



ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION  
Quest for Gold – Ontario Athlete Assistance Program 2016-2017  
ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

1.0 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.

2.0 How does it work?

In accordance with the OAAP guidelines, ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION 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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2016 ending March 31, 2017.

2.1 For 2016-2017, the MTCS has allocated ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION a total of 14 Ontario cards (split evenly as 7 male and 7 female Cards).

**ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION 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.**

**2.3** The Selection Committee, as approved by the ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION Board of Directors is comprised of the following members:

Lead Evaluator: This member will be present at all events, and will be responsible for observing athletes, compiling data, allocating scores, and liaising/ consulting with the other evaluators and oversight member(s).

GTA Evaluation Camp Evaluator: This member will be present at the GTA evaluation camp, and will act as a support for the Lead Evaluator. They will be responsible to submit athlete input and scores to the Lead Evaluator.

Capital Region Evaluation Camp Evaluators: This member will be present at the Capital Region evaluation camp, and will act as a support for the Lead Evaluator. They will be responsible to submit athlete input and scores to the Lead Evaluator.

NCL Evaluators: These members will be present at the NCL events. They will act as a support for the Lead Evaluator. They will be responsible to submit athlete input and scores to the Lead Evaluator. These members may also be Evaluation Camp Evaluators.

Oversight: This neutral member will ensure that the processes and procedures outlined in the document have been followed. They will:

- a) Assist in compiling all nomination emails from club coaches and athlete self-nominations.
- b) Ensure that the proper evaluation process was followed at each event by compiling a written report from the Lead Evaluator.
- c) Oversee the tie-breaking procedure in the event of a tie
- d) Be copied on all emails from athletes and coaches who inquire or complain about the process, once it has begun (defined as November 9th).

<b>Selection Committee Memeber</b>	<b>Male Selection</b>	<b>Female Selection</b>	<b>Organizational Role/ Previous Experiences</b>	<b>Selection Committee Role</b>
Andrew Muir	X	X	Water Polo Canada AGNT Lead	Lead Evaluator
Christi Bardecki	X	X	Ontario Water Polo Board Member/ Former National Team Athlete and Coach	GTA Evaluation Camp Evaluator
Andras Szeri	X	X	Team Ontario Coach Summer 2016/ Former Youth National Team Coach	16U/19U NCL Evaluator, Capital Region Evaluation Camp Evaluator
Celso Rojas*	X	NA	Former Team Ontario Coach/ Youth National Team AC	Male 16U/19U NCL Evaluator, Capital Region Evaluation Camp Evaluator
Evan Andrews	NA	NA	Assistant Referee-in-Chief OWPA/ UANA Referee	Oversight

\*Evaluator Celso Rojas will only provide input and evaluations in regards to male athletes due to direct conflict of interest with the female selection.

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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION Selection Committee decide who receives funding?

The ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION 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.

### 3.0 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.

### 3.1 Residency Exceptions:

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

Any change in an athlete's residency status must be communicated in writing to the PSO/MSO immediately.

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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION by no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION.

### 3.2 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 November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and
2. Adhere to the PSO/MSO-approved competition and training plan throughout the carding cycle. At a minimum, this requires regular quarterly contact by the athlete with the PSO/MSO Technical Coordinator and
3. Submit regular quarterly 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.\*\*\*

### 3.3 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.

- 3.4 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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION 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.

#### 4.0 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.

#### 4.1 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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION Selection Committee prior to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 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; the ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION will not obtain this letter from the NSO on the athlete's behalf.

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

#### 5.0 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](http://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

## 6.0 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION Athlete Selection Criteria:

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

### Eligibility Factors:

1. Athletes must be born in 1998 or later
2. Athletes must be members in good standing with Ontario Water Polo
3. Athletes must be competing in a Canadian National Championship League (19U or 16U)\*
4. All athletes must list a coach in their application that is registered with Ontario Water Polo/ Water Polo Canada
5. All athletes must be able to demonstrate a minimum training average of 5 practices per week

\*An athlete who is not competing in the Canadian National Championship League, but fulfils all other criteria must attach a letter outlining the reason they are not competing in the league along with their nomination. The Selection Committee will determine if this athlete is eligible for nomination.

### Athlete Selection List:

- Athletes wishing to take part in the evaluation process must either be nominated by their club coaches, or can request to be part of the evaluation process directly to the Technical Coordinator.
- Coaches must submit athlete information by 12:00 pm on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016. This information must be sent directly to:

OWPA Technical Coordinator: [ndamani@waterpolo.ca](mailto:ndamani@waterpolo.ca)

OWPA Administrator: [Kathy.Torrens@ontariowaterpolo.ca](mailto:Kathy.Torrens@ontariowaterpolo.ca)

Oversight Committee Member: [evanjandrews@hotmail.com](mailto:evanjandrews@hotmail.com)

**Each athlete nomination will be sent in via email, copying the legal guardian of the athlete, and the 3 OWPA representatives above. Emails must be sent to each individual athlete for privacy reasons. This process is outlined again in section 10.**

- Athletes who are not nominated by their clubs have the ability to 'request an evaluation' by writing directly to the Technical Advisor outlining why they should be evaluated. This must be submitted by November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 12:00 pm. Requests submitted before November 9<sup>th</sup> (the coach nomination deadline) will not be processed or reviewed. The athlete request for evaluation will be processed by the Selection Committee who will determine which athletes will be part of the evaluation process. The Selection Committee may contact the club coach for the reason the athlete was not nominated.

- All athletes who agree to participate in the evaluation process will be charged \$60.00 (includes HST) payable to Ontario Water Polo Association to cover the cost of the evaluation process (pool costs for camps, evaluator expenses, etc.).

### **Evaluation:**

The identification, ranking and selection of athletes for Ontario Cards will be based on points awarded for the:

1. Identification, selection, participation or competition with the 2016 cycle of Age Group National Team (AGNT) programs
2. OWPA Player Evaluation through NCL competition (for eligible athletes)
3. OWPA Player Evaluation through regional Quest for Gold evaluation camps

Please note that athletes who play in two age categories of the NCL will only be evaluated in their own actual age category (example: if an athlete plays in both the 16U and 19U NCL, they will only be evaluated during the 16U NCL event).

### **Evaluation Dates:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Male Selection</b>	<b>Female Selection</b>	<b>Type of Event</b>	<b>Selection Committee Members Present</b>
November 11-13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	X	X	16U NCL Weekend	Andrew Muir, Andras Szeri, Celso Rojas
December 9-11 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	X		19U NCL Weekend	Andrew Muir, Andras Szeri, Celso Rojas
December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	X	X	Capital Region Evaluation Camp	Andrew Muir, Andras Szeri, Celso Rojas
December 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	X	X	GTA Region Evaluation Camp	Andrew Muir, Christi Bardecki

### **Scoring and Ranking**

In order to be considered for selection, an athlete must have a minimum of 60 points out of a possible 100. Athletes may receive a maximum of 75 points on the evaluation criteria, where each athlete will be evaluated on physiological, technical and tactical components (see OWPA Player Evaluation Chart below). Additionally, athletes may receive up to 25 points for their participation with National or Provincial programs during the 2016 National Team and Provincial Team cycles (please see below).

The Selection Committee will be responsible for:

- 1) Ranking and scoring of athletes in accordance with the number of points received (male/ female separately).
- 2) Evaluate the nominated athletes during the process.
- 3) Ensure that the selection criteria has been followed. Each evaluator will be responsible to submit a short report summarizing the evaluation event and outlining that they have followed the selection process.

### OWPA Player Evaluation Points Breakdown:

Athletes will be eligible for additional points for 2016 participation in:

- a. Selection and participation with a National Team at a World Championship or Pan American Championship event in the 2016 National Team cycle (25 points)
- b. Selection and participation with a National Team training program in the 2016 National Team cycle (20 points)
- c. Selection as an alternate for a National Team training program in the 2016 National Team cycle (10 points)
- d. Identification on the long list of athletes for the 16U Team Ontario summer program for 2016 (5 points)

When athletes are available in multiple categories, they will be awarded points only from the highest category. No athlete will be able to receive points from more than one category.

### OWPA Player Evaluation Chart:

The following scoring system will be used during the evaluation process. Scoring will be done using the following scale:

- 5- Always demonstrates the element/ performs the element at an Age Group National Team standard
- 4- Often demonstrates the element/ performs the element at an Age Group National Team standard
- 3- Sometimes demonstrates the element/ performs the element at an Age Group National Team standard
- 2- Rarely demonstrates the element/ performs the element at an Age Group National Team standard
- 1- Never demonstrates the element/ performs the element at an Age Group National Team standard

Athletes will not receive half points in any section. Goalie scores will be multiplied by 2 to achieve a score on 10 in the 'Technical and Tactical' evaluation section.

PHYSIOLOGICAL		25 POINTS
Examples of Observable Elements		
Endurance	Able to play 16 to 28 minutes per game while remaining consistent.	/5
	Standardized Swim Test	
Speed	Athlete possesses excellent speed on transition and maintains a similar pace throughout their shift.	/5
	Able to reach maximum speed quickly.	
	Standardized Swim Tests	
Strength & Power	Able to shoot with accuracy while maintaining power through high levels of fatigue	/5
	Able to use strength to control opponent, create advantages or to finish a play.	
	Able to use explosive power movements to effectively to defend or attack.	
Agility	Ability to quickly change direction during swimming.	/5
	Ability to make explosive movements from any body position.	
Mobility & Stability	Ability to cover large areas of water efficiently and effectively	/5
Total		/25

TECHNICAL		25 POINTS
	Examples of Observable Elements	
Perimeter Shooting	Able to shoot the ball with accuracy and power.	/5
	Able to shoot the ball from a negative slide and a positive slide with accuracy and power.	
	Able to change shot type based on different situations.	
Passing	Able to complete accurate passes	/5
	Understand and completes passes with proper placement to allow teammates the possible chance at making a play.	
Ball Handling	Able to swim head up with the ball and quickly pass or shoot the ball	/5
	Able to receive the ball from any direction and quickly pass or shoot the ball with a high rate of success.	
Blocking	Able quickly go from a horizontal defensive position to a blocking position.	/5
	Ability to control and maintain their body position while blocking	
Body Position	Maintains proper defensive position in order to create defensive plays.	/5
	Able to change body position from horizontal to vertical, or to change direction.	
	Utilizes offensive/defensive body position to create turnovers/advantages/opportunities.	
Total		/25

TACTICAL		25 POINTS
	Examples of Observable Elements	
Offense Decision-Making	Recognizes a situation of advantage and automatically works and communicates to distribute the ball to that side.	/5
Defense Decision-Making	Recognizes a situation of disadvantage and automatically works to eliminate any opportunity for the opponent.	/5
Offensive Transition	Able to quickly anticipate the transition and can quickly gain and maintain an advantage until the end of transition offense.	/5
Defensive Transition	Quickly anticipates transition from offence to defense, eliminating the threat of a disadvantaged transition defense.	/5
Individual	Able to recognize and attack with or without the ball for any defensive tactical scheme.	/5
Total		/25

PHYSIOLOGICAL (Goalie)		25 POINTS
	Examples of Observable Elements	
Endurance	Able to play a full game while remaining consistent.	/5
	Standardized Goalie Tests	
Speed	Possesses excellent speed and reaction to the ball	/5
	Goalie Tests	
Strength & Power	Able to maintain a maximum level of height quickly	/5
	Able to use explosive power movements to effectively defend	
Agility	Ability to quickly change position in the net	/5
	Ability to quickly change between effective body positions	
Mobility & Stability	Ability to cover large areas of water efficiently and effectively	/5
Total		/25

TECHNICAL + TACTICAL (Goalie)		50 POINTS
	Examples of Observable Elements	
Shot Blocking	Able to block all types of shots.	/10
Ball Handling	Able to protect the ball from opponents after rebounds.	/10
	Able to quickly make a play with the ball after a rebound	
Passing	Able to pass the full length of the pool with accuracy.	/10
Positioning	Maintains proper body positioning throughout game play.	/10
	Able to return to proper body position after the opposing shooter fakes.	
	Maintains proper positioning in the net to cover angles effectively.	
Quickness	Able to anticipate center entry passes	/10
	Able to slide and recover quickly to be able to save a shot.	
Total		/50

**7.0 Breaking a Tie:** If there is a tie in the final score between 2 or more athletes, the Selection Committee will use the following to tie break:

- 1) The player who has been named to, and participated with a National Team
- 2) If the tie remains, the player who has been named and participated in a National Team Selection Camp.
- 3) If the tie remains, 2 members of the committee who are familiar with the athletes will each score the athletes individually, and the athlete with the highest cumulative score will be selected.

In the event that OWPA must use Tie-Breaking procedure #3, the Selection Committee member responsible for Oversight will carry out the procedure. The two selected members will be provided with a checklist from the committee member to ensure that all procedures are followed, and all data is properly recorded.

## 8.0 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.
- The ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION, based on its technical judgement and that of a PSO/MSO 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.

Athletes who have previously been selected for National Teams will have their evaluations from National Team camps/ competitions used to facilitate scoring the athletes.

If an athlete has not been part of a National Team program, they will not be able to be scored.

9.0 Alternates: ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION 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 2016-2017 fiscal year;
- An alternate meeting all requirements 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).

10.0 To Apply:

**Method 1: Coach Identified Nominations (November 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm deadline)**

Athlete nominations that are submitted by coaches must be submitted via email to:

OWPA Technical Coordinator: [ndamani@waterpolo.ca](mailto:ndamani@waterpolo.ca)

OWPA Administrator: [Kathy.Torrens@ontariowaterpolo.ca](mailto:Kathy.Torrens@ontariowaterpolo.ca)

Oversight Committee Member: [evanjandrews@hotmail.com](mailto:evanjandrews@hotmail.com)

The nomination must include:

Name

Date of birth

League(s) the athlete is playing in

Email

Parent Email

Address

Phone number

**Method 2: Athlete Request for Evaluation (November 11<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 pm deadline):**

Athletes must provide a brief description (200 words or less) as to why they should be part of the evaluation process.

Athlete requests for evaluation must be submitted via email to:

OWPA Technical Coordinator: ndamani@waterpolo.ca

OWPA Administrator: Kathy.Torrens@ontariowaterpolo.ca

Oversight Committee Member: evanjandrews@hotmail.com

They must also include:

Name

Date of birth

League(s) you are playing in

Club Coach

Club Coach contact email

Parent Email (if under 18 years old)

Address

Phone number

10.1 Any athlete requesting a “Residency Exception” must submit this information by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 as detailed above.

10.2 It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to provide a full and complete application that meets all stated requirements. ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION will neither review applications in advance of the deadline in order to make applicants aware of any missing/incorrect information and/or attachments nor make corrections on behalf of the athlete. Any revisions on the part of the athlete will only be accepted prior to the posted submission deadline.

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

10.3 An email will be sent by November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 confirming receipt of an athlete’s application. It is the athlete’s responsibility to contact the ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION if this email is not received to be certain that the application has been successfully received by the deadline date.

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.

10.4 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION will publish or make known a draft list of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status by no later than January 19, 2017.

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.

Date	Activity
November 7th, 2016	Quest for Gold criteria and timelines posted on the OWPA website
November 9th, 2016	Deadline for nominations by coaches (12:00 pm EST)
November 11th, 2016	Deadline for nominations by individuals (12:00 pm EST)
November 11th, 2016	Email confirmations to athletes part of the evaluation process
November 11th-13th, 2016	16U NCL Evaluational Weekend

November 30th, 2016	Residency Exception Deadline
December 9-11th, 2016	19U NCL Evaluation Weekend
December 12th, 2016	Capital Region Evaluation Weekend
December 17th, 2016	GTA Evaluation Weekend
January 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Draft list of athletes nominated for Ontario Card status

## 11.0 Appeals

Athletes who have not been nominated for an Ontario Card by the ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION Selection Committee 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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION Selection Criteria are not grounds for an appeal and should therefore be discussed directly with the leadership of ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION.

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

If the athlete is not satisfied with the ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION 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 noon 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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION, who will then submit a **Response** with MTCS by a specified deadline. The Response will outline why ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION believes that the Selection Committee's decision not to nominate the athlete should be upheld by the Appeals Committee. MTCS will share the ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION Response with the athlete.

If, after receiving the ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION Response, the athlete believes that ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION 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 ONTARIO WATER POLO ASSOCIATION.

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

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

**11.1** The deadline for athletes to submit an “**Athlete’s Notice of Appeal**” to the Appeals Committee is January 30, 2017 at 12 noon

**11.2** 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, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1S5