



DSTHL Scholarship Policy

While the League understands the need for Member Associations to provide financial aid to players or families in need (the "Recipient"), the League does not advocate and will not tolerate the utilization of finances as a method of recruitment of players. A scholarship should be a needs-based phenomenon.

Therefore, Member Associations may offer scholarships (partial or full) to Recipients who provide proof of financial need. Further, the Member Associations must have a needs-based system in place for any such financial aid including, but not limited to, a scholarship fund and a scholarship policy (the "Needs-Based Policy").

That said, the League acknowledges that each Member Association has its own Needs-Based Policy in place. The League respectfully requires that Member Associations be transparent in that regard and will, therefore, require written confirmation of the following components of said Needs-Based Policy **by the earlier of October 1, of the current DSTHL season, or upon request by the League:**

- (1) total value of available scholarship funds
- (2) list of donors (if there are donors providing financial support to the scholarship fund)
- (3) copy of the Needs-Based Policy
- (4) copy of the Recipient Application requesting proof of financial need (There are various ways to demonstrate need, such as providing proof of: gross or net income, receipt of Medicaid, care for foster children, receipt of food stamps, enrollment in a free or reduced-cost school lunch program, an immediate financial hardship, etc.)
- (5) a description of how Recipients are determined and whether or not such decisions are made prior to or after tryouts
- (6) once the Member Association has granted the scholarship(s), the name of each Recipient must be provided to the League in order that any reported/suspected violations of the DSTHL Scholarship Policy may immediately be dismissed or investigated, as may be the case.

The above information shall be seen only by the Executive Committee and shall remain private/confidential and shall not be shared outside of the Committee.

If any Member Association is reported or suspected of providing financial aid outside of the League's established and appropriate process, the League has the right to conduct an investigation and the Member Organization **MUST**, upon request by the League, provide the League with the following:

- documentation related to the needs-based application of a specific player,
- proof of payment by such player for any player registration fees, or
- a combination thereof.

During such investigation, said player will be suspended from League play until the burden of proof has been met.

Any player determined guilty of accepting financial aid as a recruitment tool will be suspended from League for the balance of the season. Any Member Association found guilty of providing financial aid outside of this DSTHL Scholarship Policy shall be fined Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars, payment of which must be received by the League within thirty (30) days. Non-payment of such fine could result in the Member Organization's team or teams not being eligible to participate in that current season's playoffs or the Member Association being removed from League membership the following season.