



Circle of Friends Financial Aid Awards Policy

CASA Financial Aid Awards Policy

Like any sport, cost of participation, equipment and gear can add up, especially for families with multiple children playing and for those on competitive travel teams. The Capital Area Soccer Association has a financial aid program available to help offset the costs of playing soccer with CASA for those families in need. Assistance is available for both CASA Recreational and Travel players. CASA does not publish qualification criteria since these are guidelines, and the final decisions on awards are made by the CASA Board of Directors based on recommendations from the CASA Financial Aid Committee and **availability of funds**. So we encourage all families to apply if they feel they need any assistance with CASA soccer costs.

Subject to the availability of funds, CASA shall offer financial aid for CASA registration fees and/or CASA program fees to those members that demonstrate a need or financial hardship. The application information will be kept confidential.

Applications – Completed applications (with supporting documentation) for financial aid may be mailed to CASA, 1288 North Mountain Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112. Incomplete applications may result in disqualification.

Award decisions for Recreational players will be made on a rolling basis as the applications are received with the deadline for submission two weeks before the start of the season. Award decisions for Travel players are **targeted** to be made as follows:

Application Deadline: July 15 **Decision Made by:** August 15

We realize that situations may change beyond the deadlines and will continue to accept applications through the season. CASA will consider aid based on the availability of funds.

Eligibility – Any CASA member is eligible to apply for financial aid. Qualification is primarily based on verified family income. Other factors such as unemployment or other financial hardships may also be considered by the Financial Aid Committee.

Amount of Aid Award – The Treasurer shall determine the amount of the financial aid available for a season; however, there is no obligation to award all/any of the award pool.

Families of applicants receiving the aid awards will be requested to provide up to eight hours of volunteer service to CASA each season. Those applicants that do not fulfill this requirement for a season may be ineligible for future aid awards.

Application Process - Applications for financial aid are available online and must be completed and returned to CASA by the above indicated deadlines. A signed complete copy (all pages) and of the most recent Federal tax return on Form 1040 (or applicable form) for both parents/legal guardians of the applicant (supporting schedules and attachments are not required unless requested) must be filed with the financial aid application. Applicants must register the player in the CASA registration system each season on a timely basis. All CASA registration fees must be paid in full (by aid award or otherwise) on a timely basis for the player to be eligible to play for or train with their CASA team. Annual awards will be credited in equal amounts at the beginning of each season subject to applicant's re-registration.

Applications will be evaluated by the Financial Aid Committee. The Committee shall present the proposed aid awards to the CASA Board for approval. Notification of aid awards shall be sent via email to each applicant and the Team Manager (for travel team players).

Other Opportunities – CASA has a limited number of compensated positions (e.g., referees, camp assistants, etc.) and volunteer positions (e.g., Rec coaches, tournament volunteers, etc.) which offer individuals an opportunity to cover registration costs or to give back to the CASA organization. Please contact the CASA Office Coordinator for more information on these positions.

Questions – Questions about financial aid awards may be directed to 717-652-3676.