

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

**Philosophy:** Stingray Swim Team strongly believes that community members should have the opportunity to participate in a competitive swim team regardless of financial status.

1. **Eligibility**
   1. Applicant’s family must qualify for Free or Reduced Price lunches thru the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).
   2. Applicant who qualify for Free Price lunches thru NSLP may be eligible for a flat monthly dues reduction of 50% per swimmer.
   3. SST will not cover the following costs associated with swim team membership:
      1. Annual fundraising requirement
      2. Other swimming organizations’ fees (USA Swimming and Alaska Swimming registration)
      3. Meet entry fees
      4. Required practice equipment
2. **Verification**
   1. A letter from the appropriate school district verifying participation in the Free NSLP Lunch Program for the current or upcoming school year.
   2. Current verification requirements must be met before consideration of the application for the upcoming fiscal year. SST’s fiscal year runs from September 1 to August 31.
3. **Application**
   1. Individuals may obtain a Financial Assistance application form on the SST website. The completed application form must be accompanied by one of the above forms of verification.
   2. The Stingray Swim Team Head Coach and Board of Directors shall review Financial Assistance applications. All information provided shall otherwise be kept confidential.
   3. All applications must allow thirty days for processing. Applicant will be notified by mail, email, or phone of their funding status.
4. **Guidelines for the Scholarship Approval Process**
   1. The SST Board of Directors shall determine the availability of scholarship funds within the upcoming fiscal year’s budget each September. The goal for scholarship funds shall be 5% of the total monthly dues collected per year.
   2. Financial Assistance applications must contain complete and true information. Incomplete or falsified information shall result in denial of requests.
   3. Applicants must meet the requirements of eligibility described in Section I, Eligibility.
   4. Financial assistance shall not be granted for meet entries, USA Swimming membership, or equipment purchase.
   5. 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 SST’s fundraising or 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.
   6. All interested participants must reapply annually for the Scholarship Program. Applications from individuals, who have not fulfilled SST’s fundraising or volunteer requirements for the previous year, shall be denied.
   7. SST 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. SST shall give 30 days notification to the member upon revocation of the scholarship assistance in this instance.
   8. 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.
   9. This list shall not be considered all-inclusive, and SST reserves the right to refuse financial assistance.