



## **Ontario Speed Skating Association Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2017-2018 ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA**

- 1.0** *Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2017-2018 (OAAP) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS), 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 and 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, the Ontario Speed Skating Association (OSSA) 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 2017-2018. This Selection Criteria has been approved by the Board of Directors and reviewed by MTCS staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and the Ontario Speed Skating Association. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2017 ending March 31, 2018.

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, OSSA/SSC and personal websites, and in similar types of public communications.

- 2.1** For 2017-2018, the MTCS has allocated the Ontario Speed Skating Association a total of 18 Ontario cards (split evenly as 9 male and 9 female Cards).

The Ontario Speed Skating Association has also decided to exercise the option made available by MTCS to split up to 30% of its carding allotment (i.e. issue ½ cards in designated categories).

A minimum of 70% of the Ontario Cards will be allocated to what the MTCS 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** As a result, the 18 cards issued to the Ontario Speed Skating Association will be allocated as follows:

Category	Long Track Male	Long Track Female	Short Track Male	Short Track Female
Full Cards - 14	3 Full Cards	3 Full Cards	4 Full Cards	4 Full Cards
Half Cards – 4 Full Cards = 8 Half Cards	2 Half Cards	2 Half Cards	2 Half Cards	2 Half Cards

An athlete's age will be determined as of by his/her age on June 30, 2017.

**The Ontario Speed Skating 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 Speed Skating Association Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:

Marg Oliveira, VP Sport Development  
 Blake Morrison, VP Athlete Development  
 Dennis Vogt, Member of the OSSA Technical Committee  
 Eric Bedard, OSSA High Performance Director  
 Mary Frances Carter, OSSA Executive Director

**How much funding is available?**

The exact level of funding for the 2017-2018 carding year will be determined by the MTCS after the total number of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status has been determined. Funding will be released prior to March 31, 2018.

**How will the Ontario Speed Skating Association Selection Committee decide who receives funding?**

The Ontario Speed Skating Association Selection Committee will use the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eligibility Criteria and the Sport Specific Selection Criteria detailed below to determine which athletes will be nominated for Ontario Card status in 2017-2018:

**3.0 Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eligibility Criteria:**

All athletes must meet the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's 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 Speed Skating 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 Ontario Speed Skating Association 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 Speed Skating Association by no later than Monday February 5, 2018, 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 Speed Skating Association.

### 3.2 Length of time living outside Ontario:

Athletes living outside Ontario for more than 30 consecutive days within the ministry fiscal year 2017-2018 for athletic or academic purposes must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Ontario Speed Skating Association Selection Committee that appropriate training programs are in place and are being monitored by the Ontario Speed Skating Association. The onus is on the athlete to:

1. Provide a written plan outlining their training and competition plans to the Ontario Speed Skating Association prior to their departure from Ontario, as part of their Residency Exception request (**Monday, February 5, 2018**); and
2. Adhere to the Ontario Speed Skating Association-approved competition and training plan throughout the carding cycle. At a minimum, this requires regular **monthly email** contact by the athlete with the Ontario Speed Skating Association (**Mary Frances Carter, Executive Director at [executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca](mailto:executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca)**); and
3. Submit regular **monthly** training logs to the Ontario Speed Skating Association to track progress against the Ontario Speed Skating Association-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 the Ontario Speed Skating Association and Speed Skate Canada 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 Ontario Speed Skating Association in order to be eligible for consideration in 2017-2018;
- 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 the Ontario Speed Skating 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, 2017 to March 31, 2018) and who continue to meet AAP and OAAP eligibility requirements will automatically be considered for a *Quest for Gold* ‘Canada Card’. MTCS 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 MTCS’ fiscal year April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and/or any part of fiscal year April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive *Quest for Gold* funding during fiscal year 2017-2018 (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.)

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 the Ontario Speed Skating Association Selection Committee prior to **Monday, February 5, 2018** 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 Speed Skating Association will not obtain this letter from the NSO on the athlete's behalf.

The Ontario Speed Skating Association will then contact MTCS in writing prior to the submission of the Athlete Nomination Form to seek individual Canada Card Exceptions. The Ontario Speed Skating 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 Centre 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](http://www.ncaa.org)

NCAA Eligibility Centre mailing address:  
NCAA Eligibility Centre    P.O. Box 7136, Indianapolis, IN 46207  
Toll-free phone number (U.S. callers) - Customer service line – 877-262-1492  
Phone number (international callers) - Customer service line – 317-223-0700  
Fax number - 317-968-5100

#### **6.0 Ontario Speed Skating 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.

##### **SHORT TRACK**

The Short Track Quest for Gold nominations will be derived from the Provincial Short Track Ranking System, which is based on objective results from national competitions. All eligible athletes will automatically be considered and ranked by the selection committee. All Sport Canada cardholders will be excluded from the Provincial Ranking lists.

Up to 8 Full Cards may be awarded to: 4 to the top 4 eligible female skaters and 4 to the top 4 eligible male skaters.

Up to 4 Half Cards may be awarded to: the next 2 eligible female skaters and the next 2 eligible male skaters.

## **PROVINCIAL SHORT TRACK RANKING:**

- Males and females will be ranked separately.
- Skaters will be ranked within a pool of competitors skating at identified competitions. Skaters in the first pool of competitors will be ranked ahead of skaters in the second pool, and the second ahead of the third, and so on until all pools of skaters are accounted for.
- A skater - once ranked in a pool - will not be considered for ranking in a lower pool as that skater has already achieved the highest possible rank. The principle of the best result at the highest level of competition is maintained.
- Wherever possible the process for the ranking of Ontario speed skaters will use the national ranking list established by Speed Skating Canada (SSC), under the direction of the High Performance Committees (HPC) of SSC. Freedom from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest is maintained by adhering to the results of the national ranking list produced and prepared by the national office of SSC.

**Note:** To further align with the Ministry's target of providing funding to athletes who are performing at the highest level of competition, ranking and performance standards have been established for the 2017-2018 funding cycle (which is based on results from the 2016-2017 season). Athletes should review the minimum performance standards and the expectation for performance progression to maintain funding eligibility for future seasons.

### **Minimum Performance Standard:**

Skaters must have a ranking in Pools 1, 2, 3 or a Top 20 placement in Pool 4 to be eligible for Quest for Gold funding.

### **Expectations of Performance Progression:**

- A skater whose highest rank is Top 20 in Pool 4 will need to achieve a ranking in Pool 1 or 2 the next season to maintain funding eligibility.
- A skater whose highest rank is in Pool 3 will need to achieve a ranking in Pool 1 or 2 the next season to maintain funding eligibility.
- A skater whose highest rank is in Pool 2 (rank 25 or lower) will need to achieve a Top 24 ranking in Pool 2 the next season to maintain funding eligibility.
- A skater who is ranked Top 24 in Pool 2 will need to achieve a Top 12 ranking in Pool 2 or Top 24 ranking in Pool 1 the next season to maintain funding eligibility.
- A skater whose highest rank is in Pool 1 (rank 25 or lower) will need to achieve a Top 24 ranking in Pool 1 the next season to maintain funding eligibility.
- A skater who is ranked Top 24 in Pool 1 will need to achieve a Top 18 ranking in Pool 1 the next season to maintain funding eligibility.

To maintain funding eligibility for subsequent seasons, ALL athletes must demonstrate continued ranking improvement and improved race times. Athlete performance will be reviewed by the Selection Committee on an annual basis. OSSA reserves the right to establish this selection criteria on an annual basis pending further information from Speed Skating Canada and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.

### **Pool 1: Senior Short Track Ranking List \*only athletes who achieved results at ALL 3 qualifying ranking events**

Athletes achieving a Senior National Ranking by competing at **ALL 3** qualifying ranking events as identified by Speed Skating Canada (Fall World Cup Selection or National Qualifier, plus Senior Canadian Short Track Championships, plus Senior National Open Selection #2). The Senior National Ranking format is established by the High Performance Committee of Speed Skating Canada. This shall constitute the first pool of skaters. Ties shall be broken by the higher rank from the Senior Canadian Short Track Championships.

### **Pool 2: Junior Short Track Ranking List \*only athletes who achieved results at ALL 3 qualifying ranking events**

Athletes achieving a Junior National Ranking by competing at **ALL 3** qualifying ranking events as identified by Speed Skating Canada (National Qualifier, plus Junior Canadian Short Track Championships, plus Junior National Open Selection#2). The Junior National Ranking format is established by the High Performance

Committee of Speed Skating Canada. This shall constitute the second pool of skaters. Ties shall be broken by the higher rank from the Junior Canadian Short Track Championships.

**Pool 3: Senior Canadian Short Track Championships**

Athletes achieving a result at the Senior Canadian Short Track Championships shall be ranked third. This shall constitute the third pool of skaters. The final overall racing result shall establish rank within the third pool. Ties shall be broken by the lowest combined 500m+1500m skated at this event.

**Pool 4: National Qualifier**

Athletes achieving a result at the National Qualifier competition shall be ranked fourth. This shall constitute the fourth pool of skaters. The final overall racing result from the qualifier shall establish rank within the fourth pool. Ties shall be broken by the lowest combined 500m+1500m skated at this event.

Only skaters ranked in the Top 20 in Pool 4 will be eligible for funding through the Quest for Gold Ontario Athlete Assistance Program

<b>Short Track Event</b>	<b>Pool ranking priority</b>
Senior National Ranking List (all 3 events)	1
Junior National Ranking List (all 3 events)	2
Senior Canadian Short Track Championships	3
National Qualifier (Top 20 ranking)	4

**LONG TRACK**

The Long Track Quest for Gold nominations will be derived from the Provincial Long Track Ranking System, which is based on objective results from national competitions. All Sport Canada cardholders will be excluded from the Provincial Long Track Ranking lists.

Up to 6 Full Cards may be awarded to: 3 to the top 3 eligible female long track skaters and 3 to the top 3 eligible male long track skaters.

Up to 4 Half Cards may be awarded to: 2 to the next 2 eligible female long track skaters and 2 to the next 2 eligible male long track skaters.

**PROVINCIAL LONG TRACK RANKING:**

- Males and females will be ranked separately. Team Pursuit events are not eligible for ranking purposes.
- Skaters will be ranked within a pool of competitors skating at identified competitions.
- The principle of the best result at the highest level of competition is maintained.
- Wherever possible the process for the ranking of Ontario speed skaters will use the national ranking list established by Speed Skating Canada (SSC), under the direction of the High Performance Committees (HPC) of SSC. Freedom from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest is maintained by adhering to the results of the national ranking list produced and prepared by the national office of SSC.

**Note:** To further align with the Ministry’s target of providing funding to athletes who are performing at the highest level of competition, ranking and performance standards have been established for the 2017-2018 funding cycle (which is based on results from the 2016-2017 season). Athletes should review the minimum performance standards and the expectation for performance progression to maintain funding eligibility for future seasons.

**Minimum Performance Standard:**

A skater must achieve a Top 30 ranking in a single distance or a Top 30 ranking in the Mass Start event (Pool 1) to be eligible for Quest for Gold funding.

**Expectations of Performance Progression:**

- A skater ranked 30 through 25 in Pool 1 will need to improve their ranking to Top 24 in a single distance or mass start in the next season to maintain funding eligibility.
- A skater ranked 24 through 19 in Pool 1 will need to improve their ranking to Top 18 in a single distance or mass start in the next season to maintain funding eligibility.

To maintain funding eligibility for subsequent seasons, ALL athletes must demonstrate continued ranking improvement and improved race times. Athlete performance will be reviewed by the Selection Committee on an annual basis. OSSA reserves the right to establish this selection criteria on an annual basis pending further information from Speed Skating Canada and the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.

**Pool 1: Canadian Long Track Ranking List – Single Distance and Mass Start**

Athletes achieving a national ranking through the competition format for ranking established by the High Performance Committee of Speed Skating Canada shall be ranked first. This shall constitute the first pool of skaters.

Only skaters ranked in the Top 30 in Pool 1 will be eligible for funding through the Quest for Gold Ontario Athlete Assistance Program.

**Note:** to achieve a national ranking result for a single distance, a skater must place within the top 32 skaters in a distance at an identified competition. The national ranking list is a single distance ranking. A skater's best result in a distance establishes rank. Absolute rank in any distance will establish rank order on the Ontario ranking list. For example, a skater who is ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in the 500m will rank below a skater ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the 1500m.

**Note:** The Mass Start ranking list as established by Speed Skating Canada WILL be used as part of the 2017-2018 Ontario Athlete Assistance Program. The Mass Start ranking list will carry the same ranking weight as the single distance ranking lists.

Ties will be broken by the best ranking in a second distance (or third or fourth as needed). If the skaters involved in the tie do not have a ranking in a second distance, the skater who has demonstrated a higher level of commitment to long track competition will be given the nod. The commitment to long track will be determined by the number of ranking events attended, the number of distances entered at each event, attendance at training camps, relocation to training centres, and performance from the previous season.

**A skater must have raced in at least 3 qualifying ranking meets in Pool 1 to be considered for long track funding.**

**Additional Information for Short Track and Long Track Athletes Next Generation Criteria**

Next Generation athletes (as defined by OSSA) are skating athletes who are 23 years old (based on June 30<sup>th</sup> date prior to the competition) or older who are identified as likely to achieve National Development Team status (minimum standard) within 3 years. Furthermore, athletes falling within this category shall be subject to an annual review. Details of the review are listed below.

Any Next Generation skater who believes they are eligible for funding must formally submit a request for consideration to the Selection Committee. Consideration of their request will be reviewed under strict conditions. Skaters are required to indicate their progress in actual racing times, progress in absolute rank on the national rank list for their identified discipline, and short term and long term competitive plans.

Athletes falling within this category shall be subject to an annual review. That review shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Progress in actual racing times, an absolute measurement against the clock.
- Progress in absolute rank on the national ranking list for the identified discipline (Short Track or Long Track).
- Competitive plans for the future including short term and long term goals.



- Makes a significant contribution to a development program for Ontario speed skaters at an identified training facility ie: making a key contribution to the training group through leadership and/or effort (based on coaching reports).

In making the determination to identify an athlete as Next Generation, the Selection Committee shall examine their most recent and consistent performance results. **Due date is Monday, February 5, 2018.**

## **SKATER OBLIGATIONS:**

1. Skaters are expected to maintain a performance pathway providing for the best opportunity for achieving the highest level of performance (i.e. a position on the National Team) and perform at the highest level.
2. A skater who decides to resign, retire, does not complete the requirements of the program agreement, or who is not compliant with the requirement noted in Skater Obligations Item 1 will be ineligible for the Quest For Gold funding cycle the next season.
3. An athlete who is offered a Sport Canada card and/or National team position and who chooses to decline it, will consequently be ineligible for the program.
4. A skater who qualifies for both a Short Track and a Long Track funding designation will be required to select one. The athlete will only be eligible to receive the benefits for one discipline.
5. A Quest for Gold funded athlete who is in the province during a provincial event is required to participate in the event provided they meet the applicable selection standards.
6. Skaters are required to provide monthly training reports to the OSSA office (October 2017 – April 2018).

### **7.0 Breaking a Tie: see notes listed above in the selection process for short track and long track.**

### **8.0 Failure to Meet Selection Criteria for Health-related Reasons**

Athletes who, for strictly health-related reasons, have not achieved the standards required for nomination of carded status may be considered for nomination under the following conditions:

- The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high-performance training and competition during the period of his or her injury, illness or pregnancy and, despite making every reasonable effort to attain the applicable carding standards during the year in which the injury, illness or pregnancy occurred, has failed to do so, in the view of the PSO/MSO, for reasons strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy.
- The Ontario Speed Skating Association, based on its technical judgement and that of a PSO/MSO team physician or equivalent, indicates in writing the expectation that the athlete will achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.
- The athlete has demonstrated and continues to demonstrate his or her long-term commitment to high-performance training and competition goals, as well as his or her intention to pursue full high-performance training and competition throughout the carding period for which he or she wishes to be renewed despite not having met the carding criteria.
- Athletes that meet the minimum performance standards and performance progression standards outlined above, but have not competed in the required number of competitions due to illness, injury or pregnancy may be considered for nomination by the Selection Committee provided they can show proof that they were awarded a Bye from either Speed Skating Canada or the Ontario Speed Skating Association for that competition. Where a Bye had not been previously applied for, athletes are required to submit in writing to the Selection Committee why they were unable to compete and provide supporting medical documentation.

### **9.0 Alternates:** Ontario Speed Skating 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 2017-2018 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 required information (Residency Exception letters, Canada Card Exception requests, Failure to Meet Selection Criteria for Health-Related Reasons documentation, and Next Generation requests for considerations) must be submitted no later than **Monday, February 5, 2018** to:

Mary Frances Carter  
executivedirector@ontariospeedskating.ca  
100 St. Charles Street East, Maryhill, ON N0B 2B0  
844-677-6772 x 101 (phone)

**10.1** Any athlete requesting a “Residency Exception” must submit this information by **Monday, February 5, 2018** as detailed above.

**10.2** It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to provide a full and complete application that meets all stated requirements. The Ontario Speed Skating Association will neither review applications in advance of the deadline in order to make applicants aware of any missing/incorrect information and/or attachments nor make corrections on behalf of the athlete. Any revisions on the part of the athlete will only be accepted prior to the posted submission deadline.

Applications that are sent directly to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport rather than to the Ontario Speed Skating Association will not be considered valid or to have been received by the Ontario Speed Skating Association deadline.

**10.3** An email will be sent by **February 5, 2018** confirming receipt. It is the athlete’s responsibility to contact the Ontario Speed Skating Association if this email is not received to be certain that the application has been successfully received by the deadline date.

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** **The Ontario Speed Skating Association** will publish or make known a draft list of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than **February 16, 2018**.

In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the MTCS eligibility requirements detailed in the MTCS 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 MTCS Binder/Athlete Handbook shall prevail.

## 11.0 Appeals

Athletes who have not been nominated for an Ontario Card by the Ontario Speed Skating 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 MTCS. Appeals will be heard by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community, selected by the MTCS.

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 Speed Skating Association Selection Criteria are not grounds for an appeal and should therefore be discussed directly with the leadership of the Ontario Speed Skating Association.

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

If the athlete is not satisfied with the Ontario Speed Skating 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 MTCS-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 MTCS 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 MTCS has received the Notice of Appeal, it will share it with the Ontario Speed Skating Association, who will then submit a **“Response”** with MTCS by a specified deadline. The Response will outline why the Ontario Speed Skating Association believes that the Selection Committee’s decision not to nominate the athlete should be upheld by the Appeals Committee. MTCS will share the Ontario Speed Skating Association Response with the athlete.

If, after receiving the Ontario Speed Skating Association Response, the athlete believes that the Ontario Speed Skating 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 MTCS, 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 MTCS-provided template.

Once MTCS 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 the Ontario Speed Skating Association.

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

1. Direct the Ontario Speed Skating 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 the Ontario Speed Skating 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:** The Ontario Speed Skating 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 **February 27, 2018 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 Tourism, Culture and Sport  
777 Bay Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

**2017-2018 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 February 27, 2018. Appeals will only be accepted on the MTCS-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 Tourism, Culture and Sport**

**Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division**

**777 Bay Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto ON M7A 1S5 Email: Scott.Cooper@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: \_\_\_\_\_

