



Fort Collins Area Swim Team's Financial Assistance/Scholarship Program

Purpose: This policy is intended to regulate the granting of financial assistance in the form of fee reductions for individuals and families financially unable to pay the established program fee.

Philosophy: Fort Collins Area Swim Team (FAST) strongly believes that community members should have the opportunity to participate in a competitive swim team regardless of financial status.

I. Eligibility.

- A. Applicant's family must qualify for Free or Reduced-Price lunches thru the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- B. Applicants who qualify for Free and Reduced-Priced lunches thru NSLP may be eligible for a flat monthly dues rate reduction of 50% for Reduced-priced and 75% for Free-priced per swimmer based on group placement.
- C. Applicant must be a swimmer on FAST. Open to swimmers in all groups Nova thru Masters.
- D. Applicant and applicant's family must be in good standing with the FAST team.
- E. FAST will not cover the following costs associated with swim team membership:
 - annual volunteering requirement or the fees associated with not volunteering
 - other Swimming organizations' fees (e.g. USA Swimming - financial assistance may be available directly from those organizations)
 - meet fees
 - required practice equipment

II. Verification.

- A. A copy of your NSLP acceptance letter for the Free and Reduced NSLP Lunch Program for the current or upcoming school year from school district.

- B. Current verification requirements must be met before consideration of the application for the upcoming fiscal year. FAST's fiscal year runs from September 1st to August 31st.

III. Application.

- A. Individuals may obtain a Financial Assistance /Scholarship application form from the team bookkeeper (bookkeeper@fortcollinsareaswimteam.org) or from FAST's Head Coach. The completed application form must be accompanied by the verification letter mentioned above.
- B. The Scholarship committee composed of: FAST Head Coach, FAST Bookkeeper and Board of Directors Executive Counsel (Board President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) shall review Financial Assistance applications. All information provided shall be kept confidential.
- C. All applications must allow thirty days for processing. Applicants will be notified by email or phone of their funding status.
- D. The Scholarship committee shall keep the Board of Directors informed of how many scholarships are being approved and accepted.

IV. Guidelines for the Scholarship Approval Process.

- A. Acceptance into program is contingent on group availability due to lane space.
- B. Financial Assistance Application must contain complete and true information. Incomplete or falsified information shall result in denial of requests.
- C. Applicants must meet the requirements of eligibility described in Section I, Eligibility.
- D. Financial assistance shall not be granted for meet entries, USA Swimming Memberships, or equipment purchase.
- E. All program participants and their families granted financial assistance shall remain in good standing with FAST, FAST Coaches and USA Swimming. Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or conduct detrimental to the program shall be grounds for removal of all financial assistance present and future. Failure to meet FAST's team support requirements may also be grounds for dismissal from program. Revocation of scholarship assistance may be effective immediately, without advance notice for the above instances.
- F. All interested participants must reapply annually for the Scholarship Program. Applications from individuals, who have not fulfilled FAST's team support requirements for the previous year, shall be denied.

- G. FAST reserves the right to terminate any and all scholarship assistance at any point during the fiscal year, due to extreme financial crisis of the team. FAST shall give 30 days notification to the member upon revocation of the scholarship assistance in this instance.
- H. In the event that the maximum scholarship funds available have been disbursed and additional applications are received, a waiting list shall be established based on the date of approval of the application. Upon dismissal of a scholarship member or availability of additional funds, scholarship assistance shall be offered based on position on the waiting list.
- I. Scholarships will be selected on an objective and nondiscriminatory basis. Any FAST athlete of any age and ability may apply as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.
- J. This list shall not be considered all-inclusive, and FAST reserves the right to refuse financial assistance to a swimmer, family, group.
- K. Swimmer(s) and swimmer(s) family are responsible for meeting team support requirements. Family is expected to cover the cost of unfilled team support requirements and/or any late or no-show fees involved with team support requirements.