



British Columbia Table Tennis Association

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2008-2009 BC Table Tennis Association / Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) Criteria Factors

1.0 General

The **BC Athlete Assistance Program** (BC AAP) is an athlete-centred program of financial assistance funded and administered by **the Sport and Recreation Branch of the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport**. BC AAP seeks to recognize and support BC high performance athletes striving to represent the Province and Canada in athletic competition. Athletes who have demonstrated the potential and commitment to attain this level of excellence can qualify for different levels of financial support based on relative levels of development and competition achieved within the overall limits of funds available.

The program seeks to relieve some of the pressures associated with training and competition needs when participating in provincial, national and international sport events. The Sport and Recreation Branch intends that BC AAP focus on those athletes who are in the position to compete for Team BC and are just below those receiving Sport Canada funding. This financial assistance will ensure a continuum of support for the development of national and international class BC athletes.

2.0 Administration of the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)

The Selection Committee: The Table Tennis BC AAP Selection Committee is responsible for the identification, nomination and ranking of athletes for funding assistance through the BC Athlete Assistance Program.

Equitable: Athletes will receive financial support, based on the selection criteria and rankings established by Table Tennis BC (see Section 5.0). This process will give consideration to the required time and financial commitment of the athlete to excel in the sport of Table Tennis, and the overall limits of funds available.

3.0 Eligibility Requirements for the Athlete Assistance Program

Citizenship and Residency: To be eligible for an award, an athlete must be a Canadian citizen or be of landed immigrant status, and a resident of British Columbia for at least one year prior to his/her date of nomination.

Use of Banned Substances and Methods: *BC's Policy on Sport and Physical Activity* clearly outlines the "ethical pursuit of excellence" – which includes competing without the use of banned substances – as one of its pillars of support to sport. The Province of British Columbia strongly opposes the use of prohibited substances and methods as they are contrary to the ethics of sport and may be harmful to the health of athletes.

Since we look to our elite athletes to set the standards for all who aspire to be at the top level of competition, athletes who are suspended by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport and/or their respective International Sport Federation for an anti-doping rule violation, will be declared **permanently ineligible** for BC Athlete Assistance Funding.

Coaching: To be eligible for funding assistance, athletes should be regularly coached by individuals who meet the established coaching qualification criteria as outlined by Table Tennis BC.

Commitment to Table Tennis BC: Any athlete receiving financial assistance from the Province of British Columbia must be available for provincial team selections and if selected, commit to train and represent British Columbia and the sport of Table Tennis in the applicable competition.

Membership: Athletes receiving financial assistance must be registered members of Table Tennis BC (annual membership) at the time the assistance is awarded, and during the competitive year in which the funding is based.

Federally Carded Athletes: Athletes in receipt of Sport Canada funding in a particular fiscal year are not eligible for BC AAP funding. This is to maintain consistency with one of the stated objectives of the program which is to provide funding for those athletes who are in the position to compete for Team BC and are just below those receiving Sport Canada funding.

Athlete Selection: Athlete selection will be made according to the criteria set out in Section 5.0 of this document, with preference given to developing high performance athletes.

Selection Criteria: Table Tennis BC is responsible for developing and publishing the selection criteria and standards that will be utilized in the identification, ranking and selection of athletes. It is the responsibility of the Selection Committee to ensure fair, equitable and consistent application of these standards.

Funding Level: A minimum of \$500 and up to a maximum of \$3500 can be awarded per athlete. The amount each athlete awarded is dependent on the actual amount of funding granted. This will be divided equally among all the recipients.

Athletes Training Outside BC: Athletes leaving the province will only be considered for AAP funding support in the following cases:

1. pursuit of specialized program of studies not offered in B.C.
2. participation with a (Canadian) National Sport Centre outside of B.C.
3. a suitable athlete development program that is currently unavailable in B.C.
4. BC athletes training outside of BC will only be considered for funding if there is a demonstrated commitment to provincial teams and other athlete development activities.

4.0 Appeal Process

Appeals: Any appeals to the Board must be made in writing and submitted within 7 days of the Athlete Assistance Program roster release for any given year. **Send to:**

BC Table Tennis Association
#227-3820 Cessna Drive,
Richmond, BC, V7B 0A2

Appeals which are faxed or emailed will not be accepted.

Appeals Committee: The Appeals Committee will be formed of three people, all members of Table Tennis BC, with preferably one member of the Executive. In order to avoid the potential for conflict of interest, (e.g. the parent of a nominated athlete being on the appeals committee), the membership of the Committee will be selected by the Board.

Appeals to the B.C.T.T.A. must be made in writing and submitted to the B.C.T.T.A. office before October 30, 2008. Submission must include any supporting documentation.

Tentative Timeline Schedule:

October 15, 2008:	Announce selected to B.C.T.T.A.
October 30, 2008:	Athlete appeal to B.C.T.T.A.
November 15, 2008:	Athlete invited to make representation to the Executive Committee
January 15, 2009:	B.C.T.T.A. Executive reply to the athlete and the Athlete Selection Committee.
January 30, 2008:	Final approval, AAP awards released

Note: If no appeals are received by Oct. 30, 2008, the AAP awards will be released after that date.

Obligations of BC Table Tennis Association

- a. publish the BC AAP ranking and selection criteria, procedures, and the selected BC AAP calendar outline to athletes and coaches before the beginning of the nomination process.
- b. publish the Appeal Process to athletes and coaches before the beginning of the nomination process.
- c. inform their athletes and coaches as to their list of nominated athletes.

After the final nomination lists have been approved, BC Table Tennis Association will publish a list of their funded athletes on the Table Tennis BC website.

5.0 Table Tennis BC Selection Criteria

Athletes must meet the Junior Team Selection criteria. Final considerations priority list:

1. Selected to represent North America or Canada at Youth, Junior or Cadet Levels
2. Performance at Canadian Junior Championships:-
 - (a) Medals won (i) Gold (ii) Silver (iii) Bronze
 - (b) Match results
 - (c) Attitude throughout the year
3. Improvement for the year, since AAP awards are presented annually, for example, Sept. 1, 2007 to Aug. 31, 2008 (meant to include the Canadian National Junior Championships)
4. Ratings and past performance in competitions
5. Have a report accepted by the B.O.D. and submitted to the Recreation and Sport Branch of the Ministry's Athletic Assistance Programme before the deadline.