



Sioux Falls Swim Team Policy: Jason Ahrendt and Barry Hein Award of Excellence

The Sioux Falls Swim Team will annually award one \$1,000 college scholarship known as the Jason Ahrendt and Barry Hein Award of Excellence, to a SFST high school senior in recognition of their contribution to our team.

Eligibility Requirements:

In order to be eligible for the Ahrendt-Hein Scholarship, applicants must be:

- 1) A graduating high school senior
- 2) A member in good standing of the Sioux Falls Swim Team; such as not on a team suspension and their account is not delinquent
- 3) Intending to continue with their formal education in the fall directly following high school graduation. The applicant's intent to swim/not swim in college is NOT a factor in determining the scholarship recipient.
- 4) A complete application submitted on or before the official deadline (the first Monday in February)

Each applicant must submit the following:

- 1) A completed application form
- 2) An essay describing the following: 1) the applicant's contributions to the Sioux Falls Swim Team, 2) the applicant's contributions to their community or school, and 3) the applicant's aspirations for their future. The essay should not exceed 250 words.
- 3) One letter of recommendation from an adult not related to the applicant and not associated with the Sioux Falls Swim Team. The letter of recommendation should be given directly to the applicant, and submitted with the formal application.

Responsibilities of the Board:

The following actions and timeline are the responsibility of the board/scholarship committee:

- 1) The SFST scholarship committee will consist of the following, all members agreed to by the board at large:
 - One scholarship chairperson, who may or may not be a member of the board
 - Two active board members, the members may not be related to any of the applicants
 - Two coaches
- 2) The chairperson will determine that year's scholarship dates (application deadline,

committee meeting deadline, and announcement date) and send an all-team email on the first Monday of December: the email will include the scholarship announcement (flyer) and the application form. The chairperson will send a second all-team reminder email the second week of January containing the same information.

- 3) The deadline for applications is February 1st, by 11:59pm. The scholarship chairperson and committee may include applications submitted within three days of the Monday deadline as they unanimously deem appropriate (confirmed computer problems, swimmer illness or extenuating circumstances).
- 4) The chairperson will review every application upon receipt for completeness, and confirm receipt of the application. By the second Monday in February, the chairperson will compile and email all applications to the members of the scholarship committee for independent review.
- 5) The chairperson will schedule one in-person committee meeting to determine the scholarship recipient. The award recipient will be determined by the Friday prior to the start of the South Dakota Short Course Championship.
 - Preference is not accorded to those planning on swimming competitively in college. The intent of the scholars is character/merit based; the applicant's swimming ability/times or financial need will not be considered.
- 6) Notification of award recipient:
 - All applicants will be notified of the scholarship committee's final decision by a member of the scholarship committee.
 - The chairperson will then send an all-team email congratulations to the scholarship recipient.
- 7) Dispensing the monetary award:
 - The chairperson will email (cc board treasurer) the scholarship recipient and their parents/family. This email will: 1) notify the recipient that the monetary award will be sent directly to their chosen college, 2) instruct the recipient to notify the chairperson and board treasurer once they have accepted admission into a college, 3) notify the recipient it is their responsibility upon enrollment to determine their college's procedure for accepting scholarship monies on behalf of the student and then relay the details (address, student account number, procedure) to the chairperson and board treasurer.
 - The board treasurer will complete the scholarship money transfer to the recipient's college - likely in August of that year.