

ONTARIO PARA NETWORK
Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2021-2022
Athlete Eligibility Criteria - Wheelchair Rugby

OVERVIEW

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2021-2022 (OAAP) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (MHSTCI), and operated through the Sport, Recreation & Community Programs Division. The overarching goal of the *Quest for Gold* – OAAP is directly related to the High Performance Sport goal of the *Canadian Sport Policy* – that Canadians are systematically achieving world-class results at the highest levels of international competition – by improving 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.

The *Quest for Gold* program was established to provide additional financial support to athletes from Ontario and to increase the performance and number of Ontario athletes competing at the highest national and international levels, thereby contributing to the improved performance of Canada at international competitions.

Specific objectives of the *Quest for Gold* program are:

- To help athletes continue their pursuit of athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition;
- To encourage athletes to stay in Ontario to live and train;
- To compensate athletes for earnings lost while training;
- To enable athletes to successfully pursue excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals;
- To increase athlete access to high performance coaching; and
- To enhance training and competitive opportunities available to athletes.

Funding may be used by ONPARA to:

- Support high performance programming for athletes in the Train to Compete stage and above;
- Enhance access to expert coaching and support for provincial coach salaries;
- Enhance facility access;
- Access to sport science and sport medicine support.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

For 2021-2022, OAAP funding has been issued directly to the Provincial Sport Organizations to use towards supporting high performance athletes through **either direct support to individual athletes or to support high performance programming** operated by the PSO that meets the objectives of the Quest for Gold program. Therefore, funding distribution and the application process for each sport governed by ONPORA may be different based on the distinct needs of each particular sport program and their athletes.

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, ONPORA has developed a sport-specific plan to provide approximately \$20,000.00 in direct athlete support in the form of an **Equipment Fund** for wheelchair rugby. The Equipment Fund will be managed through an application process and is intended to target athletes who have demonstrated a commitment to high-performance sport. A **maximum of \$4,000.00 per athlete** will be observed and ONPORA reserves the right to readjust maximum allocations based on the number of applications received from eligible athletes.

The remaining OAAP allocation has been used towards provincial high performance program costs, such as training camps and competitions, to significantly reduce athlete fees and out-of-pocket expenses for athletes, and to encourage increased participation and representation of Ontario athletes.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All athletes must meet the following minimum athlete eligibility criteria:

- Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Athlete must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario
- Athlete must be a member in good standing with the Ontario Para Network, their home club, and Wheelchair Rugby Canada (if applicable)
- Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program, the goal of which is to continue to train towards a national team position and Sport Canada carding
- Athlete's coach should have an appropriate level of certification or be engaged in completing the training, as determined by ONPORA

Exceptions to the residency criteria above will be considered on a case specific basis by ONPORA.

SPORT-SPECIFIC CRITERIA: WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

Objective: As the purpose of this funding is to “improve the performance and number of Ontario athletes performing at the national and international level”, funding will be aimed at those Ontario athletes who are either:

- current members of ONPARA’s provincial team programs:
 - Team Ontario (Division 1)
 - Team Ontario (Division 2)
- current members of Wheelchair Rugby Canada’s National Team programs:
 - National Team Athlete Pool (“NextGen”)
 - Senior National Team
- or have otherwise demonstrated a high level of achievement and commitment to continued training at a high performance level.

For the purposes of this funding, targeted athletes should meet the following criteria:

Provincial Team athletes:

- Should be training on court 1-2 times per week, at least 1 time of which should be with a qualified coach.
- Should be actively participating in and regularly attending Team Ontario training camps and sanctioned competitions
- Should be representing Ontario at national tournaments and events

National Team program athletes:

- Should be training as part of a full-time or part-time Daily Training Environment, such as the WRC National Team Training Group in Toronto, Québec, or decentralized training environment, or otherwise approved training program.
- Should be attending National Team camps and WRC-approved competitions, to the best of their ability.

FUNDING CATEGORIES:

Athletes can choose to apply for the Equipment Fund to support expenditures in **one or more of the following categories**, up to a total maximum of \$4,000.00 per athlete.

Category 1: Rugby Chair

Eligible Expenses:

- New rugby wheelchair

*Please note: Athletes seeking funding for a new chair will be eligible for **up to 50%** of the total cost of a new chair (to a maximum of \$4,000 per athlete). Athletes should be prepared to cover the remaining cost using other funding sources.*

Category 2: Chair Components

Eligible Expenses:

- Wheels
- Straps or belts
- Chair accessories
- Other major chair components

Category 3: Spare Parts or Repairs

Eligible expenses:

- Tires
- Tubes
- Hardware
- Tools
- Repair services
- Other spare parts and pieces

*Please note: Athletes seeking funding for Category 2 and Category 3 are eligible for **up to 100%** of the total cost of items (to a maximum of \$4,000 per athlete). Athletes should be prepared to cover the remaining cost using other funding sources, if applicable.*

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Fill out an application form: <https://forms.gle/y3gf7tNPRnigN83W7>

Step 2: Attach required Budget Form (included in initial application email)

Step 3: Attach any required supplementary documentation:

- Quote or purchase order for new chair or other equipment purchases
- Training plan
- Competition plan
- Athlete statement on current equipment needs
- Any other documentation athlete would like to provide

Application Deadline: Friday May 20, 2022 at 11:59PM

CONTACT

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