

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

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?

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, ONPARA will develop a sport-specific plan to provide up to \$19,000.00 in direct athlete support through an application process to athletes who have demonstrated a commitment to high-performance sport, with a maximum of \$4000.00 per Tier 1 athletes and \$1500.00 per Tier 2 athlete. ONPARA reserves the right to readjust maximum allocations based on the number of applications received from eligible 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 and Tennis Canada (where 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 ONPARA

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

SPORT-SPECIFIC CRITERIA: WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

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 have demonstrated both a high level of achievement and a commitment to continued training at an elite level.

Tier 1: Provincial Athlete

Support Available: Up to \$4000/athlete

- Athletes must be training on court 1-2 times per week, at least 1 time of which should be with a qualified coach
- Athletes must be planning to attend at least 3 provincial league Match Days throughout the 2022 Ontario Wheelchair Tennis Provincial League Season
- Athletes must be planning to attend the 2022 Birmingham National Championships and compete on behalf of Ontario
- Athletes should have achieved an ITF ranking as of Dec 31, 2021
- Athletes must be planning to attend at least 2 ITF sanctioned tournaments in 2022

Tier 2: Development Athlete

Support Available: Up to \$1500/athlete

- Athletes must be attending a weekly wheelchair tennis program and/or training on court 2-3 times per month, at least 1 time of which should be with a qualified coach
- Athletes must be planning to attend 2 wheelchair tennis skill development sessions and at least 1 Match Day throughout the 2022 Ontario Wheelchair Tennis Provincial League Season

FUNDING CATEGORIES: EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, TRAVEL FUND

Athletes can choose to apply for funding to support expenditures in one or more of the following categories, up to a total maximum of \$4000.00 per provincial athlete (Tier 1) or \$1500.00 per development athlete (Tier 2).

Category 1: Equipment Support

Eligible Expenses:

- Sport Wheelchair
- Sport Wheelchair Components or Spare Parts/Repairs (wheels, straps, tubes, tires, etc.)
- Other Equipment (rackets, strings, grips, etc.)

Please note: funding provided may not cover the full cost of a new sport wheelchair and athletes should be prepared to cover a portion of the cost using other funding sources.

Category 2: Training Support

Eligible Expenses:

- Coaching Fees
- Facility Access (court booking fees, club membership fees)
- Sport Science (strength & conditioning, nutrition, mental performance)

Category 3: Tournament Support

Eligible expenses:

- Tournament Entry Fees
- Tournament Travel (flights, train, mileage)
- Tournament Accommodations

HOW TO APPLY

Step 1: Fill out an application form: <https://forms.gle/mEgnfMKaycwCjxsw6>.

Step 2: Attach any required supplementary documentation:

- Budget form with planned expenditures, divided between the three available categories
- Quote or purchase order (if applying to cover the full cost of a new sport wheelchair)
- Training/competition plan or other documentation athletes would like to provide

Application Deadline: Friday May 13th, 2022 at 11:59pm

CONTACT

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