

STMA GFA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICES/PROCEDURES

Goal

STMA Girls Fastpitch Association (STMA GFA) strives to provide an opportunity for every child who wants to play in the STMA GFA program. The STMA GFA Financial Assistance Fund is used to provide financial assistance to participants that demonstrate a financial need under the provisions of this program. In an effort to ensure a fair, non-prejudicial process for evaluating requests for financial assistance. The STMA GFA will employ the following Policies/Procedures for making its determinations:

Financial Assistance Fund

As part of its annual budget, STMA GFA will determine a dollar amount that will be set aside as a financial assistance fund. These funds will be used to help offset player's fees that, because of financial reasons request assistance. Funding for the program comes from additional budget dollars designated for financial assistance at the discretion of the STMA GFA Board. The total amount of assistance awarded cannot exceed the amount budgeted for assistance.

Criteria for Assistance

- All players that meet the eligibility requirements to play in the STMA GFA are eligible to apply for financial assistance.
- The applicant must be in good standing with STMA GFA and exhibit a general financial need.
- Preference will be given to those applicants whose families qualify for public assistance programs such as school lunch subsidies, medical assistance and unemployment insurance. Additional consideration will be given to but not limited to applicants experiencing long-term hardship circumstances and with 2 or more children participating in the program.
- Assistance is granted on a per season basis. **Applicants must reapply each season.**
- The total amount granted will not exceed 60% of the total STMA GFA registration fees except in extreme hardship situations as determined by the Board.
- Assistance may only be applied toward registration fees only. Other costs may be associated with the program, such as tournament fees, additional uniform items etc., remain the responsibility of the applicant.

Application Process

- Applicants must submit a confidential financial assistance application to the attention of the STMA GFA President.
- Applications submitted after the first tryout date may not be considered.
- The Financial Assistance Committee, which consists of the STMA GFA President, Vice President, Treasurer, and IT Director will review all applications and determine the grants based on eligibility, the total number of applicants, the amount of available funds, and other factors considered relevant by the committee.
- The Financial Assistance Committee reserves the right to request additional information at the time the assistance is being considered.

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- Applicant's names and all information provided will be kept strictly confidential. Only the Financial Assistance Committee will review the applications.
- All decisions of the Financial Assistance Committee are final; there is no appeal process.
- Recipients of financial assistance will be expected to perform volunteer work for the STMA GFA unless there are unusual circumstances for which the Board determines that volunteer work should not be required.
- One hour of volunteer work shall equate \$15.00 for the purpose of determining the number of volunteer hours required to satisfy the amount of financial assistance received. Financial assistance recipients must still satisfy the standard volunteer hours required as well as additional hours incurred for the amount of the financial assistance received.

The STMA GFA Board reserves the right to deviate from these policies and procedures, upon a majority vote of all members where such deviation is necessitated by unusual circumstances unique to the applicant or his/her family.