



**Synchro Swim Ontario**  
**Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2009-2010**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA**

*Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2009-2010 (OAAP) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP), and operated through the Sport and Recreation Branch. 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* – 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.

The program will provide direct financial assistance to Ontario junior-aged athletes through an “Ontario Card” designation. “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). The intent of the OAAP is to provide funding to individual athletes based on their demonstrated commitment to high performance sport, allowing them to pursue athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition.

**How does it work?**

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, Synchro Swim Ontario is responsible for developing sport specific selection criteria and forming a Selection Committee that will apply the criteria to select those athletes who will be awarded Ontario Card status in 2009-2010. The Selection Criteria is approved by the Board of Directors and reviewed by MHP staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and Synchro Swim Ontario. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2009 ending March 31, 2010.

In 2009-2010, the Ministry of Health Promotion allocated a certain amount of OAAP Ontario Cards to each eligible Provincial Sport / Multi-Sport Organization (PSO/MSO). Synchro Swim Ontario has been allotted a total of 10 Ontario cards.

The 10 Synchro Ontario cards will be specifically allocated to the following categories/disciplines:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of cards</b>
Full Cards	10 female

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of cards</b>
T6 13-15	1 Full Card (1 female)
Junior 16-18	9 Full Cards (9 female)

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines Synchro Swim Ontario is responsible for forming a Selection Committee and sport specific selection criteria to nominate the athletes for Ontario carding status in 2009-2010. This selection criteria has been approved by the Synchro Swim Ontario Board of Directors.

The Selection Committee is comprised of the following members:

Suzanne Laroche, President Synchro Swim Ontario  
Jan McLaughlin, Chair, Synchro Ontario High Performance Committee  
Elena Podolsky, National and Provincial Team Coach  
Leslie Taylor, Officials Representative, Synchro Ontario Board of Directors  
Mary Jane Ling, Coach Representative, Synchro Ontario Board of Directors  
Leslie Makins, Executive Director, Synchro Ontario  
Janet Herman, Project Coordinator, Synchro Ontario

### **How much funding is available?**

The exact level of funding for the 2009-2010 carding year will be determined by the Ministry after the total number of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status has been determined. Funding will be released prior to March 31, 2010.

### **How will the Synchro Swim Ontario Selection Committee decide who receives funding?**

The Synchro Swim Ontario Selection Committee will use both the Ministry of Health Promotion Eligibility Criteria and the Sport Specific Selection Criteria detailed below to determine which athletes will be nominated by Synchro Swim Ontario for Ontario Card status in 2009-2010:

#### **READ CAREFULLY:**

##### **Ministry of Health Promotion Eligibility Criteria:**

All athletes must also meet the Ministry of Health Promotion's minimum 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, with the following exception;  
The residency requirement will be waived if the athlete is a direct family member of:
  - a regular force member, or
  - a reservist as defined in subsection 1 (1) of the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* who is deployed under a circumstance described in clause 50.2 (1) (a) or (b) of that Act, or who is deployed or in any other way placed on active duty under a circumstance described in regulations made for the purposes of clause 50.2 (1) (c) of that Act.
- Athletes must be training and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions ("Residency Exceptions") will be made on a case specific basis providing that the athlete can substantiate that:
  - 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);
    - ▶ 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 exceptions. The Ministry may require that the athlete provide 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.
  - 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 that require the athlete to be out of the province.
- 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 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))
- 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 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. Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status are not eligible for Ontario Cards.
- Eligibility will be limited to Ontario junior-aged athletes ("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 note 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.

### **Important Notes:**

- 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.
- 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.
- An athlete that received Sport Canada Carding between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 and/or April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive *Quest for Gold* funding during fiscal year 2009-2010 (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010.) 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. However, 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.
- An athlete can only be nominated to receive *Quest for Gold* funding in one 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. 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.
- In the event of a conflict or inconsistency, the selection criteria established by the Ministry and set out in the Athlete Handbook provided to each nominated athlete shall prevail over the selection criteria established by the PSO/MSO.

### **Sport Specific Athlete Selection Criteria:**

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

#### Synchro Swim Ontario Sport-Specific Criteria:

1. Athletes must meet the "Ministry of Health Promotion Eligibility Criteria" (above) for an Ontario Card.
2. Athletes who are registered Competitive Synchronized Swimmer members in good standing with Synchro Swim Ontario for the 2009-2010 season (By-law, Article II) and fulfil the Quest for Gold Program's residency requirements.
3. Athletes who are still in pursuit of the "Quest for Gold" ("improve performance and number of Ontario athletes performing at the national and international level; thereby contributing to the improved performance of Canada at international competitions")
4. Athletes who are participating in a full competitive program for the 2009 – 2010 season (September 2009 – June 2010) which is defined as follows:
  - a. For athletes Tier 6 (T6) 15 & Under for 2009 – 2010:
    - Minimum of Tier 6 15 & Under Team Competition in National Stream Competition (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*) and Tier 6 15 & Under FINA Figures in National Stream competition (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*), and may include extra routines such as solo, or duet, and/or combo.
    - In the event that a club cannot field a National Stream Tier 6 15 & Under Team, the athlete must participate in National Stream Competition (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*) in three of five possible events: 1. Figures; 2. Solo; 3. Duet; 4. Team; 5. Free Combination Routine.
    - In the event that there is only one Tier 6 15 & Under National Stream athlete in a club, they must compete in a minimum of two National Stream events (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*)
  - b. For athletes Tier 7 (T7) Junior in 2009 – 2010:
    - Minimum of team competition in National Stream (T7) Junior Competition (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*), and (T7) Junior Figures in National Stream Competition (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*) and may include extra routines such as solo or duet and Free Combination Routine.
    - In the event that a club cannot field a National Stream (T7) Junior Team, the athlete must participate in National Stream Competition (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*) in three of five possible events: 1. Figures; 2. Solo; 3. Duet; 4. Team; 5. Free Combination Routine.

- In the event that there is only one (T7) Junior National Stream athlete in a club, they must compete in a minimum of two National Stream (T7) Junior events (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*)
- c. For athletes Senior in 2009 – 2010:
- Involves competing in two of seven Senior disciplines (entry into 2010 Provincial Trials\*) which may include any combination of Technical Solo, Free Solo, Technical Duet, Free Duet, Technical team, Free Team, or Free Combo Routine. (Senior athletes as determined by FINA Rules and that are under 22 yrs of age)

**\*Provincial Trials Competition – January 23-24, 2010; Nepean, ON**

5. Order of Card Allotments:

- a. Athletes, in ranking order, who made (regardless of declining or accepting the offer) a 2009 National Team (Junior or 13-15 National Team) but who did not receive carding, and who meet the criteria in 1 – 4. Ranking order is determined based “Final Order of Finish” at:
- For (T7) Juniors - from the May 11, 2009 Junior National Team Trials, Quebec City, QC
  - For (T6) 13-15 – from the June 4 – 8, 2009 13–15 National Team Trials, London, ON

Ties are broken by re-ranking the tied swimmers based on the combined Figure scores from Phase 1 and Phase 2 from the appropriate National Team Trials results as dated above.

- b. Participating members of the 2009 Junior Provincial Team (in ranking order) from the April 19, 2009 Provincial Team Trials (Orangeville, ON) Final order of finish, and who meet the criteria in 1-4.

Ties are broken by re-ranking the tied swimmers based on the Phase 2 Figure scores from the Provincial Team Trials event as dated above.

- c. Athletes who qualified and participated in 2009 National Team Trials (by ranking order), first considering Junior Team Trials and then 13-15 Team Trials and who meet the criteria in 1-4. Ranking order is determined based “Final Order of Finish” at:

- For (T7) Juniors - from the May 11, 2009 Junior National Team Trials, Quebec City, QC
- For (T6) 13-15 – from the June 4 – 8, 2009 13–15 National Team Trials, London, ON

Ties are broken by re-ranking the tied swimmers based on the combined Figure scores from Phase 1 and Phase 2 from the appropriate National Team Trials results as dated above.

6. An athlete who previously received Quest for Gold funding and entered into a Sports Organization – Athlete Agreement must have complied with the terms of that agreement to the satisfaction of the PSO (Synchro Swim Ontario) in order to be considered for funding in fiscal 2009-2010.

Category	Number of cards
Full Cards	10 female

Category	Number of cards
Tier 6 (13-15)	1 Full Card (1 female)
Tier 7 Junior (16-18)	9 Full Cards (9 female)

All eligible athletes are automatically considered and ranked by the selection committee as per the criteria above.

Each athlete must enter into an athlete agreement with Synchro Swim Ontario (agreement will be supplied by Synchro Swim Ontario to the athlete).

Provision for unused cards: If a T7 Junior card goes unused after all eligible nominees (including alternates) turn down carding, it/they may be used for the Tier 6 13-15 athletes who meet the criteria in 5c. If a T6 13-15 card goes unused after all eligible nominees (including alternates) turn down carding, it may be used for the T7 Junior athletes who meet the criteria in 5c.

### Residency Exceptions:

Any athlete living/training outside of Ontario is required to **submit written documentation** to Synchro Swim Ontario Selection Committee clearly identifying how they meet the following residency exceptions, identified in the Ministry of Health Promotion's General Eligibility Criteria:

- Athletes must be living and continuing to train in Ontario. Exceptions will be made on a case specific basis providing that the athlete can substantiate that:
  - 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 that require the athlete to be out of the province.

This information must be received by the Selection Committee by no later than **December 1, 2009** in order to 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 the 2009-2010 *Quest for Gold* Athlete 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.

### Alternates:

Synchro Swim Ontario 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 2009-2010 fiscal year;
- An alternate is available from the same category/discipline/card level;;
- 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).

### To Apply:

Athletes will be selected by the Quest for Gold Selection Committee and there is no additional application process. Questions can be forwarded to:

Leslie Makins, Executive Director  
Synchro Swim Ontario  
208 Hillyard St. Suite 227  
Hamilton, ON L8L 6B6  
Phone: 905-572-7962  
Fax: 905-572-7700  
Email: [lmakins@synchroontario.com](mailto:lmakins@synchroontario.com)

*The athlete agreement will only come into effect if an athlete is selected and accepts carding status through the OAAP program.*

### **Breaking a Tie:**

Breaking ties are outlined in 5a - 5c.

Synchro Swim Ontario will publish or make known the athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than January 18, 2010.

### **Appeals**

Appeals will be allowed in writing from athletes who have not been nominated by a PSO/MSO for Ontario Card status. Appeals will be dealt with by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community and chosen by the Ministry.

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

A) Whether or not the PSO/MSO has completed the selection process in accordance with their own published selection criteria and related procedures;

B) 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:

1. Direct the PSO/MSO 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.

The appeals will only be accepted on the MHP-provided template, in writing through regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person. 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. The Appeals Committee will discuss all appeals at once, after PSO/MSOs publish their list of nominated athletes. Appeals received in advance of the PSO/MSO announcing nominees will not be reviewed until after the Appeals deadline.

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

Cycle Two: **February 1, 2010.**

Appeals must be completed on the template below and will be directed to:

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

## 2009/2010 Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Appeal Template

The deadline for athletes to submit appeals to the Appeals Committee is October 26, 2009 for Cycle 1 and February 1, 2010 for Cycle 2. Appeals will only be accepted on the MHP-provided template, in writing through regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person. **Please refer to the appeals section of your PSO/MSO's Athlete Selection Criteria document prior to completing this form.**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sport / PSO: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reason for Appeal (Check one only):

- 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.

**Provide a two-line summary of the reason for the appeal:**

**In the space below (continue on to next page as needed), provide a detailed account of the situation to allow the Appeals Committee to understand the basis of the appeal (please submit additional pages/supporting documentation if necessary):**

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Print Name of Appellant

Signature of Appellant

Date

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