



NW ASSOCIATION  
FOR  
BLIND  
ATHLETES

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### Northwest Association for Blind Athletes Scholarship Program

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes is proud to offer an additional service of small scholarships to individuals or teams to provide services above and beyond the scope of NWABA's programs and services. Northwest Association for Blind Athletes' mission is to provide life-changing opportunities through sports and physical activity to individuals who are blind and visually impaired. Our scholarships are meant to provide for athletes who are not able to access our programs and services regularly, and/or to offer financial assistance for one-time, life-changing opportunities. Scholarships may be awarded for equipment, entry fees, training, or other fees associated with participation in sport and physical activity opportunities. We offer scholarships in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, & Washington. Scholarships are awarded quarterly, aligning with NWABA's fiscal year, July 1 – June 30. If you believe you meet the initial criteria of our scholarship program, please continue reading for more information.

**Award Amount:**

Scholarship requests for **individuals** cannot exceed \$500.00.

Scholarship requests for **teams** cannot exceed \$1000.00.

**Timeline:**

NWABA awards scholarships all year round. Each quarter has a scholarship budget, once the budget is exceeded, we will no longer accept applications in that quarter. A minimum of **45 days** from the date of funds needed, or the date of the event, is requested from all applicants. Please expect a maximum of 90 days from the time of receipt to receive a decision.

- Quarter 1: July 1 – September 30
- Quarter 2: October 1 – December 31
- Quarter 3: January 1 – March 31
- Quarter 4: April 1 – June 30

**Eligibility:**

An applicant and/or their request must meet the following requirements before an application will be submitted for scholarship consideration:

- All applicants must be legally blind as determined by Visual Acuity or USABA Classifications (see page 3).
- All applicants must be registered as an NWABA Athlete at the time of submission, this includes all members of a team applying for scholarship, *requests will not be accepted until all team members are registered.*
- All requests must relate to sports and physical activity.
- All requests must be for programs or services outside the scope of NWABA's programs and services, and/or for a once in a lifetime opportunity.
- All requests are only accepted from athletes who reside in the states we serve.
  - o Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington
- All applicants must be willing to submit a full-page impact story to NWABA within 30 days of receiving the funds, with pictures to share why this scholarship was impactful.

### **Criteria for Selection and Application Review:**

- Scholarships must align with Northwest Association for Blind Athletes' mission of providing life changing opportunities. The following criteria apply to the selection of NWABA scholarships:
  - o Strong rationale for seeking scholarship funding.
  - o Quality of written application.
  - o Commitment to other sources of funding.
  - o The number of athletes served with the scholarship request.
  - o Number of scholarships awarded to applicant; first-time applicants are prioritized.
  - o Scholarship request is different from the scope of NWABA Programs & Services, the request differs from what an athlete can accomplish through the equipment, programs or services currently provided by NWABA.
  - o Scholarship request is a catalyst that dramatically changes the life of the applicant, through their ability to participate in sports & physical activity, opening a unique once in a lifetime opportunity that would not be available to the applicant without the award.

### **Regulations:**

- A team is defined as 3 or more athletes. Athletes are defined by NWABA as athletes who are blind and visually impaired.
- Individuals cannot apply for a scholarship if their team has applied for a scholarship in the same fiscal year, for the same purpose or intent. Similarly, teams cannot apply for a scholarship if an individual has already requested funds. This is to provide equal opportunities across our four states.
  - o *Example, if Suzie is on the NW Goalball team and applies for a scholarship to attend the 2023 ABC tournament. NW Goalball team cannot request funds from NWABA for the 2023 ABC tournament in the same fiscal year. If NW Goalball applies for a scholarship to attend the 2023 ABC tournament, Suzie cannot request funds from NWABA to attend the 2023 ABC tournament.*
- Individuals on the same team cannot apply for an individual scholarship for the same purpose or intent. NWABA will encourage a team scholarship.
- A minimum of 45 days from the date of funds needed, or the date of the event, is requested from all applicants.
- Individual applicants will not be the recipient of more than two NWABA scholarships every three (3) fiscal years. Individual scholarship requests will only be considered if the scope of the scholarship is unique to each request.
- Team applicants will not be the recipient of more than four NWABA scholarships every five (5) fiscal years. Team scholarship requests do not need to be unique, however, NWABA will be evaluating other sources of sustainable funding within requests to determine selection for scholarship.
- Failure to participate in the event/program for which a scholarship was awarded will result in the individual or group being asked to return the scholarship to NWABA. Failure to return the scholarship may result in a referral to a collection agency and/or exclusion from future consideration of scholarship request. Failure to complete the impact statement may also exclude you or your group from future scholarship consideration.

### **Payment:**

- Upon approval of the scholarship as directed by our VP of Programs & Services or designee, awardees will be notified via email, upon confirmation of receipt, NWABA will mail a check to recipient.

### **Required Components:**

- Start the application process by clicking the [application link](#) to access the application our Smartsheet's form. Complete all required questions and upload any supporting documents to the form. Upon submission, applicants will receive a confirmation email. As a reminder, NWABA requires a minimum of 45 days from the

date of funds needed, or the date of event, whichever comes first. You will receive a response to your application within 90 days of receipt.

- Application Link - <https://tinyurl.com/nwabascholarshipform>

**Questions?** Please contact our VP of Programs & Services for any questions, or concerns.

Stacey Gibbins, [sgibbins@nwaba.org](mailto:sgibbins@nwaba.org), 360-718-2834

### **Visual Classifications**

- Class B1: No light perception in either eye up to light perception, but inability to recognize the shape of a hand at any distance or in any direction.
- Class B2: From ability to recognize the shape of a hand up to visual acuity of 20/600 and/or a visual field of less than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.
- Class B3: From visual acuity above 20/600 and up to visual acuity of 20/200 and/or a visual field of less than 20 degrees and more than 5 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.
- Class B4\*: From visual acuity above 20/200 and up to visual acuity of 20/70 and a visual field larger than 20 degrees in the best eye with the best practical eye correction.