Scholarship Sliding Scale & FPL Eligibility Chart

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Approved By: Jacob Echevarria
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the official Scholarship Sliding Scale and Federal Poverty Level (FPL) calculation method used by the **13GEM Sporting Scholarship Opportunity Program**.

This policy establishes:

- The applicable Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- The method for calculating household FPL percentage;
- The required rounding method;
- The scholarship percentage associated with each FPL range;
- The family's remaining tuition responsibility;
- The treatment of registration fees; and
- The relationship between scholarships and registration discounts.

The purpose of the scale is to ensure that scholarship percentages are determined consistently and objectively.

2. Federal Poverty Guideline Standard

13GEM Sporting uses the annual **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Poverty Guidelines** applicable to the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia.

Because 13GEM Sporting operates in Washington State, this is the applicable federal guideline table.

For administrative convenience, this policy refers to the applicable poverty guideline as the:

Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

3. 2026 HHS Poverty Guidelines

For 2026, the applicable 100% poverty guidelines are:

Household Size	100% FPL
1	$15,960
2	$21,640

Household Size	100% FPL
3	$27,320
4	$33,000
5	$38,680
6	$44,360
7	$50,040
8	$55,720

For households larger than eight persons, add:

$5,680 for each additional person.

4. 2026 FPL Reference Chart

The following chart provides commonly used reference points for scholarship calculations:

Household Size	100%	125%	150%	175%	200%
1	$15,960	$19,950	$23,940	$27,930	$31,920
2	$21,640	$27,050	$32,460	$37,870	$43,280
3	$27,320	$34,150	$40,980	$47,810	$54,640
4	$33,000	$41,250	$49,500	$57,750	$66,000
5	$38,680	$48,350	$58,020	$67,690	$77,360
6	$44,360	$55,450	$66,540	$77,630	$88,720
7	$50,040	$62,550	$75,060	$87,570	$100,080
8	$55,720	$69,650	$83,580	$97,510	$111,440

This chart is a reference tool.

The family's **actual calculated and rounded FPL percentage**, rather than the reference chart alone, controls scholarship eligibility.

5. Household Size

Household size is determined under:

SOP-002 — Household Size & Child Support Income Policy.

For Scholarship Opportunity Program purposes, household size generally consists of:

Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) plus children age 18 or younger who are part of the family unit.

Extended family members and unrelated individuals are not automatically included merely because they reside at the same address.

6. Household Income

Countable household income is determined under:

SOP-004 — Scholarship Income Definition & Calculation Policy.

Child support actually received by the applicant household is included as household income.

Child support paid by the applicant is not deducted from household income.

7. FPL Calculation Formula

The household's FPL percentage is calculated using:

Annual Countable Household Income ÷ Applicable 100% FPL Guideline × 100

For example, if a household's annual countable income is $30,000 and the applicable 100% FPL guideline is $33,000:

$30,000 ÷ $33,000 × 100 = 90.9090...%

After rounding according to this policy:

90.91% FPL

The household therefore falls within the **70% Scholarship** bracket.

8. Required FPL Rounding Rule

The calculated household FPL percentage must be:

Rounded to two decimal places before the Scholarship Sliding Scale is applied.

Standard mathematical rounding is used.

When the third decimal digit is:

- **0 through 4:** the second decimal remains unchanged.
- **5 through 9:** the second decimal rounds upward.

9. Boundary Rounding Examples

These examples establish how scholarship boundaries are administered:

125.994% → 125.99%

The household falls within the **65% Scholarship** bracket.

125.995% → 126.00%

The household falls within the **60% Scholarship** bracket.

Therefore:

The calculated and rounded FPL percentage controls the scholarship determination.

The unrounded percentage is not used to bypass or alter a Scholarship Sliding Scale boundary.

10. Official Scholarship Sliding Scale

The official 13GEM Sporting Scholarship Sliding Scale is:

Calculated and Rounded FPL	**Scholarship**	**Family Tuition Responsibility**
At or below 100.00%	**70%**	**30%**
Over 100.00% through 125.99%	**65%**	**35%**
126.00% through 150.99%	**60%**	**40%**
151.00% through 175.99%	**55%**	**45%**
176.00% through 200.00%	**50%**	**50%**
Above 200.00%	**No Standard Scholarship**	**100%**

11. Maximum and Minimum Standard Scholarship

The maximum Standard Scholarship is:

70% of eligible program tuition.

The minimum Standard Scholarship awarded under the Scholarship Sliding Scale is:

50% of eligible program tuition.

There are no 40%, 30%, or 20% Standard Scholarship brackets under the current policy.

12. 200% FPL Eligibility Boundary

A household whose calculated and rounded FPL percentage is:

Exactly 200.00% FPL

qualifies for the **50% Scholarship** bracket.

A household whose calculated and rounded FPL percentage is:

Above 200.00% FPL

does not qualify for a Standard Scholarship.

For example:

200.004% → 200.00% → 50% Standard Scholarship

200.005% → 200.01% → No Standard Scholarship

The rounding rule is applied before eligibility is determined.

13. Households Above 200% FPL

A household above 200.00% FPL is not eligible for a Standard Scholarship.

However, a family experiencing a genuine, significant, and unforeseen financial hardship may request consideration under:

SOP-007 — Hardship Scholarship Policy.

Hardship eligibility is not automatic merely because a household exceeds the Standard Scholarship income limit.

14. Hardship Scholarships Use the Same Scale

Hardship Scholarships do not use a separate or discretionary percentage scale.

After the qualifying hardship and current financial circumstances have been established:

1. Current or adjusted annual household income is determined;
2. The applicable FPL guideline is identified;
3. FPL percentage is calculated;
4. FPL percentage is rounded to two decimal places; and
5. The same Scholarship Sliding Scale is applied.

The Scholarship Committee does not choose an award percentage based on sympathy, preference, or perceived deservingness.

15. Scholarship Dollar Calculation

Once the scholarship percentage is established, the dollar amount of the scholarship is determined by the eligible tuition amount.

The formula is:

Eligible Program Tuition × Scholarship Percentage = Scholarship Amount

Then:

Eligible Program Tuition − Scholarship Amount = Family Tuition Responsibility

The family's income determines the **scholarship percentage**.

The program's tuition determines the **dollar amount** of the scholarship.

16. $300 Tuition Example — Before Registration Fee

For a program with **$300.00 eligible tuition**:

Scholarship	13GEM Scholarship Amount	Family Tuition Responsibility
70%	$210.00	$90.00
65%	$195.00	$105.00
60%	$180.00	$120.00
55%	$165.00	$135.00
50%	$150.00	$150.00

17. Registration Fee Policy

Registration fees are:

Not eligible for scholarship coverage.

The family is responsible for **100% of the applicable registration fee**.

The current 13GEM Sporting registration fee is:

6.25% of the family's scholarship-adjusted tuition amount owed at checkout.

The registration fee is **not calculated on the original tuition before scholarship**.

Instead, the scholarship is applied first.

18. Registration Fee Calculation Order

The required calculation sequence is:

Step 1 — Determine original eligible tuition.

Step 2 — Apply the scholarship percentage.

Step 3 — Determine the family's remaining tuition responsibility.

Step 4 — Multiply the family's remaining tuition responsibility by 6.25%.

Step 5 — Round the resulting registration fee to the nearest cent using standard currency rounding.

Step 6 — Add the rounded registration fee to the family's remaining tuition responsibility.

The resulting amount is the family's total amount due for purposes of this calculation.

19. Registration Fee Rounding

Registration-fee calculations are rounded to the **nearest cent using standard currency rounding**.

For example:

$150.00 × 6.25% = $9.375

The calculated fee is therefore rounded to:

$9.38

Similarly:

$90.00 × 6.25% = $5.625

The fee is rounded to:

$5.63

20. $300 Program — Complete Scholarship and Registration Fee Chart

Using a $300.00 eligible program tuition and the current **6.25% registration fee**:

Scholarship	Family Tuition	6.25% Registration Fee	Total Family Responsibility
70%	$90.00	$5.63	**$95.63**
65%	$105.00	$6.56	**$111.56**
60%	$120.00	$7.50	**$127.50**
55%	$135.00	$8.44	**$143.44**
50%	$150.00	$9.38	**$159.38**

21. Detailed Registration Fee Example

Assume:

- Eligible program tuition = **$300.00**
- Household qualifies for a **50% Scholarship**

Calculation:

Original tuition: $300.00

50% Scholarship:
$300.00 × 50% = **$150.00**

Family tuition responsibility:
$300.00 − $150.00 = **$150.00**

Registration fee:
$150.00 × 6.25% = **$9.375**

Rounded registration fee:
$9.38

Total family responsibility:
$150.00 + $9.38 =

$159.38

The registration fee itself does not receive a scholarship discount. Rather, it is calculated after the scholarship has already reduced the tuition amount owed.

22. Scholarship and Registration Discounts

Scholarships and registration discounts are:

Mutually exclusive for the same registration.

A family may use:

An approved Scholarship OR applicable registration discount(s), but not both.

Examples of registration discounts may include:

- Multi-Child Discounts;
- Multi-Sport Discounts;
- Early Registration Discounts; and
- Other current or future 13GEM Sporting registration discounts.

A Scholarship may not be stacked with a registration discount on the same program registration.

23. Family Choice Between Scholarship and Discounts

A family that qualifies for both an approved Scholarship and an available registration discount may choose the applicable option it wishes to use, subject to the terms of the applicable registration program.

This policy does not establish whether multiple **non-scholarship registration discounts** may be combined with one another.

That issue is governed separately by the applicable 13GEM Sporting registration-discount rules.

24. Scholarship Percentage Is Not Discretionary

Once:

- Household size;
- Countable household income;
- Applicable FPL guideline; and
- Rounded FPL percentage

have been established, the corresponding scholarship percentage is determined by this policy.

The Scholarship Committee, Scholarship Administrator, leadership, coaches, donors, or other individuals may not increase or decrease the percentage based upon:

- Sympathy;
- Personal relationship;

- Coaching relationship;
- Athletic ability;
- Family reputation;
- Donor preference;
- Perceived deservingness; or
- Personal discretion.

25. Scholarship Resources and Eligibility

Financial eligibility and scholarship-resource availability are separate determinations.

A household may be financially eligible under this scale while scholarship resources are temporarily unavailable or limited.

When this occurs, the family should not be characterized as financially ineligible solely because sufficient scholarship resources are unavailable.

26. Annual FPL Updates

The HHS Poverty Guidelines generally change annually.

New applications and annual renewals use the **most recently adopted 13GEM Sporting FPL table**.

Existing awards are not recalculated solely because a new federal poverty guideline is published during an existing eligibility period.

Annual FPL updates are administered under:

SOP-019 — Annual FPL Update Procedure.

27. Historical FPL Tables

The applicable FPL table used for a scholarship determination should be identifiable in the administrative record.

Historical FPL tables should be retained sufficiently to reproduce previous scholarship determinations when necessary.

The publication of a new table does not alter the table properly used for a prior determination.

28. Calculation Records

13GEM Sporting should maintain sufficient information to reproduce a scholarship calculation, including:

- Household size;
- Annual countable household income;
- FPL table year;

- Applicable 100% FPL guideline;
- Calculated FPL percentage;
- Rounded FPL percentage;
- Scholarship percentage;
- Eligible program tuition, when applicable;
- Scholarship dollar amount, when applicable;
- Family tuition responsibility;
- Applicable registration-fee rate; and
- Rounded registration-fee amount, when applicable.

Unnecessary sensitive information should not be retained merely to document the calculation.

29. Calculation Errors

If a material calculation error is discovered, 13GEM Sporting should correct the determination according to the applicable Scholarship Opportunity Program procedures.

Examples include:

- Incorrect household size;
- Incorrect countable income;
- Incorrect FPL table;
- Mathematical error;
- Incorrect rounding;
- Incorrect Scholarship Sliding Scale bracket;
- Incorrect scholarship percentage;
- Incorrect registration-fee rate; or
- Incorrect registration-fee calculation.

Good-faith administrative errors should be corrected rather than treated as applicant misconduct.

30. Governing Calculation Principles

The Scholarship Sliding Scale is governed by the following principles:

Household size determines the applicable federal poverty guideline.

Countable household income and the applicable guideline determine the household's FPL percentage.

The FPL percentage is rounded to two decimal places before the Scholarship Sliding Scale is applied.

The calculated and rounded FPL percentage determines the scholarship percentage.

The scholarship percentage determines how much eligible tuition 13GEM Sporting reduces.

The family pays the remaining scholarship-adjusted tuition.

The family also pays 100% of the 6.25% registration fee calculated on the scholarship-adjusted tuition amount.

Registration fees are rounded to the nearest cent using standard currency rounding.

Scholarships and registration discounts cannot be combined for the same registration.

The Scholarship Committee determines the facts; it does not negotiate the Scholarship Sliding Scale.

31. Approval

Approved By: Jacob Echevarria

Title: Founder, Owner, Director

Signature: JE

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