



Northwest Association for Blind Athletes Mini Grant Criteria

Northwest Association for Blind Athletes is proud to offer an additional service of mini grants to individuals, groups, 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 mini grants are meant to provide for athletes who are not able to access our on-going programs and services regularly, and to offer financial assistance for one-time, life-changing opportunities. We offer mini grants in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, & Washington. Mini grants are awarded quarterly, aligning with NWABA's fiscal year, July 1 – June 30. If you believe you meet the initial criteria of our mini grants program, please continue reading for more information.

Award Amount:

Mini grant requests for **individuals** cannot exceed \$500.00.

Mini grant requests for **teams** cannot exceed \$1000.00.

Timeline:

NWABA awards mini grants all year round. Each quarter has a mini grant 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 mini grant consideration:

- Applicants must be legally blind as determined by Visual Acuity or IBSA Classifications.
- Be registered as a NWABA Athlete or willingness to register, this includes all members of a team or group applying for the mini grant.
- Request must relate to sports and physical activity.
- Requests must be for programs or services outside the scope of NWABA's programs and services, or for a once in a lifetime opportunity.
- 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 an in-depth impact story to NWABA within 30 days of receiving the funds and the opportunity, with pictures to share why this mini grant was impactful.

Criteria for Selection and Application Review:

- Mini grant must align with Northwest Association for Blind Athletes' mission of providing life changing opportunities. The following criteria apply to the selection of NWABA Mini Grant:
 - o Strong rationale for seeking funding
 - o Quality of written application
 - o Commitment to other sources of funding
 - o The number of athletes served with the request
 - o Number of mini grant(s) awarded to applicant, first-time applicants are prioritized
 - o Mini grant request of sport or physical activity 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 Mini grant 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 experience, 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 mini grant if their team has applied and received a mini grant for the same opportunity, and vice versa.
- A minimum of 45 days from the date of funds needed, or the date of the event, is requested from all applicants.
- Within 90 days of approval of the mini grant applicants must submit invoices or valid receipts, unless discussed and approved with NWABA.
- Applicants are eligible to receive the mini grant once every two years. Recipients of the mini grant in one cycle are not eligible to apply for or receive the grant in the subsequent cycle. Cycle refers to NWABA's fiscal year, July 1 – June 30.
 - o *Exceptions may be made upon discussion with NWABA for once in a lifetime opportunity.*
- Failure to provide an impact story may result in ineligibility for future mini grant opportunities.

Payment:

- Upon approval of the mini grant as directed by our VP of Programs & Services or designee, awardees will be notified via email. Mini grant payments will be made directly to business entities providing the opportunity or as reimbursement to the mini grant recipient upon presentation of valid receipts or invoices.

Required Components:

- Start the application process by clicking the application button below to access the application through our [Microsoft 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.

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

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