



## ONTarget: Rifle and Pistol Alliance (“ONTarget”) on behalf of the Ontario Council of Shooters

### **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, ONTarget 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 ONTarget and reviewed by MHSTCI staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and ONTarget. 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 ONTarget a total of 10 full cards – distributed as 6 full and 4 half Ontario cards plus 2 full cards specifically for target shooting athletes with a disability (number of cards will be

split equally between genders as outlined in the chart below, but may be adjusted when possible and appropriate in accordance with Ministry approval).-

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** As a result, the 10 full cards issued to ONTarget will be allocated as follows:

	Male	Female
Full Cards – 6	3	3
Half Cards – 2 full cards = 4 half cards	2	2
Athletes with a disability – 2 full cards	1	1

Cards will be specifically allocated to the following categories/disciplines:

Category	Description	Total # of Cards	Male Cards	Female Cards
Senior Athletes (23 and over as of December 31, 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Shooting athletes who rank in the top 2 (per gender) of the average of 5 matches as indicated in Sections 6 &amp; 7.</li> <li>■ Currently not funded by Sport Canada.</li> </ul>	2	1	1
Junior Athletes (under 23 as of December 31, 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Junior Athletes as determined by ISSF</li> <li>■ Shooting athletes who rank in the top 2 (per gender) of the average of 5 matches as indicated in Sections 6 &amp; 7.</li> </ul>	4 (2 rifle/2 pistol).	2	2
Junior Development Athletes (under 23 as of December 31, 2019)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Junior Athletes as determined by ISSF</li> <li>■ Shooting athletes who rank in the top 2 (per gender) in this age category and show potential for development of the average of 5 matches as indicated in Sections 6 &amp; 7.</li> </ul>	2 (split into 4 half cards . (2 rifle/2 pistol).)	2	2
Athletes with a Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Athletes who are eligible (or should be eligible upon verification) to compete in International Shooting Committee for the Disabled (ISCD) events.</li> <li>■ Athletes with a disability who rank in the top 2 (per gender, apart from Able-bodied Athletes) of the average of 5 events as indicated in Sections 6 &amp; 7.</li> <li>■ While gender parity is a goal, full allocation of cards is preferable due to the smaller population of shooters with a disability and cannot be reallocated to another group. If during the carding cycle, only one gender group applies or is eligible for funding, cards will be allocated accordingly to those applicants.</li> </ul>	2	1	1

An athlete's age will be determined as of **December 31, 2019.**

**ONTarget is not obligated to assign all Ontario Cards, whether full or half, if there are an insufficient number of athletes who have not met the selection criteria and/or not demonstrated potential to be considered for future National Teams.**

**2.3** The Selection Committee, as approved by the Ontario Council of Shooters is comprised of the following members:

Shari Akow, Ontario Council of Shooters (President, ONTarget)  
Richard Horne, Ontario Council of Shooters (Vice-President, ONTarget)  
Avianna Chao, Ontario Council of Shooters (Secretary & Membership, ONTarget)

**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 ONTarget Selection Committee decide who receives funding?**

The ONTarget 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'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 ONTarget 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 ONTarget by no later than March 31, 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 PSO/MSO.

### **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 (**due March 31, 2020**); and
2. Adhere to the PSO/MSO-approved competition and training plan throughout the carding cycle. At a minimum, this requires regular and mandatory reporting by the athlete and/or his/her coach throughout the carding cycle by email on a quarterly basis to the PSO/MSO - contact by the athlete with the PSO/MSO (**president@ontariotarget.ca**); and
3. Submit regular quarterly 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 Instructor Beginner certified or trained status in 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 or the athlete themselves is 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 personnel and their family members now qualify for OAAP funding immediately upon becoming residents of

Ontario. Please contact ONTarget ([president@ontariotarget.ca](mailto:president@ontariotarget.ca)) for more information if you are applying for this exemption **before March 31, 2020**.

- 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 ONTarget Selection Committee prior to **March 31, 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 ONTarget will not obtain this letter from the NSO on the athlete's behalf.

ONTarget will then contact MHSTCI in writing prior to the submission of the Athlete Nomination Form to seek individual Canada Card Exceptions. ONTarget 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](http://www.ncaa.org)

NCAA Eligibility Center mailing address:

700 W. Washington Street  
P.O. Box 6222  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-6222  
Phone: 317-917-6222

## **6.0 Ontario Council of Shooters (ONTarget) Athlete Selection Criteria:**

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

- Eligible athletes must be members in good standing of ONTarget: Rifle and Pistol Alliance, a Member Organization of the PSO, the Ontario Council of Shooters.
- Eligible athletes must not be carded by Sport Canada.
- Eligible athletes must meet all minimum eligibility requirements as determined by the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries.
- Adult (23 or over) athletes must shoot and submit five scores in a single approved discipline, with the exception of the AWAD athletes. At least four (4) out of the five (5) submitted scores in only one of the approved disciplines as outlined in Section 7.0 must be equal to or greater than the Canadian National Team Development Cut Score as determined by the Shooting Federation of Canada in the 2019 Athlete Selection Criteria. The following year, the performance level may increase.
- Junior (Under 23) athletes must shoot and submit five scores in a single approved discipline. At least three (3) out of the five (5) submitted scores in only one of the approved disciplines as outlined in Section 7.0 must be equal to or greater than the Canadian Junior National Team Cut Score or be named to 2019 Canadian Junior National Team as determined by the Shooting Federation of Canada in the 2019 Athlete Selection Criteria. The following year, the performance level may increase.
- Adult athletes with a disability (AWAD) must shoot and submit at least three (3) out of five (5) scores in one or more of the approved classifications in a single discipline as outlined in Section 7.0 that must be equal to or greater than the Canadian National Adaptive Team Cut Score (NAST) as determined by the Shooting Federation of Canada in the 2019 Athlete Selection Criteria. The following year, the performance level may increase.
- Junior athletes with a disability (AWAD) must shoot and submit at least two (2) out of five (5) scores in one or more of the approved classifications in a single discipline as outlined in Section 7.0 that must be equal to or greater than the Canadian National Adaptive Team Cut Score (NAST) or be named to 2019 Canadian Junior National Team as determined by the Shooting Federation of Canada in the 2019 Athlete Selection Criteria. The following year, the performance level may increase.
- The criteria for limitation of scores submitted from venue locations in Sections 6.0 and 7.0 is waived only for AWAD athletes (both senior and junior) as they generally have less available competition opportunities and limited venues to compete in.
- Previous applicants for the 2018-2019 Quest for Gold must demonstrate their performance level (scores) has either been maintained or has increased in order to be considered for future funding.
- The athletes must submit a minimum of five (5) eligible match scores from the same event/discipline (indoor and outdoor events will be accepted, including matches shot at varying distances). The same shooting range cannot be used more than twice when submitting scores with the exception of the venues for Canadian Nationals and High Performance Team Try-outs and those athletes in the AWAD program. (Example, three or more scores cannot be submitted from the same shooting range.)
- **If you are submitting a mix of decimal and whole number scores, you will need to show all of your scores in both formats in order for the committee to determine ranking.** The current process is that paper scores (whole numbers) are being converted to decimal scores by the standard formula (multiply by 1.045). This formula is the SFC's accepted standard and follows the same process as it's been for several years now and has not changed.
- With the application, the athlete must provide a written or electronic record of the athlete's training log for the 2019 season. The training log for this application can be a simple record of activities throughout the season.
- NCAA athletes and prospective NCAA student-athletes should ensure that they can comply with OCS and MHSTCI criteria prior to application and are solely responsible for their own compliance.
- **Athletes must show a commitment to competing locally, provincially, nationally and/or internationally by submitting a minimum of five (5) eligible match scores from the same event, in the same discipline (World Championship, Olympic and Para-Olympic pistol and rifle events only) as identified in this document.**

## 7.0 Breaking a Tie:

If there is a tie in the final score between 2 athletes, the Selection Committee will determine final ranking as outlined below:

The athlete's submitted five (5) eligible match\_scores will be averaged. If there is a tie, the bottom score of the tied athletes will be dropped and the remaining four (4) will be averaged. A maximum of two (2) scores can be submitted from the same location (range), excluding the 2019 Canadian National Championships and High Performance Team Try-outs locations as detailed above in Section 6.0. Should there still be a tie, the athlete with the higher score from the 2019 Canadian Nationals will be determined to be the winner. If National scores are equal, the bottom score of the tied athletes will be dropped again and the remaining three (3) will be averaged and used to determine the winner. Consideration will be given to ensure equal gender/equal discipline to the best of our ability when and where possible.

### Example of matches:

- Local events such as LSBA's, Winter Wrap-up, Polar Bear Match;
- Provincial or national events, such as the Ontario Winter or Summer Games, Canada Games, Provincials, Nationals, and Tournament of Juniors;
- International-level events, such as
  - World Cups, World Championships, PanAm Games (PAG), Commonwealth Games, CAT, Olympics, Canadian Airgun Grand Prix; and
  - Youth Olympic Games, US Nationals and selection matches, US CMP matches.
- Eligible matches will be those conducted under ISSF rules officiated by certified Range Officials.

A total of 10 Ontario Cards (8 full and 4 half cards) may be awarded. They will be assigned to the highest-ranking male and female athletes in either rifle or pistol events who meet the minimum performance threshold. Both pistol and rifle events are male- and female-specific events. Gender equity will be achieved by distributing the number of cards evenly amongst eligible athletes. Furthermore, equity is achieved through athletes' scores being compared to scores shot by their respective gender. See Annex A for a copy of the ranking system. In the event that ranking needs to be determined between two different disciplines/events, this will be done by a comparison percentage as further outlined on the ONTarget website under the Quest for Gold FAQ section.

Two (2) Full Funded Ontario Cards for identified Senior Level Athletes will be allocated based on the highest combined percentile averages\* from the competitions previously stated taking place between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. If there are no eligible Senior Level athletes in either the rifle or pistol discipline, then both cards may be allocated to the Junior Level athletes at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

If there is only:

One (1) eligible Senior Level athlete, then the remaining card in the other discipline may be given to the Junior Level athletes.

Four (4) Full Funded Ontario Cards for Junior Level Athletes will be allocated based on the highest percentile averages (per gender) from the eligible matches previously stated competitions taking place between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

Four (4) Half Cards (1/2 funded Ontario Cards) for Junior Development Level Athletes will be allocated (per gender) based on next highest percentile averages from the previously stated competitions taking place between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

If not all full and half Junior cards are awarded, they may be provided to junior athletes who have qualified for the Canadian Junior National Team for 2019, but have not shot the sufficient number of qualifying scores (3 out of 5 scores equal to or greater than the Canadian Junior National Team Cut Score).

Two (2) Full Funded Ontario Cards for Athletes with a Disability will be allocated (per gender) based on the highest percentile averages\* (apart from Able-bodied Athletes) from the previously stated competitions taking place between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. These cards are not transferable to able-bodied athletes.

Once the eligibility criteria has been met, the Selection Committee will use percentile averages\* of Senior and Junior Open placement as the deciding factor. The athletes who place higher among their peers will be rewarded.

Essentially, the male and female nominated athletes will be named that meet the MHSTCI and the OCS criteria and have the highest percentile average\*. Only athletes nominated for OAAP carding will have their name publicly announced.

An athlete who previously received Quest for Gold funding and is entered into a Sports Organization – Athlete Agreement must have complied with the terms of that agreement to the satisfaction of the PSO/MSO in order to be considered for funding in fiscal year 2019-2020. PLEASE NOTE: \*Percentile averages will be determined using the complete Shooting Federation of Canada: CANADIAN SHOOTING ATHLETE RANKING SYSTEM (CSARS). Please see Annex A for a copy of the ranking system that will be used for this selection process. In the event that the 2019 national team cut score levels are not announced by December 31, 2019, the cut scores listed for 2019 will be used where applicable.

Eligible events for Quest for Gold Funding: Please see note, you may only submit scores for one (1) discipline from the qualifying events below:

Pistol	Rifle
10m Air Pistol Women	10m Air Rifle Women
25m Pistol Women/Junior Male	50m Rifle Three Positions Women
10m Air Pistol Men	10m Air Rifle Men
25m Rapid-Fire Pistol Men	50m Rifle Prone Men
50m Pistol Men	50m Rifle Three Positions Men

ONTarget has no criteria for ranking an athlete who is unable to meet these requirements as detailed above due to illness, injury or pregnancy. ONTarget will also not rank athletes that submit scores that do not meet eligibility requirements.

**8.0 Alternates:** ONTarget 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).

**9.0 To Apply:**

**It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to provide a full, legible and complete application that meets all stated requirements and supporting documents. The Quest for Gold Selection Committee 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. Applications that are sent directly to the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries rather than to ONTarget/Ontario Council of Shooters will not be considered valid or to have been received by the ONTarget/Ontario Council of Shooters' deadline set out below.**

All required information as outlined in the **Application for 2019/20 Ontario Quest for Gold Funding Nomination form** (see separate attachment) must be submitted, via email, no later than **April 2, 2020** to:

ONTarget/Ontario Council of Shooters - Quest for Gold Selection Committee

By Email only: [president@ontariotarget.ca](mailto:president@ontariotarget.ca)

Phone number: 416-845-7729

**9.1** Any athlete requesting a “Residency Exception” must submit this information by **March 31, 2020** as detailed above.

**9.2** It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to provide a full and complete application that meets all stated requirements. ONTarget 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 Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries rather than to ONTarget will not be considered valid or to have been received by the ONTarget deadline.

**9.3** An email will be sent within two (2) business days when received prior to the deadline date of **April 2, 2020** or two (2) business days after the deadline, if submitted on the deadline date, confirming receipt of the application. It is the athlete’s responsibility to contact ONTarget/Ontario Council of Shooters if this email is not received to be certain that the application has been successfully received by the deadline date. Please keep a record of your submission until you receive confirmation of receipt of your application

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.

**9.4** **ONTarget** 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.

## **10.0 Appeals**

Athletes who have not been nominated for an Ontario Card by the ONTarget 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 ONTarget Selection Criteria are not grounds for an appeal and should therefore be discussed directly with the leadership of ONTarget.

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

If the athlete is not satisfied with the ONTarget 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 ONTarget, who will then submit a **Response** with MHSTCI by a specified deadline. The Response will outline why ONTarget believes that the Selection Committee's decision not to nominate the athlete should be upheld by the Appeals Committee. MHSTCI will share the ONTarget Response with the athlete.

If, after receiving the ONTarget Response, the athlete believes that ONTarget 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 ONTarget.

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

1. Direct ONTarget 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 ONTarget 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:** ONTarget is encouraged to resolve disputes or disagreements informally with athletes who have not been nominated to avoid, wherever possible, formal appeals.

**10.1** The deadline for athletes to submit an **“Athlete’s Notice of Appeal”** to the Appeals Committee is **April 20, 2020 at 12 noon EST**.

**10.2** 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  
[questforgold@ontario.ca](mailto: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 EST 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, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Toronto ON M7A 1S5 Email: [questforgold@ontario.ca](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

