



Scholarship and Financial Assistance 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 for the FAST Falcons.

Philosophy: The FAST Falcons strongly believes that community members should have the opportunity to participate in a competitive swim team regardless of financial status.

I. Eligibility. – (Must meet at least 1 of the following criteria)

- A. Applicant must qualify for and participate in the Free or Reduced-Price lunch program thru the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
- B. Applicant must qualify for and participate in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Educational Options Program. <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/k-12-scholarship-programs/fes/> -
- C. FAST Falcons will not cover the following costs associated with swim team membership:
 - 1. USA Swimming membership fees (USA-Swimming has an Outreach Membership; we can direct you to the application).
 - 2. Meet entry fees
 - 3. Swim wear and required equipment

II. Verification.

- A. A Letter from the appropriate school district verifying participation in the Free or Reduced-Price NSLP Lunch Program for the current or upcoming school year.
- B. A letter from the appropriate school verifying participation in the Family Empowerment Scholarship Educational Options Program.
- C. Current verification requirements must be met before consideration of the application for the upcoming fiscal year. FAST Falcons fiscal year runs from April 1st to March 31st.

III. Application.

- A. Individuals may obtain a Financial Assistance application form at the front desk of FAST. The completed application form must be accompanied by verification.
- B. The FAST Falcons Scholarship Committee 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.

IV. Guidelines for the Scholarship Approval Process.

- A. Circle Square Foundation shall determine the availability of scholarship funds within the upcoming fiscal year's budget each March.
- 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. All program participants granted financial assistance shall remain in good standing with program instructors 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 Falcons volunteer requirements may also be grounds for dismissal from program. Revocation of scholarship assistance may be effective immediately, without advance notice for the above instances.
- E. All interested participants must reapply annually for the Scholarship Program. Applications from members, who have not fulfilled the volunteer requirements for the previous year, shall be denied.
- F. The FAST Falcons reserves the right to terminate all scholarship assistance at any point during the fiscal year, due to extreme financial crisis of the team. In this extreme case FAST Falcons shall give 30 days' notification to the member upon revocation of the scholarship assistance.



G. If 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.

H. This list shall not be considered all-inclusive, and FAST Falcons reserves the right to refuse financial assistance.

I. In cases of temporary extreme financial hardship, a member family may apply to the Scholarship Committee. Temporary assistance may be granted if scholarship money is available.