



## MESI CLUB FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

The MESI Club Financial Support Program is established to provide aid to clubs who are in need of financial assistance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. MESI clubs may apply for funding for the following categories:

- **Round 1** - Dire immediate need to keep clubs viable
- **Round 2** - Funding for successful reopening of clubs post-pandemic

**Tiers** - Total aid disbursed will not exceed \$12,500 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year ending August 31, 2020. Funding will be broken down into the following tiers:

- Tier 1:* Rebate of MESI athlete registration surcharges collected from the club from September 1, 2020 - March 12, 2020 of up to \$11 per premium (year-round) athlete registration, \$13 per season 1 athlete registration, and \$10 per flex athlete registration.
- Tier 2:* For clubs who had meets scheduled between April 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020 as approved by the MESI House of Delegates during the 2019 Annual Meeting and who will be unable to reschedule these meets prior to the end of the 2019-2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, rebate of a portion of the anticipated meet entry fee revenue for this year's meet in amounts up to, but not exceeding, 85% of the total meet entry fees collected for this same meet during the 2018-2019 season as disclosed on the required Meet Financial Report and Team Entry Fee Report.

**Eligibility** - In order to be eligible to apply for this financial assistance, clubs must:

- Be currently registered and in good standing with MESI;
- Show demonstrable current and anticipated financial losses as a result of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., Profit & Loss financial statement for current and prior fiscal years; Profit & Loss actual vs. budget comparison for current and prior fiscal years, current bank statements, etc.);
- Show proof of application for any and all local, state, and federal assistance including, but not limited to, the Small Business COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, the Payroll Protection Program, and any other grant/loan opportunities, if eligible;
- Disclose the amount and type of any and all funds received through local, state, and federal assistance including, but not limited to, the Small Business COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, the Payroll Protection Program, USA Swimming's COVID-19 Relief Program for Teams, MESI's Club Financial Support Program, and any other grant/loan opportunities;
- Have incurred continued operating expenses, excluding payroll; and
- Provide a comprehensive return to viability plan, including an amended budget reflecting the use of received and/or expected grants and other available resources.

**Applications** - Application for financial assistance must be made on the form designated for this purpose.

**Application Review Considerations** - Requests will be considered individually with strongest consideration given to those requests that demonstrate the greatest need as determined by the Finance Committee. In evaluating applications, the Finance Committee will consider the following:

- If clubs have achieved Safe Sport Club Recognition status;
- If clubs have provided documentation of demonstrable financial losses as a result of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;



- If clubs have submitted all necessary forms, reports, and fees as outlined in Section 900 of the MESI Policies and Procedures for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 seasons;
- If clubs have shown a long-term ability to return to operation through their comprehensive return to viability plan;
- If clubs have exhausted their reserves; and
- If clubs have received outside funds and/or have identified opportunities and initiated plans to secure additional funds through local, state, and federal assistance.

#### **Timeline –**

- The first round of applications for those clubs in dire need must be received by no later than June 15, 2020. MESI Club Financial Support Program aid determinations for the first round will be completed by the Finance Committee by June 25, 2020. First round disbursements are expected to be distributed by June 30, 2020.
- If funds are still available after first round disbursements have been made, there will be a second round of applications for those clubs still in need of additional support to return to operation. These applications must be received by no later than August 15, 2020 and will be evaluated on a first-come first-served basis in conjunction with the Application Review Considerations listed above. MESI Club Financial Support Program aid determinations for the second round will be completed by the Finance Committee by no later than August 25, 2020. Second round disbursements will be distributed prior to the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

#### **Additional Information –**

- Appeal of the decision may be made to the Finance Committee immediately upon notification. Applicants may be required to provide additional information in a timely manner to support their appeal. Following an appeal and its consideration, the decision of the Finance Committee will be final.
- Regardless of aid received in the first round of applications, all clubs may still apply for future aid should it be available.
- Prior to disbursing any MESI Club Financial Support Program aid, the club will be required to sign a letter of agreement acknowledging that the awarded funds will be used for the specific purpose(s) stated in the final application as submitted.
- Disbursement of funds will be made by the MESI Treasurer under the direction of the MESI Finance Vice-Chair after approval by the MESI Board of Directors.