

Black Hills Lacrosse
Association
Financial Assistance Policy and
Procedure
(2015 Playing Season)

Financial Aid Policy

1. All families requesting Financial Assistance must complete the Financial Aid application online during the registration process @ www.blackhillslacrosse.com
2. As part of its annual budget, BHLA will determine a dollar amount that will be set aside as a Financial Assistance Fund. The total amount of Assistance that is awarded to all families cannot exceed the amount budgeted.
4. Financial Assistance is designed to help families get through periods of financial stress. It is not designed as an annual subsidy, however BHLA will consider aid each year to any family who applies, **up to a maximum of three years of aid granted**. BHLA requires that each family apply **every** year, even if there is no change in family financial status from a previous year/application. No aid can be considered without an application. Preference will be given to those applicants whose families qualify for public assistance programs such as school lunch subsidies, medical assistance and unemployment insurance. Please indicate the assistance programs that you currently qualify for in the on-line application.
5. Financial Assistance will be provided to cover BHLA Registration fees. Assistance will **not** be granted for US Lacrosse Fee- which is processed and paid on-line by each player.
6. Each year, funds will be solicited from donors for an **“Emergency Travel Expenses Fund.”** Families may send a letter to the Board of Directors requesting aid if they expect to have difficulty providing enough funds to cover the costs of travel. However, there is no guarantee that funds will be available. Funds will be completely dependent on donations. The decision to provide aid for travel expenses, provided funds are available, is made by the Board of Directors.
7. If the financial aid budget has been maximized for the current season, a **“Supplemental High School Scholarship Fund”** may be activated to address emergency requests for players at this level. The Head Coach (or his/her designee) and 1 other coach from that level, will work with the Financial Aid Committee Chair to review and determine award eligibility for each request. Funding for the Supplemental High School Scholarship Fund will be raised by members of BHLA through donations, fund raising activities, etc. and is not part of the Financial Aid Budget.
8. Families receiving Assistance will be required to provide volunteer hours to BHLA by working in any capacity such as but not limited to, concessions, field set up and maintenance, scorekeeping, etc. This requirement is documented in the award letter that is mail to each award recipient. The family must report their hours worked to the Financial Aid Committee

Chairperson. **Volunteer hours for families receiving aid are 10 hours for any team player.**

9. Families who do not fulfill their Financial Assistance volunteer obligation (as specified and documented between the awarded family and RHA Points Coordinator) **will not** be eligible for aid in subsequent years.

10. Financial Assistance is provided at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of Black Hills Lacrosse Association. All information is kept confidential.

11. The BHLA Board is requiring each player to send a handwritten thank-you letter, with first name only. These will be mailed to BHLA Sponsors who have provided the funding for the season's financial aid budget. Your thank you letter or card is also proof that their donation is being put to good work.

12. Aid awards will be based on need and available funds.

13. All fundraising carried out by the families will be considered credits against financial aid provided by BHLA. BHLA will not write checks for fundraising completed.

14. **NOTE: In order to ensure confidentiality, families will be required to apply online at www.blackhillslacrosse.com at the time of registration. Any other handwritten applications given directly to various BHLA members or coaches will not be accepted. No exceptions.**

Financial Aid Procedure

The following identifies the procedure for financial aid awards to Black Hills Lacrosse Association members for known available funding for the current playing year.

1. Prospective recipient must complete the application on-line at the time of registration. Instructions on the form must be followed to ensure the application submitted is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

2. The Financial Aid Committee appointed by the Black Hills Lacrosse Association Board of Directors will evaluate each request based on the application and available funds.

3. Only applications **completed in full** will receive final recommendation by this committee and the BHLA BOD. All families are required to pay the US Lacrosse- paid on-line.

4. The committee will meet to evaluate financial need based on the application submitted. This Committee will make recommendations to the Black Hills Lacrosse Association Board of Directors of potential aid awards.

5. The Black Hills Lacrosse Association Board of Directors will receive recommendations from the committee with supporting detail and will review the committee's recommendations and approve, if appropriate.

6. The Financial Aid Committee will communicate via **email**, acceptance or denial to every applicant as quickly as possible. The email will explain the amount of aid approved and how your account will be credited.

7. On selection of financial aid there will be required volunteer service of 10 hours for players. These hours will be documented by the Financial Aid Committee. Some examples of volunteer work include concession stand shifts, tournament scorekeeping, field set up, or other work as needed and specified in the award letter mailed to each family.