



Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program

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

- 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 or Reduced-Price lunches thru NSLP may be eligible for a partial scholarship to cover Swim Team tuition.
- C. FAST Falcons will **not** cover the following costs associated with swim team membership:
 - 1. USA Swimming membership fees
 - 2. Meet entry fees
 - 3. Swim wear and required equipment
 - 4. Falcons' annual registration fee

II. Verification.

- 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. Current verification requirements must be met 30 days prior to the upcoming season for which assistance is requested. See 'season' definition on p. 2.

III. Application.

- A. Individuals may obtain a Financial Assistance application form from the Falcons team website or obtain a hard copy from the front desk. 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 Falcons 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 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 seasonally* 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.

*Seasonally is defined below:

Short course season: September - March

Long Course season: April - August