 2006-2007.

