



Policy Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the distribution of athlete funds. It endeavors to reduce case-by-case decisions by the Board of Directors and provide clear requirements for Alberta athletes. The policy will outline general requirements, as well as specific details for the three types of funding that the ARA offers:

- High Performance - Domestic
- High Performance - International
- Alberta Junior & Open Provincial Teams

Definitions

Certified provincial coach: A Coaching Association of Canada (CAC) - certified racquetball instructor. Coaches of junior athletes seeking funding must be, at a minimum, certified Racquetball Competition Introduction-level coaches. Coaches of Open-level athletes must be certified Racquetball Competition Development-level coaches.

Extraordinary circumstances: Extraordinary circumstances include, but are not limited to: injury, illness, death in the immediate family and acts of nature.

Athlete Funding Policy

This funding is intended to support athletes who are seriously committed to improving their performance beyond a provincial level through intense training, technical development, and elite-level competition.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for funding from the ARA, athletes must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Athletes are required to be able to produce a valid Alberta Health card;
- Athletes are required to be a member in good standing of the Association for a minimum of one year;
- Athletes are required to compete in at least three (3) ARA-sanctioned tournaments during the current season, one of which must be the ARA's Provincial Championships, one of which must be outside the athlete's home city. If applicable, the Provincial Championships can fulfill the out of town requirement;
- Athletes must be involved in a training schedule approved by a certified provincial coach;

- Athletes must provide a letter of reference from their coach along with the application form;
- Athletes are encouraged to attend the Association's Annual General Meeting;
- Athletes must sign and adhere to a code of conduct agreement; and
- Athletes must be a member in good standing of Racquetball Canada and, whereby the athlete is a member of the Canadian National Elite Team, the Canadian National Development Team, or the Junior National team, the athlete must be in compliance with all team requirements.

Funding

- Funding amounts will be dependent on the number of athletes selected, the amount of funding available, and may vary from year to year.
- All funds received by an athlete must be used for direct competition costs: travel, accommodations, meals, and entry fees.
- Funds received by athletes may not be used towards expenses incurred by attending family members, regardless of the age of the athlete.
- Upon completion of the event, athletes have 30 days to submit their original receipts to the Association for reimbursement. Athletes must adhere to the ARA's Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy regarding allowable expenses and limits.
- Athletes will receive their funding amount or the sum of their allowable expenses, whichever is less.
- No funding amount is guaranteed. All funding is subject to availability and approval from the Alberta Racquetball Association's Board of Directors (BOD) and its applicable funding bodies.

Progress & Reporting

- The Executive Director or a Board representative will monitor the progress of those athletes who have received funding to ensure that they comply with the conditions of the funding.
- The Executive Director or a Board representative will advise the Board of any problems and will ensure that follow-up reports are completed in consultation with the referencing coach.

Cancellations

The Board reserves the right to cancel an athlete's funding or request that funding is returned to the Association at any time should the athlete:

- Have made any false statements on their application;
- Not abide by the conditions of the funding;
- Not meet the competition requirements; or
- Breach the code of conduct agreement.

Restrictions & Exceptions

- Whereby an athlete does not have access to a certified provincial coach, a trained provincial coach may be accepted in their stead. Athletes must notify the ARA of such an instance and receive approval for this variation.
- Special consideration may also be given to athletes who qualify for international competitions where they would represent Canada that conflict with the date(s) of the Provincial Championships.
- The Board recognizes that an athlete may miss an event due to Injury or Extraordinary Circumstances. It is the athlete's responsibility to provide the Board with all documentation to support their claim within 30 days of the missed event.
- Credit for missed events is given solely at the discretion of the Board.
- The Board reserves the right to evaluate and/or fund applicants that do not meet the Eligibility Criteria on a case-by-case basis.

Conflicts of Interest

If any Board member or a member of their immediate family has applied for athlete assistance, that Board member is disqualified from the selection and ranking of applications and may not vote on any question in that regard.

Insurance

The ARA does not provide insurance coverage for athletes traveling to or from national or international events, nor for the duration of the events.

Conduct

- All funded athletes must represent Alberta and the Association in a professional manner and adhere to the Code of Conduct and Ethics of the Association. Any player not adhering to these guidelines shall be disciplined and returned home at the additional cost to the athlete. Receipt of their funding will be at the discretion of the Board.
- Any athlete or coach that is receiving funding to attend an event from the Association shall not coach against an Alberta athlete at that event.

High Performance - Domestic

The purpose of the High Performance - Domestic funding is to assist open-level or development athletes in competing at Racquetball Canada's Winter and Fall Selection Events.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for High Performance - Domestic funding, athletes must meet the ARA's Eligibility Requirements for athlete funding. Athletes must also meet the following Eligibility Requirements specific to High Performance - Domestic funding:

- Athletes must be 29 years of age or under as of September 1st of the current season, OR be a member of the Canadian National Elite Team or National Development team.
- Athletes must compete in the Open division at the three national-level events during the season in question: the Winter Selection Event, the Fall Selection Event, and the National Championships.

Procedure

- Electronic application forms will be posted to the provincial website and ARA members, coaches, and affiliate clubs notified by September 1st.
- Athletes must submit their applications on or before September 30th. Those athletes that are seeking funding to attend both Selection Events must complete the Event Information and Estimated Expenses sections for each event.
- Following the deadline for applications, the Board will meet and review all applications. Applications will be accepted so long as all eligibility requirements are met.
- Upon Board approval, approved recipients will be notified.

Team Size

- Team size may vary and is solely dependent upon the number of eligible applicants.

Funding

- Funding amounts per athlete will be dependent on budget and number of eligible applicants. However, the sum total for High Performance - Domestic AND High Performance - International funding shall not exceed \$2,000 per athlete per fiscal year.

High Performance - International

The purpose of the High Performance - International funding is to assist open-level or development athletes in competing at international events.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for High Performance - International funding, athletes must meet the ARA's Eligibility Requirements for athlete funding. Athletes must also meet the following Eligibility Requirements specific to High Performance - International funding:

- Athletes must be 29 years of age or under as of September 1st of the current season, OR be a member of the Canadian National Elite Team or National Development team.

Junior athletes:

- Athletes must compete at the Junior National Championships OR National Championships in the Open division during the season in question.

Open-level athletes:

- Athletes must compete in the Open division at the three national-level events during the season in question: the Winter Selection Event, the Fall Selection Event, and the National Championships.

Procedure

- Electronic application forms will be posted to the provincial website and ARA members, coaches, and affiliate clubs notified by September 1st.
- The Board will meet and review all applications on a continual basis.
- Applications must be received a minimum of 6 weeks prior to the event in question.
- Applications will be assessed based on how the event ties into the athlete's training and competition goals.
- Upon Board approval, approved recipients will be notified.

Funding

- Funding amounts per athlete will be dependent on budget and available funds, but shall not exceed \$500 per event. In addition, the sum total for High Performance - Domestic AND High Performance - International funding shall not exceed \$2,000 per athlete per fiscal year.
- Athletes applying for funding to attend Junior Worlds will be given priority.

Alberta Junior & Open Provincial Teams

Each season, elite teams of athletes will be selected to represent Alberta at the Junior National Racquetball Championships and National Racquetball Championships. The Junior Provincial Team will consist of the top junior athletes in each age bracket. The Open Provincial Team will consist of the top open-level athletes in Alberta. These athletes will receive funding assistance from the ARA to compete based on eligibility requirements and tournament results.

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for a Provincial Team, athletes must meet the ARA's Eligibility Requirements for athlete funding. They must also meet the following Eligibility Requirements specific to the Junior & Open Provincial Teams:

Junior Team:

- Athletes must attend any Provincial Team training camps;

Open Team:

- Athletes must compete in a singles division in the three (3) sanctioned Alberta tournaments in which they are required to play;
- Athletes must attend Racquetball Canada's Fall and Winter Selection Events and compete in the Open division. Whereby a Selection Event is held in Alberta, it can be counted towards the 3 ARA-sanctioned tournaments requirement.

Procedure

Junior Team:

- All players who win the 14+, 16+, and 18+ age divisions at Provincials will be recommended to the Board for the Junior Provincial Team.
- A junior training camp with a Board-approved format will be held, either in conjunction with Provincials or as a separate event. All players wishing to make the Junior Provincial Team must attend.
- The Junior Provincial Team Coach, in consideration with attending players' coaches, will recommend to the Board additional athletes who meet the eligibility requirements for the Junior Provincial Team based on their training camp results, training schedule, results at provincials, and their ability to assist the Junior Provincial Team at the Junior National Championships.

Open Team:

The top eight (8) athletes will accumulate points at the three (3) listed tournaments, weighted as such:

- Racquetball Canada's Selection Events held in the fall (30%)
- Racquetball Canada's Selection Event held in the winter (30%)
- Alberta's Provincial Championships held in the spring (40%)

Finish at Fall Selection Event	Points at Fall Selection Event	Finish at Winter Selection Event	Points at Winter Selection Event	Finish at Provincial Championships	Points at Provincial Championships	Total Points
1	30.0	1	30.0	1	40.0	100.0
2	24.6	2	24.6	2	32.8	82.0
3	19.8	3	19.8	3	26.4	66.0
4	15.6	4	15.6	4	20.8	52.0
5	12.0	5	12.0	5	16.0	40.0

6	9.0	6	9.0	6	12.0	30.0
7	6.6	7	6.6	7	8.8	22.0
8	4.8	8	4.8	8	6.4	16.0

- Athletes will receive points based on how they finish according to other Alberta players at Racquetball Canada's Selection Events. Example: if 2 players finished first and fourth, so long as no Alberta athletes finished in between them, they would receive first place and second place points respectively.

Team Size

Junior Team:

- The Board will select, upon the availability of funding, a team comprised of up to eight (8) athletes from the 14+ to 18+ age divisions.
- Up to four (4) additional athletes from younger age brackets (10+/12+) may also be selected for the team as development athletes. The Board, based upon recommendations from the Junior Provincial Team Coach, will select these athletes based on skill level, participation in provincial tournaments, and their ability to assist the Junior Provincial Team at the Junior National Championships.
- The Board reserves the right to limit its selection of athletes for the Junior Alberta Team. This may be the case in instances where an athlete wins their division by default, or it is deemed that their skill level does not meet the level of the Junior National Championships. These decisions are to be made in consultation with the Junior Provincial Team Coach.

Open Team:

- Up to the top four (4) men & top four (4) women will be selected to represent Alberta at the National Championships.
- If less than four (4) athletes of one gender qualify, additional eligible athletes of the other gender may be chosen to fill the team.

Funding

- The ARA's annual Provincial Team's budget will be split approximately 50/50 between the Junior Provincial Team and the Open Provincial Team. Funding for this event shall not exceed \$2,000 per athlete.
- The exact amount of funding will vary from year to year and be dependent on the size of the Teams and projected expenses of competing at the Junior National Championships and National Racquetball Championships.

Restrictions & Exceptions

For the Open Team:

- Any athlete who misses a Selection Event or the Alberta Provincial Championships due to extraordinary circumstances will receive points equal to their most recent Selection Event placing minus two positions.