

SELECTION POLICY ONTARIO TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

1. GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ontario Table Tennis Association (“OTTA”)’s Ontario Team Program is to support the OTTA High Performance Management Plan (“HPMP”) and Ontario Development athletes in their pursuit of achieving national-class results, achieving status as a national team table tennis athlete and to prepare them to compete at international events. Preparation for international events is done in cooperation with Table Tennis Canada (National Sport Organization- NSO).

2. AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM SELECTION

The OTTA’s Selection Committee will make Ontario Team program selection recommendations to the OTTA’s Board of Directors for final approval on the basis of the criteria contained in this document and OAAP policies.

3. SELECTIONS

- a. The OTTA Selection Committee will make following selections:
 - Selecting athletes and coaches for Canada Winter Games
 - Selecting athletes and coaches for Canadian Championships
 - Selecting athletes and coaches for East Canada Championships (U11 and U13)
 - Selecting athletes and coaches for Ontario Games
 - Selecting athletes for OAAP
 - Selecting athletes, clubs and coaches for OTG.
- b. In a case where one athlete could be selected to represent Ontario in more than one (1) event (team, double or single), but the competition format doesn’t allow it, the Ontario Team Head Coach will propose an appropriate solution to the Selection Committee that will be based on the best interests of the Ontario Team and the athlete’s individual development.
- c. The OTTA Calendar Committee will make following selections:
 - Selecting officials for all sanctioned and unsanctioned but supported OTTA events
 - Selecting competitions that will be part of Ontario Competition’s Calendar
- d. The OTTA Board will make following selections:
 - Selecting Team Managers for Canadian Championships.

4. ONTARIO TEAM PROGRAM

- a. The OTTA Ontario Team Program consists of:
 - a) Major events (Canada Games, Canadian Championships, Ontario Championships, East Canada Championships, Ontario Games, Canada Cup/Series)
 - b) Ontario Team practice sessions and training camps at OTTA recognized Ontario Team Training Centres (OTTC)

- c) The OTTA's sanctioned events eligible for Ontario Ranking List ("ORL") – Evaluation events
- d) Talent identification and testing events.

- b. Ontario Team practice sessions will be organized at the OTTA Ontario Team Training Centres and at the National Team Training Centre (Markham PanAm Centre).
- c. All affiliated clubs can apply for status as a recognized OTTC
- d. The OTTA Executive Board approves applications for OTTC status based on the club's ability to provide optimal daily training environment for the athletes.
- e. An OTTA affiliated club that is eligible to be designated as an OTTC has to:
 - have organized practices in approved facilities
 - organize training sessions on a monthly basis for at least four (4) Ontario Team athletes
 - adhere to the Long Term Athlete Development (LTAD) model developed by Table Tennis Canada and the OTTA.

Ontario Team Coaches

- f. Only Ontario Team recognized coaches can be in charge of the program at the recognized OTTCs.
- g. The Ontario Team coach has to:
 1. Achieve status as a certified coach High Performance stream - at least Introduction to Competition within (6) six months of assignment to an OTTC
 2. Attend the annual workshop for Ontario Team recognized coaches
 3. Be a resident of and continue to coach in Ontario.
 4. Accompany athletes from the OTTC where she/he regular coaches at to:
 - i. Ontario Championships
 - ii. Ontario Games
 - iii. Canadian Championships (at least once in three (3) years and mandatory if Canadian Championships are in Ontario)
 - iv. Submit regular (monthly) training logs to the OTTA to track attendance and training plans
 - v. Organize or participate at Ontario Team talent identification and testing events with at least 1 athlete that she/he coach on regular basis.

Ontario Team Athletes (Players)

- h. Athletes will achieve status as an Ontario Team athlete if they:
 - i) compete in at least two (2) events eligible for the Ontario Ranking List (ORL)
 - ii) have at least 100 hours of documented practices in the last 12 months
 - iii) participate in the OTTA's annual talent identification and testing events
 - iv) purchase annual equipment set from the OTTA.

Evaluation events

- i. List of competitions will be published each year by no later than January 31st.
- j. Selection and Calendar Committee will submit to the OTTA Board of Directors a proposed list of competitions by not later than January 10th.

Ontario Ranking List

- k. The Ontario Ranking List (ORL) will always serve as one (1) of the major criteria for selecting Ontario Team athletes and coaches.
- l. The OTTA will publish the ORL after each listed evaluation competition.
- m. All events occurring one (1) year before the date the list is officially published will be included in the calculation of the athlete's ranking points.
- n. The OTTA will publish the ORL in the following categories:

Male	Female
Age Categories	
U11	U11
U13	U13
U15	U15
U18	U18
Open	Open
O40	O40
O55	O55
Rating Categories	
Class 1 (U2800)	
Class 2 (U2400)	
Class 3 (U2000)	
Class 4 (U1600)	
Class 5 (U1200)	
Class 6 (U800)	
Class 7 (U400)	

5. SUPPORT

- a. The OTTA Ontario Team Program offers two (2) types of support: Quest For Gold - Ontario Athlete Assistance Program ("OAAP" or "Ontario Cards"), and the Ontario Team Grant ("OTG").
- b. OAAP is a program funded by the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCSS), operated through the Sport, Recreation & Community Programs Division and managed by the OTTA. The overarching goal of the 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.
- c. OTG is a program funded by the OTTA that targets Ontario Team recognized centres, coaches and players. Goal of the OTG is to support:
 - coaches who are working with Ontario Team athletes
 - clubs that are offering space for the Ontario Team training

- athletes who are pursuing high performance goals.
- d. The overarching goal of the OTG is directly related to the High Performance plan of the OTTA – systematically achieving national-class results at the highest levels of the competitions organized by Table Tennis Canada.
 - by improving the daily training environment (DTE)
 - by providing support to coaches to be present at:
 - Canada Games
 - Canadian Championships
 - Ontario Championships
 - Ontario Games
 - Canada Cup/Series events
 - by supporting athletes who are not receiving Canada or Ontario cards

6. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

- a. The Ontario Table Tennis Association Selection Committee will use the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) Eligibility Criteria and the Sport Specific Selection Criteria to determine which athletes will be nominated.
- b. All athletes must meet the MTCS's minimum athlete eligibility criteria including:
 - 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 (exception: Ontario Team selected for Canadian Championships will follow Table Tennis Canada participation eligibility rules)
 - Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status (carded by Sport Canada) are not eligible for OAAP.
 - Athletes must be living in and continuing to train in Ontario.
- c. Residency Exceptions:

Exceptions to these criteria, known as a "Residency Exception" will be considered on a case specific basis by the Ontario Table Tennis Association 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.

Athletes funded through the Sport Canada AAP

- d. Ontario athletes who have been nominated and accepted for funding through Sport Canada's AAP within the government of Ontario's fiscal year and who continue to meet AAP and OAAP eligibility requirements will automatically be considered for a Quest for Gold 'Canada Card'. Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (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.
- e. An athlete who received Sport Canada AAP carding during any part of MTCS' in previous fiscal year or current fiscal year and is no longer in receipt of Sport Canada Athlete Assistance shall not be eligible to receive OAAP funding. 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)

- f. Exceptions may apply to this rule (known as a Canada Card Exception (CCE)) and will be considered by the MTCS 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.
- g. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to contact Ontario Table Tennis Association Selection Committee to request a CCE. The athlete must submit, in writing, an explanation of why they have not been, or do not expect to be re-carded by their NSO. The submission must include a statement from the NSO, signed and dated on their letterhead, confirming that the athlete still has potential to return to the NSO's carding program in the future. It is the responsibility of the athlete to submit this letter to the PSO; the OTTA will not obtain this letter from the NSO on the athlete's behalf. Ontario Table Tennis Association will then contact MTCS in writing prior to the submission of the Athlete Nomination Form to seek individual Canada Card Exceptions. Ontario Table Tennis Association is not responsible for seeking a CCE for any athlete unless requested to do so by the athlete as detailed above.

7. INJURY, ILLNESS OR OTHER EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The OTTA has no criteria for ranking an athlete who is unable to meet requirements related to selection criteria.

8. IN THE EVENT OF A TIE

If there is a tie in the Ranking Scores between two (2) athletes, the Selection Committee will give advantage to:

- an athlete who has competed in more International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) sanctioned competitions;
- if there is still a tie, an athlete who has competed in more North America Table Tennis Union sanctioned competitions;
- if there is still a tie, an athlete who has competed in more Table Tennis Canada sanctioned competitions;
- if there is still a tie, an athlete who has competed in more Ontario Table Tennis Association sanctioned competitions;
- if there is still a tie, head to head results at all OTTA, TTCanada and ITTF tournaments;
- if there is still a tie, last result a head-to-head competition will be the final tie-breaker

9. UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Situations may arise where unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond the OTTA's control do not allow team selection to take place in a fair manner. In the event of such unforeseen circumstances as determined by the OTTA Selection Committee, in its sole discretion, will determine if the circumstances justify selection to take place in an alternative manner. In such circumstances, the alternative selection will be posted on the OTTA website one (1) week after the competition in question.

10. APPEAL PROCESS

All programs except OAAP carding must follow the appeal process listed below.

Athletes/Coaches must complete the phased steps set out below. If the athlete/coach is unsatisfied with the written response at each step they should proceed to the next step.

1. Any question/concern regarding a decision by the OTTA Board of Directors should be directed in writing (via email) to the Ontario Team Coach working with the athlete.
2. If they are not satisfied with the response, they should then contact the Ontario Team Head Coach (via email).
3. If they are still not satisfied with the response, they can contact any member of the OTTA Board of Directors.
4. Finally, if they are still not satisfied with the response, they can submit a formal Notice of Appeal to President of the OTTA.

For matters related to the Ontario Athlete Assistance Program nomination or de-carding, all appeals must follow the Policies and Procedures of MTCS Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program:
<http://www.questforgold.ca/athletes/Default.aspx>.