



Westside Soccer Club – Scholarship Policy & Guidelines

Objective: Westside Soccer Club (WSC) is committed to providing a high-quality youth soccer program that is accessible to everyone. WSC continuously strives to keep soccer affordable and does all it can to keep economic barriers from not being a factor in a youth's participation in playing soccer. For this reason, as long as funds are available from donations received by the club, WSC will make scholarships available to qualifying players and their families. If at all possible, no player desiring to play soccer and participate at the WSC will be denied due to financial hardship. Through our scholarship program, we shall uphold the following guidelines:

Scholarship Fund Overview:

- All scholarship funding is for registration fees only. The player will still be responsible for uniforms, team assessments and travel expenses.
- Scholarship amounts will be awarded based on the needs of the family.
- Scholarships must be applied for on a seasonal basis.
- Applications will be evaluated based on Financial Need.
- Funds will be distributed based upon the applicant pool and the funds available.

Criteria and Eligibility:

Any family is eligible to apply for a scholarship if an economic barrier could prevent a player from enjoying and playing soccer. Financial need will be the only determinant in receiving a scholarship. In order to assess financial need, the following will be taken into consideration in awarding the scholarship:

- ***Applicant must complete the required application form (obtain through the WSC office) and return the completed application to the WSC office c/o Scholarship Committee***
- The scholarships are granted for one season at a time. Players with continued need must reapply each season. Recreation and Academy are considered as two separate seasons, a Fall season and a Spring Season. The Select program season is considered the complete Fall and Spring.
- Financial need will be the only factor in awarding a soccer scholarship. Proof of need shall be included as part of the application process to allow for full consideration of awarding a scholarship and to assist in verifying the level of financial need. This information will be reviewed discreetly and confidentially. Proof of need may include:
 - Any player currently receiving government assistance such as welfare, housing assistance, or free/reduced school lunch subsidy records.
 - Other proof of need items may include income tax records and/or payment stubs.
 - In the absence of such proof of need records, the applicant should illustrate need through a written statement of their situation.
- **Non-Discrimination Clause:** No one will be disqualified from consideration because of sex, race, color, creed or religious beliefs.

Obligations of the Scholarship recipient:

- Player will attend all practices and games unless otherwise excused by the team's Head Coach or Director of Coaching.
- Player and parents will demonstrate proper sportsmanship at all club activities.

Privacy.

WSC recognizes the importance of privacy and shall do their best to maintain privacy of scholarship applicants and recipients. The identities of applicant and recipients shall be shared on a “need to know” basis among the Scholarship Committee who may be involved in appropriately carrying out the business of running WSC or the WSC team involving an applicant.

Scholarship Committee and Approval Process:

In order to maintain the balance of privacy and a fair process to ensure the true intent of the scholarship program is carried out as well as the needs of those facing financial hardship are met, the WSC scholarship committee shall consist of three members. The Scholarship committee shall consist of the President, Treasurer and Club Administrator. Relatives of a candidate cannot participate in the approval process. The Club’s Administrator receives the applications, logs them in for tracking purposes and notifies the committee chair (President) of the application request. The Scholarship committee shall review all applications and make their recommendations to the board with consideration of the factors outlined in this policy as well as available club funding.

The WSC Board is the final approving authority for all scholarships. But under the significant concern of maintaining privacy for the applicants, any references to the name(s) of the candidate shall be removed prior to the WSC board final approval consideration. Instead a summarized list of the applications without names (i.e. five applicants with a critical financial need, three with moderate financial need..etc..) along with amounts and present available club budget along with the committee’s recommendation will be provided to the board for consideration and final approval vote.

