

Proposed Guidelines for Athlete Funding

Background:

Sport Nova Scotia (SNS) has funding that can be accessed by athletes of provincial sport organizations. The level of funding for Orienteering Nova Scotia (OANS) is currently \$750 (tier 6) per year. This amount can be divided up to three ways.

Sport Nova Scotia intends for the criteria to be used to determine high-performance athlete funding in Nova Scotia but does not specify how the money is to be distributed or for what use. Masters (35+) athletes are eligible for tier 6 funding at the discretion of the provincial sport organization.

Our working group was tasked with making a proposal to the Board as to guidelines for how the SNS funding should be distributed.

Guiding Principles:

It is believed that OANS should identify objective criteria to determine which athletes shall be endorsed each year, to ensure the funding is distributed in a consistent and equitable manner.

Higher levels of funding awarded by SNS are geared toward athletes competing at National, International and Olympic levels. Accordingly, it is believed that OANS should be prioritizing endorsement to competitive athletes, with a view to encouraging OANS athletes to train and compete at higher levels. As such, OANS will endorse athletes attending the Canadian Orienteering Championships, North American Orienteering Championships or International Orienteering Federation regional championship events.

It is recognized that OANS currently has few athletes who compete at national level or even outside the province, so although the following guidelines give priority to these athletes, OANS should also consider athletes who have the *potential* to be competitive at a national level.

OANS should prioritize support to athletes who are active in OANS-sponsored competition. Accordingly, a level of participation in OANS events is required before an athlete shall be considered for funding.

Athletes competing at high performance events and wishing to be considered for funding will need to indicate their interest by way of application.

Guidelines/Process for athlete selection for funding:

Athletes seeking funding shall submit an application by the regular entry deadline for the Canadian Orienteering Championships in the year in which they wish to receive funding. The application shall outline which events the athlete plans to attend, for which they are seeking endorsement for funding.

Application format:

- Email to OANS (nsorienteering@gmail.com) with the following information:
 - Name
 - Age
 - Age Class for events
 - Event(s) attending, dates and locations
 - Other sources of funding
 - Orienteering performances/achievements in past year
 - If athlete has not attended 60% of B-level or higher OANS events in past year, please provide rationale for seeking funding

Funding decisions shall be made by the Board a minimum of two weeks prior to the Canadian Orienteering Championships. A selection committee may be appointed to make this determination. Board members applying for funding shall be ineligible to vote. The names of the athletes to be endorsed shall be provided to the Executive Director, who will approve applications made through the Support for Sport process.

Eligibility*:

- Athletes attending Canadian Orienteering Championships, North American Orienteering Championships or International Orienteering Federation regional championship events
- Athletes must be a registered OANS member for the year in which they are seeking funding
- Athletes seeking funding shall compete in at least 60% of B-level or higher OANS events in the funding year.
- Athletes must compete in either the Bluenose Classic (Nova Scotia Provincial Championships) or the Dick James Memorial Event in the funding year, if these events occur prior to the event for which the athlete is seeking funding.
- Athletes receiving other sources of funding (i.e. nationally or provincially carded at a higher level) are not eligible for this funding

*Eligibility requirements may be adjusted in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the selection committee/Board

Priority for funding shall be as follows:

- 1 - Junior-age competitive athletes (i.e. running their age class) training for Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) or applying for Orienteering Canada's High Performance Program (HPP)
- 2 - All other Junior-age competitive athletes (i.e. running their age class)
- 3 - Elite athletes (i.e. athletes entering F21E or M21E)
- 4 - Other age-class athletes

Normally, up to three (3) athletes will be endorsed for funding. If more than three (3) junior or elite athletes are eligible for funding in a given year, OANS will provide an equivalent amount of funding (\$250) to a maximum of four (4) additional junior athletes. If more than four (4) additional junior athletes are eligible, this \$1000 from OANS shall be divided by the number of additional juniors and distributed accordingly.

Following the event for which funding is to be given, the athlete must apply for the funding using the Support for Sport online application. This shall be done by the 15th of the month following the competition. The Executive Director will approve the applications based on the list of endorsed athletes provided. Funding then goes to the athletes directly from Sport Nova Scotia. Where there are additional junior athletes receiving funding from OANS, the Executive Director will request a cheque be sent to the athletes by the Treasurer once the Support for Sport applications are approved.

If no OANS athletes are attending designated events in a given year, the Board may select up to three athletes to receive funding, using the same priorities. These athletes shall be deemed to have potential to compete at a national level, and the funding shall be provided for the purpose of development (i.e. to attend a training camp or an out-of-province A-meet caliber race).