



FINANCIAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE POLICY

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for families experiencing financial hardship to help ensure every child/youth can participate equally.

Background

Netball Alberta is a community based non-profit organisation dedicated to fostering and promoting a safe, disciplined, respectful, team-oriented programme where boys and girls can learn the fundamentals of netball, develop skills to be competitive in the game, and build the essential characteristics of good sportsmanship and strong character.

Netball Alberta understands that our community, families, households and individuals may suffer financial difficulty from time to time. Financial hardship can present challenges to meeting primary needs, much less discretionary activities. Netball Alberta acknowledges the role of sports in the personal, physical and emotional development of a child/youth. It is the philosophy of Netball Alberta that no child/youth should be turned away from recreational sports activities due to cost or affordability.

Netball Alberta works hard to manage the expenses of the organization in order to deliver a quality program at a reasonable cost. Although we manage our funds such that the collected programme fees largely fund our programmes, Netball Alberta will consider various forms of payment arrangements to ensure that all children and youth can participate.

Process

To be considered for Financial Hardship Assistance, the parent or guardian of the child/youth must submit a request (by letter or email) to the President of Netball Alberta (president@netballalberta.com). The financial hardship request will be kept confidential. Only the members of the Netball Alberta Executive will have knowledge of the request.

The letter should include the following:

- Player's name, age and grade at school (in order to qualify for financial hardship assistance the child/youth must be aged 17 or less at the time of application).
- Parent/Guardian's name, address, phone number and e-mail address
- Reason for the request.
- Programmes impacted (eg. Fall League, Winter League, Spring League, Tournaments, Specialist Training Programmes, Summer Camp, Training Camp etc.)
- Proposed payment plan, if any.

Upon receipt of the letter, the President will review with the Netball Alberta Executive members. The Executive will vote to approve, counter or deny the request. An official quorum of the board must be present to decide a hardship request.

The President will communicate the decision and any related payment plan by letter or email to the Applicant.

The Applicant shall make payment, if any, as stipulated in the decision letter, to Netball Alberta via cash or cheque.

Limitation on Financial Assistance

- Financial hardship assistance is only available to children/youth aged 17 or under at the time of application.
- All approved Financial Hardship Arrangements will expire at the end of each league (eg. Fall/Winter, Spring, Summer Camp etc).
- Financial Hardship Arrangement recipients should expect to pay a minimum of \$50 per season/event/camp.
- Netball Alberta may require the applicant to submit a request for a relevant participation grant, eg. KidSport (http://www.kidsport.ab.ca/main/documents/calgary/calgary_applicant_and_sport_club/KS-AB-Application-Calgary-2012-2013.pdf)
- This policy applies to all Netball Alberta events/programmes. It does not include uniform and/or equipment orders.
- The player must consistently attend practices and games.
- Payment arrangements may include volunteering and fundraising in support of Netball Alberta. For example:
 - Participating in Netball Alberta supported fundraising events or volunteer opportunities.
 - Coaching, umpiring or similar assistance.
 - Other needs of Netball Alberta, to be determined by the Netball Alberta Executive, as may arise.
- **The decision to offer Financial Hardship Assistance is solely at the discretion of the Netball Alberta Executive.**