

## Proposed Change to NJS Scholarship Policy

Historically, NJ Swimming awards scholarships to several athletes annually. These award checks are sent directly to the bursar at the athlete's institution to preserve the athletes' amateur status.

In the fall of 2014, new legislation was passed by the NCAA which prohibits the awarding of scholarships by National Governing Bodies (NGB) and their subsidiaries to athletes attending Division I institutions. Since NJS is a subsidiary of USA Swimming which is an NGB, these type of awards are no longer permitted. While the NCAA has set these standards and developed alternative procedures to grant aid to the athlete, certain institutions and conferences may have stricter prohibitions than those issued by the NCAA and their policies would super seed those of the NCAA.

As noted above these restrictions only apply to Division I institutions and from an NCAA standpoint would not apply to Div II and III schools. Again each institution and conference even those that are not Division I may have their own standards so it is incumbent on the awardees to seek council from the Compliance Officer within the Athletic Director's office to ensure they are eligible to receive the award.

After consultation with the NCAA and USA Swimming, athletes may use these awards to offset **unreimbursed** expenses relating to training and travel to sectional and national level meets such as Juniors (in HS senior year), Futures, Pro Series, Nationals, and Trial Class meets.

Once the athlete has received approval of the institution's Compliance Officer within the Athletic Director's office regarding this procedure, the athlete will need to complete a NJ Swimming expense report with supporting receipts and submit to the NJ Swimming office for those expenses. Reimbursement will be made directly to the athlete and deducted from the amount of the award. Such reimbursement will continue until the amount of the award is depleted. Any unused balance of the award will revert to NJ Swimming.

Athletes who have won this award should have obtained the approval of the athletic compliance officer of their institution before accepting this award. As a point of reference an athlete who signs a National Letter of Intent (NLI) is subject to the rules of the NCAA and the institution the athlete will attend in the fall of their freshman year.

Applications should be forwarded prior to July 31st of the year in which the swimmer graduates. The applications should be sent to the NJS Administrative Office and will be reviewed by the Senior Committee Chair and Scholarship Committee for recommendation of recipients to the NJS Board of Directors. Recommendations will be made and acted upon without reference to the individual's identity.