



Las Cruces Aquatic Club Financial Assistance Policy

Purpose: This policy is intended to regulate the granting of financial assistance for Las Cruces Aquatic Team (LCAT) participating swimmers in need of financial support.

Philosophy: Las Cruces Aquatic Club (LCAC) strongly believes that community members should have the opportunity to participate with a competitive swim team regardless of financial status.

Availability of Funds: The LCAC Board of Directors shall determine the availability of scholarship funds within the upcoming fiscal year's budget each August.

I. Eligibility:

- A. Parents/guardians of current or prospective LCAT swimmers may apply for financial assistance.
- B. An applicant must provide proof of the athlete's demonstrated financial need. Examples of proof include, but are not limited to, current USA Swimming "outreach" membership, current Medicaid card, or current SNAP or EBT card. The applicant may also be asked to provide their prior year's proof of income (e.g., W-2, income tax return, etc.).
- C. Current LCAT swimmers applying for financial assistance must be in good financial standing (e.g., no outstanding balance, fulfillment of fundraising commitment, etc.) and good team standing (e.g., satisfactory attendance, good behavior, Safe Sport compliance, etc.). The swimmer's parent/guardian can verify their current standing with the LCAC Board President.

II. Types of Financial Assistance:

- A. Financial assistance will NOT cover the following costs associated with swim team membership:
 - (1) USA Swimming membership fees
 - (2) LCAT annual registration fees
 - (3) LCAT fundraising requirements
 - (4) LCAT family volunteer requirements

B. Financial assistance may include the following types of support (this is not an all-inclusive list):

- (1) Reduction in monthly dues, short-term or long-term
- (2) Reduction in swim meet entry fees
- (3) Reduction in team travel fees
- (4) Cost-sharing for family travel meets
- (5) In-kind assistance (e.g., swimsuit, equipment, apparel, etc.)

III. Application Process:

- A. Families interested in receiving financial assistance from LCAC must submit an online application. The application can be accessed on our team website or by requesting the link by emailing lasrucesaquaticclub@gmail.com. The application must contain complete and true information. Incomplete or falsified information shall result in denial of requests and/or revocation of granted requests.
- B. The LCAC Board President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall review all applications for financial assistance, to include verifying that eligibility requirements have been met, and shall make a collective recommendation to the LCAC Board of Directors for approval or disapproval of the request, the type of aid to be granted if approved, and the duration of the aid if approved. All information provided shall otherwise be kept confidential.
- C. The LCAC Board of Directors shall, after considering the recommendation of the LCAC Board President, Vice President, and Treasurer, approve or deny the application by a majority vote.
- D. All applicants must allow thirty (30) days for processing of their application. Applicants will be notified by email, mail, or phone of their application status.
- E. Parents/guardians who accept aid will be required to sign a financial aid contract and must sign an acknowledgment of the terms and conditions for receipt of aid.
- F. Any questions regarding the application can be answered by contacting the LCAC Board President.

IV. Sustaining and Renewing Aid

- A. All program participants granted financial assistance shall remain in good standing with LCAT, LCAC, and USA Swimming. All approved applicants will be required to sign an acknowledgement of the terms and conditions of receiving financial assistance. For example, unsportsmanlike conduct and/or conduct detrimental to the program shall be grounds for removal of all financial assistance present and future. Failure to meet LCAC's fundraising or volunteer requirements may also be grounds

for dismissal from the program. Revocation of financial assistance may be effective immediately, without advance notice for the above instances.

- B. Upon completion of the duration of financial assistance stated in the contract, a new application is required in order to receive further aid, whether it is a request for the same type of aid previously received or a new type of aid. Requests should be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the existing contract to allow sufficient time for processing.
- C. Applications from individuals who have not fulfilled LCAC's fundraising or volunteer requirements for the previous year shall be denied.
- D. LCAC reserves the right to terminate any and all financial assistance at any point during the fiscal year, in favor of the best financial interests of the team. LCAC shall give thirty (30) days notice to current recipients in the event of revocation of financial assistance in this instance.
- E. 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.

This policy was last updated and approved by the LCAC Board of Directors on February 19, 2025.