



### Mission Statement/Purpose

We want to make sure any athlete who wants to play a recreational team sport in our community, regardless of household financial situation, doesn't have to sit on the sideline and watch the other kids score. Young people learn teamwork, leadership, and many other social and life skills through participation in team sports. Kids get exercise, and sports provide an outlet for energy. Studies have suggested sports involvement helps keep children safe and out of trouble. But, most of all, they have fun, build confidence, and develop lasting friendships.

### Requirements for Eligibility

To be eligible for a H.A.S. Foundation, Inc. scholarship, a youth athlete must:

- Be enrolled in school (K – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) and live or play in Cobb County.
- Register for a recreational team sport (baseball, basketball, cheerleading, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, volleyball) through a local recreational youth sports league that holds an open registration for anyone in the community. A team sport is defined as a sport in which a group of individuals on the same team work together to accomplish a goal. A recreational team sport is one in which there are no tryouts (evaluations designed to make even skilled teams are not considered tryouts).
- Demonstrate a clear financial need that would prevent the athlete from participating in the desired sport without help from H.A.S. Foundation, Inc.
- Have a parent or guardian submit the application to H.A.S. Foundation, Inc., including a statement as to why the scholarship is needed. The application must also include a letter of reference from an independent third-party. This letter must be typed and sent to H.A.S. Foundation, Inc. directly from the reference. See application for additional details on this requirement.
- Submit the application during the applicable sports organization's registration period. We will not accept applications until the sports organization's registration is open. The H.A.S. Foundation, Inc. deadlines for 2017 applications are:
  - Spring Sports: January 15
  - Football & Cheerleading for Fall: July 10
  - Fall Sports (other than Football & Cheerleading): August 1
  - Winter Sports: October 5
  - Award notifications will be made as soon as possible after the deadlines.

### Requirements for Participation

- Families must commit for their athlete to attend a minimum of 80% of scheduled practices and games.
- Families must pay, out of their own funds, a portion of the registration fee. For 2017, that amount is \$15 for registration fees up to \$100. For registration fees above \$100, that amount is \$25 or 10% of registration fees, whichever is greater.

### Other Important Information

- H.A.S. Foundation, Inc. scholarships only cover registration fees for participant athletes. Other fees such as membership, uniform, or equipment fees or equipment deposits that are not included in the registration fee are the family's responsibility.
- Foster children automatically qualify with appropriate documentation.
- There is currently no limit on number of times a family may apply; however,
  - First time applicants will be given priority.
  - Scholarships will be awarded based on demonstrated need and funding availability.
  - Scholarships will only be awarded for one sport per season per participant (i.e. a scholarship will not be given for baseball and soccer during the same season).
  - Scholarships can only be awarded once in a calendar year to the same athlete.
  - Applicant families who misuse funds or misrepresent their financial situation will be disqualified from any future scholarship money and may be required to reimburse the foundation.
- In cases where applications outnumber funds available, additional information may be requested to determine need.
- Award notification will be by email. Notification will be made as soon as is feasible.
- The number of scholarships awarded in one season to families at the same sports league may be limited.

H.A.S. Foundation, Inc. will use the information on the application only to determine scholarship eligibility. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times except to the extent necessary to pay registration fees on behalf of an athlete. Applicants should know that personal finances and family situations will not be discussed outside of eligibility meetings.

H.A.S. Foundation, Inc. does not discriminate based on gender, race, class, economic status, ethnic background, sexual orientation, physical ability, or cultural and religious backgrounds.