



# Madison 56ers Player Scholarships

## Description

The Madison 56ers Soccer Club was formed, in part, to provide a quality educational experience to help soccer players of all ages reach their maximum potential as soccer athletes, and to foster the growth of soccer and soccer-related education in the community. The Club is firmly dedicated to providing a soccer environment that will foster play at the highest level possible and allow all players to learn and grow to the best of their ability.

In order to effectively meet these Club objectives, and in recognition that meeting the financial obligations of Club participation may be difficult for some families, funds have been set aside for a scholarship program.

## The Scholarship Fund

On an annual basis, the board of directors shall approve a value of the scholarship fund, funded from general operations, during the annual budgeting process. Occasionally, the Club may also receive donations earmarked specifically for scholarships (donor-directed funds). The funds approved by the board from the general operating budget combined with any donor-directed funds will determine the maximum annual scholarship fund. Funds will typically be dispersed to eligible recipients in the order the applications are received. Donor-directed funds earmarked specifically for scholarships will be distributed first, and will always be used for scholarships. Funds allocated by the board from general operations may be returned to the general operating budget on an annual basis if scholarship awards do not equal or exceed budgeted scholarship funds.

## Eligibility

Scholarship eligibility is based strictly on financial need, and primarily takes into consideration gross monthly income adjusted for household size. Currently, qualification for a scholarship is based on the income guidelines established by the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in administering the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. At its discretion, the board of directors may substitute the NSLP guidelines for a suitable guideline of median annual income adjusted for household size. In addition, each year, the board of directors may decide on an Income Modifier intended to increase the amount of qualifying median income above the income guidelines. Currently, this modifier is set at 25%, meaning an income 25% higher than the NSLP guidelines will qualify. While attempting to remain as objective as possible, each application will be evaluated on its own merits. Additional extenuating circumstances may be considered when determining scholarship eligibility and/or calculating the scholarship amount.

In general, families are considered eligible for partial scholarships when household income levels are at or below the NSPL Reduced Lunch thresholds adjusted by the Income Modifier and full scholarships when income levels are at or below the NSPL Free Lunch thresholds adjusted by the Income Modifier.

The following represents the NPSL Free and Reduced Lunch income guidelines for 2015-2016. These guidelines will be **INCREASED** by the annual Income Modifier determined by the board. Currently, the Income Modifier is 25%.

Household Size	Free					Reduced Price				
	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per month	Every 2 weeks	Weekly	Yearly	Monthly	Twice per month	Every 2 weeks	Weekly
1	15,301	1,276	638	589	295	21,775	1,815	908	838	419
2	20,709	1,726	863	797	399	29,471	2,456	1,228	1,134	567
3	26,117	2,177	1,089	1,005	503	37,167	3,098	1,549	1,430	715
4	31,525	2,628	1,314	1,213	607	44,863	3,739	1,870	1,726	863
5	36,933	3,078	1,539	1,421	711	52,559	4,380	2,190	2,022	1,011
6	42,341	3,529	1,765	1,629	815	60,255	5,022	2,511	2,318	1,159
7	47,749	3,980	1,990	1,837	919	67,951	5,663	2,832	2,614	1,307
8	53,157	4,430	2,215	2,045	1,023	75,647	6,304	3,152	2,910	1,455
9	58,565	4,881	2,441	2,253	1,127	83,343	6,946	3,473	3,206	1,603
10	63,973	5,332	2,667	2,461	1,231	91,039	7,588	3,794	3,502	1,751
11	69,381	5,783	2,893	2,669	1,335	98,735	8,230	4,115	3,798	1,899
12	74,789	6,234	3,119	2,877	1,439	106,431	8,872	4,436	4,094	2,047
For Each Additional Household Member Add	5,408	451	226	208	104	7,696	642	321	296	148

Monthly = 12 pays/year; Twice per month = 24 pays/year; Every 2 weeks = 26 pays/year;  
Weekly = 52 pays/year

### Award Value

The actual scholarship value awarded will depend on the number of applications received and the size of the annual scholarship fund. Scholarships are intended to help offset the player registration fees. In most cases, awards will be “partial” scholarships and may not cover the entire registration. Families will be expected to contribute any remaining player expenses as well as team fees such as referee and/or tournament expenses, along with optional winter league fees. When a player is new to the club, the scholarship value may include a uniform allowance, but will be dependent on the demand for and availability of scholarship funds.

Except under extenuating circumstances, the club is unable to include travel expenses in scholarship awards. The team coach and manager can provide a schedule of competitions and anticipated team travel for the upcoming season.

### **The Scholarship Committee**

On an annual basis, the board of directors will determine a Scholarship Committee. Unless expressly appointed by the board, the scholarship committee shall consist of the acting Club President and Treasurer. At the time of drafting this policy, the board has expressly appointed a Scholarship Committee consisting of the Club's most recent past President. All scholarship applications will be kept in strict confidence by the Scholarship Committee. Scholarship eligibility, scholarship amount and any exceptions due to extenuating circumstances will be determined exclusively by the Scholarship Committee.

### **Application Procedures**

Step 1: Review the eligibility guidelines above. If the combined monthly gross income of all household members is equal to or less than the amount listed for the size of your household (adjusted by the Income Modifier), you may be eligible for scholarship assistance. If you do not meet the income threshold but feel you have extenuating financial circumstances, you may also be eligible for scholarship assistance.

Step 2: Contact the Club either via the phone number or email address listed on the Club's website to obtain an application form.

Step 3: Complete a Scholarship Application form.

Fill out Player Information, noting player's name and team assignment. Be sure to include all family members in the Club.

Provide Household Income information. Please identify each member of the household and note gross income (before all deductions) and how many times paid per month in the appropriate column.

Complete Household Member Information. The person submitting this application must be an adult member of the household. Please print and sign name, include phone number(s), and address.

Step 4: Attach supporting financial information. This should include prior-year tax returns or, if no returns are available, a recent copy of a current pay check. Scholarships are exclusively needs-based and consider the applicant's household income for the preceding year. The information provided on the application will be used only by the Scholarship Committee for the purpose of determining eligibility. All applications are kept strictly confidential.

**You do not have to provide the requested information but, if you do not, we cannot approve the scholarship application.**

Step 5: Return the completed application along with supporting financial information to the Madison 56ers office. The Scholarship Committee will process the application and notify the applicant family within two weeks of receiving the application. The player's coach and team manager will be notified if a scholarship is granted.

## **Other Information**

**If you need any assistance** in filling out the scholarship application, please contact the club office either via the phone number or email address listed on the Club's website.

If household member income levels change or if the household size changes, the family should fill out a new application or notify the Club for guidance. A household can apply/reapply as many times as needed during the season.

If a parent or guardian (household adult) is dissatisfied with the application decision, he/she may contact the Scholarship Committee for specific feedback on the application evaluation process and status, but please understand that because decisions are primarily based on objective, financial need, most decisions are final.

Please note that the **Madison 56ers Volunteer Policy** applies to all Club families, regardless of financial status. Scholarship awards neither increase nor decrease the number of volunteer credits families are required to contribute during the course of the year.