

Ontario Card Athlete Handbook

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This Handbook is designed for Ontario athletes who have been nominated by their Provincial / Multi Sport Organization (PSO/MSO) to receive *Quest for Gold* 'Ontario Card' funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion.

Please review the contents of this Handbook prior to completing your on-line application. For assistance or further information please contact your PSO/MSO.

How do athletes apply for their Ontario Card?

Once an athlete is notified of their nomination by their PSO/MSO, they shall apply on-line at www.questforgold.ca.

Only those athletes nominated by their PSO/MSO should apply online.

Athletes will need to know the following before applying online:

- Carding Cycle: 1 or 2 – confirm with your PSO/MSO;
- Email: Previously funded applicants will login using the same email address used previously. Do not create a new account;
- Password: returning applicants will use their same password. Use the “Forgot Password” button to retrieve a previous password;
- Full address information;
- Social Insurance Number;
- Name/contact information for personal Coach.

Each applicant must have a unique email address. The online system will not allow multiple users to use the same email address. Insure this is a functional email account you have regular access to.

After completing the online process applicants will receive an auto-response email from the address application@questforgold.ca. If you cannot locate this email, please check your Junk or Spam folder and add this address to your “Safe List”. If the message still cannot be located, please contact staff at the Ministry of Health Promotion for assistance.

If you are unable to apply online and require a paper copy of the application please contact the Ministry of Health Promotion at Scott.Cooper@Ontario.ca or by phone: 416-314-7692.

Program Overview: *Quest for Gold* - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program

1. What are the goals and objectives of the *Quest for Gold* - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program?

The Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) is one of three funding streams offered under the 2008-2009 *Quest for Gold* Program. In addition to the OAAP the *Quest for Gold* Program also provides funding to enhance access to high performance coaching and to provide enhanced competitive opportunities and services for Ontario athletes. Funding for the *Quest for Gold* Program is obtained from revenues generated in 2008-2009 by the *Quest for Gold* lottery game that is administered by the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG).

The overarching goal of the *Quest for Gold* - OAAP is directly related to the Enhanced Excellence goals of both *ACTIVE2010* and the *Canadian Sport Policy* – i.e. to improve 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.

2. How will the *Quest for Gold* - OAAP achieve its objectives?

The *Quest for Gold* - OAAP achieves its objectives by:

- Providing additional direct financial assistance (Canada Card designation) to Ontario athletes who are carded at the national level by Sport Canada;
- Providing standards for the identification and support of eligible sports and eligible junior-aged Ontario athletes to be carded at the Provincial level (Ontario Card);
- Ensuring that Provincial Sport and Multi Sport Organizations (PSO/MSOs) have appropriate selection procedures and criteria in place, for the nomination of Ontario athletes to be carded at the Provincial level (Ontario Card);
- Providing OAAP carding support in a consistent and timely manner to athletes who meet their sport-specific carding criteria in those sports that meet OAAP eligibility requirements;

- Focusing support on junior-aged athletes to assist in their transition from junior to senior national and international competition;
- Providing a living and training allowance to help offset some of the costs athletes incur as a result of their involvement in high-performance sport;
- Allowing financial assistance provided to be used to offset tuition costs to allow athletes to attain academic goals; and
- Ensuring, in conjunction with the PSO/MSO, that appropriate training and competitive opportunities are in place and providing annual, ongoing and long-term evaluation of athlete performance and potential.

3. How will direct financial assistance be provided to Ontario athletes?

Direct financial assistance will be provided to eligible Ontario athletes in the form of a living and training allowance. Assistance will be provided through two carding designations – Canada Card and Ontario Card.

Canada Card - Eligibility is limited to Ontario athletes who are carded by Sport Canada. Canada Card will provide up to an additional 33% in funding over and above the full value of the carding designation the athlete is receiving from Sport Canada – the actual value of the card is dependant on funding available.

Ontario Card - Ontario Card will provide direct financial assistance to Ontario junior-aged athletes identified by PSO/MSOs. The actual value of the card is dependant on funding available.

Note: “Junior-aged athlete” is defined as those athletes who fall within the eligible age range for the Canada Games - 11 to 22 years of age. (Consideration will be given to older junior-aged athletes if a PSO/MSO’s NSO-approved Long Term Athlete Development model (LTAD) identifies older athletes in the “Train to Train” and “Train to Compete” categories).

4. What are the eligible expenses for this funding?

Carded athletes receiving funding under the Ontario Athlete Assistance Program can spend funding obtained only on the following items:

- Normal living costs;
- Costs directly associated with training (e.g. coaching, facility fees, other athlete services);
- Costs associated with attending training camps and competitions (e.g. entry fees, travel costs);
- Sport-specific equipment;
- Tuition and education related expenses (e.g. books, fees, commuting costs).

5. Does the Ministry of Health Promotion require receipts from the carded athletes?

The terms and conditions of the *Quest for Gold* program (contained within the athlete application) require athlete recipients to retain all records and documents related to the grant (e.g. receipts) for a three-year period and must make them available for inspection by the Ministry of Health Promotion when requested. However, the Ministry will not be requesting receipts from carded athletes on an ongoing basis. The PSO/MSO can request receipts on an ongoing basis if this requirement is stipulated in the PSO/MSO – Athlete Agreement.

6. Are *Quest for Gold* - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program grants considered “income” under the Federal *Income Tax Act*?

Canada Revenue Agency has advised that, upon review of the program, the benefits received from the *Quest for Gold* – OAAP Program will generally be received by recipients tax free within the meaning of the *Federal Income Tax Act*. If OAAP-funded athletes have any questions regarding their personal tax situation, they should contact the CRA at 1-800-267-6999 or online at www.cra-arc.gc.ca. Athletes who receive an OAAP grant in 2008-2009 will not be issued a T4A form for grants received in the 2008 calendar year.

7. Payments in 2008-2009

For 2008-2009 eligible athletes will receive carding status for one carding year starting from April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009. All payments will be processed before March 31, 2009. The amount of total payment to eligible athletes will be determined at a later date.

Minimum Sport and Athlete Eligibility Requirements

1. What are the minimum eligibility requirements and responsibilities for PSO/MSOs?

- Sport must have a PSO/MSO that is formally recognized by the Ministry of Health Promotion as per the Ministry's *Sport Recognition Policy*.
- Sport and sport discipline must have been, or must be a participant in the regular program of:
 - i. 2006 Olympic / Paralympic Winter Games, 2008 Olympic / Paralympic Summer Games, 2010 Olympic / Paralympic Winter Games
 - ii. 2007 Canada Winter Games or 2009 Canada Summer Games
 - iii. Ontario Games (youth) – eligible sports in this category may fluctuate depending on eligibility in a particular Games event.
- The PSO/MSO must conduct a formal process for nominating athletes for Ontario Cards. Rules and procedures must be published and made known to all concerned, along with procedures for appealing decisions.
- The PSO/MSO must have in place an Athlete - PSO/MSO Agreement signed by each individual athlete who is being nominated for an Ontario Card. The Athlete-PSO/MSO Agreement must contain in writing the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the athlete and the PSO/MSO.

2. What are the minimum Ontario Card eligibility requirements for athletes?

General Athlete Eligibility Criteria

- Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.
- Athlete must be a resident of Ontario for one year prior to his/her nomination for carding status.
- Athletes must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions will be made **on a case-specific basis** providing that the athlete can substantiate in writing at the time of application/nomination for carding status that they meet one of the following “**Residency Exceptions**”:
 - 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);
 - He/She must attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province because the course of study is not available to him/her in Ontario;
 - It is more financially feasible to attend a post-secondary institution out-of-province, or other extenuating circumstances require the athlete to be out of the province.
 - The onus is on the athlete to demonstrate that he/she needs to be out of province. **The athlete will submit written documentation to their**

PSO/MSO's Selection Committee clearly indicating how they meet these residency exceptions. The Ministry may require that the athlete provide additional supporting documentation from the athlete's PSO/MSO, National Sport Organization (NSO) or other sources to verify reasons for athlete's absence from the Province of Ontario.

- Athlete must be a member in good standing with PSO/MSO and NSO where applicable.
- Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program.
- Athlete must be instructed by a coach who has been trained and certified in the National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) Level 2 or equivalent.
- Athlete must not be under sanction as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy.
- Athlete must be attending an educational institution full-time (i.e. primary and secondary schools)
 - Exceptions will be made providing 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 given consideration.
- If eligible, the athlete must compete, and continue to compete for Ontario 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.
- Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status are not eligible for Ontario Cards
- 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 Senior level athletes not funded by Sport Canada – see below) who have been identified as a next generation national team athlete as demonstrated by:
 - Identification within the NSO pool of identified next generation national team athletes for the last two competitive seasons; OR
 - Results at regional championships, national championships (junior and/or senior) or other recognized national/international competitions over the last two competitive seasons; OR
 - Representation on a Canadian National Team (developmental and/or junior). Athletes training for Canada Games or provincial teams may also be considered.

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. This means that eligible military family members now qualify for OAAP funding immediately upon becoming residents of Ontario. Please see page 10 of this Handbook for details of

this exemption, including a list of documents needed to verify eligibility for this waiver of the one-year Ontario residency requirement.

3. Are athletes attending foreign post-secondary educational institutions on an athletic scholarship eligible for Ontario Card status?

No - athletes who are attending any foreign post-secondary educational institution (including NCAA institutions) and are receiving an athletic scholarship in any sport are *not* eligible to receive OAAP support.

4. How does receipt of *Quest for Gold* - OAAP funding impact on an athlete's current or future eligibility for a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) scholarship or their eligibility to compete in a non-scholarship NCAA sport?

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. The Ministry accepts no responsibility for any consequences that may follow, or losses that may be sustained in connection with an athlete's eligibility or ineligibility for a NCAA scholarship, or in connection with an athlete's eligibility or ineligibility to compete in a non-scholarship NCAA sport.

The Ministry strongly urges the PSO/MSO and individual athletes 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:

NCAA Eligibility Center
P.O. Box 7136
Indianapolis, IN 46207
Customer service hours - 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST
Phone: (317) 223-0700
Fax: (317) 968-5100

NCAA Eligibility Center overnight mailing address:
NCAA Eligibility Center
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive,
Indianapolis, IN 46202

It is the Ministry's general understanding that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) stipulates that any athlete who accepts direct funding from a provincial or state government run program will likely forfeit their eligibility for an NCAA scholarship and their eligibility to participate in that sport or to participate in a non-scholarship NCAA sport. This understanding is based on the information currently available to the Ministry, which could change.

As far as the Ministry can determine there are twenty sports that currently qualify for OAAP that are also full NCAA scholarship sports. These sports are:

Athletics (M/W - including cross country)	Rifle (M/W)
Baseball (M)	Rowing (W)
Basketball (M/W)	Skiing (M/W)
Diving (M/W)	Soccer (M/W)
Fencing (M/W)	Softball (W)
Field Hockey (W)	Swimming (M/W)
Golf (M/W)	Tennis (M/W)
Gymnastics (M/W)	Volleyball (M/W)
Ice Hockey (M/W)	Water Polo (M/W)
Lacrosse (M/W)	Wrestling (M)

The NCAA has also recognized designated “emerging sports” intended to provide additional athletics opportunities to female student-athletes. While athletic scholarship opportunities in these sports are limited in comparison to full NCAA sports, if competing at the varsity level these sports must also abide by all NCAA regulations, which include student-athlete eligibility. According to information currently available to the Ministry, the following are women's emerging sports:

- Archery
- Badminton
- Equestrian
- Rugby
- Squash
- Synchronized Swimming
- Team Handball

Please note: These lists are not definitive and could change.

Information provided is for the general assistance of prospective *Quest for Gold* applicants and is based on the information currently available to the Ministry. The NCAA eligibility rules are entirely outside the Ministry’s control and could change.

The Ministry makes no representations or warranties regarding the possible impact of a *Quest for Gold* - OAAP funding on an athlete’s eligibility or ineligibility for a NCAA scholarship, or on an athlete’s eligibility or ineligibility to compete in a non-scholarship NCAA sport.

5. How does the acceptance of *Quest for Gold* - OAAP funding impact on an athlete’s eligibility for disability pensions, other social assistance programs or academic scholarships?

The Ministry cannot offer any definitive opinion on how acceptance of OAAP funding will impact on current or future eligibility for any other income programs or scholarships (see Note below). The onus is on the athlete to check the terms and conditions of such programs or scholarships to determine potential impacts. The Ministry makes no

representations or warranties regarding the possible impact of *Quest for Gold* - OAAP funding on such programs, pensions or scholarships and accepts no responsibility for any consequences that may follow, or losses that may be sustained in relation to such programs, pensions or scholarships.

Please note: The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services has determined that all direct financial assistance provided to athletes under the OAAP is not to be included as income and assets for purposes of social assistance effective retroactively to January 11, 2006 when OAAP was first launched. Athletes who may be affected are encouraged to contact the nearest regional office of the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

6. Are professional / semi-professional athletes or athletes who have normal living and training costs covered eligible for Ontario Cards?

Athletes who receive or who have received funding in excess of normal living and training costs through exercising their skills as a professional or semi-professional athlete, or have these costs covered by virtue of involvement on a team through a formal agreement, within the same sport as the one for which they wish to receive OAAP funding, will not be eligible for OAAP support. The onus is on the athlete to prove that he/she meets the eligibility requirements.

7. Can an athlete be nominated for Ontario Card status in two sports? (i.e. receive two cards)?

No. If an athlete is nominated in two separate sports the athlete will have to decide which sport he/she wishes to receive carding support from.

8. What if athletes are under 18?

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.

9. Is an athlete previously funded by Sport Canada eligible for an Ontario Card?

An athlete that received Sport Canada Carding between April 1, 2007 and March 31, 2008 and/or April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance (carding) shall not be eligible to receive *Quest for Gold* OAAP funding during the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Exceptions may apply and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Exceptions may include, but may not be limited to logistical or administrative changes, injuries, etc.

Military Family Residency Exemption

The minimum one-year Ontario residency requirement for *Quest for Gold* eligibility is waived with respect to a spouse or dependant of a member of the Canadian Forces.

- A “member of the Canadian Forces” means:
 - A regular force member; or
 - A member of the reserve force of the Canadian Forces referred to in subsection 15(3) of the *National Defence Act* (Canada) who falls within the circumstances described in clause 50.2(1) (a) or (b) of the *Employment Standards Act, 2000*.
- This means that eligible military family members now meet *Quest for Gold* - OAAP residency requirements immediately upon becoming residents in Ontario. The athlete must also meet all other program requirements, including the PSO/MSO’s athlete ranking process, as detailed in the PSO/MSO’s Selection Criteria.
- In order to qualify for this exemption, the following documents must be presented to the PSO/MSO Selection Committee, who will forward said documents to MHP for confirmation of eligibility:
 - A. If the Canadian Forces member is present, any one of the following is acceptable:
 - Canadian Forces member’s **Military Identification Card** (e.g. NDI 20);
 - **Special Passport** (for military family members returning from an out-of-country posting);
 - Canadian Forces **Member’s Personnel Record Resumé**;
 - Canadian Forces member’s **Posting Message** (with accompanying photo identification); or
 - **Letter** from local Ontario Military Family Resource Center on letterhead confirming military family status of applicants (issued at the discretion of the local Military Family Resource Centre).
 - B. If the Canadian Forces member is **NOT** present at the time of application, any one of the following documents is acceptable:
 - **Special Passport** (for military family members returning from an out-of-country posting);
 - Canadian Forces **Member’s Personnel Record Resumé**; or
 - **Letter** from the local Military Family Resource Center on letterhead confirming military family status of applicants (issued at the discretion of the local Military Family Resource Centre).

The Ministry of Health Promotion reserves the right to request additional documentation to establish eligibility for this exemption. For more information, please contact the Ministry of Health Promotion directly at 416-314-7692.

Athlete Selection Requirements and Application Process

1. How are athletes considered for Ontario Card eligibility?

Athletes will be nominated for Ontario Cards by their PSO/MSO using an objective sport specific selection criteria developed by a "Selection Committee" appointed by the PSO/MSO. The sport specific selection criteria will be approved by the PSO/MSO's Board of Directors in advance of the selection process. The selection criteria must be objective, transparent and free of conflict of interest.

2. How will the selection criteria process work for Ontario Cards?

The PSO/MSO will publish the selection criteria so that it is known to athletes and members (i.e. on website, in newsletter or through communications to athletes and members (mailing, e-mail). The Selection Committee applies the Selection Criteria and nominates athletes for Ontario cards. A pre-set quantity of cards is allocated to each PSO/MSO by the Ministry of Health Promotion.

The PSO/MSO will also publish or make known to members the nominated list of athletes for Ontario carding status.

3. How do athletes apply for their Ontario Cards?

Once an athlete is notified of their nomination by their PSO/MSO, they shall apply on-line at **www.questforgold.ca**. Only those athletes nominated by their PSO/MSO should apply online.

Ontario Card program deadlines are detailed on page 15 of this handbook.

Appeals

Athletes who have not been nominated and who wish to appeal this decision can do so by filing an appeal *in writing only* with the *Quest for Gold* Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Appeals Committee. Appeals will be dealt with by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community and chosen by the Ministry.

Appeals must be submitted through regular post, registered mail, in person or by courier using the Appeals Template, which is available on your PSO/MSO's website as part of the *Quest for Gold* Athlete Selection Criteria. Appeals that are delivered personally or by courier shall be deemed to be received on the date of delivery. Appeals that are delivered by regular post or registered mail shall be deemed to be received three days after the date of mailing. **Appeals submitted by e-mail or fax will not be accepted.**

Note: Any/all information provided to the Appeals Committee may be shared with the athlete's PSO by the Appeals Committee.

Grounds for appeals will be limited strictly to:

- Whether or not the PSO/MSO has completed the selection process in accordance with their own published selection criteria and related procedures;
- Whether or not the selection criteria developed and applied by the PSO/MSO were fair, objective, transparent and free from discrimination or conflict of interest.

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

- Direct the PSO/MSO to redo the selection process using the correct criteria/process and submit new list of nominated athletes;
- Deny the appeal;
- Allow the appeal and nominate the appellant for carding status.

The deadline for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is

Cycle One: **October 27, 2008.**

Cycle Two: **February 2, 2009.**

Appeals must be completed on the Appeals Template (available on your PSO/MSO's website as part of the Athlete Selection Criteria) and directed to:

Quest for Gold Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Appeals Committee
c/o Sport and Recreation Branch
Ministry of Health Promotion,
18th floor, 393 University Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2S1

The PSO/MSO - Athlete Agreement

1. What is the purpose of the PSO/MSO - Athlete Agreement and what does it specify?

The purpose of the PSO/MSO - Athlete Agreement is to stipulate in writing the responsibilities and obligations of both the PSO/MSO and the athlete during the time that the athlete has Ontario carding status. The Agreement will specify:

- Eligible expenses;
- The PSO/MSO's obligations under the Agreement;
- The athlete's obligations, including a commitment to follow an agreed-upon training and competitive program;
- Athlete reporting requirements (i.e. training logs);
- Any other commitments to the PSO/MSO that the carded athlete is required to make (for instance, time, promotional activities, etc.);
- The Agreement's duration;
- Specific MHP and PSO/MSO policies that will be applicable to the Ontario carded athlete.

Payment of the grant awarded through the Ontario Card is contingent on having a signed PSO/MSO - Athlete Agreement.

Illness, Injury or Pregnancy

1. Short-term curtailment of training and competition for health-related reasons

Health-related circumstances that limit training and competition for relatively short periods (i.e. less than four months) are a matter strictly between the PSO/MSO and the athlete and should not affect an athlete's Ontario Card status.

2. Long-term curtailment of training and competition for health-related reasons

Carded athletes who are unable to maintain full training and competition commitments for periods longer than four months because of injury, illness or pregnancy will continue to receive 100% of the OAAP financial support to which they would otherwise be entitled, provided the following conditions are met:

- The athlete undertakes in writing to train or rehabilitate or both under the supervision of the PSO/MSO:
 - 1) for the period of time for which the athlete is unable to fulfil the training and competition commitments that are part of the normal PSO/MSO - Athlete Agreement; and
 - 2) at a level that minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures optimal return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date.
- The athlete signifies in writing his or her intention to return to full high-performance training and competition at the earliest date possible following the illness, injury or pregnancy.
- In the case of injured or ill athletes, a positive prognosis for the athlete's return to training and competition in the sport within 8 to 12 months is required from a PSO/MSO team physician or equivalent.

3. Failure to meet selection criteria for health-related reasons

At the end of an Ontario carding cycle during which an athlete has, for strictly health-related reasons, not achieved the standards required for nomination of carded status, he or she **may** be considered for nomination for the upcoming carding period under the following conditions, provided the PSO/MSO has a policy included within their selection criteria to prioritize and card injured, ill or pregnant athletes that is clear, consistent and not arbitrary (this policy must be transparent and accessible). Note: The PSO/MSO must be able to demonstrate the probability that the athlete being nominated would have been ranked high enough, if active.

- 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 PSO/MSO, 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.

4. Voluntary withdrawal from carded-athlete training and competition for health-related reasons

An athlete may want, for reasons related to injury, illness or pregnancy, to voluntarily withdraw temporarily or permanently from normal carded-athlete training and competition requirements. In these circumstances the PSO/MSO must notify the Sport and Recreation Branch, Ministry of Health Promotion, so that the athlete can be removed from the Ontario Carded list. The Ministry reserves the right to request the repayment of the whole or any part of the Grant.

2008-2009 Ontario Card Program Deadlines

Cycle 1

Aug 22, 2008	PSO/MSO posts athlete selection criteria
Oct 13, 2008	PSO/MSO publish list of carded athletes
Oct 27, 2008	Ontario Card appeal deadline
Nov 5, 2008	Appeal Committee reviews appeals
Nov 21, 2008	List of Cycle 1 - 2008-2009 Ontario carded athletes finalized and funding processed by Ministry of Health Promotion

Cycle 2

Oct 31, 2008	PSO/MSO posts athlete selection criteria
Jan 19, 2009	PSO/MSO publish list of carded athletes
Feb 2, 2009	Ontario Card appeal deadline
Feb 10, 2009	Appeal Committee reviews appeals
Feb 25, 2009	List of Cycle 2 - 2008-2009 Ontario carded athletes finalized and funding processed by Ministry of Health Promotion