



## **Gananda Racing Aquatic Team Scholarship/Grant Assistance Program**

The Gananda Racing Aquatic Team Swim Club's Scholarship/Grant Assistance Program is available to athlete members of USA Swimming who are in good standing with the club. The intent of this program is to provide financial aid to those swimmers who demonstrate a sincere commitment to maximizing their swimming potential. Funds are awarded by the Gananda Racing Aquatic Team Board of Directors on a first-come/first-served basis and by the sole decision of the Board.

### **Types of Assistance Available**

- Team Dues
- Meet Funds

### **Eligibility**

An application for funding should be submitted by the swimmer or swimmer's parent(s) to the Gananda Racing Aquatic Team (GRAT) Board of Directors. The Board will use the following criteria in awarding Funds:

- Demonstrated financial need (see Application Process, below)
- Swimmer's record or demonstrated intent to fully participate in team practices, selected swim meets, mandatory fundraisers, and other team events/activities.
- Parents must complete a generous share of volunteer work for the club.
  - Scholarship recipients (parents/guardians) are required to report volunteer hours worked before any additional funds will be considered.
- Families must meet all fundraising and sponsorship requirements.
- Sincere interest in and commitment to competitive swimming (see Application Process, below)
- Coach recommendation.
  - All applications shall be reviewed before the start of the swimming season that the application was submitted for. When a decision has been made, a notification will be sent to all applicants via telephone, mail and/or email.
- Attendance and Participation at Practice.
  - Scholarship/Grant recipients are expected to regularly participate in weekly practice sessions. Repeated weekly attendance of less than the required number of practices will result in the loss of scholarship. Inactive periods for longer than 1 week without prior approval of the coach will result in loss of scholarship. If scholarship funds are revoked, dues are fully payable and any revoked awards will be returned to the general fund for redistribution to other committed scholarship/grant applicants.

## **Application Process**

Scholarships/Grant applications are approved per each swimming season. The application must be submitted to the Board of Directors at least 15 days after the start of the season that the Scholarship/Grant is to be used, **or** before 15 days before the first meet to be attended. The Scholarship/Grants are limited to the availability of funds, and are awarded on a first come, first served basis. A renewal application must be completed for each swimmer, each season.

For consideration, each family must submit the following to the Board of Directors:

- **Letter to the Board**
  - This letter should state how much financial assistance is requested (as a % of dues or a dollar amount), how the parent(s) have contributed to the team in the past and how much and in what fashion the parents plan to volunteer for the team during the current year, and acknowledgement of the practice attendance policy determined by each swimmer's coach.
- **Proof of Need**
  - GRAT will use the same documentation as required by the Niagara LSC for Athlete Outreach financial aid, which is a copy of New York State's Direct Notification letter for Free/Reduced lunch eligibility.
- **Swimmer Essay**
  - Each swimmer must complete an essay regarding what being on the swim team means to them, how they will be committed to practice, what they hope to get out of being on the team, and any other comments the swimmer feels important to their desire to swim on the swim team.

## **Misconduct**

Misconduct, as defined by the **Gananda Racing Aquatic Team Code of Conduct** OR any of GRAT's policies or practices is grounds for loss of scholarship.

## **Other**

A swimmer may reapply for Scholarship assistance as long as the criteria outlined above are met.