2016-2017

**2016-2017 *Quest for Gold* Freestyle Skiing Ontario Sport Specific Selection Criteria**
**Pending the release of the 2016-2017 Program by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport**

**Please note assuming the Ministry continues this Athlete Assistance Program, the components of these criteria are subject to change pending the release of the 2016-2017 Quest for Gold Program by the Ministry.**

**Freestyle Skiing Ontario Sport Specific Criteria Dates highlighted in yellow**
**MUST be met by athlete regardless of Ministry deadlines.**

**FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO**
**Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2016-2017**
**ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA**

*Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2016-2017 (OAAP) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS), and operated through the Sport, Recreation & Community Programs Division. The overarching goal of the *Quest for Gold* – OAAP is directly related to the High Performance Sport goal of the *Canadian Sport Policy* – that Canadians are systematically achieving world-class results at the highest levels of international competition – by improving the performance and number of Ontario athletes performing at the national and international level, thereby contributing to the improved performance of Canada at international competitions.
Specific objectives of the program are:

a) To help athletes continue their pursuit of athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition;
b) To encourage athletes to stay in Ontario to live and train;
c) To compensate athletes for earnings lost while training;
d) To enable athletes to successfully pursue excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals;
e) To increase athlete access to improved high performance coaching; and
f) To enhance training and competitive opportunities available to athletes.

The intent of the OAAP is to provide funding to individual athletes in the sport's Train to Train and Train to Win categories based on their demonstrated commitment to high performance sport, allowing them to continue to pursue athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and international competition. **Only those athletes that meet the required minimum performance standard detailed in this Selection Criteria will be considered for this program**. Ideally an athlete will first receive a Quest for Gold "Ontario Card" for 1 to 3 years, which will allow them to train towards the goal of a national team position in subsequent years. Once an Ontario athlete reaches the national level and becomes a recipient of Sport Canada's carding program, they become eligible for the Quest for Gold "Canada Card". Athletes who are not planning to train towards this level of competition should not apply for this program.

## How does it work?

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO 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 2016-2017. This Selection Criteria has been approved by the Board of Directors and reviewed by MTCS staff. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with

an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2016 ending March 31, 2017.

For 2016-2017, the MTCS has allocated FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO a total of 10 Ontario cards.

FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO **is not obligated to assign all Ontario Cards if there are an insufficient number of athletes who have demonstrated potential to be considered for future National Teams.**

An athlete's age will be determined as of JANUARY 1, 2017.

The Selection Committee, as approved by the FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:

Eli Budd, High Performance Director, FSO
Jeff Ord, Executive Director, FSO
Elaine Maxwell, High Performance Program Committee member, FSO

## How much funding is available?

The exact level of funding for the 2016-2017 carding year will be determined by the MTCS after the total number of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status has been determined. Funding will be released prior to March 31, 2017.

## How will the FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Selection Committee will use the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eligibility Criteria and the Sport Specific Selection Criteria detailed below to determine which athletes will be nominated for Ontario Card status in 2016-2017:

## A. Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Eligibility Criteria:

All athletes must meet the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport's minimum athlete eligibility criteria:

- Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (previously known as a Landed Immigrant).
- Athlete must be a permanent resident of Ontario **for one year prior** to his/her nomination for carding status, (and continue to be a permanent resident throughout the term of the agreement).
- Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status (carded by Sport Canada) are not eligible for Ontario Cards.
- Athletes must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario.

## Residency Exceptions:

Exceptions to these criteria, known as a "Residency Exception" will be considered **on a case specific basis by the FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO** 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.

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 FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO by no later than September 7, 2016, 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 FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO.

## Length of time living outside Ontario:

Athletes living outside Ontario for more than 30 consecutive days within the ministry fiscal year 2016-2017 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 September 7, 2016); and
2. Adhere to the PSO/MSO-approved competition and training plan throughout the carding cycle. At a minimum, this requires regular (monthly) contact by the athlete with the *FSO High Performance Director*; and
3. Submit regular (monthly) 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.***

## 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 2016-2017;
- Athlete must demonstrate a commitment and dedication to a proper training and competitive program, the goal of which is to continue to train towards a national team position and Sport Canada carding;
- Athlete's coach should be minimum Level 2 NCCP certified or trained status Competition Stream or the sport's equivalent in the Instruction Stream, or be engaged in completing this training, as determined by the PSO;
- Athlete must not be under a sanction that prohibits competition as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy;
- Athlete must be attending an educational institution full-time (i.e. elementary and secondary schools):
  - Exceptions will be made provided that the athlete can substantiate that his/her training will not allow for full-time attendance or if an athlete requires special needs that preclude full or part-time attendance (e.g. Athlete with a disability (AWAD) athlete);
- Athletes who have completed their area of study at the secondary level (i.e. high school) and who continue to train towards participation in major national or international competitions will also be considered;

- If eligible, the athlete must compete, and continue to compete solely for Ontario and/or Canada for one year from the date of the Minister's letter informing the athlete of acceptance into OAAP program, at Canada Games and other national competitions involving provincial team competitions;
- Athlete must not receive financial support from any other provincial/territorial athlete assistance program. This does not include academic scholarships, bursaries, student grants, student loans, social assistance, disability pensions, and other forms of financial assistance that have nothing to do with competitive sport.
- Eligibility will be limited to Ontario junior-aged athletes, ages 11-22 ("junior-aged" refers to chronological age, not a sport's specific age category - only exception is for PSO/MSOs using 30% of Ontario Card allotment for athletes older than 22 years of age who have been identified as a potential next generation national team athlete by the PSO/MSO's selection process.

Residency Exemption for Military Families: The one-year Ontario residency requirement is waived for any Ontario Card or Canada Card applicant who is a spouse or dependant of a: Regular Force member of the Canadian Forces; or Reservist currently deployed by the Canadian Forces into active service and who takes up residence in Ontario during the fiscal year. This means that eligible military family members now qualify for OAAP funding immediately upon becoming residents of Ontario. Please contact FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO for more information if you are applying for this exemption.

- To be deemed a potential next generation national team athlete, the athlete must be age-eligible to compete on the national team in the year following receipt of Ontario Card funding.
- All athletes under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian sign their OAAP application form. Cheques will be processed in the name of the eligible athlete.
- An athlete can only be nominated to receive *Quest for Gold* funding in one sport.

## 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, 2016 to March 31, 2017) and who continue to meet AAP and OAAP eligibility requirements will automatically be considered for a *Quest for Gold* 'Canada Card'. MTCS will contact those athletes directly at the mailing and email addresses the athlete provided to Sport Canada. Athletes are solely responsible for ensuring that their contact information is kept accurate and up to date at all times.

An athlete who received Sport Canada AAP carding during any part of MTCS' fiscal year April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and/or any part of fiscal year April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive *Quest for Gold* funding during fiscal year 2016-2017 (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.)
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.

## 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 FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Selection Committee prior to SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 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; FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO will not obtain this letter from the NSO on the athlete's behalf.

FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO will then contact MTCS in writing prior to the submission of the Athlete Nomination Form to seek individual Canada Card Exceptions. FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO is not responsible for seeking a CCE for any athlete unless requested to do so by the athlete as detailed above.

## 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

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

## B. FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Athlete Selection Criteria:

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

This criteria aligns with the overarching goal of supporting athletes who are targeted for and who are striving for selection to a Canadian Freestyle Ski Association (CFSA) National Team (in either the mogul, slopestyle, or halfpipe disciplines):

1. 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/MSO in order to be considered for funding in fiscal 2016-2017.

2. The athletes must meet the general eligibility and sport specific eligibility criteria stated throughout this *Quest for Gold* document. Decisions by the FSO *Quest for Gold* Selection Committee will use the goals and guiding principles as stated in the *Quest for Gold* Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) 2016-2017.

3. In order for a Canadian National Slopestyle, Halfpipe or Mogul Team athlete to receive Ontario Carding, they must have been a full time Ontario resident for at least the **two** full years that **immediately precede** their appointment to the National Team.

4. Minimum Commitment Level: An athlete must demonstrate a minimum level of commitment to high performance freestyle skiing in order to be eligible for an OAAP nomination. This commitment must take the form of being a full time member of an FSO High Performance Provincial or Academy team for *one year prior* to their OAAP nomination. The FSO High Performance Teams in 2015-16 were: Ontario Mogul Team (OMT), Ontario Park & Pipe Academy (Academy), and Ontario Park & Pipe Team (OPPT). These eligible athletes must have demonstrated a full commitment to the FSO High Performance Academy/Provincial Team Yearly Training Program, including but not limited to participation in team training camps/activities, competitions, and assessments. The exceptions to this rule are eligible athletes on the Canadian National Slopestyle, Halfpipe, or Mogul teams.

5. Nominated athletes must have a valid **Ontario CFSA Can Free 4 athlete license** (or higher) to receive funding. This license must be obtained by September 7, 2016, and must be valid for the 2016-17 season.

6. The Selection Committee will forward the athlete nominations to the FSO Board of Directors for approval.

7. The FSO Board of Directors will forward the nominations to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) for review before October 26, 2016 (dates to be determined by the MTCS).

8. Ontario High Performance Program Participation Requirement: Each *Quest for Gold* eligible athlete must either be a member of the CFSA Canadian National Institute Slopestyle or Mogul or Halfpipe Team, or be a member of one of the following FSO High Performance Program's teams: FSO's Ontario Mogul Team, FSO's Ontario Park & Pipe Academy, or FSO's Ontario Park & Pipe Team during the 2016-2017 *Quest for Gold* funding period (May 1, 2016 – April 31, 2017). They must have signed and returned the 2016-17 FSO High Performance Program Team Agreement and all post dated team fee cheques by September 7, 2016.

9. Each *Quest for Gold* eligible athlete's head coach must be the head coach of the CFSA National Mogul, Slopestyle, or Halfpipe Team; or FSO's Ontario Mogul Team (OMT), FSO's Ontario Park & Pipe Team (OPPT), or FSO's Ontario Park & Pipe Academy (Academy).

10. Eligible RPA for *Quest for Gold* Ranking**:** In order to support the *Quest for Gold* overarching goal of advancing OAAP athletes to the CFSA National Teams within 1 to 3 years of receiving their first card, the eligible RPA for Quest for Gold Ranking will only consider RPA achieved at competitions that meet the following criteria:

    a) Included as a *Qualifying Competition* in the CFSA 2016-2017 National Team Selection Protocol for Moguls, Slopestyle, or Halfpipe (freestyleski.com/policies).

    b) Included in the 2015-2016 FSO Selection Criteria Section 4 within the Criteria timeframe of December 1, 2015–April 30, 2016

    c) Mogul and dual mogul Canadian Series events will count for mogul skiers, despite not being a qualifying competition for national team. This is done to match the Canada Cup events available to the slopestyle and halfpipe skiers.

    d) Be a Tier 1, 2, 3, or 4 level competition, as identified in the 2015-16 FSO Selection Criteria

11. *Quest for Gold* Ranking: The *Quest for Gold* Ranking is determined using the total of an athlete's Top 3 RPA from *Quest for Gold* eligible events as outlined in Section B.10 above. Based on the criteria outlined in Section B.10., for the 2016-2017 Quest for Gold selections the FSO Quest for Gold Rankings uses the following competitions and events:

| Mogul and Dual Moguls | Slopestyle | Halfpipe |
|---|---|---|
| Tier 1: FIS World Cups<br>Tier 2: FIS NorAms (Calgary, Park City, Val St Come, Killington)<br>Tier 2: Senior Nationals<br>Tier 3: Canadian Selections (Apex)<br>Tier 4: Canadian Series (Le Massif, Calgary) | Tier 1: Dew Tour (Breckenridge)<br>Tier 1: X-Games (Aspen)<br>Tier 1: FIS World Cup (Mammoth, PyeongChang, Silvaplana)<br>Tier 1: AFP World Tour Finals (Quals Tier 3)<br><br>Tier 1: SFR AFP Platinum – La Clusaz<br>Tier 3: FIS NorAm (Calgary, Aspen Open, Seven Springs)<br>Tier 4: Canadian Open Tour (MSLM, Whistler, Stoneham) | Tier 1: FIS WC (Mammoth US Grand Prix, Park City US Grand Prix, Tignes SFR)<br>Tier 1: Dew Tour (Breckenridge)<br>Tier 1: X-Games (Aspen)<br>Tier 1: AFP World Tour Finals (Quals Tier 3)<br>Tier 3: FIS Nor-Am (Aspen Open, Calgary Canadian Open Championships, Seven Springs Rev Tour)<br>Tier 4: Rev Tour (Copper)<br>Tier 4: Canadian Open Tour |

If there is a discrepancy between the list in Section B.11. and the criteria in Section B.10; the criteria in Section B.10. will override this list in Section B.11.

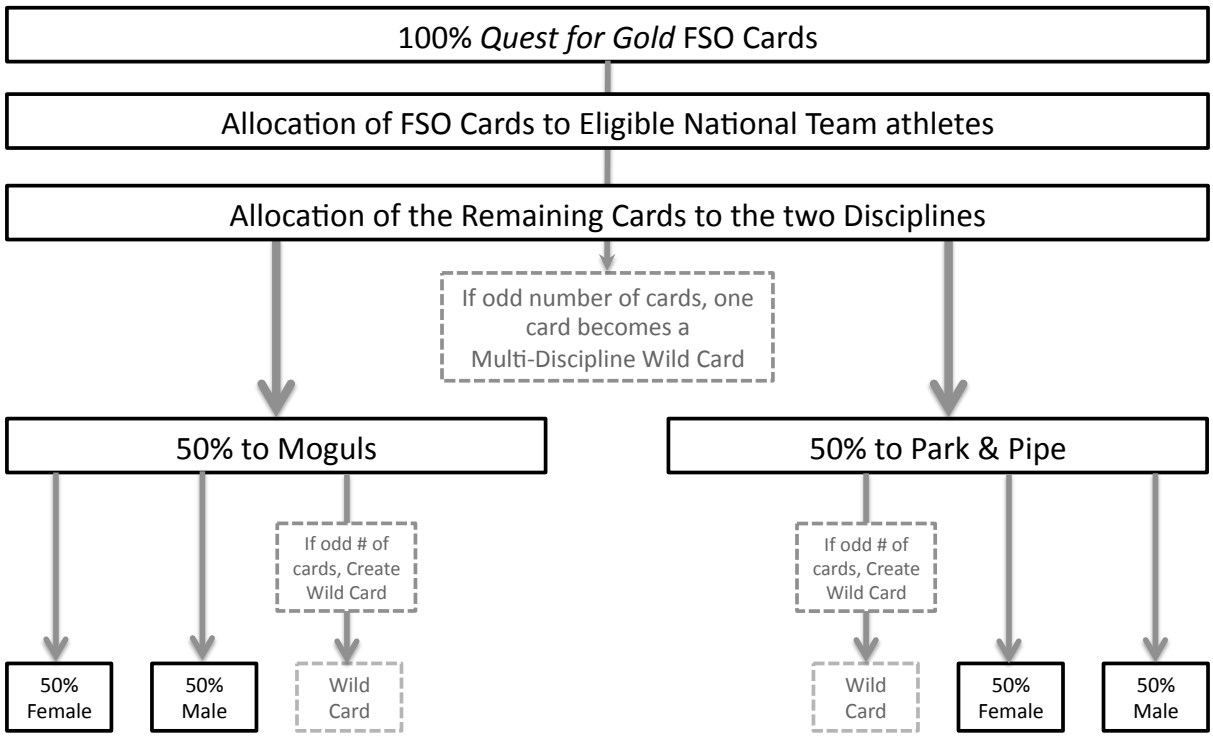
12. Order of Distribution: Distribution of Ontario *Quest for Gold* Cards is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. | Ontario Cards are distributed to Eligible* athletes on the CFSA National Mogul Team, National Halfpipe Team, and the National Slopestyle Team first. |
| 2. | The remaining FSO Ontario Cards are divided evenly between two distinct disciplines which are:<br>i. Moguls (single & duals)<br>ii. Park & Pipe (slopestyle & halfpipe) |
| 3. | Multi Discipline Wild Card: If there are an uneven number of cards after step 2, the Multi Discipline Wild Card criteria will be used to distribute the odd card at this time. |
| 4. | Normal Distribution Phase: Once there is an even number of cards after stages 1-3, the Normal Distribution Phase will be implemented.<br>Within each discipline the cards are distributed evenly between two genders:<br>i. Males<br>ii. Females<br>If the number of cards allocated to the discipline is an odd number, the odd card becomes a Discipline Wild Card. The Discipline Wild Card is distributed using the Discipline Wild Card Distribution Process outlined below.<br><br>Discipline Wild Cards are distributed first; Discipline Specific Gender Cards are distributed second. |
| 5. | Discipline Wild Card: If there are an uneven number of cards after step 4, the Discipline Wild Card criteria will be used to distribute the odd card at this time. |
| 6. | Discipline Specific Gender Cards:<br>Mogul Discipline Specific Gender Cards are distributed to Eligible* female and male athletes on the FSO Ontario Mogul Team (OMT) only.<br><br>At this stage, Park & Pipe Discipline Specific Gender Cards are distributed to Eligible* female and male athletes on FSO's Ontario Park & Pipe Academy (Academy) and Eligible* Halfpipe Provision (see below) athletes only. |
| 7. | When there are no Eligible* athletes remaining in a gender within a discipline, the remaining Discipline Specific Gender Cards for that gender are then transferred to the other gender in the same discipline. |
| 8. | If no Eligible* Academy athletes remain, the remaining Park & Pipe Discipline Specific Gender Cards will be distributed to Eligible* Ontario Park & Pipe Team (OPPT) athletes. At this point the card will revert back to its original gender. If no Eligible* OPPT athletes of the card's original gender remain, the card will be transferred over to Eligible* OPPT athletes of the other gender. |
| 9. | When there are no Eligible* athletes remaining in a discipline, the remaining Discipline Specific Gender Cards for that discipline are then transferred to the other discipline, starting with the original gender of that card. |
| 10. | FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO is not obligated to assign all Ontario Cards if there are an insufficient number of athletes who have demonstrated the Minimum Skill and Performance Level required for *Quest for Gold* Carding. |

*****Eligibility is as defined in this *Quest for Gold* Selection Criteria by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Program Criteria and Freestyle Skiing Ontario Sport Specific Criteria.

**Table 1.**

# 2015-2016 FSO Q4G Card Allocation Process




13. **Multi-Discipline Wild Card:** If an odd card remains after OAAP cards have been distributed amongst the eligible national team athletes, the Multi-Discipline Wild Card criteria will be used to distribute this card.

    The Multi-Discipline Wild Card is to be distributed to an eligible athlete on the Ontario Mogul Team (OMT), Ontario Park & Pipe Academy (Academy), or eligible athletes who meet the Halfpipe Provision (see below). Ontario Park & Pipe Team (OPPT) athletes are not eligible for this card.

    The Multi-Discipline Wild Card will be awarded to the athlete who has the highest CFSA High Performance Program Ranking (HPP Ranking) in either the slopestyle, halfpipe, or mogul/dual mogul disciplines. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken through the Tiebreaker criteria described below.

14. **Normal Distribution Phase:** The remaining cards are split evenly between disciplines, and then the male and female genders. If there are an uneven number of cards within a discipline, the Discipline Wild Card criteria is implemented.

    **a.** **Discipline Wild Card:** If the number of cards allocated to the Discipline is an odd number, one card becomes a Discipline Wild Card. This will create:

    - A Mogul Wild Card (Single and Dual Moguls)
    - A Park & Pipe Wild Card (Slopestyle and Halfpipe)

    Using Eligible *Quest for Gold* Competition/Events from December 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016 as outlined above and applying the 2015-2016 FSO Selection Criteria, the following process will be used to nominate an athlete for Discipline Wild Card::

    i. A value will be assigned to the athletes' highest top ten placing at a Tier 1 competition

ii. If no eligible athlete has a top ten Tier 1 placing, a value will be assigned to the athlete with the highest top ten placing at an eligible Tier 2 competition

iii. If no eligible athlete has a top ten Tier 2 placing, a value will be assigned to the athlete with the highest top ten placing at an eligible Tier 3 competition

iv. If no eligible athlete has a top ten Tier 3 placing, a value will be assigned to the athlete with the highest top ten placing at an eligible Tier 4 competition

v. For male and female mogul athletes and male park & pipe athletes, values will only be assigned to top ten placings that are within the top 2/3rds of the field size rounded down to the nearest whole number

vi. For female park & pipe athletes, values will only be assigned to top 1/3rd of the field size rounded down to the nearest whole number. This is done to reflect the smaller field size of the female park and pipe discipline

vii. Competitors who scored 'did not start' (DNS) or 'did not finish' (DNF) will not be counted when determining the field size of an event

Values will be assigned using the following formula:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st place = 10 points | 6th place = 5 points |
| 2nd place = 9 points | 7th place = 4 points |
| 3rd place = 8 points | 8th place = 3 points |
| 4th place = 7 points | 9th place = 2 points |
| 5th place = 6 points | 10th place = 1 point |

The athlete who has the highest point value in the Discipline using the above system will be nominated for the appropriate Discipline Wild Card.

If there is a tie after this process, the athlete with the second highest score earned through the above system will win the previously unassigned card. This process will continue (i.e. third highest score, fourth highest score, etc.) until the tie is broken.

OPPT athletes are not eligible for the Discipline Wild Card.

**b.** **Discipline Specific Gender Card**: The QFG High Performance Program Selection Committee will use the *Quest for Gold* RPA Ranking to determine card distribution by gender within a discipline. The highest ranked Eligible athletes within the identified discipline and gender will receive the *Quest for Gold* card nomination. The *Quest for Gold* Rankings will be posted at: ontariofreestyle.com/questforgold.

**c.** **Tiebreaker:** In the event of a tie, the Discipline Wild Card distribution process will be used (see section B.14.a). The only difference being that a point value will be assigned to the top 30 placings, instead of the top 10 placings. The point values will be assigned as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st place = 30 points | 16th place = 15 points |
| 2nd place = 29 points | 17th place = 14 points |
| 3rd place = 28 points | 18th place = 13 points |
| 4th place = 27 points | 19th place = 12 points |
| 5th place = 26 points | 20th place = 11 point |
| 6th place = 25 points | 21st place = 10 points |
| 7th place = 24 points | 22nd place = 9 points |
| 8th place = 23 points | 23rd place = 8 points |
| 9th place = 22 points | 24th place = 7 points |
| 10th place = 21 point | 25th place = 6 points |

| | |
|---|---|
| 11st place = 20 points | 26th place = 5 points |
| 12nd place = 19 points | 27th place = 4 points |
| 13rd place = 18 points | 28th place = 3 points |
| 14th place = 17 points | 29th place = 2 points |
| 15th place = 16 points | 30th place = 1 point |

If the tie falls within National Team distribution stage, then this process will apply to eligible athletes confirmed on the:

1. National Mogul Team
2. National Slopestyle Team
3. National Halfpipe Team

15. **Minimum Skill and Performance Level:** All athletes must meet the following Minimum Skill and Performance Levels in order to be eligible for carding:

**a.** Have earned three *Quest for Gold* Ranking scores from an eligible Tier 1, 2, 3, or 4 level competition (see section B. 11 for details)

**b.** Be capable of competently completing a top to bottom run in at least one Tier 4 level competition course, or higher (i.e. Tier 1, 2, or 3). For example, if an athlete is being entered into a Tier 4 mogul competition, the athlete must be capable of performing a top-to-bottom run without major difficulty. If an athlete is being entered into a Tier 4 slopestyle competition, the athlete must be capable of handling and clearing the jumps that are used in this level of competition. If an athlete is being entered into a Tier 4 halfpipe competition, the athlete must be able to complete a top to bottom halfpipe run at this competition. This run must include at least two maneuverers that involve a 360 degree rotation or greater, or at least two manoeuvres that involve a single flip or greater, or a combination of at least one 360 degree rotation maneuverer or greater with one single flipping maneuverer or greater.

*Exception for athletes carded in 2015-2016 based on the halfpipe specialty provision outlined in the 2014-2015 Quest for Gold Selection Criteria Section B.9.* An athlete carded in the 2015-2016 FSO Ontario *Quest for Gold* program based on section B.9. of the 2014-15 *Quest for Gold* Selection Criteria (hereinafter referred to as "The Halfpipe Provision"), will be eligible to apply for a residency exception in the 2016-2017 program. This will allow the athlete continuity in their halfpipe training through their current program. Compliance to the terms outlined in the 2014-2015 Section B.9 provision will continue to be mandatory in 2016-2017. Additionally the athlete must be identified by the National Halfpipe Team as a potential candidate for selection to the National Halfpipe Team with 1-2 years. Athletes must apply for this exception by September 7, 2016. A letter of recommendation including confirmation of National Halfpipe Team potential within 2 years by the CFSA High Performance Director or the National Halfpipe Team Coach is required to accompany the exception request.

FSO will not consider any other athletes in the 2016-2017 *Quest for Gold* program who have left or who choose to leave the Ontario system and train elsewhere. Unless an athlete advances to the National Team, being in the FSO High Performance Program system and being a member of the Ontario Mogul Team, Ontario Park & Pipe Academy, or Ontario Park & Pipe Team are mandatory requirements for consideration in this 2016 - 2017 *Quest for Gold* program.

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

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

- The athlete has fulfilled all reasonable training and rehabilitation requirements aimed at a speedy return to full high-performance training and competition during the period of his or her injury, illness or pregnancy; and, despite making every reasonable effort to attain the applicable carding standards during the year in

which the injury, illness or pregnancy occurred, has failed to do so, in the view of the PSO/MSO, for reasons strictly related to the injury, illness or pregnancy.

- Freestyle Skiing Ontario, based on its technical judgement and that of a PSO 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.

**If an Ontario athlete became injured and was unable to compete in part of the previous competitive season due to injury, the athlete could be considered for nomination, based on prior seasons' ranking, so long as they meet the following:**

1. **Notification** – they must have sent written notification and proof to the FSO office as soon as they became injured, and before April 1 of each season. This notification must include the projected date by which the athlete is able to return to competition, and must include proper documentation from an acceptable doctor.

2. **Eligibility** – Ontario athletes are only eligible for this "Injury Clause" if they have competed in less than 66% of all the RPA eligible (as per the FSO Selection Criteria document posted on the FSO web-site) competitions offered within a discipline in the current season, due to injury.

**Injured Athlete Ranking Process** – Once it is determined an athlete is eligible to use the injury clause, they will be included in the official Rankings using competition results from the previous season. RPA for the "injury" period will be calculated using previous season competition scores from the same time frame of the injury and with the same calibre of events missed during the injury period. RPA on the previous season competition results will be calculated using the current season's selection criteria event weightings. The maximum amount of time an athlete can look back for results to use the injury clause, shall be one (1) Competitive Season as of November 30th of the current Competitive Season.

**Alternates:** FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO will nominate alternates. Alternates will be determined using the *Normal Distribution Process*. Using the *Quest for Gold* RPA Ranking, eligible athletes ranked next in the Ranking order after the FSO Quest for Gold Nominated Athletes will be nominated as alternatives. The names of alternates will be published along with the names of nominated athletes in the fall 2016. 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 2016-2017 fiscal year;
- An alternate 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).

**To Apply:**

There is no formal application process required, other than "Residency Exception" or "Canada Card Exception" requests as detailed above. The FSO Selection Committee will automatically rank current Eligible athletes for Quest for Gold Nomination.

Any athlete requesting a "Residency Exception" must submit this information by September 7, 2016, as detailed above. Any athlete who does not meet the residency requirements after this date, must submit a Residency Exception within 14 days of their moving date.

For more information please contact:

Eli Budd
*FSO High Performance Director*
*highperformance@ontariofreestyle.com*
*134 Osler Street, Toronto, Ontario, M6N 278*

*(416) 238-7604 Ext: 703*

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

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.

FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO will publish or make known a draft list of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than **January 19, 2016**.

In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the MTCS eligibility requirements detailed in the MTCS binder provided to PSO/MSOs and duplicated in the Athlete Handbook provided to each nominated athlete and the eligibility requirements listed in the PSO/MSO Athlete Selection Criteria Document prepared by the PSO/MSO, the MTCS Binder/Athlete Handbook shall prevail.

## Appeals

Athletes who have not been nominated for an Ontario Card by the FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Selection Committee or who have been nominated for a 'Half Card' versus a 'Full Card', where applicable will be allowed to appeal that decision by filing a "Notice of Appeal" with MTCS. Appeals will be heard by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community, selected by the MTCS.

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

A) Whether or not the Selection Committee has completed the selection process in accordance with its own published selection criteria and related procedures;

B) Whether or not the Selection Committee applied the selection criteria in a manner that was free from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest.

Issues related to the specific content or selection requirements contained in the FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Selection Criteria are not grounds for an appeal and should therefore be discussed directly with the leadership of FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO.

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

If the athlete is not satisfied with the FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO response, the athlete may submit a **Notice of Appeal**, found below. A Notice of Appeal will only be accepted from the athlete or their parent/guardian on the MTCS-provided template (typed or hand-printed, no hand-written entries) through email, regular post, registered mail, courier or delivered in person. One appeal cannot be written on behalf of multiple athletes. The Notice of Appeal must be received by MTCS by 4 p.m. on the deadline day. Appeals that are delivered personally or by courier shall be deemed to be received on the date of delivery.

Once MTCS has received the Notice of Appeal, it will share it with FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO, who will then submit a "**Response**" with MTCS by a specified deadline. The Response will outline why FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO believes that the Selection Committee's decision not to nominate the athlete should be upheld by the Appeals Committee. MTCS will share the FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Response with the athlete.

If, after receiving the FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO Response, the athlete believes that FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO has raised new or additional reasons to justify the Selection Committee's decision not to nominate the athlete for an Ontario Card, then the athlete will have an opportunity to file a "**Reply**" with MTCS, responding to these additional reasons. The Reply must be limited to these additional reasons and cannot be used to make submissions already raised in the Notice of Appeal, or that the athlete neglected to include in the Notice of Appeal. The Reply will only be accepted on the MTCS-provided template.

Once MTCS receives the Notice of Appeal, the Response, and the Reply (if applicable), it will provide those materials to the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee will discuss all appeals at once. During its review of the appeals, the Appeals Committee reserves the right to request additional information from both the athlete and FREESTYLE SKIING ONTARIO.

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

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

The deadline for athletes to submit an **"Athlete's Notice of Appeal**" to the Appeals Committee is

**January 30, 2017 at 12 noon**

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

*Quest for Gold* Appeals Committee
c/o Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport
777 Bay Street, 18th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1S5

# 2016-2017 *Quest for Gold* – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program Athlete's Notice of Appeal Template

The deadline for an athlete to submit an appeal to the Appeals Committee is 12 noon on **January 30, 2016**. Appeals will only be accepted on the MTCS-provided Notice of Appeal template. **Please refer to the appeals section of your PSO/MSO's Athlete Selection Criteria document prior to completing this form.**

**Return form to:**
***Quest for Gold* Appeals Committee**
**c/o Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport**
**Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division**
**777 Bay Street, 18th Floor, Toronto ON M7A 1S5**
**Fax: 416-314-7458 Email: Scott.Cooper@ontario.ca**

Full Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Postal Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Sport / PSO _____

**Reason for Appeal (Check all that apply):**

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

☐ Whether or not the PSO/MSO applied the section criteria in a manner that was free from bias, discrimination and/or conflict of interest.

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

**In the space below, (continue on to next page as needed) provide the reasons communicated to you by your PSO/MSO as to why you were not nominated for an Ontario Card. (Note: If your PSO/MSO did not provide you with any reasons, please make a request to your PSO/MSO to see these reasons before completing this Appeal Template.)**

**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 as necessary):**

**PLEASE NOTE that all decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.**

Print Name of Appellant Signature of Appellant Date

All information provided to the Appeals Committee will be shared with both the Appellant and the PSO/MSO.