

Player Scholarship Program: Overview, Policies, and Procedures

Approved May 10, 2018



I. Purpose

The purpose of the Auburn Soccer Association *Player Scholarship Program* is to further the association's mission by awarding financial aid to ensure that all children and youth in the Auburn community who wish to play soccer are able to do so.

II. Overview

Limited financial aid is available for families who meet Auburn Soccer Association's *Player Scholarship Program* guidelines. Financial aid is awarded based on need on a first-come, first-served basis, once the application is complete, until approved funds are exhausted. Scholarships are granted per season for Recreational League players and per soccer year for Academy and Advanced League players.

III. Player Scholarship Fund

The *Player Scholarship* account is included in the Auburn Soccer Association's annual budget. The account's minimum amount is set at \$10,000.00 from which all non-CDBG scholarship disbursements are approved by the Board of Directors. The account is separated into three sub-accounts: funds earmarked for Recreational League scholarships, funds earmarked for Academy and Advanced League scholarships, and funds not earmarked that may be used as needed. The Player Scholarship account is funded from the following sources:

1. \$1 from each Recreational Player's registration fee; 100% earmarked for Recreational League Scholarships.
2. \$5 from each Academy and Advanced League's (i.e., "Auburn Thunder") Club fee. \$4 is earmarked for Academy and Advanced League Scholarships; \$1 is earmarked for Recreational League Scholarships.
3. Proceeds from the Auburn Soccer Association Futsal League. 80% is earmarked for Academy and Advanced League Scholarships; 20% is earmarked for Recreational League Scholarships.
4. Proceeds from all Tournaments hosted by the Auburn Soccer Association (e.g., Thunder Road, 3v3 Tournament). 70% is earmarked for Academy and Advanced League Scholarships; 30% is earmarked for Recreational League Scholarships.

5. Voluntary contributions made during the player registration process. Funds contributed via Recreational League registrations are earmarked for Recreational League Scholarships; Funds contributed via Academy and Advanced League registrations are earmarked for Academy and Advanced League Scholarships.

6. CDBG Sports Voucher Program The City of Auburn has allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to pay registration fees for youths (up to age 18) to participate in sports programs available through the Auburn Parks and Recreation Department. CDBG funds may be used to pay a portion of the recipients Recreational Soccer registration fees or the Academy and Advanced League Club fee, up to \$50.00 per scholarship.

7. Proceeds from fundraisers (e.g., raffles). Funds are earmarked for the participating player's respective league (i.e., Academy and Advanced League player's proceeds are earmarked for Academy and Advanced League Scholarship; Recreational League player's proceeds are earmarked for Recreational League Scholarship).

8. At any time, the Board may vote to pay additional amounts into the Player Scholarship account, based on the facts and available funds.

IV. Scholarship Amounts

For Recreational League players, the scholarship pays the Registration Fee (\$65), which includes socks and a jersey.

For Academy and Advanced League players, the scholarship pays travel team expenses for Fall and Spring seasons. Club fees (\$235) are the sole responsibility of the player, the player's family, and/or the team. Additional expenses not covered by the scholarship may include—but are not limited to—lodging, meals, fuel and other vehicle related expenses, and entertainment.

V. Supplemental Aid for Player Equipment: Recreational League

Upon request, to help players purchase proper equipment (e.g., shorts, cleats, ball, shinguards), a supplemental scholarship amount of up to \$30 may be awarded in the form of a Gift Card or voucher at the discretion of League Sports Coordinator. All grants of supplemental aid above \$30 must be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee and approved by the Board.

VI. Application Period

For Recreational League players, the scholarship application period is the same as the regular online registration period: beginning the first day of online registration and ending the last

weekday of registration. The official application period shall be posted online at AuburnAlabama.org/Soccer/Youth.

For Academy and Advanced League players, the application period ends 30 days from the date that team selections are announced. All Academy and Advanced League applicants must first be selected to a team and must complete the scholarship application before a final decision can be made on the total scholarship amount. Applications for Spring-only scholarships may be submitted by new players (i.e., selected during Fall Evaluations) during the 30-day period from the date that team selections are announced. The official application period and deadline shall be posted online at AuburnThunderSoccer.com.

VII. Application Process

Step 1: Recreational League applicants must register for soccer at the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department (Harris Center, 425 Perry Street), at which time they request a *Sports Voucher Program Application for Assistance* form (see attached).

Step 1: Academy and Advanced League applicants must be selected for an Academy or Advanced League team before they can submit a scholarship application. *Sports Voucher Program Application for Assistance* forms are available at the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department (Harris Center, 425 Perry Street). Tryout information is available at AuburnThunderSoccer.com.

Step 2: All applicants must complete the *Sports Voucher Program Application for Assistance*, and provide all required documentation (see *VIII. Required Documentation*). Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Step 3: All applicants must contact the City of Auburn Community Development Division's Housing and Community Development Coordinator at 334-501-7280 to schedule an interview to review the *Sports Voucher Program Application*. Walk-ins will not be accepted. Community Development Division's approval of an application is based upon meeting the criteria set forth by the CDBG grant.

Step 4: Applications approved by the City of Auburn Community Development Division are reviewed by the Auburn Soccer Association's Scholarship Committee, and recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. Note: All applicants who meet the application requirements, but for whom CDBG funds are unavailable, or to whom CDBG *Sports Voucher Program* funds have already been awarded during the same calendar year, may still be approved by the Scholarship Committee.

Step 5: Applicants are notified by the League Sports Coordinator (Recreational League) or Director of Coaching (Academy or Advanced League), and the applicant's respective league registration process is thereby completed.

VIII. Required Documentation

In addition to a completed application form, the following documents are required to complete the *Sports Voucher Program Application* process:

1. A copy of social security cards for all household members to document the household size.
2. A copy of income verification (e.g., check stubs) to document monthly household income of all working adults
3. Verification of other sources of income, including but not limited to child support, alimony, etc.

IX. Eligibility: Recreational League Players

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or younger.
- Assistance is available to players residing in Auburn, only.
- Program participants will be eligible for CDBG assistance no more than two times per CDBG program year. This includes all sports.
- Applicants must meet the latest HUD income limits.
- A separate application must be completed for each participant (e.g., siblings).

X. Eligibility: Academy and Advanced League Players

- Applicants must first be selected for an Academy or Advanced League team by a formal evaluation process. Information is available at AuburnThunderSoccer.com.
- Applicants must be 18 years of age or younger.
- Assistance is available to players residing in Auburn, only.

- Applicant must meet the latest HUD income limits.
- A separate application must be completed for each participant (e.g., siblings).
- Scholarship recipients must sign a *Commitment Statement Form*, and pledge at least 10 hours of volunteer service to the club, as well as pledge to actively participate in each fundraising opportunity. See *XIII. Club Service Hours*.
- The Board of Directors reserves the right to deny any Academy or Advanced League applicant based on the Board's discretion.

XI. Limitations

1. No incomplete application will be accepted.
2. No scholarship application will be accepted, once the application period has ended.
3. No scholarship application will be considered for a player with an outstanding balance from a prior season(s).
4. No scholarship application will be considered for a player who received a scholarship in a prior season, but who did not meet the conditions agreed upon in the *Commitment Statement Form*.
5. Nothing in this policy precludes the ability of any Academy or Advanced League team to assist its players in paying Club and Team fees from its own team funds. However, all such payments must first be submitted to the Scholarship Committee for review, and then approved by the Board.
6. Nothing in this policy precludes the ability of a third party to assist a Recreational League player in paying a Registration fee. However, all such payments must first be submitted to the Scholarship Committee for review, and then approved by the Board.
7. All applicants who meet the application requirements, but for whom CDBG funds are unavailable, or to whom CDBG *Sports Voucher Program* funds have already been awarded during the same calendar year, may still be approved by the Scholarship Committee.
8. In the event that the CDBG Sports Voucher Program is abolished, the Scholarship Committee shall assume all Player Scholarship Program roles and responsibilities currently fulfilled by the City of Auburn Community Development Division's Housing and Community Development Coordinator.

9. If the Board of Directors votes to transfer excess money out of the Scholarship Fund, those funds shall no longer be considered earmarked (i.e., as defined in *III. Player Scholarship Fund*).

XII. Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee shall be composed of the Vice President, the Advanced League Director, the Recreational League Director, the League Sports Coordinator, and the Registrar.

XIII. Club Service Hours

As agreed upon in the signed *Commitment Statement Form*, all Academy and Advanced League scholarship recipients are required to fulfil at least 10 Club Service hours. Examples of activities accepted as “club service” include, but are not limited to, Work Day Volunteer, Tournament Field Marshal, Committee Member, Summer Futsal League Volunteer, and Team Manager. Club Service hours are monitored and tracked by the Registrar, and reported to the Scholarship Committee. A complete, updated list of eligible volunteer activities, including contact information, shall be maintained by the Scholarship Committee and posted on AuburnTunderSoccer.com.

XIV. Privacy Statement

All personal identifying information pertaining to the players and families of scholarship applicants and recipients shall be held in the utmost confidence.

XV. Advertising

Information on the scholarship application process shall be posted wherever official registration information is posted, including website, email, and brochures. Advertising is coordinated by the Auburn Soccer Association Public Relations Committee.

Parks & Recreation Use ONLY

Registered for: _____
Registration Fee: \$ _____
Parks & Rec. Staff: _____



City of Auburn

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Sports Voucher Program

Application for Assistance

The Sports Voucher Program is available to youth up to age 18

Date: _____

Participant's Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

School Currently Attending: _____

Grade: _____

Registration Information:

Participant is registering for the following sports activity (only check one activity):

T-Ball	Cheerleading	Track
Baseball	Flag Football	Start Smart
Softball	Tackle Football	Tennis
Basketball	Swimming	Soccer

Registering for activity advertised in the following Auburn Parks and Registration brochure:

Winter _____ (year) Spring _____ (year)
Summer _____ (year) Fall _____ (year)

Sports Voucher Program Registration Requirements:

- Assistance will not exceed \$50 per participant per activity.
- Assistance will only be provided for one sports activity per quarter.
- Program participant will only be eligible for assistance no more than two times per CDBG program year.
- Assistance is available to youth residing in Auburn only. Proof of residence required (e.g. utility bill, lease, etc.).
- Applicant must meet the HUD income limits (see the back for requirements).
- A separate application must be completed for each applicant (e.g., siblings).

Application Process:

- **Step 1:** Register for a sports activity at the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department.
- **Step 2:** Complete the Sports Voucher Program application (front and back); incomplete applications will NOT be accepted.
- **Step 3:** Contact the City of Auburn Community Development Division at 501-7280 to schedule an interview to review Sports Voucher Program application and to qualify for assistance; walk-ins will not be accepted.
 - Bring a copy of social security cards to the interview to document the household size for ALL household members.
 - Bring a copy of income verification (e.g., check stubs) to the interview to document monthly household income of all working adults AND other sources of income to include but not limited to child support, alimony, etc.

Household Information:

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Head of household (Circle one): Male OR Female

Ethnicity (Circle One): Black White Asian Hispanic Other _____

Number of person's residing in the home: _____ Household Income: \$ _____

List ALL household members below:

Name	Date of Birth	Employer	Monthly Income
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME			\$

*Applicant MUST provide documentation of the household income of all working adults AND a copy of each household member's social security card to document household size. Household income must document income for the month (example: weekly check stubs for the last four weeks). Income documentation must be for the most recent pay period or no later than the last four weeks from the date of application. Household income includes income of all working adults, child support, alimony, interest, etc. **The documentation MUST be attached to the application; application will not be accepted without household documentation.***

HUD Household Income Limits

Household Size	Maximum Household Income
1	\$33,150
2	\$37,900
3	\$42,650
4	\$47,350
5	\$51,150
6	\$54,950
7	\$58,750
8	\$62,550

Applicants whose household income exceeds the HUD income limits do NOT qualify for CDBG Sports Voucher Program.

I hereby acknowledge that the information recorded on this form is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate. I grant the City of Auburn permission to verify this information and understand that this information will be made available to authorized personnel working in the Community Development Block Grant program. I also understand that my request can be denied if I purposely withhold information or if I misrepresent the facts.

SIGNED: _____
Parent/Guardian

DATE: _____

**For questions regarding the Sports Voucher Program, please contact the
Community Development Division at 501-7280**

The City of Auburn Sports Voucher Program is federally funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD requires income and demographic information from all program participants.



Commitment Statement Form

I understand the commitment associated with accepting an Academy or Advanced League scholarship from the Auburn Soccer Association.

I will follow through with all responsibilities associated with accepting a scholarship, which include, but are not limited to:

- 10 hours of volunteer service to the club
- Participation in each individual fundraising opportunity

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____