
	<p align="center">Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP)</p> <p align="center">2026 SELECTION CRITERIA</p>	<p align="center">Ontario </p>
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1.0 Overview

The Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP, formerly Q4G) is funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Sport, and operated through the Sport, Recreation & Community Programs Division.

1.1 Goals

The overarching goal of the Ontario Athlete Assistance Program (OAAP) is directly related to the High-Performance Sport goal of the Canadian Sport Policy whereas 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 provincial, national and international level, thereby contributing to the improved performance of Canada at international competitions.

1.2 Objectives

Specific objectives of the program are:

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

1.3 Intent

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 Selection Criteria will be considered for this program.** Ideally an athlete will first receive an "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".

Only athletes who are planning to train towards this level of competition should participate in this program.

An athlete's age will be determined as of December 31 of the tournament year.

Cards will be allocated based on the available funding to the age categories: U15, U18 and U21 with a balanced distribution, where possible, of male/female athletes who are participating in outdoor target archery in Recurve, Compound or Barebow divisions and are able-bodied athletes, para-archer athletes or athletes with a disability.

2.0 Sport Eligibility Criteria

All athletes must meet the minimum athlete eligibility criteria, including:

1. Athlete must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (previously known as a Landed Immigrant).
2. 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).
3. Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status (carded by Sport Canada) are not eligible for Ontario Cards.
4. Athletes must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario.
5. Athlete must be a member in good standing with Archery Ontario and Archery Canada
6. Athlete must enter into a Provincial Sports Organization - Athlete Agreement with Archery Ontario and must be in full compliance with the terms and conditions of that agreement
7. Athlete must have met all terms and conditions of any previous Athlete Agreements to the satisfaction of Archery Ontario in order to be eligible for consideration
8. 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;
9. 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 Archery Ontario
10. Athlete must not be under a sanction that prohibits competition as per the Canadian Anti-Doping Policy
11. If eligible, the athlete must compete, and continue to compete solely for Ontario and/or Canada for one year from the date of receiving any OAAP funding, at Canada Games and other national competitions involving provincial team competitions;
12. Athlete shall 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.

13. 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.
14. An athlete can only be nominated to receive OAAP funding in one sport.

3.0 How does it work?

3.1 Overview of Selection Process

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, Archery Ontario (AO) develops sport-specific selection criteria and forms a Selection Committee that will apply these criteria. The top-ranked athletes, who make known to Archery Ontario, through their Expression of Interest online application are available for consideration by The Selection Committee, and should they meet the criteria, they can be awarded Ontario Card status for the upcoming Outdoor Season. This Selection Criteria is posted to the AO website archeryontario.ca and aligns with the funding agreement sent to the PSO by the funder (Ministry of Sport).

3.1.1 Dates of Interest

These dates are provided for guidance and planning purposes only and may be subject to change in a particular year. Check the Archery Ontario website for details.

DATE	MILESTONE	COMMENTS
January 8	Applications open	Check the AO website https://archeryontario.ca/
January 31	Applications must be submitted by 5pm	Late applications will not be considered
February 7-21	Selection Committee meets to review applications	Selection Committee uses the pre-defined Selection Criteria
February 21- March 14	Athletes are informed and have to accept the nomination. An Athlete Agreement is prepared for each athlete.	Nominated athletes will receive an email for notification and their Athlete Agreement
March 15	Athlete Agreement is due to be completed and signed. Includes Tournament Plan, Training Plan, Budget estimates.	Email: vpadmin@archeryontario.ca
April 1	List of carded athletes is published	Check the AO website https://archeryontario.ca/
April 15	Funds disbursed upon full completion of Athlete Agreement	
September 15	Final Report due by athletes Includes Tournament summary, Budget actuals.	Email: vpadmin@archeryontario.ca

3.2 Eligibility

The Selection Committee will use the Sport Eligibility Criteria (from the OAAP agreement and guidelines) and the Sport-specific Selection Criteria (from Archery Ontario) to determine which athletes can be nominated for Ontario Card status.

3.3 Funding Allocation

Archery Ontario will invest funds from the Ministry of Sport OAAP program in both athletes and programming with an increasing focus on programming.

3.4 Full and Partial Cards

Archery Ontario will exercise the option to offer both **FULL** Cards and **PARTIAL** Cards to recognize that some athletes may prioritize specific tournaments to optimize and develop their competition experience, making them ineligible for FULL cards.

3.5 Age Classes

Archery Ontario has decided that the program will be targeted at Junior archers and specifically the U15, U18 and U21 age classes for that tournament year.

3.6 Selection Considerations

The program will continue to seek to:

- Balance the number of Male and Female athletes
- Balance the number of Recurve and Compound athletes
- Include Barebow athletes
- Support a mix of ABA, AWAD/PARA and AWAD archers

3.7 Qualifying events

The Selection Criteria identifies specific events that must be attended and the consideration of scores for those events. There are specific requirements for Full Card eligibility and Partial Card eligibility described in the Selection Criteria section of this document.

3.8 Assignment of Cards

Archery Ontario is not obligated to assign all Ontario Cards if there are an insufficient number of athletes who have demonstrated interest, through the online application process and/or demonstrated potential to be considered for future National Teams. Also, the Selection Committee reserves the right to re-distribute the cards at its discretion and this includes the options to redistribute the funding to other athletes and/or re-invest the money into the program portion of the funding.

3.9 The Selection Criteria

The Selection Criteria will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors of Archery Ontario every year in the April-June timeframe (for the following year). It will be published on the Archery Ontario website.

3.10 The Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will be comprised of the VP of Administration, the VP of Athlete Development and the VP of Tournaments (one of whom will chair the committee). It will also include the Office Administrator and any other members that the Board of Directors may request. Note that the Selection Committee does not develop the Selection Criteria, they apply the criteria to the applicants and will do so in a transparent manner.

3.11 Amount of Funding

Funding varies from one year to the next and is determined through an extensive application process and planning and review process between Archery Ontario and the Ministry of Sport, Province of Ontario.

3.12 Other Criteria

Athletes receiving funding from the National College Athletic Association (NCAA) are not eligible for Ontario Athlete Assistance. There are no exceptions.

3.13 Athlete Agreement

Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and AO (The ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF ARCHERS). Carding status will be for one year starting on April 1 of the year of funding and ending on March 31 of the following year, in alignment with the funding process.

All athletes under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian sign their OAAP Athlete Agreement. However, cheques will be processed in the name of the eligible athlete.

3.14 Representing Ontario

Carded athletes will be required to compete exclusively on behalf of the Province of Ontario at provincial and 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 communication, including social media.

4.0 Archery Ontario Sport-specific Selection Criteria

The Board of Directors of Archery Ontario sets the Sport-specific Selection Criteria based upon rules and guidance from the Province of Ontario, guidance from the VP of Administration who is primarily responsible for managing the Provincial Government Grant process and the feedback from AO Board members, officials, coaches, athletes and AO members.

4.1 Qualifying events

All archers/athletes considered for an Ontario card must have competed in one or more of the Ontario provincial target tournaments listed below.

- i. The Ontario Junior Challenge is mandatory for Full Card and cannot be substituted. Athletes that did not participate in the Ontario Junior Challenge are eligible for Partial Card, provided that they participated in the Ontario Target Championship. Athletes must participate in at least one Ontario provincial target tournament (Junior Challenge or Target Championship) to be eligible for Ontario funding.
- ii. In addition to the Ontario Junior Challenge, participation at the Ontario Target Championship and Canadian Outdoor Target Championships is preferred, but may be substituted. Athletes must participate in at least one Ontario provincial target tournament (Junior Challenge or Target Championship) to be eligible for Ontario funding. Substitutions must be requested and approved by the VP of Administration at Archery Ontario in advance of application submission. If an athlete has a current Tournament Plan and Athlete Agreement, it is recommended that a substitution request be made well in advance of the event. Email vpadmin@archeryontario.ca

4.1.1 Substituted Events

Substituted events should have been discussed by the athlete with their coach before participation and requested and approved for substitution by Archery Ontario before application submission. Email vpadmin@archeryontario.ca for approval. If approved, their scores from that tournament or tournaments will be used in lieu of the Ontario Target Championships or the Canadian National Championships scores.

Substituted events must be of a higher level than the above listed provincial tournaments (e.g. Canada Cup East, Canada Cup West, World Archery Youth Championships). The Ontario Junior Challenge cannot be substituted and is required for Full Card.

4.1.2 Qualifying Scores

Ideally, athletes need to be within 100 points of top scores, based on Ontario records, in their age group.

4.2 Expression of Interest Application

All athletes must successfully complete the online application process by the application due date, entitled Expression of Interest and available on the AO website, under Athlete Funding.

Archery Ontario has no criteria for ranking an athlete who is unable to meet the requirements, as detailed above, due to illness, injury, or pregnancy.

5.0 Athlete Responsibilities (both Able Bodied and AWAD-Para)

5.1 Athlete Agreement

All athletes accepting Ontario carding will be required to sign an Athlete Agreement with Archery Ontario. The Agreement states which tournaments the athletes must attend, and varies based on the FULL Card or the PARTIAL Card assignment.

The Athlete Agreement will only come into effect when an athlete is selected and accepts carding status through the OAAP (formerly Q4G) program. Athletes less than 18 years of age will require the signature of a parent and/or guardian, as well as their coach.

5.1.1 Tournament Attendance

Three (3) tournaments are the minimum requirement for the athlete/archer with a Full Card therefore, if unable to attend an event, the athlete (and his parent/guardian) is responsible for returning/refunding 1/3rd of the monetary value of the agreement for each tournament unattended. Tournaments are listed in the Athlete Agreement.

Two (2) tournaments are the minimum requirement for the athlete/archer with a Partial Card therefore, if unable to attend an event, the athlete (and his parent/guardian) is responsible for returning/refunding half of the monetary value of the agreement for each tournament unattended. Tournaments are listed in the Athlete Agreement.

5.1.2 Training Plan

Athletes must submit a Training Plan that will show what the athlete will do to improve their shooting and performance, so that they could become a member of the national team.

5.1.3 Budget Estimate

Athletes must submit a Budget estimate of expenses related to the use of the grant money awarded, at the same time as the Training Plan. A Sample Budget Template is provided in the Athlete Agreement.

5.1.4 Submission of Documents

Failure to submit any of the documents referenced above (i.e., The signed Athlete Agreement, the Training Plan, the Budget (estimate & final), and the Final Report) will mean the athlete is in default of the agreement and will have to return the money to AO and/or may not be eligible for funding in the following year and/or may be subject to a penalty (fine), at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

5.2 Other Responsibilities

- Athletes must be members in good standing of Archery Ontario
- Athletes must be available for Archery Ontario promotional activity

- Athletes must abide by Canadian and WADA anti-doping rules.
- Athletes must compete for Ontario for the period April 1st in the carding year to March 31st of the following year.
- Failure to abide by the Athlete Agreement will cause the athlete to lose their Ontario card and the money will have to be returned/refunded to AO.
- Athletes must apply for the program each year in January.

6.0 Publication of Nominated Athletes

It is the responsibility of Archery Ontario to publish the list of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status no later than April 1st.

Archery Ontario will also share the list of athletes with colleagues at Archery Canada.

7.0 Selection Committee Decision

The decision of the Selection Committee is final. All data provided by the applicant in the Expression of Interest Application is considered in the allocation of Full and Partial Cards.

8.0 Additional Information and Feedback

Any questions or request for additional information should be directed by email to vpadmin@archeryontario.ca