

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2021-2022
Athlete Selection Criteria – Wheelchair Athletics

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.

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 intent of the OAAP is to provide funding to individual athletes in the sport's Train to Train through Train to Win categories based on their demonstrated commitment to high performance sport, allowing them to continue to pursue athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, ONPARA will work in partnership with Athletics Ontario to provide direct to athlete funding for up to three (3) Ontario Cards for athletes in the **T51-T57 and F51 – F57** classification categories ranked highest in the competition pathway. Please note that ONPARA is not obligated to assign all allotted cards if there are an insufficient number of athletes who have demonstrated potential to be considered for future national teams.

Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and ONPARA. Carding status will be retrospective for one the year starting April 1, 2021 ending March 31, 2022.

ONPAPA has adopted the [Selection Criteria](#) as published by Athletics Ontario as a means of selecting eligible athletes in the **T51-T57 and F51 – F57** classification categories. Please note the following:

Para Eligibility, s.23:

1. There will be no age categories for Quest for Gold funding. All athletes' performances will be compared and ranked as a percentile versus the 8th ranked international performance in their category).
2. All qualifying athletes must have a Full Year Competitive Membership in Athletics Ontario in 2021.
3. All performances cited in the application must have been made while the athlete was a full member of Athletics Ontario / Athletics Canada.

Para Scoring Points, s.25:

1. All athletes applying for *Quest for Gold* funding will have their best performance compared and ranked as a percentile versus the 8th ranked international performance in their category).
2. Performances must be made Athletics Ontario-sanctioned or Athletics Ontario-approved competitions and all pertinent information must be available and provided with their application (wind readings etc.). High school results will be accepted if they meet the above criteria.
3. Performances made in events that are not normally conducted at the IPC Outdoor World Championships will not be converted to standard events.
4. Ties for the final position(s) in the Quest for Gold program will be resolved on the following basis:
 - a. in favour of the athlete who places highest in the past year's Ontario Outdoor Championships if the athletes are in the same event.
 - b. if the tie is still not broken, the tie will be resolved in favour of the athlete with the best IPC RAZZA score of the average of the two best performances submitted as part of the application.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible athletes are asked [to submit an application](#) to be considered for the 2021-2022 Quest for Gold Ontario Card funding. Please review the athlete [selection policy document](#), paying particular attention to the para sections, for further details on eligibility and application requirements for the program.

All required information must be submitted online at <https://athleticsontario.ca/athletes/questfor-gold/> no later than **Wednesday April 27th, 2022** at 11:59pm ET.

ONAPRA will review all applications with the Athletics Ontario Selection Committee and will use the [Sport Specific Selection Criteria](#) to determine which athletes will be nominated for Ontario Card status in 2021-2022. Those athletes successful in their [application](#) will be notified no later than May 8th, 2022. Distribution of funding will occur before May 31st, 2022.