



Lindale Soccer Association Scholarship Program Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Lindale Soccer Association (LSA) Scholarship Program is to provide financial assistance to eligible youth soccer players who demonstrate a financial need. Our goal is to ensure that all children have the opportunity to participate in LSA's soccer programs, regardless of their financial circumstances. This policy aims to ensure transparency, fairness, and inclusivity in the distribution of scholarships within LSA. The Board of Directors may approve exceptions to this policy by majority vote only when extraordinary circumstances exist. Any approved exception shall be documented in the official meeting minutes.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. *Age*: Applicants must be between the ages of 3 and 18.
2. *Residency*: Applicants must reside within the service area established by the Lindale Soccer Association.
3. *Financial Need*: Applicants must demonstrate financial hardship that would reasonably limit their ability to participate in LSA programs. Financial hardship may include, but is not limited to, low household income, unexpected medical expenses, job loss, family emergency, or other circumstances determined by the Scholarship Review Committee.
4. *Prior Award Limit*: Scholarships may be awarded for no more than two consecutive participating seasons. After receiving scholarships for two consecutive seasons, the applicant must complete one full participating season without scholarship assistance before becoming eligible again.

Application Process

1. *Application Form*: The scholarship application form will be available on LSA's designated registration page.
2. *Application Submission*: Applicants must complete and submit the scholarship application form electronically by the specified deadline. Submission of an application does not guarantee that a scholarship will be awarded.
3. *Documentation*: Applicants shall provide all documentation requested by the Scholarship Review Committee. Supporting documentation may not be required for every application but shall be provided when requested.

Selection Process

1. *Review Committee*: The Scholarship Review Committee shall consist of at least three individuals appointed by the Executive Officers. Members of the Scholarship Review Committee shall comply with the LSA Conflict of Interest Policy.
2. *Evaluation*: Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated financial need, available scholarship funding, and compliance with this policy.
3. *Award Decision*: Scholarship awards are subject to available funding and committee evaluation. All decisions of the Scholarship Review Committee are final and are not subject to appeal.



Award Details

1. *Amount:* Scholarship amounts may vary based on available funds and the number of qualified applicants. Scholarships may cover partial or full program fees. Scholarship funds have no cash value and may only be applied toward eligible registration fees owed to LSA.
2. *Notification:* Applicants will be notified of the award decision by email.
3. *Usage:* Scholarships must be used for the intended soccer season and are not transferable to other seasons or individuals. Award of a scholarship does not guarantee placement on a team. Registration remains subject to roster availability, age eligibility, and other applicable Association policies.

Responsibilities of Scholarship Recipients

1. *Participation:* Recipients are expected to actively participate in all scheduled practices, games, and team events, unless prevented by illness, injury, relocation, or other circumstances beyond the participant's control.
2. *Conduct:* Scholarship recipients and their parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must adhere to the association's code of conduct and demonstrate good sportsmanship, teamwork, and respect for coaches, teammates, and opponents.
3. *Volunteer:* Scholarship recipients' parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must provide a volunteer service to LSA in one of the following ways listed below. Failure to complete the volunteer requirement, unless waived by the Scholarship Review Committee, may disqualify the applicant from future scholarship consideration.
 - Coaching (Head or Assistant)
 - Team Manager
 - Concession Help
 - Field Day Help
 - Field Marshall

Renewal and Continuation

Scholarships are awarded on a seasonal basis. Approval of a scholarship during one season does not create an expectation or entitlement to future scholarship assistance. Recipients must reapply each season to be considered for support.

Confidentiality

Scholarship applications and related records shall be handled in accordance with the LSA Confidentiality and Non-Disclosure Policy. Scholarship records shall be retained in accordance with the LSA ADAPT Program Policy and Document Retention Schedule. All information obtained through the scholarship application process shall be treated as confidential and used solely for determining scholarship eligibility.

Non-Discrimination

Lindale Soccer Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law in the administration of its scholarship program.



Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Executive Officers and amended as necessary.