



BIATHLON ONTARIO
2024 – 2025 Quest for Gold Program
Athlete Selection Criteria

Note:

At this time, Biathlon Ontario has received information regarding the contribution program. This is the selection criteria based on the current known 2023-2024 race schedule. The Biathlon Ontario board of directors *reserves the right to update* the criteria and timelines based on any changes to the 2023-2024 race season based on race cancellations, postponements, etc, Biathlon Canada carding decisions, etc.

1.0 Purpose, Outline and Program Overview:

1.1 Program Overview

The Biathlon Ontario Quest for Gold program is a 2024-2025, direct to athlete funding program funded by the Government of Ontario. The program for the 2024 – 2025 season is established to provide additional financial support to biathlon athletes from Ontario and to increase the performance and number of Biathlon Ontario athletes competing at the National and International level. Biathlon Ontario sincerely thanks the Government of Ontario for their contribution and support to offer this program.

1.2 Specific Objectives of the program:

- 1.2.1 To help athletes continue their pursuit of athletic excellence at the highest levels of national and International competition;
- 1.2.2 To encourage athletes to stay in Ontario to live and train, but recognize that athletes may travel to other provinces to train, but still compete as Ontario athletes.;
- 1.2.3 To compensate athletes for earnings lost while training;
- 1.2.4 To enable athletes to successfully pursue excellence in sport while fulfilling their educational goals;
- 1.2.5 To increase athlete access to improved high-performance coaching; and
- 1.2.6 To enhance training and competitive opportunities available to athletes.

The intent of the Quest for Gold program 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.

The intent of the funding is to subsidize carded athletes for:

- Normal living costs
- Costs directly associated with training costs
- Costs associated with attending training camps and competitions
- Sport specific equipment
- Tuition and education related expenses

Only those athletes that meet the required minimum performance standard detailed in this Selection Criteria will be considered for this program.

2.0 How does it work?

Biathlon Ontario has developed a sport-specific selection criteria and will form a Selection Committee that will apply the criteria. The top-ranked athletes in the 2023 – 2024 season, based on the selection criteria, will be awarded Ontario Card status in 2024-2025. This Selection Criteria has been approved by Biathlon Ontario. Nominated athletes will be required to sign and comply with an Athlete Agreement between the athlete and Biathlon Ontario. Carding status will be for one year starting April 1, 2024 ending March 31, 2025.

Carded athletes will be required to be a Biathlon Ontario member at the 2024 National Championships, the 2025 Championships. and for Canada at International Championship events, for a period of one year from the date carding is approved.

2.1 Funding allocation and cards:

For 2024 – 2025, the Government of Ontario allocated Biathlon Ontario a total of \$31,196, and Biathlon Ontario has allocated an additional \$804 for a total of **\$32,000** to be divided among male and female provincial cards. The intent is to have equitable cards for both genders, however, both genders must achieve the minimum performance standard outlined below.

As a result, the \$TBD issued to Biathlon Ontario will be allocated as either full cards or half cards as follows:

Cards	Male	Female
Total Full Cards (\$4000)	4	4
Half Cards (\$2000) /Quarter Cards (\$1000)	TBD	TBD

Full cards can be divided into half (0.5) or .25 cards (minimum) at the discretion of Biathlon Ontario and the high-performance committee. Half or 0.25 cards can be used in the event of a tie, or to provide cards to athletes who ONLY meet criteria under priority 5 or 6, Sr Girls or Boys performance at the National or provincial level.

If there are not enough athletes of either gender who have met the minimum performance standards, then the remaining cards from that gender will be reallocated to the other.

If not enough athletes of either gender achieve any performance standards, the remaining funds will be reinvested back into the Biathlon Ontario Performance Subsidy program for performances during the 2023-2024 season, should the contribution program allow.

2.2 Selection Committee:

The Selection Committee, as approved by the Biathlon Ontario board of directors will be comprised of the following members:

- President, and VP Technical, Biathlon Ontario
- Note, if either Biathlon Board Member is unavailable, another board member will be appointed following proper board governance.
- 3-4 coaches from Biathlon Ontario member clubs

3.0 Biathlon Ontario Eligibility Criteria

All athletes must meet the Biathlon Ontario minimum athlete eligibility criteria:

- The athlete must be a member of Biathlon Ontario in good standing in the 2023 – 2024 competition year, and subsequently the 2024 – 2025 year.
- 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 can be out of province training.
- Athletes who have achieved Canada Card status (carded by Sport Canada) are not eligible for Ontario Cards
- 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 NCCP Competition Introduction certified status in the Competition 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 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.
- An athlete can only be nominated to receive Quest for Gold funding in one sport.
- Eligibility will be limited to athletes of a minimum senior boy or girl (2008). There is no maximum age, provided that the athlete demonstrates they are aligned with the Biathlon Canada podium pathway, are tracking towards international performance, and have shown continued progression towards International Performance and AAP carding.
- To be deemed an athlete on the podium pathway, the athlete must be age-eligible to compete on the national team in the year following receipt of Ontario Card funding.
- Athletes who were AAP carded and lose their card are eligible for a 1-year provincial card, provided they meet the performance criteria as outlined below. This can also include athletes who were injured (doctors note required), could not complete, and hence lost their AAP card.
- All athletes under the age of 18 must have their parent or legal guardian sign the athlete agreement. Cheques will be processed in the name of the eligible athlete.

4.0 Selection Criteria

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

- a) Athletes will be ranked and nominated in the category in which the results were achieved, not the athlete's age at time of nomination for carding.
- b) Meet the eligibility criteria above, and:
 - I. The athlete must be a Biathlon Ontario Class A member in good standing for the 2023- 2024 membership year and remain as such throughout the duration of the 2024-2025 membership year.
 - II. The athlete must sign a 2024-2025 Biathlon Ontario Athlete Agreement and remain compliant with it.
 - III. The athlete must hold their own .22 caliber biathlon rifle (or if under 18, be designated by the owner to use the firearm) and have the applicable permits for the ownership and/or use of the firearm
 - IV. In order for Senior girls or senior boys to receive a card under priority 3 or 4, they must race IBU youth category all season in eligible carding races.

4.1 Athlete Ranking List:

The athlete ranking list is prioritized as follows with the 2023 – 2024 race season:

4.1.1 Priority 1: Athletes that meet Biathlon Canada AAP Selection Criteria ranking list for 2024- 25, ranked by AAP selection process, however due to Card allocation limits did not receive a Sport Canada Card.

4.1.2 Priority 2: Athletes not selected under Priority 1:

- a) Athletes selected by Biathlon Canada to compete in one of the following 2023 - 2024 National Team Program events: IBU World Cup, IBU World Championships, IBU Cup, Jr IBU Cup, JWCH, YWCH,.
- b) Athletes will be ranked by performance % earned in their race category (Biathlon Canada) used to select athletes for these events.

Note: Athletes must compete in the event to be eligible unless unable to due to illness or injury. This must be validated through a medical note.

4.1.3 Priority 3: Athletes not selected under Priority 2:

- a) Nomination to the 2024 Youth Olympic Games
- b) ranked by performance % earned at either the 2023-2024 World Cup and IBU Cup / Jr IBU Cup trials; or the 2024 World Youth and Junior World Championships / World Cup trials.
Note: Results will be separated out by category.
- c) Minimum performance to be ranked is 90% for IBU categories
- d) Note: trials ranking for the 2024 Youth Olympic Games will not be used.

4.14 Priority 4: Athletes not selected under Priority 3:

Youth Men / Youth Women will be ranked from results at the 2024 Canadian National Biathlon Championships based on the average of their best 2 results of 3 individual races (this does not include the relay). Note, Second year youth athletes (2005) must achieve a minimum average 90% performance standard, and first youth athletes (2006) an 87.5 % performance standard.

4.1.5 Priority 5: Sr Boy and Sr Girl Athletes not selected under Priority 4

Senior girls and senior boys will be ranked from results at the 2024 Canadian National Biathlon Championships based on the average of their best 2 results of 3 individual races (this does not include the relay). Note, Athletes must achieve a minimum average 87.5 % performance standard.

4.1.6: Priority 6: Youth Men / Youth Women, Sr Boys / Sr Girls and Biathlon Ontario Cups Remaining Sr B and Sr G and Youth Men and Youth Women athletes will be ranked from ranking list data from, Ontario Cup #1, Ontario Cup #2, and Ontario Cup #3 (Ontario Championships), or NorAm Cups.

- a) Ranking list data will be the average performance percentage in 4 out of 6 Ontario Cup Trials Races.
- b) Athletes must have a minimum 95% average ranking to be eligible.
- c) In the event an Ontario Cup race is cancelled, Biathlon Ontario will either use 3 out of 4, or both races in 1 weekend if only 1 weekend of racing occurs.

Note: Data can only be used from Biathlon Canada sanctioned events and does not include relay events.

See Appendix A for tentative Biathlon Canada and Biathlon Ontario events used for ranking, and definitions.

- When *domestic* events are used for ranking, athletes will be ranked according to race percentage received in their respective age category at the time when selection ranking is created. Minimum race percentage to be eligible for ranking in all IBU is 90% (87.5% for first year youth at National Championships) and 87.5% for Sr. Boys and Girls category. Athletes must achieve a minimum 95% performance at Ontario Championships and Ontario Cups.
- In alignment with Biathlon Canada performance percent calculations, athlete performance percentages and the ranking performance list will be calculated by dividing the winning time by the particular athletes time and multiplying by 100 for *priorities 1 and*

2.
 - Performance percentages will be rounded to the nearest 0.1 %.
 - Performance percentages for *priorities 3 through 6* will be calculated as follows:
 - The average time of the top 3 ranked athletes will be divided by the time of the particular athlete and multiplied by 100, rounded to the nearest 0.1%.
 - If there are 4 or less competitors, athlete performance percentages will be calculated only by the winning time (winner).
 - Where necessary, or where selection events have been cancelled and data is not available, additional data from races during the 2023-2024 competition season may be utilized.

The 2023 - 2024 domestic schedule is shown in Appendix A.

4.2 Breaking a Tie:

If a tie exists between two athletes in any of the above ranking calculations, the selection committee will first look at the best performance % placing achieved in the NT event ranking race. If a tie still exists, results from the most recent head-to-head Sprint race between the two athletes will be used to determine the ranking order.

5.0 Alternates:

Biathlon Ontario will also nominate alternates to those athletes nominated for Ontario Card status. Alternates will be those athletes who are ranked directly behind those athletes nominated for the allotment of Ontario Cards in a 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:

- a) Alternate is substituted within 2023-2024 fiscal year;
- b) An alternate meeting all requirements is available from the same category/discipline/card level (Full/Half);

6.0 Nomination and Acceptance Process

Key Dates:

Date	Step
April 1 - 5, 2024	Creation of ranking lists Ranking lists sent to coaches for validation
–April 5-15, 2024	Selection committee meets to develop athlete list to present to board
April 22, 2024	Board of Directors meet to approve athlete nominations
April 23, 2024	Athlete list published and sent to coaches
April 30, 2024	Deadline for athletes to accept nomination Deadline for appeals

Note: dates may be subject to change based on data available from Biathlon Canada, and the contribution program from Government of Ontario.

Athletes will be nominated, and a provisional list will be posted and sent to all Biathlon Ontario Clubs.

After nomination, athletes must accept the nomination and apply to the VP Technical, Biathlon Ontario.

All below required information must be submitted via e-mail to vptechnical@biathlonontario.ca no later than April 30, 2024. 11:59 pm EST:

Name

Email address

Home Address

Home/Cell Phone number

Short narrative to include:

1. Acceptance of offer of Funding support,
2. Completed Application form
3. Short statement of intent to qualify for future National Team positions.
4. Signed athlete agreement.

Submission and/or questions regarding the Quest for Gold Funding program can be directed to:
Peter Niedre

VP Technical

Email: vptechnical@biathlonontario.ca

- 6.1 It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to provide a full and complete application that Meets all stated requirements. Biathlon Ontario 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.

- 6.2 An e-mail confirmation will be sent immediately following application receipt. It is the athlete's responsibility to contact the Biathlon Ontario if this email is not received to be certain that the application has been successfully received by the deadline date.
- 6.3 Biathlon Ontario will publish the list of athletes nominated for Quest for Gold card status by no later than TBD

7.0 Appeals

Athletes who have not been nominated for an Ontario Card by the Biathlon 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 Biathlon Ontario. Appeals will be heard by an Appeals Committee comprised of representatives from the sport community, selected by the Biathlon Ontario Board of Directors.

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 Biathlon Ontario Selection Criteria are not grounds for an appeal and should therefore be discussed directly with the leadership of Biathlon Ontario.

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

If the athlete is not satisfied with the Biathlon Ontario response, the athlete may submit a **Notice of Appeal**, found below in Appendix B. A Notice of Appeal will only be accepted from the athlete and/or their parent/guardian, and coach on the provided template below (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 noon on the deadline day of **April 30**.

Once Biathlon Ontario has received the Notice of Appeal and agrees that it meets the rationale above, it will convene an appeals committee meeting and read the appeal and send to the selection committee. The selection committee will submit a "response" back to the

appeals committee and the athlete, indicating why the decision should be upheld, with evidence.

If the selection committee and board of directors finds that the data and rationale present valid reasons for the athlete not being selected, then the selection committee will revisit the selection process and ranking list. All athletes involved or impacted by the appeal will be notified.

Once the selection committee, board of directors and appeals committee has reached the final decision, they will notify the athletes and coaches involved in the decision.

Appendix A: 2023 – 2024 Domestic Race Calendar Selection Events

Date	Event	Location
November 2-5 2023	World Cup, Jr IBU Tour Trials	Canmore, AB
December 15-17, 2023	Biathlon Ontario Cup #1	Craftsbury, VT.
January 4-7, 2024	Canadian Jr / Youth and World Cup Trials	Valcartier, QC (CMB)
January 27-28, 2024	Ontario Cup #3, .22 Races	Duntroon, ON
February 10 – 11, 2024	Biathlon Ontario Cup #3, Ontario .22 Championships	Chelsea Nordiq, Chelsea, QC
March 26 – 31, 2024	Canadian National Championships	Valcartier, QC

**Appendix B: 2024-2025 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 **18:00 on April 30, 2024**. Appeals will only be accepted on the provided Notice of Appeal te

Return form to:
Email: president@biathlonontario.ca

Name	
Email:	
Full Address:	
Club:	
Coach:	
Coach email address	
Parent / Guardian:	

Reason for Appeal (Check all that apply):

- Whether or not Biathlon Ontario has completed the selection process in accordance with its own published selection criteria and related procedures;
- Whether or not the Biathlon Ontario 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 provide the reasons communicated to you by Biathlon Ontario as to why you were not nominated for an Ontario Card, and the date the information was provided. (Note: This Appeal will not be accepted unless it contains a response from the VP technical, Biathlon Ontario.)

Date of Biathlon Ontario response: _____

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 athlete

signature

Date

