

**2013 -
2014**

Financial Assistance Policy



BEST FC Premier Soccer Club
2013 - 2014



Financial Assistance Program Committee Overview

1. The committee is made up of: BEST FC Executive Directors and General Managers.
2. The committee meeting date is the last week of June.
3. Committee manages the scholarships funds, reviews applications for assistance, and awards assistance, all within the Board Directors approved Budget and guidelines.

Each year BEST FC provides qualified youth soccer players, within Massachusetts, reduced fee assistance through the BEST FC Financial Assistance program.

Financial Assistance Policy

BEST FC may provide need-based financial assistance to qualified applicants based on the following criteria:

1. That the applicants gross annual income is under \$50,000.00.
2. That the applicant qualifies for assistance based on income and size of family.
3. The approval for assistance will be for BEST FC fiscal year in which the applicant applies for aid. The BEST FC fiscal year is August 1st through July 31st.
4. Approved applicants agree to volunteer to assist club sponsored activities for the fiscal year.
5. The applicant will be required to complete a new application form for each subsequent fiscal year they seek financial assistance.
6. The applicants must fill out COMPLETELY and ACCURATELY the application form and provide documentation to verify income and public assistance, if presently receiving.
7. The total annual amount of financial assistance awarded from BEST FC Financial Assistance Program will not exceed the budget amount as approved by the BEST FC Board of Directors.
8. There is no guarantee that an applicant will receive financial assistance.
9. Application forms will only be considered when received before respective Financial Assistance Deadlines as highlighted on Application Form. Applications received after deadline may not be considered.
10. Financial Assistance for BEST FC Teams, Youth Academy, camps and clinics is only available to registered BEST FC developmental/recreational or competitive players, on a fund-available basis.
11. Financial Assistance is available for BEST FC registration fees, and may be available for academies, camps and clinics. Financial assistance is not available on meals, travel, hotel, coaches per diem; social events; team awards; coaches gifts.
12. All financial assistance decisions are final. There are no appeals.



Eligibility

Financial assistance is provided to applicants who meet eligibility requirements, which are established by BEST FC Board of Directors and reviewed annually. Both the family size and annual income are considered when determining eligibility and the amount of any assistance provided. All applicants will be required to submit documentation of income and family size in order to be considered.

Sliding Fee Scale

The amount of assistance applicants qualify for is determined by sliding fee scale which is reviewed annually by BEST FC Board of Directors and set to provide the maximum assistance to families where there is the greatest need. In extraordinary circumstances, the Financial Assistance Program committee can make exceptions to the sliding scale.

Uniform Assistance

Uniform assistance is determined on a case-by-case, funds available basis. BEST FC encourages a uniform recycle program for developmental/youth recreation program uniforms. Contact one of the Club Directors for available uniforms.

Confidentiality

All information provided to BEST FC in conjunction with an application for assistance is confidential. The BEST FC accountant will process Financial Assistance awards. All applications and supporting documents will be filled and later destroyed.



Procedure

- 1) The financial assistance application must be filled out completely and accurately.
- 2) The application MUST provide a documentation to verify income and family size. The following statements of income are acceptable in the below order.
 - a. Copy of most recent tax return – IRS (if you file taxes, this must be provided) and a copy of current pay stub or earnings report which includes year to date income.
 - b. Copy of current pay stub or earnings report which includes year to date income and hours worked.
 - c. Proof of public assistance, if presently receiving
 - d. Other documentation that is verifiable and deemed adequate in the sole discretion of other Financial Assistance Program Committee.
- 3) A Financial Assistance Application fee must be paid and included with the application prior to consideration of player's financial assistance request. The application fee amount is \$150 for Team Players and \$50 for Academy players. This fee will be processed and applied towards player's registration fee and / or player's training fees. Refund of the application fee may be granted if both of the following conditions are met.
 - a. Upon determination of amount of financial assistance available to player decides that the cost of the program is still beyond their means.
 - b. The roster freeze date for the team on which the player is to be placed has not passed. These dates vary dependent upon the play level of the team. Contact the Club General Manger for Roster Freeze dates.
- 4) BEST FC player registration forms must be completed.
- 5) All requests must be submitted by the appropriate deadline date to: BEST FC, Financial Assistance Committee, PO Box 170, Westborough, MA, 01581.
- 6) Your Application will be reviewed and a determination will be made after application is received as complete and all necessary documentation is provided.
- 7) Written notification (by email or postal mail) will be sent to you once determination is made.

Financial Assistance Application Deadline

Program	Deadline Date	Notification Date
BEST FC Academy	No Specified Date	No Specified Date
U9 Competitive Girls	June 21 st	June 28 th
U9 Competitive Boys	June 21 st	June 28 th
U10 – U14 Competitive Girls	June 14 th	July 21 st
U10 – U14 Competitive Boys	July 14 th	July 21 st