



## **AO Town Hall Written Summary – March 27, 2021**

### **Outdoor Membership Registration**

- Outdoor Membership Registration is [NOW OPEN](#) on trackie!
  - This membership covers the months of **April-December**.
  - *Membership benefits and insurance coverage will not be in effect until April 1, 2021*

### **Outdoor High Performance Series**

- We now have a tentative schedule of events for the Outdoor High Performance Series. View the schedule now [on our website!](#)
  - Anyone interested in competing at any of these meets (including recognized high performance athletes), must fill out the declaration of interest form [HERE](#).

### **Reminders:**

- The revised AC Selection Criteria for the **Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games** is now available [here](#).
  - AC will hold a webinar to review these changes and give you the chance to ask questions about the Criteria, Trials or **Paralympic Games** on **Tuesday, March 23 at 6pm EST**
  - You must register in advance using this [link](#).

### **ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - COMING SOON**

Today's meeting included a presentation on an upcoming athlete leadership opportunity, through the introduction of the **AO Athlete Advisory Committee**.

The Athlete Advisory Committee will exist to assist Athletics Ontario in fulfilling its obligations to ensure that Ontario athletes, coaches and officials are having memorable experiences at AO Championship events.

Included in the committee will be 8-10 AO member athletes from different age categories (Masters, Open, U20, U18) making sure that there is a representation from athletes in different regions and event disciplines. The committee welcomes athletes from a diverse and inclusive culture to encourage a balanced representation across all dimensions of diversity.

Committee applications will be available in the next couple of weeks, with the deadline for application around early April! Keep an eye out on our website and weekly communications for updates as they become available!

## **MARCH 17 ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY**

Today, Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, held a live stream session to make an announcement about investing in Ontario's sport and recreation sector. The summary of this announcement is as follows:

*Over the past two weeks, the ministry has been able to invest over \$364,000,000 in additional funding for the hardest hit sectors, of that, \$105M will go towards community building which includes \$50M into sports and recreation, and \$2.7M for PSO's.*

*Today's announcement is to set all athletes up for success, ensure they have a safe return to play, not only for physical safety, but for their mental health after Covid-19.*

*Today's announcement specifically is \$15.3M to support 4 initiatives:*

- 1) \$3 million in 2020-2021 to Sport for Ontario to deliver a pilot program helping kids and families regain sport and recreational activities*
- 2) **\$3.6M for 63 recognized PSO's to support their member community sport clubs who provide access to sports. A portion of this funding will support administrative costs, with the remainder being used to support member clubs across the province of Ontario***
- 3) **\$6.36M for Quest for Gold Canada to support approximately 550 Ontario high performance athletes, who have reached national competition level as part of Quest for Gold's Canada card program. This initiative provides direct financial assistance to high performance athletes, enhancing their ability to train by reducing the financial burden. This amount represents a one-time increase of \$8,400 for National level athletes.***
- 4) \$2.35M to the Ontario Hockey League post-secondary education scholarship for athletes on 17 Ontario-based teams.*

For more information, please visit:

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60724/ontario-supports-tourism-culture-sport-and-recreation-organizations>