



Revised June 6, 2008

**Please Note:** This document is subject to approval by the Ministry of Health Promotion.

### **Selection Criteria for 2008-09 Quest for Gold Athlete Assistance Program**

The Selection Committee has re-defined the selection criteria to make them simpler and more representative of the aims and objectives of the Quest for Gold program.

As the purpose of this funding is to “improve the performance and number of Ontario athletes performing at the national and international level”, funding will be aimed at those Ontario athletes who have demonstrated both a high level of achievement and a commitment to continued training at an elite level.

The following Selection Criteria are subject to change based on Ministry of Health Promotion Guidelines when they are published.

**Please Note:** Athletes who apply for National Carding are encouraged to apply for Quest for Gold funding as well. If you don't apply for the Quest for Gold program and you do not receive National Carding, you will be too late to apply to the Quest for Gold program and may end up with no financial support at all.

For the year 2008:

1. Three age categories will be used for Quest for Gold athletes. These are:
  - a. **Junior:** athletes born in 1990 or earlier (but see exception below)
  - b. **Espoir:** athletes born in 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987 or 1988
  - c. **Senior:** athletes born in 1983 or earlier. Senior athletes are only eligible for funding under the exceptions category listed below, if they are performing at a high level and if they continue to show improvement
2. To be considered for the Quest for Gold Athlete Assistance Program (AAP), athletes must apply to the OTFA.
3. Athletes who were born in 1991 or later and named to the 2007 Quest for Gold Programme are eligible for the 2008 Programme.
4. All qualifying athletes must have a **Full Year Competitive Membership** in the OTFA in 2008.

5. All qualifying athletes must list a coach on their membership form who is registered as a coach with the OTFA. Athletes who are self-coached must be registered as an Athlete/Coach for the year.
6. To be eligible for funding, athletes must compete in the OTFA Junior or Senior Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 2008.
7. Athletes who have commitments to the Canadian National Team programme or who have the opportunity to compete outside the country, and in so doing have a conflict with the 2008 OTFA Outdoor Championships, may be excused if an exemption has been granted. All requests for exemption must be made in writing (or email) a minimum of seven (7) working days prior to the start of the Championship, and exemptions must be approved by the OTFA Quest for Gold Selection Committee.
8. If an athlete is excused from the OTFA Championships so they can compete in an alternate competition, the athlete may score points based on a comparison of his or her performance in the alternate meet and the results of the OTFA Championship. The Selection Committee will determine at the time of the exemption request, what alternate competition mark will be used for comparison purposes.
- 9. Athletes who do not receive an exemption from the Selection Committee and who miss the OTFA Outdoor Championships in order to compete elsewhere will not be eligible for Quest for Gold Funding.***
10. Athletes are encouraged to compete in the OTFA Indoor Championships, but this is not a criteria for Carding eligibility.
11. Junior athletes who apply for Quest for Gold funding in the *Junior category* must compete in the OTFA outdoor championships as a Junior. They should, therefore, compete in the Junior category at the National Championships in order to score points in that event. Athletes applying for funding in the *Junior category* cannot score points by competing in the Senior National Championships - they can only score points by competing in the Junior National Championships.
12. However, Junior athletes are encouraged to also compete in the National Seniors and competing in the National Seniors will not disqualify them from the program. Junior athletes wishing to apply for funding in the Senior category may do so by competing in the outdoor OTFA and National Senior Championships as a Senior athlete.
13. If a Junior athlete competes and scores Quest for Gold AAP points in a Senior event, they may also compete and score points as a Junior athlete in another event.

14. An equal number of male and female athletes are eligible to receive Ontario Card funding. For 2008 Track and Field will have twenty-seven male and twenty-seven female cards available, unless there are not enough athletes in a specific category who meet all eligibility requirements. Some of these cards may be split into half cards.
15. For the purposes of the Quest for Gold Athletes Assistance Program, athletes in the sport of track and field will be divided into four categories; Espoir male, Espoir female, Junior male, and Junior female. Athletes older than 24 years of age in 2008 will not be eligible for funding except as noted below under 'Exceptions'.
16. To qualify for funding, all Espoir-athletes must achieve a performance at least equal to a Level Seven performance on the OTFA Senior Step-Up to Excellence tables in the event in which they are applying. Junior athletes must achieve a performance at least equal to a Level Seven performance on the OTFA Junior Step-Up to Excellence tables in the event in which they are applying. Please see 'Exceptions' below for athletes who are over-age.
17. With the exception of marathon and walking events, performances based on cross-country or road racing events will not be considered.
18. The time period allowed for athletes to achieve their top performances for all events, with the exception of those noted below in 'Exceptions', is December 1, 2007 to August 20, 2008.
19. Selection of athletes will be based on total Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) points that each athlete accumulates. Athlete Assistance Program points are awarded as follows:
  - a. Points will be awarded based on the *average* of an athlete's best two performances achieved in 2008 by August 20, 2008 as scored on the 2008 IAAF Scoring Tables.
  - b. The two best performances must be made at different competitions (different day and different meet).
  - c. Junior athletes and Espoir-aged athletes will be scored using a conversion factor on the 2008 Senior IAAF Scoring Tables to better represent their relative score. Conversion factors for Junior and Espoir athletes are different to reflect the age difference. Senior athletes will be scored using the Senior IAAF Scoring Tables.
  - d. Athletes may score bonus points by placing in the top 8 among Ontarians of the same age or younger at the 2008 Ontario Track and Field Association's Outdoor Junior or Senior Championships. Points will be awarded on the following basis:

First Place	240 points
Second Place	216 points
Third Place	196 points
Fourth Place	180 points
Fifth Place	168 points
Sixth Place	156 points
Seventh Place	144 points
Eighth Place	132 points

- e. Athletes may score bonus points by placing in the top 8 among Canadians of the same age or younger at the 2008 Junior National Outdoor Track and Field Championships or the 2008 Senior National Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Points will be awarded on the following basis:

First Place	108 points
Second Place	96 points
Third Place	88 points
Fourth Place	82 points
Fifth Place	76 points
Sixth Place	70 points
Seventh Place	66 points
Eighth Place	62 points

20. If an athlete is excused from the National Championships so they can compete in an alternate competition, the athlete may score points based on a comparison of his or her performance in the alternate meet and the results of the National Championship. The Selection Committee will determine at the time of the exemption request, what alternate competition mark will be used for comparison purposes.
21. Performances must be in events normally conducted at the IAAF Outdoor World Championships.
22. For events in which no Canadian and/or Ontario Championships are conducted, athletes will be ranked and scored on the basis of their best performance during the period September 1, 2007 through September 6, 2008.
23. Performances must be made in OTFA-sanctioned or OTFA-approved competitions and all pertinent information must be available and *provided* (wind readings etc). High school results will be accepted if they meet the above criteria.
24. Hand times may **not** be used for qualifying performances in races of 400m or less in distance.

25. All performances must be verifiable. *The responsibility of providing accurate information lies with the athlete, club and/or coach.*
26. Indoor performances may count, but at least one of the two selection based performances must be from an outdoor competition. For indoor jumping and vaulting events, only performances achieved on runways complying with IAAF rules will be accepted. In the shot put, indoor performances achieved on landing surfaces which do not leave a mark are acceptable for the purposes of the Athlete Assistance Program.
27. Indoor and/or outdoor performances made in events that are not normally conducted at the IAAF Outdoor World Championships will **not** be converted to standard events.
28. In the short sprint and hurdles events and the horizontal jumping events, only performances achieved with a following wind of 2.0 metres per second or less will be accepted. In the combined events, all performances (final point totals) will be accepted, regardless of wind conditions.
29. There will be no limit on the number of athletes who can qualify in any given event.
30. Athletes may apply for Quest for Gold funding in one or more events, but may qualify for funding in only one event.
31. To be eligible, athletes must apply to the program. Applications must be received by the OTFA between August 22 of 2008 and September 8, 2008. The applicants with the best point totals who complete the application process will be nominated for Ontario Cards, pending the awarding of Ontario Cards to athletes who are, or have been, injured, ill or pregnant.
32. The Selection Committee will ensure that at least three members of each of the Espoir and Junior age groups are nominated in each of the male and female categories. If necessary, the lowest ranking athletes in a category or age group will be removed in order to make room for athletes from another age group who scores more points.
33. Athletes who may not qualify for funding due to illness, injury or pregnancy in 2008 and who believe they should be funded may appeal to the Selection Committee directly. These athletes must submit a rationale for selection including a description of the injury or illness, documents from a certified physician and/or therapist detailing the nature of the illness or injury, the rehabilitation program, the prognosis for recovery, and the athlete's two best performances from January 2006 to present. All other conditions hereto set forth must be met, and a full application form must be submitted. A maximum of four male and four female

- athletes (regardless of age category) may qualify for an illness, injury or pregnancy card.
34. To be eligible for a Pregnancy, Injury or Illness Card, the applicant must have been on the Quest for Gold program – or the National Carding program – in the previous year.
  35. Athletes who miss the OTFA or Canadian Championships because of illness or injury cannot compete for a period of ten days before and/or after these Championships without jeopardizing their chances of getting an injury card.
  36. Athletes who wish to apply for consideration under the Illness, Injury or Pregnancy category should send all pertinent information to the OTFA office as an addendum to the Athlete Application Form.
  37. Ties for the final position(s) in any of the four categories will be resolved in favour of the athlete who places highest in the 2008 Ontario Outdoor Championships. If the tie is still not broken, the tie will be resolved in favour of the athlete with the best performance (time, height or distance) - of the performances used in the ranking - if in the same event. Alternately a tie will be broken in favour of the athlete with the best IAAF Scoring Table score of the single best performance used in the ranking if in different events.
  38. All *selected* athletes will be required to fill out a formal application form with the Ministry of Health Promotion, and sign an Athlete–OTFA agreement.
  39. All *selected* athletes will be required to submit a training and competition plan for the 2009 season. The athlete’s coach must also sign the plan, verifying that the athlete has committed to an ongoing, comprehensive, well-considered training schedule aimed at high performance in the athlete’s selected event.
  40. Selected athletes enrolled in High School who will *not* be graduating from High School (or equivalent) in 2009 will receive a *split card*. Each *split card* will be worth half (50%) as much as a full card. Athletes receiving split cards must meet all other Selection Criteria.
  41. Selected athletes enrolled in High School who will be graduating from High School (or equivalent) in 2009 will receive a full card. Graduating High School athletes must meet all other Selection Criteria.

## Exceptions

### Exceptions for Athletes Born in 1983 or Earlier.

1. A maximum of ten cards (five female and five male) in the Senior category will be available to athletes who are 25 years of age or over as on December 31, 2008 and who:
  - achieve, during 2008, indoors or outdoors, a performance that equals or exceeds Level 9 of the Step Up programme in the Senior category in the event in which they are applying;
  - show at least a 27 point improvement on the 2008 IAAF Scoring tables over his or her lifetime best *as on December 31, 2006*;
  - comply with all other conditions of being named to the Quest for Gold Athlete Assistance Programme.
2. Athletes in this category will be scored as all other applicants. All applicants will be ranked and those who receive the highest scores will receive funding. Therefore, the top 5 male and female applicants born in 1983 or earlier are not guaranteed funding.

### Event Exceptions:

1. Athletes in the following events may use two performances in the same event or use another event as the second event to be scored against the IAAF Scoring Tables. To be consistent, in using a performance in a second event, only the *second* best performance in that event will be considered:
  - 10,000m** (JrM, SW, SM): Athletes may use 2 performances in 10,000m or 1 performance at 10,000m and one performance at 5,000m. Points earned in the second event may be equal to but may not exceed points earned in the first, primary event.
  - 20,000m Walk** (SW, SM): Athletes may use 2 performances in 20km Walk or 1 performance at 20km Walk and one at 10km Walk. Points earned in the second event may be equal to but may not exceed points earned in the first, primary event
2. Athletes in the following events require only a single performance in the event.
  - Marathon (SW, SM)
  - 50km Walk (SM)
  - Heptathlon (JrW, SW)
  - Decathlon (JrM, SM)
3. For 2008 athletes competing in the 20km Walk Ontario Championships will have until September 22 to apply for funding.

4. In Ontario Championships, where there are fewer than 8 Ontarians finishing in a final, the additional places to make up a total of 8 will be determined on the basis of times achieved in the penultimate round. (For example, if one competitor either does not start in the final of the 100m or is disqualified, etc., and there are 7 Ontarians who have finished, the 8<sup>th</sup> place score will be awarded to the athlete with the best time in the semi-finals).
5. In Canadian Championships, Ontario finishers shall count in the final positions when scoring Canadians only. If necessary, results from the penultimate round may be used to obtain the top 8 Ontarians.
6. Where no IAAF Scoring Table exists for an event an equivalent table shall be established by the OTFA Director or Technical Services.
7. Athletes may not compete in both the Junior and Senior categories in the same event (even if the specifications are different) at the Ontario Championships. If a Junior athlete is, for some reason, permitted to run the same or equivalent event in both the Junior and Senior categories at the Ontario Championships, only the performance in the Junior event will be considered and scored for the purposes of the Quest for Gold programme.