

Rushmore Hockey Association
Financial Assistance Policy and Procedure
(Updated for 2019-2020 Playing Season)

Financial Aid Policy

1. All families requesting Financial Assistance must complete the Financial Aid application online during the registration process @ www.rushmorehockey.com
2. Applicants may apply for assistance for remaining fees, minus the \$100 (Travel) or \$50 (Mite/House) in raffle tickets. Any Player and Family receiving Financial Aid are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to sell as many raffle tickets as possible to defray their cost.
3. Any Player and Family receiving Financial Aid are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to sell wreaths in the RHA annual Christmas wreath fundraiser or any additional fundraising activities.
4. As part of its annual budget, RHA 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.
- 5.. Financial Assistance is designed to help families get through periods of financial stress. It is not designed as an annual subsidy, however RHA will consider aid each year to any family who applies. RHA 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.
6. Financial Assistance will be provided to cover RHA Registration fees and possibly equipment rental fees. Assistance will **not** be granted for USA Hockey Fee- which is processed and paid on-line by each player.
7. 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.
8. If the financial aid budget has been maximized for the current season, a **“Supplemental JV/Varsity 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 JV/Varsity Scholarship will be raised by members of RHA through donations, fund raising activities, etc. and is not part of the Financial Aid Budget.
9. Families receiving Assistance will be required to provide volunteer hours to RHA by working in any category described in the RHA Volunteer Policy (see item 5 in Policy). This requirement is documented in the award letter that is emailed to each award recipient. The family must report their hours worked to their Team Coordinator and the Financial Aid Committee Chair.
10. 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.
11. Financial Assistance is provided at the sole discretion of the Financial Aid Committee who reports to the RHA Board. All information is kept confidential.

12. The RHA Board is requiring each player to send a handwritten thank-you letter. Please mail your letter to the Financial Aid Committee at 2818 Nugget Gulch Road, Rapid City, SD 57702. These will then be mailed to RHA Sponsors who have provided the funding for the season's financial aid budget. If you would like your name withheld from the letter that is sent to the sponsor, please indicate that with your letter. Your thank you letter or card is also proof that their donation is being put to good work.

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

14. All fundraising carried out by the families will be considered credits against financial aid provided by RHA. RHA will not cut checks for fundraising completed.

15. NOTE: In order to ensure confidentiality, families will be required to apply online at www.rushmorehockey.com at the time of registration. Any other handwritten applications placed either at the Thunderdome or given directly to various RHA members or coaches will not be accepted. No exceptions.

Financial Aid Procedure

The following identifies the procedure for financial aid awards to Rushmore Hockey 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 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 RHA Board. All families are required to pay the USA Hockey fee- paid on-line.

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

5. The Rushmore Hockey Association Board of Directors will receive blind 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.