



ONTARIO WOMEN'S HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2019-2020

ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

- 1.0** *Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2019-2020 (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. **Only those athletes that meet the required minimum performance standard detailed in this Selection Criteria will be considered for this program.** Ideally an athlete will first receive a Quest for Gold "Ontario Card" for 1 to 3 years, which will allow them to train towards the goal of a national team position in subsequent years. Once an Ontario athlete reaches the national level and becomes a recipient of Sport Canada's carding program, they become eligible for the Quest for Gold "Canada Card". Athletes who are not planning to train towards this level of competition should not apply for this program.

2.0 How does it work?

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, Ontario Women's Hockey Association develops sport-specific selection criteria and forms a Selection Committee that will apply these criteria. The top-ranked athletes, based on the criteria, will be awarded Ontario Card status in 2019-2020. This Selection Criteria has been approved by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and reviewed by MHSTCI staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and Ontario Women's Hockey Association. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2019 ending March 31, 2020.

Carded athletes will be required to compete exclusively on behalf of the Province of Ontario at National Championship events and for Canada at International Championship events, for a period of one year from the date carding is approved and acknowledge Ontario as their permanent place of residence on athlete profiles, Media Guides, PSO/NSO and personal websites, and in similar types of public communications.

2.1 For 2019-2020, the MHSTCI has allocated Ontario Women's Hockey Association a total of 22 Ontario cards.

A minimum of 70% of the Ontario Cards will be allocated to what the MHSTCI defines as junior-aged athletes (11 to 22 years of age). A maximum of 30% of the Ontario Cards may be allocated to athletes no longer eligible for "junior athlete" status, (athletes 23 and over).

2.2 Ontario Women's Hockey Association is not obligated to assign all Ontario Cards if there are an insufficient number of athletes who have demonstrated potential to be considered for future National Teams.

2.3 The Selection Committee, as approved by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association is comprised of the following members:

Brian Hart, Head Scout, Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Cherie Piper, High Performance Technical Manager, Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Ted Dean, Chairperson, Ontario Women's Hockey Association
Pat Nicholls, Director Operations, Ontario Women's Hockey Association

How much funding is available?

The exact level of funding for the 2019-2020 carding year will be determined by the MHSTCI after the total number of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status has been determined.

How will the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Committee will use the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries Eligibility Criteria and the Sport Specific Selection Criteria detailed below to determine which athletes will be nominated for Ontario Card status in 2019-2020:

3.0 Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries Eligibility Criteria:

All athletes must meet the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries minimum athlete eligibility criteria:

- Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (previously known as a Landed Immigrant).
- Athlete must be a permanent resident of Ontario **for one year prior** to his/her nomination for carding status, (and continue to be a permanent resident throughout the term of the agreement).
- Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status (carded by Sport Canada) are not eligible for Ontario Cards.
- Athletes must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario.

3.1 Residency Exceptions:

Exceptions to these criteria, known as a "Residency Exception" will be considered **on a case specific basis by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association** Selection Committee provided that the athlete can substantiate in writing that:

- (a) 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);
- (b) He/She must attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province either because the course of study is not offered by an Ontario institution; or
- (c) 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.

Any change in an athlete's residency status must be communicated in writing to the PSO/MSO immediately.

The onus is on the athlete to demonstrate that he/she needs to be out-of-province for one of the above reasons. **The athlete must submit written documentation to the Ontario Women's Hockey**

Association by no later than March 30, 2020, clearly indicating how they meet a residency exception(s).

Athlete's applying for a Residency Exception related to exception (a) above, who are training at an NSO-approved National Training Centre MUST include a letter from the NSO outlining their support for the athlete, the progress the athlete is making and the athlete's potential to make the national team level. Additional documentation may include, but shall not be limited to an explanation of why the athlete is training out of province, whether or not the athlete was formally invited by the NSO, what additional opportunities are being made available beyond those provided in Ontario; and any other information that will illustrate that the athlete is receiving enhanced training while still meeting all obligations of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association.

3.2 Length of time living outside Ontario:

Athletes living outside Ontario for more than 30 consecutive days within the ministry fiscal year 2019-2020 for athletic or academic purposes must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the PSO/MSO Selection Committee that appropriate training programs are in place and are being monitored by the PSO/MSO. The onus is on the athlete to:

1. Provide a written plan outlining their training and competition plans to the PSO/MSO prior to their departure from Ontario, as part of their Residency Exception request (**March 30, 2020**); and
2. Adhere to the PSO/MSO-approved competition and training plan throughout the carding cycle. At a minimum, this requires regular (weekly updates, in writing) contact by the athlete with the PSO/MSO (to the OWHA Director Operations); and
3. Submit regular (monthly) training logs to the PSO/MSO to track progress against the PSO/MSO-approved competition and training plan.

Athletes who were formally invited to and are currently participating in their NSO's national team training program are exempt from this requirement.

3.3 Ministry criteria continued:

- 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 have met all terms and conditions of any previous *Quest for Gold* Sports Organization – Athlete Agreements to the satisfaction of the PSO/MSO in order to be eligible for consideration in 2019-2020;
- 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 be minimum Level 2 NCCP certified or trained status Competition Stream or the sport's equivalent in the Instruction Stream, or be engaged in completing this training, as determined by the PSO;
- Athlete must not be under a sanction that prohibits competition as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy;
- Athlete must be attending an educational institution full-time (i.e. elementary and secondary schools):
 - Exceptions will be made provided 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) athlete);
- 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 considered;
- If eligible, the athlete must compete, and continue to compete solely 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;
- Athlete must not receive financial support from any other provincial/territorial athlete assistance program. This does not include academic scholarships, bursaries, student grants, student loans, social assistance, disability pensions, and other forms of financial assistance that have nothing to do with competitive sport.

- Eligibility will be limited to Ontario junior-aged athletes, ages 11-22 (“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 athletes older than 22 years of age who have been identified as a potential next generation national team athlete by the PSO/MSO’s selection process.

3.4 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 and who takes up residence in Ontario during the fiscal year. This means that eligible military family members now qualify for OAAP funding immediately upon becoming residents of Ontario. Please contact Ontario Women’s Hockey Association for more information if you are applying for this exemption.

- 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.
- An athlete can only be nominated to receive *Quest for Gold* funding in one sport.

4.0 Athletes funded through the Sport Canada AAP:

Ontario athletes who have been nominated and accepted for funding through Sport Canada’s AAP within the government of Ontario’s fiscal year (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020) and who continue to meet AAP and OAAP eligibility requirements will automatically be considered for a Quest for Gold ‘Canada Card’. MHSTCI will contact those athletes directly at the mailing and email addresses the athlete provided to Sport Canada. Athletes are solely responsible for ensuring that their contact information is kept accurate and up to date at all times.

An athlete who received Sport Canada AAP carding during any part of Ministry fiscal year April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 and/or any part of fiscal year April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive Quest for Gold funding during fiscal year 2019-2020 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.)

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.

4.1 Canada Card Exception (CCE)

Exceptions may apply to this rule (known as a **Canada Card Exception (CCE)**) and will be considered by the Ministry on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions may include, but may not be limited to logistical or administrative changes (e.g. reduction in Sport Canada carding allocation), injuries, etc.

It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to contact Ontario Women’s Hockey Association Selection Committee prior to **(March 30, 2020)** to request a CCE. The athlete must submit, in writing, an explanation of why they have not been, or do not expect to be re-carded by their NSO. The submission must include a statement from the NSO, signed and dated on their letterhead, confirming that the athlete still has potential to return to the NSO’s carding program in the future. It is the responsibility of the athlete to submit this letter to the PSO; the Ontario Women’s Hockey Association will not obtain this letter from the NSO on the athlete’s behalf.

Ontario Women’s Hockey Association will then contact MHSTCI in writing prior to the submission of the Athlete Nomination Form to seek individual Canada Card Exceptions. Ontario Women’s Hockey Association is not responsible for seeking a CCE for any athlete unless requested to do so by the athlete as detailed above.

5.0 National College Athletic Association (NCAA):

On August 1, 2013, the NCAA revised their By-law that previously prevented an athlete from accepting grants from a governmental entity, such as Quest for Gold. Despite this change, any athlete considering an application to an NCAA institution is strongly encouraged to contact the NCAA Eligibility Center prior to applying for QFG funding.

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.

National Collegiate Athletic Association www.ncaa.org

NCAA Eligibility Center mailing address:
700 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 6222
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222
Phone: 317-917-6222

Toll-free phone number (U.S. callers) - Customer service line – 877-262-1492

Phone number (international callers) - Customer service line – 317-223-0700

6.0 Ontario Women's Hockey Association Athlete Selection Criteria:

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

The resulting top ranked athletes will be awarded Ontario Cards. A minimum of 70% of the cards will be allotted to able-bodied 11 to 22 year old female hockey players who meet the criteria. Ties will be broken by the OWHA Head Scout. An athlete must have a minimum 3.0 in all rating system areas.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Athletes must meet the general eligibility requirements
- Athletes must have been registered with the OWHA for a minimum of three seasons
- Athletes MUST participate in at least one OWHA High Performance Camp/Event/Function as a volunteer staff member. Camp/Event/Function will take place during the spring or summer of 2019 – notices will be sent out to all OWHA-QFG selected athletes of camp/event/function dates. Players will be exempt if reasons are reviewed and accepted by the OWHA board.
- Athletes must provide monthly logging to the OWHA no later than the last calendar day of each month starting May 31, 2020 (successful applicants chosen to receive Quest For Gold funding through the OWHA will receive further details on the logging process by May 25, 2020).
- Successful athletes receiving Quest for Gold funding through the OWHA will immediately report to the OWHA Director Operations any injuries or reasons why you're not playing hockey or training while receiving the funding.

LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION

Athletes who have been evaluated through the OWHA evaluation process and may have been selected to and participated in at least one of the following events for the OWHA:

Team Ontario, Canada Winter Games
Team Ontario, Under 18 National Championship
Team Ontario Esso Women's National Championship
Ontario Women's Hockey Association Provincial Championships/Playdowns
Canadian Women's Hockey League
Ontario USports/OUA

Athletes who have been identified through the OWHA and/or Hockey Canada evaluation process and may have participated in a camp and/or event with at least one of the following:

National Women's Team
National Women's Development Team
National Women's Under 18 Team

National Women's Player Pool
Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Camp

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Exemplifies the Values of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association

FAIR PLAY	FUN	EXCELLENCE
GOOD CITIZENSHIP	EQUITY	INTEGRITY & HONESTY

- Commitment to the Code of Conduct of the Ontario Women's Hockey Association
- Demonstrated positive attitude to female hockey
- Commitment to playing female hockey in Ontario
- Respect for the players, officials, sponsors, and others

OWHA FEMALE HOCKEY RATING SYSTEM USED TO DETERMINE RANKING OF ATHLETES

The general scale is 1 to 5 to rate all players: 1 = weak / 2 = below average / 3 = average / 4 = above average / 5 = exceptional (.10ths may be used – i.e. 3.4, 3.5)

- Goaltenders, Forwards, Defence considered for Quest for Gold funding have been evaluated through the Ontario Women's Hockey Association's evaluation process.
- Players will be evaluated at OWHA practices, games and events including, but not limited to club team activities, the Team Ontario Under 18 try outs, the Under 18 National Championships, the Canada Winter Games, the OWHA Provincial Championships, the Esso National Championships and various games in OWHA sanctioned tournaments, league and exhibition competition

SKATERS – FORWARD / DEFENSE

Players will be awarded a point total score of 35 based on the following criteria (maximum 5 points for each criteria). Scores can be awarded up to one decimal point (i.e. a player could score 3.5 on Skating).

SKATING (Maximum 5 points)

Taking into consideration

- Speed: first step acceleration, change of pace – directional speed, transition quickness
- Agility: deceptiveness, pivots, footwork or foot speed, lateral agility
- Balance: stops, starts, pivots – all directions, edges
- Power: strength in relation to stride efficiency, open ice power, first step acceleration out of pivots, backward quickness/power

OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL SKILLS: (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration

- Combine puck handling skill and skating ability to demonstrate creativity, control and deception
- Puck handling: control with patience/poise/speed and deception, ability to handle puck in tight and wide, puck protection – use of hands and body to protect puck
- Demonstrates high end passing and shooting skills
- Passing: accurate, variation of passes – ability to pass to both sides with fore-hand/back-hand motion, reception – ability to receive pass cleanly on fore-hand/back-hand
- Shooting: velocity, accuracy, quick release, variation of shots at appropriate times
- Strong hand-eye coordination
- Smart around net, ability to score
- Demonstrates playmaking ability, consistently create scoring chances by being a threat to shoot or pass, strong understanding of pass verses shoot verses carry verses move to open space/ice
- Challenges offenders one-on-one at appropriate times in low/average risk with a better than average reward ratio
- Understands the concept of taking puck to net, willingness to take the puck to net

OFFENSIVE TEAM PLAY (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Works to keep control of the puck for her team through intelligent puck possession and movement

- Ability to anticipate and support on transition, turnovers and breakout, timing and support on offensive attack
- Identifies offensive opportunities and creates scoring chances for themselves and teammates
- Ability to score off the rush using a high level of individual puck skills and hockey sense
- Contributes to puck possession and scoring chances off of face-offs
- Communication – appropriate, effective and timely positive communication
- Ability to play within team systems
- Ability to play a high tempo game with speed-tempo-pace

DEFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL SKILLS/TEAM PLAY (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Over-all three zone defensive awareness and positioning
- Use of skating and thinking skills to execute angling, steering, pressure and contain in a wide variety of situations
- Demonstrates the ability and hockey sense to read and react to execute without the puck in a wide variety of situations, back-checking, fore-checking, defensive zone coverage
- Ability to cut the ice in half (FC)
- Ability to make contact as F1 in a disciplined legal manner
- Support and tracking behind the puck (DZC)
- Keeps head on a swivel to identify happenings around them in all three zones
- Ability to control the offensive stick at the appropriate time
- Ability to control the body of the offensive player at the appropriate time
- Avoids over skating situations
- Stick positioning on open ice and small ice to cut-off passing lanes
- Ability to block shots properly

HOCKEY SENSE (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Reads Plays
- Sees the ice and can read/anticipate offensive attacks as well as a wide variety of game situations
- Understanding of faceoff alignments
- Keeps head up and trusts instincts
- Game Skate – smart in all three zones
- Timing and support offensively and defensively
- Uses change of speed skating
- Decision making with and without the puck sets the team up for potential success - makes players around them better
- Can balance risk vs reward situations based on team needs - reliable and responsible - demonstrates an ability to increase level of performance in crucial game situations
- Demonstrates poise and patience in pressure situations
- Demonstrates an understanding and is able to execute the little things (i.e. subtle picks, proper shoot-in's, line changes with a purpose, taking a lane in a race for the puck, etc)
- Is able to adjust their play based on score, time of the game/period and situation (5 on 5 vs PP vs PK)
- Has the ability to visualize, comprehend and execute a game plan or the team's style of play on a consistent basis (understanding the game)

STRENGTH AND WORK ETHIC (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Uses size appropriately and successfully in battle situations
- Will physically challenge the opponent
- Ability to engage in battles and maintain compete level for entire game
- Is a threat with shot through velocity and quickness of release
- Displays strong balance and stability on their skates whether skating in open ice or battling in small space

- Can do all of the above with or without the puck
- Demonstrates mental toughness
 - showing a willingness to consistently engage in physical play
 - attacks bigger defenders without compromise,
 - uses strengths like skating speed and puck skill ability against larger opponents without fear of a physical consequence
- Leadership through relentless work ethic
- Consistency of effort
- Sets the level of pace in games
- Can change the momentum of the game based on their work ethic
- Battles/competes
- Fights for loose pucks
- Positioning in scoring areas
- All of these must be demonstrated on a consistent basis during battles, checking, line changes, playing defence and creating offense
- Intensity
- Courage
- Play a tough game within the rules
- Fights through checks
- Demonstrates a willingness to do little things (i.e. blocked shots, separate the man from the puck, dive to chip a puck ahead, etc.)
- Works hard and smart (i.e. positioning in the net zone and timing of engaging, controlling the stick)

INTANGIBLES (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Maintains emotional control regardless of situation
- Does not put team in a bad situation through undisciplined penalties, not easily frustrated, mentally tough
- Ability to perform under pressure and be successful in a wide variety of situations
- Does whatever it takes to help team be successful
- Displays determination and provides a relentless work ethic
- Plays with sportsmanship and class within the rules of the game
- Displays team first attitude on the ice
- Exemplifies the Values of the OWHA

GOALTENDERS:

Goaltenders will be awarded a point total score out of 35 based on the following criteria (maximum 5 points for each criteria). Scores can be awarded up to one decimal point (i.e. a goaltender could score 3.5 on Skating).

SKATING (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration

- Coordination
- Balance, stability, agility, quickness, speed
- Moves with control and smooth direct motions
- Shuffle, powerful lateral movement
- Movement & timing around the crease
- Controlled push and crisp stop, telescoping in and out
- Comfortable/effortless from skates to pads, plus recovery from pads to skates
- Efficient on ice while on pads
- Rotates eyes first, then body before using leg to drive or push back to post (post integration)

AGILITY AND SPEED (Maximum 5 points)

- Able to track shooters/pucks from low to high – high to low, left to right – right to left
- Speed of movements to track shooters
- 1st shot recovery speed (getting to rebound quickly) - no reaching or over extending
- Ease of footwork in traffic, or from up/down to down/up

- Beats the pass when moving or pushing from point to point in the crease
- Fast enough to always be in the right place at the right time so pucks hit them
- Very athletic + agile - The ability to move outside of the robotic goalie specific motions

TRAFFIC PLAY AND REBOUND CONTROL (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Find pucks in tight and play at appropriate depth
- Can they find pucks through traffic (screens), battle through bodies?
- Effectiveness on tips and deflections, depth and location to player stick
- Use of stick to steer rebounds
- Pucks absorbed and killed off chest pad
- Use of their blocker, stick and glove to direct/control rebounds away from traffic, should demonstrate the following in save execution:
 - catch, hold or smother
 - steer into quiet ice area
 - deflect out of play
 - off the blocker - low and away from danger areas
- Ability to catch, control and transition the puck with confidence and provide a quick transition from an originated offensive threat.
- Do they challenge the shooter?
- Are they patient on attacks?
- Are their angles accurate?

HOCKEY SENSE (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Read and re-act with timing (can they make quick decisions and then make the save with control)
- Are they always ready (set early when puck is in zone or slow to set)
- The ability to ready or anticipate plays before they unfold
- Knowing where to be in the crease without looking behind or tapping posts to find where you are
- The ability to instinctively follow rebounds without hesitation
- Effective and timely communication
- Effective and timely puck-handling choices during the play
- Ability to battle and never give up on a play
- Understanding the opposition player's habits and tendencies and using this knowledge to help gain an advantage

STRENGTH, FITNESS (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Energy and fitness – do they perform consistently or tire easily with pressure
- Uses size/strength appropriately to win net zone puck/space battles
- Are they physically able to manage traffic and pressure – i.e. hold their crease?
- Strength to handle puck with stick and move puck if needed with shot/pass
- Quick explosive foot movements
- Crisp, sharp + hard stops / sets
- Comfortable/effortless from feet to pads

MENTAL TOUGHNESS (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Ability to exercise control over high and low emotion levels
- Remains calm and confident while under all pressure situations and does not allow self to physically, mentally or emotionally lose control or panic
- Discipline (do they engage in battle with bodies in front and lose puck focus)
- Demonstrates focus - i.e. ready and set for shots
- Deals effectively with adversity i.e. goal against; net collision
- Displays optimism
- Confident, positive body language

BATTLE MENTALITY (Maximum 5 points)

Take into consideration:

- Ability to remain active in butterfly and with pushes until the puck is dead
- Quick transitions on ice
- Track and stay with play, the play should end with the goalie (either a puck interception, cover, or direction to corner)
- Quick inside edge steps/ BF walk and short pushes - transitions from side to side have to be quick and in tight even quicker
- Avoid overshooting (proper rotation and keeping between the 2 posts)
- Blocking position - compact and square, avoid overreaching for the puck (extending arms/ stick resulting loss of position - down and out too soon)
- Never quits

7.0 Breaking a Tie:

If there is a tie in the final score between 2 athletes, the OWSHA Head Scout will break the tie.

8.0 Failure to Meet Selection Criteria for Health-related Reasons

Ontario Women's Hockey Association has no criteria for ranking an athlete who is unable to meet these requirements as detailed above due to illness, injury or pregnancy.

9.0 Alternates: Ontario Women's Hockey Association 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 2019-2020 fiscal year;
- An alternate meeting all requirements 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).

10.0 To Apply:

All eligible athletes are automatically considered and ranked by the selection criteria process; therefore no application is specifically required. Athletes who are nominated as per the selection criteria will be directed to apply online

- 10.1** Any athlete requesting a "Residency Exception" must submit this information by **March 30, 2020** as detailed above.
- 10.2** Applications that are sent directly to the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries rather than to Ontario Women's Hockey Association will not be considered valid or to have been received by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association deadline.
- 10.3** The Sports Organization – Athlete Agreement will only come into effect if an athlete is selected and accepts carding status through the OAAP program. Athletes who fail to return a signed Athlete Agreement by the deadline date will not be carded.
- 10.4** Ontario Women's Hockey Association will publish or make known a draft list of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than **April 8, 2020**.

In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the MHSTCI eligibility requirements detailed in the MHSTCI binder provided to PSO/MSOs and duplicated in the Athlete Handbook provided to each nominated athlete and the eligibility requirements listed in the PSO/MSO Athlete Selection Criteria Document prepared by the PSO/MSO, the MHSTCI Binder/Athlete Handbook shall prevail.

11.0 Appeals

Athletes who have not been nominated for an Ontario Card by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Committee or who have been nominated for a 'Half Card' versus a 'Full Card', where applicable will be allowed to appeal that decision by filing a "Notice of Appeal" with MHSTCI. Appeals will be heard by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community, selected by the MHSTCI.

Grounds for appeals will be limited strictly to issues related to:

- A) Whether or not the Selection Committee has completed the selection process in accordance with its own published selection criteria and related procedures;
- B) Whether or not the Selection Committee applied the selection criteria in a manner that was free from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest.

Issues related to the specific content or selection requirements contained in the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Selection Criteria are not grounds for an appeal and should therefore be discussed directly with the leadership of Ontario Women's Hockey Association.

Please note that before an athlete can file a Notice of Appeal, he or she must first ask Ontario Women's Hockey Association for reasons explaining why he or she was not nominated for an Ontario Card.

If the athlete is not satisfied with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association response, the athlete may submit a **Notice of Appeal**, found below. A Notice of Appeal will only be accepted from the athlete or their parent/guardian on the MHSTCI-provided template (typed or hand-printed, no hand-written entries) through email, regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person. One appeal cannot be written on behalf of multiple athletes. The Notice of Appeal must be received by MHSTCI by noon on the deadline day. Appeals that are delivered personally or by courier shall be deemed to be received on the date of delivery.

Once MHSTCI has received the Notice of Appeal, it will share it with Ontario Women's Hockey Association, who will then submit a **"Response"** with MHSTCI by a specified deadline. The Response will outline why Ontario Women's Hockey Association believes that the Selection Committee's decision not to nominate the athlete should be upheld by the Appeals Committee. MHSTCI will share the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Response with the athlete.

If, after receiving the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Response, the athlete believes that Ontario Women's Hockey Association has raised new or additional reasons to justify the Selection Committee's decision not to nominate the athlete for an Ontario Card, then the athlete will have an opportunity to file a **"Reply"** with MHSTCI, responding to these additional reasons. The Reply must be limited to these additional reasons and cannot be used to make submissions already raised in the Notice of Appeal, or that the athlete neglected to include in the Notice of Appeal. The Reply will only be accepted on the MHSTCI-provided template.

Once MHSTCI receives the Notice of Appeal, the Response, and the Reply (if applicable), it will provide those materials to the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee will discuss all appeals at once. During its review of the appeals, the Appeals Committee reserves the right to request additional information from both the athlete and Ontario Women's Hockey Association.

After reviewing an appeal the Appeals Committee will have the authority to:

1. Direct Ontario Women's Hockey Association 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.

Once the Appeals Committee has reached its decision, it will contact the athlete and Ontario Women's Hockey Association in writing to communicate its decision and the reasons therefore.

An athlete who has had his or her appeal denied is not permitted to submit a second appeal to the Appeals Committee on the same or different grounds.

Note: Ontario Women's Hockey Association is encouraged to resolve disputes or disagreements informally with athletes who have not been nominated to avoid, wherever possible, formal appeals.

11.1 The deadline for athletes to submit an "**Athlete's Notice of Appeal**" to the Appeals Committee is **April 20, 2020 at 12 noon.**

11.2 Appeals must be completed on the Notice of Appeal template below and will be directed to:

Quest for Gold Appeals Committee
c/o Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division
Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5 questforgold@ontario.ca

**2019-2020 Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program
Athlete’s Notice of Appeal Template**

The deadline for an athlete to submit an appeal to the Appeals Committee is 12 noon on April 20, 2020. Appeals will only be accepted on the MHSTCI-provided Notice of Appeal template. **Please refer to the appeals section of your PSO/MSO’s Athlete Selection Criteria document prior to completing this form.**

Return form to:
Quest for Gold Appeals Committee
c/o Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor, Toronto ON M7A 1S5 Email: questforgold@ontario.ca

Full Name _____
Address _____ City _____
Postal Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____
Sport / PSO _____

Reason for Appeal (Check all that apply):

- Whether or not the PSO/MSO has completed the selection process in accordance with its own published selection criteria and related procedures;
- Whether or not the PSO/MSO applied the section criteria in a manner that was free from bias, discrimination and/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 the reasons communicated to you by your PSO/MSO as to why you were not nominated for an Ontario Card, and the date the information was provided. (Note: This Appeal will not be accepted unless it contains a response from your PSO/MSO.)

Date of PSO response: _____

