



ONTARIO EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2009-2010
ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA TEMPLATE

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2009-2010 (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 Ontario Equestrian Federation 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 2009-2010. The Selection Criteria is approved by the Board of Directors and reviewed by MHP staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and the Ontario Equestrian Federation. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2009 ending March 31, 2010.

In 2009-2010, the Ministry of Health Promotion allocated a certain amount of OAAP Ontario Cards to each eligible Provincial Sport / Multi-Sport Organization (PSO/MSO). The Ontario Equestrian Federation has been allotted a total of 6 Able-bodied Ontario cards (split evenly as 3 male and 3 female cards) and 4 Athletes with a Disability Ontario cards (split evenly as 2 male and 2 female cards).

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

Discipline	Number of cards
Dressage	2 Full Cards (1 male, 1 female)
Eventing	2 Full Cards (1 male, 1 female)
Jumpers	2 Full Cards (1 male, 1 female)
Para-Equestrian (AWAD are not subject to age criteria)	4 Full Cards (2 male, 2 female)

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines the Ontario Equestrian Federation is responsible for forming a Selection Committee and sport specific selection criteria to nominate the athletes for Ontario carding status in 2009-2010. This selection criteria has been approved by the Ontario Equestrian Federation Board of Directors.

The Selection Committee is comprised of the following members:

Gary Yaghdjian, President, Ontario Equestrian Federation
Bruce Brown, Treasurer, Ontario Equestrian Federation
Deborah Thompson Executive Director, Ontario Equestrian Federation
Jennifer Irwin, Education Assistant, Ontario Equestrian Federation
Ian Roberts, Young Riders Consultant
Judi Island, Para-Equestrian Consultant

How much funding is available?

The exact level of funding for the 2009-2010 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, 2010.

How will the ONTARIO EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The Ontario Equestrian Federation 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 Ontario Equestrian Federation for Ontario Card status in 2009-2010:

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/ MSO, 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 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 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 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. 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 Senior level athletes not funded by Sport Canada – see note 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.

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 between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and/or April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive *Quest for Gold* funding during fiscal year 2009-2010 (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.) 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 on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions may include, but may not be limited to logistical or administrative changes, 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.

- In the event of a conflict or inconsistency, the selection criteria established by the Ministry and set out in the Athlete Handbook provided to each nominated athlete shall prevail over the selection criteria established by the PSO/MSO.

Sport Specific Athlete Selection Criteria:

An athlete who previously received *Quest for Gold* funding and entered into a Sports Organization – Athlete Agreement must have complied with the terms of that agreement to the satisfaction of the Ontario Equestrian Federation in order to be considered for funding in fiscal 2009-2010.

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

The qualification period for all competition results will be January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

Dressage

Each rider/horse combination must submit scores as follows;

1. **Three (3) Technical Scores** – The three (3) Technical scores, (a & b below), when averaged together must be 64%, or better. Scores must be submitted in percentages (3 decimal places required).
 - a. Two (2) scores from the FEI Young Rider Prix St. Georges Test
 - b. One (1) score from the FEI Young Rider Individual Test;
 - c. A maximum of one score from the FEI Young Rider Prix St. Georges Test and one score from the FEI Young Rider Individual test may be obtained at the same competition.
2. **Freestyle Score**- Riders must also submit a score from the FEI Young Rider Freestyle Test of 65% or better. All scores must be submitted in percentages (3 decimal places required).

Eventing

Horse/rider combinations must have satisfactorily completed four (4) qualifying results within the current qualification period at the Preliminary Horse Trials level or above. Of these the following is allowed:

- not more than 75 penalty points in the dressage test (not less than 50% of dressage good marks)
- no more than 20 jumping penalties at obstacles on the cross country test
- not more than 90 seconds exceeding the Cross Country time
- not more than 16 penalties at obstacles in the Show Jumping tests

Jumper

Horse/rider combinations will submit at least four (4) results;

- no more than two (2) of which can come from the same show
- with a minimum height of 1.35m to a maximum of 1.50m

Ranking Process

Horse/rider combinations that have met the minimum qualification standards will be ranked based on points from the chart below on their qualifying results. The horse/rider combination with the highest number of points will be ranked first, the second highest ranked second and so on. Only scores that were reported during the qualification period will be used for the ranking process.

Point System

The following point system will be used to rank riders, and is based on the total number of registered starters in each class to which scores were submitted for.

Placing	15 or more	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4 or less
1 st	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
2 nd	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
3 rd	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
4 th	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
5 th	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	
6 th	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2		
7 th	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2			
8 th	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2				
9 th	8	7	6	5	4	3	2					
10 th	7	6	5	4	3	2						
11 th	6	5	4	3	2							
12 th	5	4	3	2								
13 th	4	3	2									
14 th	3	2										
15 th	2											

Para-Equestrian

The Ontario Equestrian Federation Selection Committee will rank Para-Equestrian Athletes based on their Canadian Para Equestrian Ranking as of the conclusion of the qualification period (January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009).

In the absence of any currently ranked Canadian Para Equestrians, Cards can be awarded to those athletes who have met the requirements for the National Para-Equestrian Championships. The Championships are open to all Para Equestrian Canada (PEC) members who are classified in the grade they wish to compete.

Residency Exceptions:

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

This information must be received by the Selection Committee by no later than January 4, 2010 by 12 noon 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 2009-2010 *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:

Ontario Equestrian Federation 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 2009-2010 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).

To Apply:

All required information (Completed OAAP Application, Competition results January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009) must be submitted to:

Ontario Equestrian Federation
Jennifer Irwin, Education Assistant
edu2@horse.on.ca
9120 Leslie Street, Suite 203
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3J9
Tel: 905-709-6545

No later than **MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010 AT 12 NOON**. The athlete agreement will only come into effect if an athlete is selected and accepts carding status through the OAAP program. There will be no extensions to this application date for any reason.

Breaking a Tie:

If there is a tie in the final score between 2 athletes, the lowest score submitted will be eliminated (for Dressage by percentage, for Jumpers by placing and for Eventing by total penalty points) and the points recalculated. Should a tie still exist, the next lowest score will be eliminated and so on.

There will be no extensions of this deadline for any reason.

Athletes that will be further considered for nomination for Ontario Cards will be advised by January 8th, 2010 via email.

Athletes who have been notified that they will be further considered for nomination will be required to submit a signed Athlete Agreement and Photo ID verifying Ontario resident status (Ontario Driver's License or Health Card, Passports **not** accepted). This documentation must be received via email or sent by courier no later than 4pm on Friday January 15th, 2010 to be nominated for an Ontario Card by the Ontario Equestrian Federation. Please email Jennifer Irwin at edu2@horse.on.ca or courier to the above listed address.

There will be no extensions of this deadline for any reason.

Applications, athlete agreements, Photo ID and any other documentation must be submitted via email or sent by courier (Do not send regular post). The Ontario Equestrian Federation will not acknowledge or accept any documentation submitted by fax.

Ontario Equestrian Federation will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than January 18, 2010.

Appeals

Appeals will be allowed in writing from athletes who have not been nominated by a PSO/MSO for Ontario Card status. 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 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:

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.

The appeals will only be accepted on the MHP-provided template, in writing through regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person. 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. 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 **February 1, 2010**.

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

**2009/2010 Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program
Appeal Template**

The deadline for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is October 26, 2009 for Cycle 1 and February 1, 2010 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 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 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 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.



QUEST FOR GOLD 2009-2010

Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Application

The Ontario Equestrian Federation accepts no responsibility for incomplete applications or for applications that arrive late or do not arrive at all.

PERSONAL INFORMATION (to be completed by the Applicant)

Last Name First Name

Male _____
Female Date of Birth (yyyy/mm/dd)

Dressage Jumper Eventing Para-Equestrian

Street No. & Name Apt.

City/Town Province Postal Code

Telephone Number Email

OEF # EC #

COACH INFORMATION

Last Name First Name

Certification Level

OEF # EC # CC #

COMPETITION RESULTS

Please attach copies of competition results including placing and number of starters for each.

Competition	Date	Division/Class	No. of Starters	Placing

By signing bellow, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the above mentioned criteria and requirements of the Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2009-2010 and hereby submit my application for consideration to the Ontario Equestrian Federation.

Signature

Date

Please mail completed application and results to:

Ontario Equestrian Federation
Attn: Jennifer Irwin
9120 Leslie St
Suite 203
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3J9
Email edu2@horse.on.ca

Application Deadline is Monday January 4th by 12 Noon.