

Player Assistance Fund Policy

Purpose

The Canton Akron Hockey Association (CAHA) Player Assistance Fund exists to help ensure that financial hardship does not prevent youth athletes from participating in hockey. Funds are intended to assist families with registration costs when financial need exists.

Funding of the Program

1. The Player Assistance Fund will be supported through:
 - A designated portion of annual fundraising activities.
 - Voluntary donations made to CAHA.
 - Any board-approved allocation of association funds.
2. Each season, 10% of fundraised funds will be directed to the Player Assistance Fund.
3. The total funds collected will be divided as follows:
 - 75–80% distributed at the start of the season to approved applicants.
 - 20–25% reserved as a “Hardship Reserve Fund” for unexpected financial hardship during the season.

Eligibility

To qualify for Player Assistance Fund support:

1. Player must be registered and committed to CAHA for the upcoming season.
2. Family must demonstrate financial need.
3. Families must submit a Player Assistance Application prior to the deadline.
4. Families receiving assistance must remain in good standing with CAHA.
5. Players receiving assistance may be asked to participate in association volunteer activities or fundraising events.

Application Process

1. Applications must be submitted before the season begins by August 1
2. Applications will be reviewed confidentially by the Financial Assistance Committee consisting of:
 - President or Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - One additional board member
3. The committee will review all applications and determine the number of approved applicants.
4. The available funds allocated for preseason distribution will be divided equally among approved applicants, unless the committee determines special circumstances warrant adjustment.

Hardship Reserve (In-Season Assistance)

A portion of the Player Assistance Fund will be reserved for unexpected financial hardship during the season, including but not limited to:

- Loss of employment
- Medical hardship
- Family emergency
- Other unforeseen financial circumstances

Families may submit a Hardship Request during the season. Requests will be reviewed confidentially by the Financial Assistance Committee.

Distribution of Funds

1. Assistance funds will be applied directly to the player's CAHA account or registration balance.
2. Funds will not be distributed directly to families as cash payments.
3. Assistance amounts will vary annually depending on:
 - Available funds
 - Number of approved applicants.

Confidentiality

All applications and financial information will remain strictly confidential and only accessible to the Financial Assistance Committee.

Annual Review

The CAHA Board will review the Player Assistance Fund annually and may adjust:

- Funding percentages
- Eligibility requirements
- Distribution process

to best serve the needs of the association.

Practical Example

If CAHA raises \$2,000 for the fund:

- \$1500 distributed preseason
- \$500 reserved for hardship cases

If 8 families apply and qualify:

- Each receives \$187.50 credit toward dues

Canton Akron Hockey Association

Player Assistance Fund Application

Player Information

- Player Name:
- Birth Year / Team Level
- Parent/Guardian Name
- Phone Number
- Email Address

Financial Assistance Request

1. Total number of players registered in CAHA from your household?
2. Amount or type of assistance requested (ie-reduced payments, payments spread out over more time, alternative payment methods)
3. Are you able to contribute a portion of registration fees?

Brief Explanation of Need

Please provide a short explanation of your current financial circumstances and why assistance is being requested.

(Examples: temporary hardship, job loss, medical expenses, multiple players, etc.)

Volunteer Commitment

Families receiving assistance may be asked to assist with association volunteer needs.

Are you willing to volunteer at CAHA events if assistance is granted?

- Yes
- No

Agreement

I confirm the information provided is accurate and understand that assistance is limited and not guaranteed.

Signature

Date