

NORTHWEST GEORGIA AQUATICS



Financial Assistance / Scholarship Policy

Effective Date: July 2018 (Updated June 2019)

Approved By: NWGA Board

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

Philosophy: NWGA strongly believes that all citizens should have the opportunity to participate with a competitive swim team regardless of financial status.

I. Financial Assistance Program:

1. Shall be limited to the amount of money deemed available for the program by the NWGA Board each year.
2. Assistance is limited to one swimmer per family.
3. Shall be awarded each swim season: September – August

II. Eligibility

1. Must be an NWGA USA Registered Team Swimmer (Silver group is excluded).
2. To qualify for this scholarship, swimmers must demonstrate financial need through either of the following:
 1. Applicant's family must qualify for Free or Reduced Price lunches thru the USDA School Lunch Program or NSLP
 2. Due to sudden or extenuating circumstance or a life changing event, swimmer's family must receive assistance to continue in the swim program.

****If circumstances change and assistance is no longer needed, please notify the NWGA Board as soon as possible so monies can be allocated to another family in need.*****

3. Swimmers must attend at least 2/3 of all monthly practices available for their assigned group.
4. Monthly dues are always paid in advance. The scholarship dollars that are awarded will be applied to your account after you pay your portion of the dues. Failure to pay your portion by the 7th of each month may result in loss of assistance.
5. Swimmers shall demonstrate a firm commitment to their own development as a swimmer as well as to the team. Interested applicants or their family members should write a short statement indicating:
 1. Why their swimmer wants to swim.

2. How the swimmer will demonstrate their commitment to their own development as a swimmer.
3. How the swimmer will demonstrate their commitment to the team.
6. Swimmers and family members must fulfill volunteer and fundraising requirements over the course of the season. Swimmers not participating in fundraising activities will be assessed fees without discount.
7. Discounts will apply to swim team monthly dues. NWGA will not cover the costs associated with other organizations (i.e. USA Swimming) however, USA Swimming Membership fees may be assessed at a deeply discounted rate at the Board's discretion. NWGA will not cover any costs associated with meet entry fees or required equipment.
8. Recipients will not be eligible for any other discounts (i.e. family or quarterly payment, etc.)
9. Applicants who qualify for financial assistance will be offered the following fee schedule:
 1. September - August: Reduction of monthly dues by 50%.
 2. The Board may grant exceptions to cover additional costs.

III. Verification

1. A letter from the appropriate school district verifying participation in the Free or Reduced Price NSLP for either the current or upcoming school year.

or

2. Updated verification requirements must be met before NWGA Financial Assistance is provided.

IV. Application

1. Individuals may apply for Financial Assistance by filling out the NWGA application form on our website or at the CAC office and by producing one of the above forms of verification.
2. Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. All applications will be placed on a waiting list in the order they were received and reviewed by the board.
3. The NWGA Board shall review the Financial Assistance Applications. All information provided will be kept confidential.
4. All applications must allow thirty days for processing. Applicants will be notified by email or phone of their funding status.
5. NWGA does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations.

V. General Guidelines for the reduction of fees

1. Financial Assistance must contain complete and true information. Incomplete or falsified information shall result in denial of requests.
2. Applicants must meet the requirements of eligibility described in **Section II. Eligibility**.
3. Financial assistance may be denied when granting such assistance shall have a significant detrimental effect on the operation of the program.
4. Financial assistance shall not be granted for Meet Entries, USA-Swimming Memberships, or Equipment Purchase.
5. All program participants granted financial assistance shall remain in good standing with program instructors and NWGA. Unsportsmanlike conduct and/or conduct detrimental to the program by any family member shall be grounds for removal of all financial assistance present and future.
6. This list shall not be considered all-inclusive, and NWGA reserves the right to refuse financial assistance to anyone.