

NRUSA SCHOLARSHIP POLICY & PROGRAM

SCHOLARSHIP PHILOSOPHY AND POLICY

As a community-based non-profit organization, it is the stated philosophy of the NRUSA that financial need should not preclude a child's participation in the association's youth soccer programs. To that end, the NRUSA maintains a policy of providing need-based scholarships to offset a significant portion of the costs of participation in these programs. It is the intent of the NRUSA to administer the scholarship application and award process in a manner consistent with keeping all personal family information as confidential as is feasible.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM SCOPE

Scholarship funding may be used to offset expenses resulting from participation in the NRUSA House, Academy, and Travel programs in the following categories:

- House: League Registration Fees
- Academy: League Registration Fees, Uniforms
- Travel: League Registration Fees, Uniforms, Tournament Registration Fees

Scholarship funding may also be used to offset NRUSA summer camp and NRUSA training course fees.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEED

The NRUSA Scholarship Program is operated on the basis of individual-need (scholarship funds are not distributed to teams for distribution). Need is established by comparing the summary sheet of the tax return(s) of the applicant family to the current U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines. A family can qualify for scholarships offsetting different percentages of total cost based on a multipliers of the poverty guidelines as follows:

If you make less than the federal poverty level time this multiplier...	You are qualified to receive scholarships offsetting this percentage of total cost
1.0	95%
1.5	75%
2.0	50%
2.5	25%

For example, according to the 2007 HHS guidelines, a family of 4 making less than \$20,650 is considered to be in poverty. Therefore, according to the NRUSA policy, a family of 4 making less than \$30,975 ($\$20,650 \times 1.5$) would qualify for scholarships offsetting up to 75% of total costs for each child in the family.

The applicant is additionally asked to specify on the application the desired level of scholarship (e.g. a family may qualify for a 50% scholarship but only requests 25% coverage).

VOLUNTEER EFFORT

The NRUSA **does not** require volunteer effort of families applying for scholarships. However, a family **can** offset an additional percentage of the total cost of participation by volunteering. Specifically, a family can qualify to have 100% of House, Academy or Travel League fees waived by volunteering in areas of critical need (e.g. field setup, lining, coaching in some areas). These league fees would then not be used in the calculation of total costs, thus increasing the percentage of total costs offset.

For example, the league fees for the 2009 Travel Soccer Program total \$140 per child. If the total cost of participation for a child was \$400, and that child's family qualified for 50% scholarship, then the family would be responsible for paying \$200. However, if the family volunteered in an area of critical need, then the \$140 could be waived making the overall cost of participation \$260. Therefore, the family would be responsible for only \$130.

DECISION MAKING

As much as is feasible within a given year's scholarship budget, scholarship award decisions will be made on a first-apply, first-awarded basis according to the procedures specified above. These procedures are administered by the NRUSA office fiscal administrator (or other official as designated by the NRUSA President). Should special circumstances arise (e.g. a change in job status making the past year's tax return(s) irrelevant), scholarship decisions will be made by the NRUSA Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee is an ad hoc committee formed by the NRUSA President comprised of the NRUSA President (or designate), the NRUSA Treasurer, and the NRUSA Vice President of Administration.

SCHOLARSHIP BUDGET

Awards from the NRUSA Scholarship Program shall draw from the NRUSA Scholarship Budget. The Scholarship Budget shall be set on an annual basis as part of the overall NRUSA budget and shall constitute approximately 10% of club finances minus operations. Club finances minus operations is calculated upon an estimate of the difference between the coming year's revenues and the coming year's operating expenses. These estimates shall take in to consideration both the previous year's figures and an expected growth factor (as determined by analysis of at least three years of financial

data). All scholarship awards shall be specifically accounted for within the association's financial accounting system.

TEAM-BASED FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

Many travel teams conduct fundraising efforts (e.g. yard sales, running Virginia Tech football/basketball concession booths). It is the NRUSA's intention that these individual team efforts be rewarded by having %100 of the money raised be expended toward the specific financial needs of that team. However, in respect to individual family confidentiality, it is not the intention of the association that these funds should ever be awarded directly to a family. That is, decisions on individual scholarship awards and levels are to be determined by the NRUSA according to the processes outlined above. It is encouraged that team-raised funds be expended in such a manner as to offset the overall cost to the team of participating in particular activities (e.g. reducing the overall cost of registration to a particular tournament which will reduce each family's individual cost equally). If it so chooses, a team may contribute funds to the general scholarship fund of the association.

NRUSA Scholarship Application

Contact Information (Please PRINT clearly.)

NOTE: Please fill out a separate form for each player if requesting more than one scholarship.

Player's Name:			Sex (circle): F M	
Last	First	MI	Date of Birth:	
Parent(s) or Guardian(s):				
Address:				
Primary Phone (home/cell?):			Primary Email (PRINT CLEARLY):	
If Travel, what team?				

Scholarship Category Request(s) (Please CIRCLE all that apply.)

House (Rec)	Registration Fees		
Academy	League Registration Fees	Uniforms	Tournament Registration Fees
Travel	League Registration Fees	Uniforms	Tournament Registration Fees

Level of Support Requested (Please CIRCLE one.)

95%	75%	50%	25%
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NOTE: While we do not collect proof of this need, we reserve the right to request the information should we deem it necessary.

Signature of Responsible Party: _____ Date: _____

Please send completed form to:

**NRUSA
2890 N. Franklin Street, Ste. D
Christiansburg, VA 24073**

OR

Scan and send electronic copy to tbrown@nrusa.org